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

PROPOSED GUILD FOR SOUTHWELL

When, a couple of months ago, the Leicester men decided, practically unanimously, that they needed a separate and independent guild of their own, the question of the future of the Midland Counties Association became not so much Shall that body still continue to exist and function? as What ought the ringers in the other counties concerned do in face of the altered circumstances? At a recent meeting at Sutton-on-Trent the Nottinghamshire men took one step in answer.

It may be assumed, then, that the principle of the division of the old association into diocesan guilds has virtually been decided on, and what remains is to fix the scope and organisation of the new bodies. This will not be too easy. It will call for careful thought on the part of the leaders, and loyalty and co-operation on the part of the rank and file. So far as the Leicester diocese is concerned, the problem is, as we have already pointed out, a fairly simple one, and the committee, which has been appointed, may be trusted to produce a scheme that will be not only workable but also popular. In the other dioceses the problem is not nearly so simple. In Derby, so far, no steps seems to have been taken to secure a public expression of opinion, and in Southwell the meeting at Sutton, important though it was as a beginning, was hardly representative enough to express the general views of the ringers. The Burton-on-Trent area remains another and perhaps more difficult problem. But one advantage of problems is that they give people the opportunity of showing their skill and goodwill in solving them.

It would be possible, even if the Leicester men decide to break away, to retain the Midland Counties Association in its present form, and even to claim its privileges and assets for the remaining members; but we do not suppose anyone has considered that as a just or satisfactory solution. Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and North Staffordshire, though they form a connected territory, would be altogether unsuitable as the area of a ringing association. So far as Derby and Nottingham are concerned, the diocese (which happens to be the same as the county) is the only area which is likely to be considered. But in both cases a diocesan guild would have serious difficulties to face.

The Southwell diocese at present is served partly by the North Notts Association and partly by the Nottingham District of the Midland Counties Association. The

(Continued from page 46.)

members of the former have in the past, we believe, felt a grievance against the larger society because (as they thought) it did nothing to help them. Probably it had not the power, and this in itself should be a potent reason for the new guild. It is not that there is overlapping and clashing of interests between the two bodies. They are separated by strips of no man's land which call for missionary work to spread the art of change ringing. Certainly a territorial association can have an area too large and too widely scattered to be worked efficiently and, though many members would object to the loss of prestige caused by splitting a guild into smaller societies, in some cases it is almost the only way to meet the needs of the more outlying bands.

The details of any new scheme must be worked out by the responsible people on the spot and approved by the members generally. The formal dissolution of the Midland Counties Association, and the equitable division of its funds, must be confirmed by a representative meeting of the whole body. In these things outsiders have neither part nor lot, nor, we imagine, will any wish to interfere. But the broad outlines of the scheme, and the future of one of the leading associations in the country, do concern the Exercise at large; and ringers generally will watch with interest and attention what is done. One point, no doubt, has already occurred to many. Is it right to make vital changes in the constitution of an important body when so many of its members are away serving the King? Should not at least the final decision be left until they return? There seems, at first sight, but one answer to each of these questions, but we do not think it is the right one. It is in such times as these that reforms can most easily be made, provided the right men are in charge. In ordinary times the dead weight of custom and prejudice delays, and often prevents, desirable alterations. Now men's minds are more accustomed to changes and not so conservative. Those abroad are the younger men, who in any case would have been the most likely to support the new scheme. Those who will decide are the men who naturally would be most likely to mistrust any departure from custom. We should not forget that it was during the last war that the revolutionary changes were made which gave the Church of England self-government.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.

MEETING AT PORTSMOUTH.

At the annual meeting of the Portsmouth District of the Winchester and Portsmouth Guild, held at St. Mary's, Portsmouth, on Saturday, January 20th, members were present from Alverstoke, Fareham, Gosport, Portsmouth (Cathedral and St. Mary's) and Titchfield, and visitors from Beaconsfield, Beddington and Southampton. Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. W. J. Smith, who also presided at the business meeting, which followed tea in the Parish Institute. He was supported by the Master of the Guild, Mr. George Williams, the hon. general secretary, Mr. F. W. Rogers, the treasurer, Mr. W. Linter, and the district secretary, Mr. R. J. Stone. The Rev. W. Stow, of Portsea, was elected an honorary member, and several ringing members were elected from Soberton.

The secretary reported an increase of four honorary and 17 ringing members during the year. The receipts were £9 9s. 11d., and a balance was left of £5 9s. 11d., of which £4 had been sent to the treasurer of the Guild.

It was provisionally arranged to hold the next meeting at Bishop's Waltham on April 21st, and the next practice meeting at Portsmouth Cathedral on February 10th instead of the usual practice at St. Mary's. The Vicar said that if at any time their meetings could not be arranged elsewhere they were welcome to come to St. Mary's.

The ringing during the day included Grandsire and Stedman Triples, and Plain Bob, Double Norwich Court Bob, and Superlative, Cambridge, London and Bristol Surprise Major.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT LOUGHBOROUGH.

The annual meeting of the Loughborough District of the Midland Counties Association was held at the Bell Foundry, Loughborough, on January 20th. Mr. J. H. Grundy, district chairman, presided.

The following district officers were elected: Chairman, Mr. J. A. Walton; secretary, Mr. A. E. Rowley; committee, Messrs. H. O. Over and H. Myatt; Ringing Master, Mr. G. R. Edwards.

Mr. J. P. Fidler referred to the changes that may come by the formation of diocesan guilds, and suggested that deputies should be elected where possible to enable other members to take an active interest in the affairs of the association. Mr. Myatt was therefore elected assistant secretary and Mr. C. Towers Deputy Ringing Master.

The secretary stated that during the year eight meetings had been held with an average attendance of 30, and never less than nine towers being represented; a pleasing feature was the number of young learners who attended. Twenty new members had been elected during the year and nine had rejoined. Four towers which had no members were again represented.

In view of the possibility of the formation of diocesan guilds in the near future it was decided to ask the general officers of the association to continue in office for the present.

Four new hon. members and three ringing members were elected—the Rev. P. B. Hacker, Mr. E. G. Cunnington, Mr. J. H. Hickling and Mr. A. Wyath, honorary, and Miss M. Smith (Shepshed), Mr. T. D. Stockwell (Copt Oak) and Mr. L. J. Hall (Loughborough), ringing.

The following towers were represented: Barrow-on-Soar, Copt Oak, Diseworth, Hugglescote, Ibstock, Kegworth, Loughborough, Old Woodhouse, The Oaks, Shepshed, Thrumpton, Whitwick and Woodhouse Eaves. Mr. S. G. Davey, of Ardeigh, Essex, was a visitor.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Mountsorrel on February 24th if possible.

There was ringing at the Parish Church and at the foundry bell tower.

MEETING AT LEICESTER.

Seventy members and visitors were present at the annual meeting of the Leicester District of the Midland Counties Association, held at Leicester on January 20th. They came from Ashby Folville, Anstey, Asfordby, Aylestone, Billesdon, Birstall, Countesthorpe, Groby, Leicester (Cathedral and St. Saviour's), Rathy, Rothley, Sileby, Syston, Thurmaston, Wigston Magna and Bedford.

Tea was in the St. Saviour's Church Schools and was followed by the business meeting, at which the chairman, Mr. G. T. H. Walker, and the hon. secretary, Mr. H. W. Perkins, were re-elected, and Mr. R. F. Elkington and Mr. W. Root were appointed on the committee. Mr. Perkins reported that 57 new members had joined during the year and six old members had rejoined. The total membership was now 275. Seven new members, including the Vicar, the Rev. H. B. Holderness, were elected from St. Saviour's, two from Ashby Folville, and one each from Aylestone, Belgrave, Countesthorpe and Sileby. It was agreed to hold the next meeting at Whetstone on February 17th.

There was ringing at St. Saviour's and at Belgrave, the methods being Grandsire and Stedman Triples, and Plain Bob, Kent Treble Bob, Cambridge Surprise and Bristol Surprise Major.

COURSES ALL CALLED DIFFERENTLY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Upon reading the letter from Mr. J. E. Cawser in your issue of January 19th that there are a number of peals of Treble Bob Maximus with all the courses differently called, I looked through a few peals in my MS. book and found no less than 15 without the same calling twice, all these having only 4th, 5th and 6th in 6ths place.

Each of these can be commenced at any course which means six more, making in all over 100 peals.

At the other end of the string, on November 18th, 1933, the St. Mary-le-Tower Society rang a peal of 5,040 Oxford Treble Bob Maximus, in which all five courses had the same calling, and I called 60 bobs, the greatest number ever called in Treble Bob Maximus, which eliminates long periods of about 500 changes without a call.
57, Mornington Avenue, Ipswich. G. E. SYMONDS.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT EDENHAM.

The annual meeting of the Southern Branch of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild was held at Edenham, and was attended by 40 ringers from Peterborough, Bourne, Spalding, Surfleet, Deeping St. Nicholas, Market Deeping, Corby, Irnham, Pinchbeck, Billingborough, Morton, Rippingale, Thurlby, Folkingham and Edenham.

Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. H. H. Stainsby, who also presided at the business meeting, which followed tea provided by the local ringers and churchwardens at the Five Bells Inn. Two ringing members were elected, Mr. C. Whyles, of Edenham, and Mr. A. Cooper, of Irnham. The Vicar of Edenham and the Rev. — Paget, of Deeping St. James, were appointed vice-presidents. It was decided to hold the April meeting at Deeping St. James.

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

TEN BELL PEALS.

SOUTHOVER, LEWES, SUSSEX.
THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Jan. 27, 1945, in Three Hours and Eleven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,
A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 17½ cwt.

*RICHARD C. HYDE ... Treble	FRANK BENNETT ... 6
GEORGE S. WIGGINS ... 2	†ALBERT E. LAKER ... 7
*WILLIAM J. COPPARD ... 3	HENRY STALHAM ... 8
†ALBERT J. STEELE ... 4	GEORGE W. CECIL ... 9
†HENRY C. WEAVER ... 5	FREDERICK E. COLLINS Tenor

Composed by E. C. S. TURNER. Conducted by FRANK BENNETT.
* First peal of Royal. † First peal on ten bells.

CLAINES, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Jan. 27, 1945, in Three Hours and Eighteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5075 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt.

*EDWARD LARGE ... Treble	WALTER H. RAXTER ... 6
GEORGE E. LARGE ... 2	RAYMOND C. SAVERS ... 7
*LEONARD TREVOR ... 3	GEOFFREY J. LEWIS ... 8
ALLEN MORGAN ... 4	REGINALD WOODYATT ... 9
DENIS R. MORRIS ... 5	GEORGE AMBLER ... Tenor

Composed by CHAS. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by GEO. E. LARGE.
* First peal on ten bells.

WEDNESBURY, STAFFORDSHIRE

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

On Sat., Jan. 27, 1945, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW,
A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor 24 cwt.

RICHARD J. B. HADDEN ... Treble	JAMES F. HARVEY ... 6
FRANK E. HAYNES ... 2	JOHN PINFOLD ... 7
DANIEL T. MATKIN ... 3	HERBERT C. SPENCER ... 8
HENRY H. FEARN ... 4	GEORGE E. FEARN ... 9
ARTHUR D. COOK ... 5	WILLIAM T. FROGGATT ... Tenor

Composed by SIR A. P. HEYWOOD. Conducted by F. E. HAYNES.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

QUEENSBURY, BRADFORD, YORKS.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tues., Jan. 23, 1945, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,
A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

EDGAR WHITELEY ... Treble	ALBERT PICKLES ... 5
PAUL BIRKETT ... 2	SAM LONGBOTTOM ... 6
W. GEORGE TURNER ... 3	WILLIAM AMBLER ... 7
CAPT. J. L. WRIGHT, R.E. 4	VERNON BOTTOMLEY ... Tenor

Composed and Conducted by VERNON BOTTOMLEY.

First peal as conductor.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Fri., Jan. 26, 1945, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. EBDE,

A PEAL OF ST. CLEMENT'S COLLEGE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 4½ cwt.

ANNA M. SELLORS ... Treble	BETTY SPICE ... 5
MARGARET L. TUTT ... 2	REV. C. ELLIOT WIGG ... 6
JEAN A. SOUTHERST ... 3	HARRY MILES ... 7
JOAN HOULDSWORTH ... 4	JOHN E. SPICE ... Tenor

Composed by SIR A. P. HEYWOOD (C.C.C. No. 25).

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

First peal in the method by all, on the bells and for the society.

DUSTON, NORTHAMPTON.—On Sunday, January 21st, 720 Bob Minor: William Hammons 1, F. Benfield 2, Sidney Mundy 3, Joseph W. L. Linnitt 4, John Fitzhugh 5, Eric Nobles (conductor) 6; and 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: *Sidney Mundy 1, F. Benfield 2, John Fitzhugh 3, *L.A.C. Eric Nobles, R.A.F. 4, William Hammons 5, Joseph W. L. Linnitt (conductor) 6. * First 720 Treble Bob.

HANDSWORTH, SHEFFIELD.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Jan. 27, 1945, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 12½ cwt.

THOMAS BROTHWELL ... Treble	HAROLD TAYLOR ... 5
JACK G. BROTHWELL ... 2	*ERNEST A. THORPE ... 6
JOHN H. BROTHWELL ... 3	HERBERT O. CHADDOCK ... 7
HARRY WILSON ... 4	JOHN E. TURLEY ... Tenor

Composed by SIR A. P. HEYWOOD. Conducted by JOHN E. TURLEY.

* First peal in the method.

SIX BELL PEAL.

HURWORTH-ON-TEES, CO. DURHAM.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Jan. 27, 1945, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Rev. E. Bankes James' Arrangement. Tenor 17½ cwt.

WILLIAM OLIVER ... Treble	JACK L. MILLHOUSE ... 4
JAMES T. TITT ... 2	ROLAND PARK ... 5
RICHARD BUSBY ... 3	W. NORMAN PARK ... Tenor

Conducted by ROLAND PARK.

First peal of Surprise on the bells.

HANDBELL PEALS.

DAGENHAM, ESSEX.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Wed., Jan. 17, 1945, in One Hour and Forty Minutes,
AT 106, GAY GARDENS,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different 720's.

LEONARD W. BULLOCK ... 1-2	J. BULLOCK, SEN. ... 3-4
PTE. THOMAS H. BULLOCK 5-6	

Conducted by J. BULLOCK.

Umpires: J. A. Bullock and F. G. Bullock.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sun., Jan. 21, 1945,

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

ERIC A. DENCH ... 1-2	JOHN THOMAS ... 5-6
MRS. J. THOMAS ... 3-4	PHILIP J. COWARD ... 7-8

Composed by I. J. ATTWATER. Conducted by E. A. DENCH.
First peal as conductor.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Sun., Jan. 21, 1945, in Two Hours and Six Minutes,
AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

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

Composed by SIR A. P. HEYWOOD (C.C.C. No. 45).

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal in the method.

SWINDON, WILTSHIRE.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Fri., Jan. 26, 1945, in One Hour and Fifty-Five Minutes,
AT 6, REGENT CIRCUS,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents. Tenor size 12 in F.
DENNIS W. S. SMOUT ... 1-2 | IVOR C. N. BELL ... 3-4

W. BERTRAM KYNASTON ... 5-6

Conducted by W. B. KYNASTON.

EAST CROMPTON.—On January 21st, 720 Bob Minor: B. Whitehead 1, C. Howarth 2, R. H. Byrom 3, H. Byrom 4, J. R. Buckley 5, J. Butterworth (conductor) 6. Also 720 Bob Minor: B. Whitehead 1, F. Butterworth (first 720) 2, R. H. Byrom 3, C. Howarth 4, J. R. Buckley 5, J. Butterworth (conductor) 6.

'THE RINGING WORLD.'

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

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

Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.

The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk.

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
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All communications for this journal should be addressed to:—

The Editor,
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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.

The peal of Bob Royal at Southover was rung to commemorate the foundation of the Sussex County Association, 60 years ago, on Jan. 24th, 1885.

PROPOSED SOUTHWELL DIOCESAN GUILD. MEETING AT SUTTON-ON-TRENT.

Bad weather and difficult travelling greatly curtailed the attendance at the meeting of Nottinghamshire ringers, held on January 20th, at Sutton-on-Trent, to consider the desirability of forming a new guild for the diocese of Southwell. About thirty were present from Basford, West Bridgford, Daybrook, Nottingham, Gamston, East Markham, Newark, East Retford, Ordsall, North Collingham, Balderton and the local belfry.

After ringing and tea, Canon R. Wilkinson, president of the Midland Counties Association, and an officer of the North Notts Association, took the chair. He gave a survey of the life of the two societies, and the origin of the proposal to divide the Midland Counties Association into diocesan guilds, and referred to the failure of both the existing associations to deal efficiently with the difficult territory of Nottinghamshire, which consisted of a few live areas separated by strips of no-man's-land. The proposed guild would not be, so far as the diocese is concerned, the disbandment of either society, but the uniting of all the elements in the area for the purpose of the intensive organisation and development of change ringing.

Mr. T. Groombridge read an airgraph received from Capt. C. A. Versey relating his discussion his discussions on the matter with his father and the late Mr. A. Coppock. Mr. Groombridge said that many ringers from the Newark and Retford area had attended the Nottingham meetings, which showed that the district was not completely isolated. Closer contact could be formed through a central committee, and belfry repair and benevolent funds could be established.

General approval was expressed by several speakers, but there was some concern at the prospect of losing the identity of the present associations.

Canon Wilkinson suggested that the new guild could be organised in three districts, the Retford area, which would become the North Notts District, and, more or less, retain the personnel and traditions of the North Notts Association; a Central District extending from Southwell to Mansfield; and the Nottingham District, which would practically be the same as the present Notts District of the Midland Counties Association.

Mr. Groombridge said he intended, if the Midland Counties Association were dissolved, to press for a rule that paid up membership of one of the new guilds should carry membership of the others for the purposes of peal ringing and social functions, but not for financial or other purposes.

Mr. O. Street promised support for the new scheme from the Retford band, but thought that the North Notts Association should continue a separate organisation until the return of the members serving in H.M. Forces. Mr. Groombridge said that voting papers had been sent to all towers and the six so far received were all in favour.

A resolution was adopted favouring the formation of a Southwell Diocesan Guild and giving a pledge to join it at the first favourable opportunity.

WILLIAM CHATTEL.

(Continued from page 42.)

I must not close this memoir without reference to Chattel's connection with West Bromwich and Mr. Samuel Marsh.

Marsh and his relative, Mr. Paul Cashmore, had been the leading lights in that town for years, and it was mainly by their endeavours that the old ring of six bells at the Parish Church, All Saints', was augmented to eight. And that makes one think of Chattel again. When the eight bells were opened he was there and found fault with the treble, as did others. The bell hanger, hearing of this, went up to Chattel and spoke to him about it, saying he would put it right before he left by loading the clapper, and he got this characteristic reply, 'I don't care what you do to the clapper; you can't knock that out of it that ain't in it.' The result was a new bell, the present treble.

This opening was in 1842, I believe, and some excellent peals were rung there during the next four years, when a rupture took place between the two relatives, over family matters, I believe.

CHRIST CHURCH, WEST BROMWICH.

There were then three bells at Christ Church, the present fifth, eighth and tenor, which were used for the services and the quarter striking clock. Marsh now exerted all his energies to get these three made into a ring of ten, and with the assistance of Mr. S. Parkes and other friends, succeeded beyond his utmost expectations. Trade was very good in the iron district at that time, money was freely subscribed, and in a comparatively short time the bells were up.

They were opened in November, 1847, and Marsh began to train a band, but so far as I know he never rang a ten-bell peal without assistance from Birmingham, and that meant Chattel. The opening peal was rung in 1848, and I assisted in the first peal of Caters in January, 1849, and from that time went there very frequently with Chattel. The bells were increased to twelve in 1850, and in 1852 the first peal of Cinques was rung, followed by the first peal of Treble Bob Maximus in 1853.

About that time a change came over Marsh, his position in life being raised by force of circumstances. He had been manager in an iron warehouse, Mr. Gordon's, the son of the then Vicar. About the time of Mr. Gordon's death the Northants iron mines were discovered, and Marsh became agent for Staffordshire, the ore being valuable for mixture with the native ore.

When we had rung the peal of Maximus, we began to practise in earnest for Stedman Cinques, but made little progress. On many occasions, after walking there, we were shorthanded and always through the local men. This, of course, was very disheartening. Marsh seemed to lose interest and we became indignant at the treatment. So the practices ceased, and, so far as I remember, beyond three courses on the back bells, we never succeeded in bringing a touch of Stedman Cinques round. The climax came about in this way. A year or so after the above incidents we had an invitation to the annual dinner in November. Chattel heard that a band from St. Martin's was going for a peal of Treble Bob Major at All Saints', so at the dinner table he got up a band for a peal of Royal at Christ Church, and, unthinkingly, I was one of the band, and, in fact, called the peal. 'I'll be after them,' said he. Well, after the ringing was over we went back to the company and were not very well received, since everything had seemed to go wrong during the evening. After this Marsh took less and less interest in the art, and I think that was the last dinner held by the society. I never saw Cashmore in Christ Church belfry, and both Marsh and he died within a short time of each other, Marsh, April 17th, 1894; Cashmore, May 11th, 1894.

HIS CHARACTER.

Chattel was a powerfully built man, 5ft. 9in. high, and very broad set, while he had the gait peculiar to those brought up to agricultural work. He did not carry a lot of flesh, but, as Johnson used to say of him in his best day, appeared to be all bone and muscle. He never lost the dialect peculiar to his county and had many quaint ways of expressing himself. I imagine that his one great fault was a kind of jealous rivalry, which he had not the moral power to keep within proper and reasonable limits.

In promises of any kind that he made he could always be depended on, and was strictly honourable in all money transactions. A certain class of ringers who used to come to Birmingham at that time, when hard up always made for his bakehouse, and, I believe, were never sent hungry away.

From what I have written about the patched-up peal, my readers must not think that that sort of thing was usual with him—quite the contrary. Here is a case in point. When Thurstans produced his one-part peal of Stedman Triples he first gave it to Johnson, and Johnson not troubling about it, he gave it to Chattel. At first the latter could make little of it, but after showing it to Mr. Day, he set about learning it, and on several occasions repeated it to me, while I held the manuscript, before he attempted to call it. After a few practices at St. Philip's we started for it at Aston on a Sunday evening, and after ringing splendidly until the first single was called, made it hardly so clear as it might have been. The fault was hardly discernible, but he set his bell with the remark, 'None of that stuff in a peal like this. I'll have it right or not at all.'

(Concluded.)

THE OXFORD SOCIETY.

ANNUAL LUNCH.

The annual luncheon of the Oxford Society was held on January 27th at the Town Hall, Oxford. The chair was taken by the Deputy Mayor of Oxford, Councillor Harry Ingles, who is the president of the society, and he was supported by the Master, Mr. W. F. Judge, and the secretary, Mr. V. Bennett. Among the guests were the Mayor of Oxford, the Dean of Christ Church, Alderman Brown, the Rector of St. Martin's, the Rev. C. E. Wigg, Mr. F. Sharpe and Mr. J. E. Spice.

The Rev. C. E. Wigg proposed the toast of 'The Oxford Society.' He said a society like this, steeped in its ancient traditions, could compare favourably with the College Youths and the Cumberland Youths. Although it had seen many fluctuations and about the year 1840 had almost ceased to exist, it had now risen to a high degree of prosperity, and the standard of ringing in Oxford was high.

Mr. V. Bennett, replying, said they in Oxford were proud of the ancient traditions of the society. Unfortunately, there were many blank periods in the society's history when no records were kept. They know that as far back as 1630 Richard Duckworth was a prominent ringer. In 1637 the first peals of Treble Bob Major were rung and the method was named after the city. Other prominent composers and conductors of the society included J. Vicars, J. Curtis, J. Baker, E. Nicholls, W. Parker, J. Rogers, C. Hounslow and J. Lates, whom some people will insist was the original composer of Thurstan's now famous peal of Stedman. Then there was J. W. Washbrook, whose band pulled off the formidable feat of ringing a peal of London at Merton College. Recently, through the courtesy of Pembroke College, an oil painting of one Arthur Tyror has been presented to the society after it had been restored. Tyror was a college servant about the year 1814 and was a clever and prolific peal ringer. One ringer came to Oxford for a holiday from the Potteries and he was so pleased with his reception that on returning home he sent back a hand-painted loving cup, which is now one of the society's most valued possessions.

THE SOCIETY'S AGE.

Mr. F. Sharpe said he thought the Oxford ringers did not appreciate how old their society actually is. The history of the society, unfortunately, is not original, but was taken from old peal boards and similar sources. He thought that more effort should be made and more research carried out to trace the history. He had come across a book by W. C. Lukis on the church bells of Wiltshire, and in it Lukis says that he had seen the records of the Oxford Society from the year 1700 to 1827. A well-known author like Lukis would not make such a statement if it were not true. Mr. Sharpe said he would make more inquiries at the Bodleian Library and see if he could trace the works of the author.

Continuing, Mr. Sharpe said he had often thought that if there had been no Oxford there would have been no ringing. Most of the prominent men in the Exercise learned to ring in their undergraduate days at Oxford. James Newman used to walk from Oxford to Appleton to help to teach Alfred White, grandfather of the present White brothers, to ring. Since then the Appleton bells and ringers are well known all over the country, and two record lengths have been rung there. Other Oxford ringers were the Rev. F. C. Robinson and Canon Coleridge.

Councillor Harry Ingles said he had often wondered what Oxford would be like without its towers and what those towers would be like without the ringers. To the west of Oxford had once stood Osney Abbey. It had disappeared, but its bells were still being rung by Oxford ringers, as they now hang in Christ Church Cathedral. One Vice-Chancellor of the University said that to hear those bells made his heart ring. Mr. Ingles said that one of the proudest memories of his Mayoralty was when the Oxford Society rang a peal of Grandsire Cinques on his becoming Mayor.

THE CATHEDRAL BELFRY.

The Dean of Christ Church said that at a meeting of the Cathedral authorities a request was put before them for a peal attempt. It was felt that it would not be convenient to have the bells ringing at the time and there was some hesitation, but after a well-known Oxford musician and an Oxford historian had spoken, all hesitation vanished and permission was given readily. He was very interested to hear of the ancient traditions of the society. It was intended after the war to have a fully qualified person to go through their old records, and perhaps some light would be thrown on the history of the ringing. They had recently had expert advice on the conditions in the Cathedral tower, and although he would make no promises, he

could say they were being deeply studied and he would inform the ringers as soon as anything was decided on.

The Mayor said his knowledge of ringing was only that of an average layman, but he had some happy memories of the bells at Kidlington, where he was born and married.

Mr. W. Collet, in proposing a toast to 'The Kindred Societies,' said all ringing societies were kindred. They were welded into one highly organised association with their own journal, 'The Ringing World,' and ruled over by the Central Council. Oxford had two societies for two different functions, the Oxford Society and the City Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild. He referred to the Oxford University Society and the good work done by Mr. J. E. Spice.

Mr. Spice thanked Mr. Collet for the nice things he had said about the university ringers. When they first started they were glad of the help of the City ringers, but the high standard on handbells was entirely due to their own efforts. With tower bells they were grateful for the help the Oxford Society gave them, especially at All Saints' and the Cathedral. He wished the Oxford Society continued success.

The Rev. R. R. Martin said that next year it would be 50 years since Cartax Church was pulled down, and no doubt the society would want to take part in the celebrations.

All the officers were re-elected for the ensuing year.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT DORCHESTER.

The annual meeting of the Dorchester Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild was held at Dorchester on January 20th. The bells of St. Peter's and Fordington were rung during the afternoon, and service was conducted by A. W. Markby, Rector of St. Peter's and chairman of the branch. The members were entertained to tea by the St. Peter's company.

At the business meeting the secretary, Mrs. M. M. Godley, of Stratton, stated in her annual report that the membership had remained constant. Practices held under the Ringing Master, Sergt. P. Toccock, had greatly helped to maintain the standard of ringing in the branch and young members had made real progress in the art of change ringing. The balance on the year's working was £29 7s. 10d.

The officers were re-elected as follows: Chairman, Canon A. Wilkinson Markby; vice-chairman, Canon D. F. Slemek; Ringing Master, Sergt. P. Toccock; Deputy Ringing Master, Mr. J. Squire, hon. secretary, Mrs. Godley.

New members were enrolled from Abbotbury, Upwey, Wool, Stratton, Dorchester St. Peter's, Bradford Peverell, Frampton and Buckland Newton. From the last-named village, where the bells have been brought back into use, eight members joined the Guild.

It was suggested that during 1945 meetings should be held at Frampton, Buckland Newton, Abbotbury, Maiden Newton and Stratton.

Tribute was paid to the services of Sergt. Toccock and Mr. Squire by the Rev. A. S. Bryant and Mr. Simons. The chairman read a letter he had received from L.-Opl. Henry Steed, a member of St. Peter's band, who is a prisoner of war. He said: 'That you are able to ring at home is, of course, common knowledge; and my heart and hands yearn for the familiar touch of the bell rope.'

PEALS OF DOUBLES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Exactly what is the meaning behind the letter written by Mr. Charles H. Wickens and published in the issue of 'The Ringing World' of January 26th, 1945? Is it his wish to invite discussion on the question of the speed at which bells should travel in relation to the weight of the tenor or does he merely ask for an opinion concerning the bells at Twineham? He says that the band cannot get through a given number of changes in less than a certain time, and if any band did accomplish it, it would be too fast for good music. If his opinion is correct, then why attempt to ring 42 six-score at Twineham in less time if the result is displeasing to the ear? I think he is inviting a comparison with other bells, and if such is the case, he should be more explicit.

WILFRED L. RAYNER.

31, St. Luke's Road, Maidstone.

UNATTACHED MEMBERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—What Mr. Barnett overlooks is this. A band can usually depend on its attached members to supply a full band on Sundays and practices. They can't on the unattached man. When he does turn up, he may be welcome, but he is usually superfluous.

'TOWER SECRETARY.'

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CURIOUS TOWERS AND BELFRIES.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 40.)

The Church of Holy Trinity, Minchinhampton, Glos, partially rebuilt in 1842, is a cruciform building in Early English and Decorated styles, with a central tower which has a curious truncated spire. This gives an unusual appearance to the building, the spire proper leaving off about two-thirds its original height, and is crowned by a battlemented and pinnacled corona. The tower contains six bells and a clock with chimes and three dials. The bells were all by A. Rudhall, 1719, but the tenor has been recast by John Rudhall, 1825, and the second by T. Mears, 1842.

A similar truncated spire is at the church of St. Mary, Yatton, Somerset, whose fine tower of three stages is also central. The spire here, however, has no corona, but a small pierced parapet with small angle pinnacles. Yatton possesses a ring of eight with tenor in E flat by James Bilbie, of Chewstoke, dated 1809. The 7th is a mediæval bell cast at Gloucester, the 5th simply bears the date, 'Anno Domini, 1622,' while the three trebles and sixth are by John Rudhall, 1824, and the fourth is dated 1852.

Porlock Church, Somerset, is dedicated to St. Dubricius, who, according to tradition, crowned King Arthur at Caerleon, and afterwards married the hero-King and Queen Guinevere. Here the huge west tower is crowned by an octagonal broach spire of wood with truncated top and dormers at the base. The apex of the spire is said to have been destroyed in a storm in 1700, but there seems to be no evidence to support this statement. The spire was restored and re-covered with oak shingles in 1889. In 1933 it was again reshingled and the internal timbers renovated. Here is a ring of six bells dating from 1617.

The very fine western tower of three diminishing stages of the Church of St. Nicholas, Gloucester, is also crowned with a truncated spire. Originally the spire rose to a height of 180ft., but in 1783 the upper part, to an extent of one-third of the total height, was removed in consequence of a serious list of more than two feet out of the perpendicular, and the present corona formed to finish it. Here is a ring of six ancient bells and a Sanctus. The latter has the curious inscription in Gothic capitals, '+ ION PUTTE ANDE AYEALIS HYS WYFE LET MAKER ME BEY HERLYFE IN WORCHEPE OF SAYNTE IOH.' Of the ring of six, the tenor is by Rudhall, dated 1725, the treble is dated 1608, second and third 1636, while the 4th and 5th are mediæval with invocations to St. John-the-Baptist and the Virgin.

The grand west tower of Shepton Mallet, Somerset, is crowned by an open traceried parapet and pinnacles, and a truncated spire of only three courses. The lower stage of the tower is fan-vaulted. Originally cruciform, the church is a large and ancient edifice in Transitional Norman and Perpendicular styles. The tower contains a grand ring of eight by Thomas Rudhall, of Gloucester, 1773. The 7th has been recast by John Kingston, of Bridgwater, in 1822.

There is an unfinished spire crowning the ancient tower at Beeby, near Leicester, but here are only three bells. The tradition as to why this spire was never completed says that the architects—two brothers—fell to

quarrelling on top of the tower and, coming to blows, fell over in the struggle and were killed. Two of the bells here are 'alphabet bells,' c. 1560/1600, such as recently quoted in these columns, the third being probably by Johannes de Stafford, 14th century.

At Brome, near Eye, in Suffolk, the Church of St. Mary is a remarkable example of Victorian taste, having been practically rebuilt in every known style of English Gothic from the Norman period onwards. Its interest is confined to the Cornwallis tombs of the 16th and 17th centuries. The five bells, dated 1737, are by Thomas Newman, of Norwich, and were reopened after being rehung in a new frame by the original George Day, of Eye, at Christmas, 1886. The tower is round so far as the bell chamber, which is octagonal, with louvres on every side. The entrance door is outside the tower. The approach to the ringing room is by an upright iron ladder from which one has to step on to some six stone or brick steps to reach the belfry floor. The ringers are so near the bells that the sallies go through the pulley blocks near the wheels, consequently the sallies are made specially smaller than usual.

At Bobbingworth, Essex, the Church of St. Germain has a ring of six, tenor 13 cwt. in F. These are rung from the porch of the church with no protection from the weather on the outside. The church is a small building of stone in Decorated style with embattled west tower of brick. The chancel was restored in 1840 at the cost of the Rev. W. M. Oliver, Rector, 1838-90, who also gave the bells and built the tower dated 1841. On a tablet in the porch is the record of two peals rung on Monday, October 12th, 1841, by the Hornchurch Youths: 'Two true and complete peals, the first Court Bob, the second Bob Minor.' There is a field belonging to the church known as 'Bell acre,' of two acres, left at some time to provide ropes for the bells. In 1552 there were 'Itm iij bells, in the steeple whereof the litell bell is iij q'tes of a yarde wide: Itm the secunde is iij quarters and iij ynches of a yerde wide: It' the great bell a yerde save iij ynches wide. It' ij hande bells.'

(To be continued.)

A SCHOOL OF RINGING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I wish to commend Mr. D. Bayles' suggestion for the forming of a school of ringing after the war.

Apart from the limited expositions in the Snowdon series of books and 'The Ringing World' articles of recent years, the aspects of proof, composition and the finer points of conducting have been a closed book, and such a scheme as proposed would serve, not only for the betterment of ringing as a whole, but to popularise the study of ringing as a scientific subject. A number of the branches of science have their own institutes, for example the institutes of physics, chemistry, electrical engineering and the like; then why not an institute of ringing?

Naturally, as ringing is only a hobby for most of us, the institute would have to be on a limited scale, and a school covering a period of, say, four weekly courses during the summer months would be most practicable. Students would be required to pay a nominal fee for each course to cover the expenses of accommodation, lecturers, etc., but as an encouragement to ringing in their respective areas, associations could offer free scholarships to ringers showing the greatest promise. As regards location, the school would need to be central for all parts of the country and in a place where ringing could take place throughout the day for practical lectures.

In the Central Council we have the ideal examining body, and, as far as I can see, the necessary organisation should present little difficulty, providing there is no lack of enthusiasm.

C.M.F.

K. ARTHUR, Sgt., R.A.F.

PENWORTHAM, LANCS.—On Thursday, January 18th, 1,280 Kent Treble Bob Major: E. R. Martin (conductor) 1, *F. Howarth 2, J. Gornall 3, W. Taylor 4, *A. Tomlinson 5, K. Hall 6, J. Bailey 7, *W. Loxham 8. *First quarter-peal of Treble Bob.

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.

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.

KENT ASSN.—Whitstable, Saturday, Feb. 3rd, 3. Service 4.15.—B. J. Luck.

ESSEX ASSN.—Northern Division.—Annual, Braintree, Saturday, Feb. 3rd, 2 p.m. Service 4 p.m.—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, Christ Church Hall.

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

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.

LANCASHIRE ASSN.—Poolstock, Saturday, Feb. 3rd, 2.30. Bring food; cups of tea provided.—S. Forshaw, 55, Poolstock, Wigan.

COLLEGE YOUTHS. — Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, Feb. 10th, 3 p.m. Ringing, Bishopsgate 4.30 p.m.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

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.

LANCASHIRE ASSN.—St. Mary's R.C. Church, Chorley (8), Saturday, February 10th, 2.30 p.m. No tea. Cafes near.—Fred Rigby, Hon. Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.—Hartfield (6), Feb. 10th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names to the Rev. H. B. W. Denison, The Rectory, Hartfield.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSN.—Stratton St. Margaret (8), Feb. 10th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Rodbourne Cheney, Swindon, Wilts.

DEVON GUILD.—Mid-Devon Branch.—Annual, Woborough, Newton Abbot (8), Saturday, Feb. 10th, 2.30 p.m. Tea and business Thomas' Restaurant, Courtenay Street, 5 p.m. Names to A. L. Bennett, Cornerways, Buckfastleigh (phone 3121).

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.—Harborne (8), Saturday, Feb. 10th, 3.30 p.m. Names to Mr. G. E. Fearn, 92, Etwall Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, 28.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

NORWICH ASSN.—North Norfolk Branch.—Annual, Wroxham, Saturday, Feb. 10th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea and business 5 p.m. at Broad's Hotel. Names to H. Tooke, The Lizard, Wymondham, Norfolk.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSN.—Sandy (6), Saturday, Feb. 10th, 3 p.m. Tea at 5.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Southampton.—Practice at St. Michael's, Saturday, Feb. 10th, 2.30, 6 p.m. No tea.—G. Pullinger.

LANCASHIRE ASSN.—Poulton (8), Saturday, Feb. 10th, 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided; bring food.—J. H. Foster, Hon. Sec.

BARNESLEY SOCIETY.—Sandal, near Wakefield, Feb. 10th, 2.30. Names to Mr. G. Cutt, 4, Newland Street, Sandal, near Wakefield.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Srafton, near Barnsley.

KENT ASSN.—Westerham, Saturday, Feb. 17th. Service 4 p.m. Tea at Wolfe Cafe, 4.30 p.m. Names to T. Saunders, East Peckham, Tonbridge.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Twelve-bell practice, High Wycombe, Sat., Feb. 17th, 5.30 p.m.—R. T. Hibbert, Sec., A. D. Barker, Hon. Treas.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.—Henry Johnson Commemoration luncheon, Imperial Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham, Saturday, Mar. 3rd, 1.30 p.m. Tickets to fully-paid-up ringing members, 2s. each; to other members and friends 6s. 6d. each. Number is strictly limited.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham, 11.

BIRTH.

SALTER.—On January 14th, in The Firs Nursing Home, Nottingham, to Hannah (nee Parnham), wife of Ronald Salter, a son, Edmund Arthur.

DEATH.

GROOMBRIDGE.—On Friday, Jan. 26th, at Farnborough, Kent, hospital, Mary Elizabeth, beloved wife of Thomas Groombridge, sen., aged 80 years.

WANTED.

SET OF HANDBELLS (medium), in good condition, 8, 10 or 12.—Hugh Gregory, Hill Side, Darley Dale.

BISHOPSTOKE.—On January 1st, 720 Bob Minor: H. Hixon 1, G. Pullinge 2, H. Russell (first 720) 3, Miss J. Wheeler 4, G. Williams (conductor) 5, E. Wheeler 6.

ALLESLEY, COVENTRY.—On Sunday, January 14th, 720 Cambridge Minor: C. Aylett 1, H. G. Summers 2, Lieut. R. N. F. Crawley 3, J. W. Taylor 4, J. W. T. Taylor (conductor) 5, W. A. Stote 6.

LIVERPOOL.—On Saturday, January 20th, at St. Michael's, Garston, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Ian Fraser 1, J. E. Tomsett 2, Thomas Lee 3, Rev. D. P. Roberts 4, G. R. Newton 5, Thomas W. Hesketh (conductor) 6, Frederick S. Almond 7, E. C. Birkett 8.

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