



No. 1,563. Vol. XXXVI.

FRIDAY, MARCH 7th, 1941.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for
transmission as a newspaper.]

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SILENT APPARATUSES.

One of the most curious things about change ringing is that the ringers, when they are most seriously intent on their art, betake themselves away from their fellow men, lock themselves in an almost inaccessible chamber, and pursue their art entirely oblivious of the outside world; while all the time the results of their efforts are broadcast far and wide over the surrounding country. This contrast between the isolation and detachment of the belfry, and the publicity of the ringing is surely unique. We cannot think of any other body of men who experience at one and the same time such complete privacy and such wide publicity.

Both the privacy and the publicity are, of course, necessary, but there are oftentimes serious drawbacks to the publicity. We really do wish to give delight to the outside listeners by the sound of the bells, though that may not be our only or our main object. And we certainly have no wish to be an annoyance to anyone, even to the most captious, though that, unfortunately, is sometimes unavoidable.

It is our misfortune that we cannot ring without the whole parish knowing it. We should like to be able to retire somewhere away from listeners when we are teaching beginners, or when we are ourselves practising something new and difficult. Brass bands do not practise in the market square; theatre companies do not rehearse in the open street; church choirs can learn their anthems when there is no one to listen. But we must practise in the full hearing of everyone, and we are usually judged, not by the perfected performance which is taken for granted and not much noticed, but by the imperfect attempts by which we hope to attain perfection, and which are often bitterly criticised and resented.

It is small wonder then that from time to time men have thought how to contrive some means by which the bells can be rung properly without attracting the attention of outsiders. Before the war the silencers which Mr. James Davis first introduced to St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, were coming into increasing use, and at the last Central Council a new apparatus was shown to the members for which much was claimed, but which, so far, has had little opportunity of showing its utility.

These things, and similar things, will no doubt be increasingly used as they become known and improved, but they are of no use now when the ban imposes an absolute silence. Can we devise some means by which ringing shall be carried on and no sound reach the outside? If we can, there is no doubt whatever that it

(Continued on page H0.)

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would be an immense advantage, not merely in these
abnormal times, which will pass, but in the future.

In many towers the clappers have been removed and
the bells 'rung' silently. That is better than nothing,
and every effort to keep going and to maintain the life
of the Exercise is worthy of all praise. But silent bells
are no adequate substitute for sounding bells, and in
normal times 'silent' ringing should be discouraged.
It would open the door to numerous ills, of which bad
striking, slovenliness, and false ringing are obvious to
everyone. Anything like the 'silent' peals advocated
by a correspondent last week should be sternly discour-
aged. At present they are forbidden by a Central Coun-
cil resolution.

What we need is a good appliance which will reproduce
inside the belfry everything that we get from the open
ringing. There is an apparatus which has been fixed in
several towers, among them Great St. Mary's at Cam-
bridge and Crawley in Sussex. It is called the Seage
apparatus, but whether it is still manufactured or whether
the patent has run out, we do not for the minute know.
We should like to hear from anyone who has had a good
experience of this or any similar apparatus.

However good a silent apparatus is, it should be used
only for practice, not for peal ringing.

TREBLE BOB.

IS IT A GOOD METHOD?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I suppose you will say that I only got what I asked for,
but I don't think I deserved quite such a bad snubbing as Mr.
Christopher Woolley gave me last week. I did read his letter. I
went further and read between the lines, and I gathered (not with-
out cause) that his opinion of Treble Bob is a mighty poor one.

I know it is the fashion to speak contemptuously of that method,
but it was not so always.

But yesterday the word of Cæsar might
Have stood against the world; now lies he there,
And none so poor to do him reverence.

Treble Bob is an old and valued friend of mine, and so, having
dropped a tear on fallen greatness, I feel I ought to say a word on
its behalf. Wherefore I proclaim in a loud and defiant tone that
Treble Bob is a first-class method, musical, and most interesting to
ring.

When I get to heaven, if I find enough ringers there to make up a
really good eight-bell band, I should like to ring a tenor of about
21 or 22 cwt. to a peal of Treble Bob. The bells to be by Abraham
Rudhall or Thomas Mears at their best, and to be hung in plain
bearings worn rather slack.

Mr. Woolley does not seem to like it because I did not sign my
name but wrote anonymously. That was a bit of my artfulness. So
long as he does not know who I am, he may think I am a person
of some importance. I might be —, or even —. If he knew that
really I am only —, he would simply shrug his shoulders and take
no more notice.

'COUNTRY RINGER.'

TREBLE BOB AND SURPRISE METHODS.

A GOOD WORD FOR YORKSHIRE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I read the letters on the merits and defects of Surprise
methods from Mr. J. F. Harvey and Mr. C. W. Woolley with great
interest, but was rather surprised not to see any specific reference
to Yorkshire, which is, I suppose, runner-up to the Standard Four in
the matter of popularity. In my humble estimation, this method,
with its regular construction and high musical qualities, is worthy
of a much wider popularity than that which it at present enjoys.

With reference to the letter from 'A Country Ringer,' I fail to
see how any method can be 'Treble Bob spoiled'; to suggest that
any method is this is, to my mind, suggesting the impossible. While
Treble Bob has slow work it can never be other than a noise. The
monotony of having the tenors pounding away on the front for a
whole lead each in every course condemns the method as far as both
ringing interest and musical qualities are concerned. This does not,
of course, apply to the various forms of Spliced Treble Bob, in which
the tenors are prevented from going into the slow, and which thus
produce much better music.

R. D. St. J. SMITH.

Kersal, Manchester.

HANDBELL PEALS.

AYLSHAM, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, February 16, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty-Seven Minutes,

AT 4, FAIRLEIGH TERRACE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16 in B.

JACK N. A. PUMPHREY	... 1-2	F. NOLAN GOLDEN	... 5-6
ALBERT ROUGHET	... 3-4	WALTER C. MEDLER	... 7-8

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by F. N. GOLDEN.

LINCOLN.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Sunday, February 23, 1941, in Two Hours and Twenty-Six Minutes,

AT 95, SINCIL BANK,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor size 15 in C.

*P. MICHAEL FREEMAN	... 1-2	†JOHN A. FREEMAN	... 5-6
*SGT. J. FREEMAN, R.A.M.C.	3-4	*KENNETH S. B. CROFT	... 7-8

Conducted by JOHN FREEMAN.

* First peal in the method. † First peal in the method 'in hand.'

LINCOLN.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD

(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Wednesday, February 26, 1940, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

AT 95, SINCIL BANK,

A PEAL OF LITTLE BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*P. MICHAEL FREEMAN	... 1-2	*JOHN A. FREEMAN	... 5-6
†SGT. J. FREEMAN, R.A.M.C.	3-4	*KENNETH S. B. CROFT	... 7-8

Composed by HENRY HUBBARD. Conducted by JOHN FREEMAN.

* First peal in the method. † First peal in the method 'in hand.'
The conductor's 50th peal.

SIBLE HEDINGHAM, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, February 27, 1941, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE RESIDENCE OF A. CATTERWELL,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one extent of Double Bob, and two each of Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Treble Bob and Plain Bob, seven callings.

OLAVE BROYD	... 1-2	*MISS ELIZABETH BURCEAM	4
BERNARD W. PETTIT	... 3	ALBERT CATTERWELL	... 5-6

Conducted by OLAVE BROYD.

Witness—Mrs. Catterwell.

* First peal with inside bell. Rung in honour of Mr. Catterwell's birthday.

LIVERPOOL.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 7, 1941, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes,

AT CHURCH HOUSE,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

FRANK VARTY	... 1-2	THOMAS R. BUTLER	... 7-6
ARNOLD BRUNTON	... 3-4	PERCIVAL W. CAVE	... 7-8

THOMAS HAMMOND ... 9-10

Composed by SIR A. HEYWOOD. Conducted by PERCIVAL W. CAVE.

Umpire—G. R. Newton.

A birthday compliment to Frank Varty.

DEATH OF MR. AMOS TRIPPIER.

AN OLD LANCASHIRE RINGER.

The death is announced of Mr. Amos Trippier, of Eccles, which took place on January 11th. He joined the Lancashire Association in 1897 and rang 65 peals in the county, besides others for the North Stafford and South Stafford Associations and in London. As a young man he went in for athletic sports and won many trophies. He took part in civic life and was an alderman. One of his sons is also an alderman and has been Mayor. The interment was in Eccles churchyard.

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE EXETER BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the Exeter Branch of the Devonshire Guild was held on Saturday, February 22nd, at Deller's Cafe, and was attended by 35 members, among those present being Mr. E. J. Ryall, the chairman of the branch; Prebendary E. V. Cox, the president of the Guild; the Rev. M. V. Narracott, Vicar of St. Sidwell's; the general secretary, and Mr. T. Laver, late general secretary.

After tea, the hon. secretary (Mr. W. H. Howe) read the report of the branch for the past year. Two meetings had been held and satisfaction was expressed that the October meeting was so well attended. The finances are in a sound condition, with a balance in hand of nearly £18. Twelve members are serving with H.M. Forces and one of them has been wounded.

Mr. E. W. Biffin, in proposing the adoption of the report, referred to the death of Mr. A. H. Goad, of St. Thomas' band, as a heavy blow to himself and to the band with which Mr. Goad had been so long associated. Mr. Glass seconded and others voiced the appreciation of the branch for Mr. Howe's work. The report was adopted.

All the officers—Mr. E. J. Ryall (chairman), Mr. W. H. Howe (secretary and treasurer), Mr. W. Richardson (Ringing Master) and Messrs. E. W. Biffin, H. Pook and H. J. Rowe (representatives to the General Committee)—were re-elected.

Mrs. C. R. Lilley, who rings handbells very well, was elected as a member of the Guild.

After some discussion it was decided to hold the next meeting on May 3rd at St. Thomas', Exeter.

Everybody was pleased to greet an old friend, Mr. A. W. Searle, and the branch, on the proposition of Mr. Howe, offered him congratulations on the occasion of his golden wedding. Mr. Searle has rung 55 peals for the Guild and conducted 18. His friends know him best for his tours and ringing outings. He has rung in all but a dozen or so of the Devon towers.

Mr. Searle, on behalf of his wife and himself, thanked the meeting, remarking that 50 years of happiness seemed a long time to look forward to, but short when reviewed. He had only emulated the example of Mr. Richardson and others of the branch.

Prebendary E. V. Cox referred to the illness of Mr. Goldsmith, Editor of 'The Ringing World,' pointing out the importance of the great influence of that journal in ringing circles over land and sea. He proposed that an expression of sympathy of the Exeter Branch be sent to him, with the hope that soon he will be restored to health and strength. Mr. Laver seconded and others supported the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

On the proposition of Mr. Biffin, it was agreed to hold handbell practices, Mr. C. R. Lilley to be invited to attend and give assistance. The first practice will occur on March 8th.

There was an expression of regret that the usual service was not held. Prayers read by the Rev. Prebendary Cox ended what may be termed an enjoyable and profitable gathering.

ORANGES AND LEMONS.

LONDON BELLS IN A NURSERY RHYME.

Mr. E. Stone, of Coventry, has sent us some particulars of the nursery rhyme which has come into notice recently through the taking down of the bells of St. Clement Danes. The words and music were published about the year 1874 by Frederick Warne and Co. The rhyme is, however, we fancy, much older, for unless our memory is at fault, there is a reference to it in Osborn's manuscript, which was written about 1840. We cannot check the reference because the manuscripts in the British Museum have been removed to a place of safety.

Here is the full rhyme:—

Gay go up and gay go down
To ring the bells of London Town.
Bull's eyes and targets, say the bells of St. Margaret's,
Brickbats and tiles, say the bells of St. Giles'.
Ha'pence and farthings, say the bells of St. Martin's.
Oranges and lemons, says the bells of St. Clement's.
Pancakes and fritters, say the bells of St. Peter's.
Two sticks and an apple, say the bells of Whitechapel.
Old Father Baldpate, say the slow bells of Aldgate.
Pokers and tongs, say the bells of St. John's.
Kettles and pans, say the bells of St. Ann's.
You owe me ten shillings, say the bells of St. Helen's.
When will you pay me? say the bells of Old Bailey.
When I grow rich, say the bells of Shoreditch.
Pray when will that be? say the bells of Stepney.
I do not know, says the great bell of Bow.
Here comes a candle to light you to bed,
And here comes a chopper to chop off your head.

Mr. Ernest Morris has also sent us a copy of the lines. He points out that they are given in his book, 'Legends of the Bells.'

BEACONSFIELD.—At St. Mary and All Saints' Church, on Monday, February 24th, 720 of Plain Bob Minor: H. Wingrove (conductor) 1-2, D. R. Fletcher 3-4, W. Lee 5-6. Rung as a compliment to the Rev. C. Elliot Wigg, Deputy Master of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, on the occasion of his wedding.

SIR HENRY TULSE.

LORD MAYOR AND MASTER OF THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

Four men whose names appear in the list of members of the Society of College Youths were Lord Mayors of London, but three of them, Sir Watkins Lewis, Slingsby Bethel and Samuel Birch, had little active connection with the society at the time they held the office. The fourth, Sir Henry Tulse, was elected Master of the society in the year that he was Lord Mayor.

Like Sir Francis Withens, another and contemporary College Youth, Tulse obtained his position and importance through the political struggles of the reign of King Charles II. It was almost the last stage of the long conflict which was to decide whether England should be governed by an autocratic monarch or by Parliament, and the country was sharply divided into two parties, which shortly afterwards were called by the names of Whig and Tory.

London was a stronghold of the Whigs, and the citizens, safely entrenched as they supposed behind their charter and their age-long liberties, steadily supported those who resisted the aggrandisement of the royal power, while the Government, to counteract it, used all their power and influence to secure the election to the offices of Mayor and Sheriff of men who belonged to their own party, for, though the Whigs were in a decided majority, there was still a large minority of Tories among the freemen of the city, and one of their leaders was Alderman Tulse.

In 1673, Tulse and Robert Geoffrey were elected sheriffs, and the satisfaction of the Court party was expressed by Sir John Robinson, who wrote to Joseph Williamson, the Secretary of State, that 'the Sheriffs' names are Tulse and Jefferies, both good men'; and a little later, 'We have settled a Lord Mayor, Sir William Hooker, who I hope will prove a good one, with his two Sheriffs, Alderman Tulse and Deputy Jefferies, honest men.'

By 'good' and 'honest' of course were meant that they might be expected to do what the Government wanted, and probably Tulse gave satisfaction, for he received the honour of knighthood.

One of the moves in the political game was the promotion by the Whig party of petitions to the King praying for the calling of a Parliament, and one of these petitions was drawn up by the City of London. A number of leading citizens were selected to present it to Charles, and among them was Tulse, but he declined to serve, and when the deputation went to Windsor he stayed away, a fact that was noted with approval by the Court faction.

When the election for Lord Mayor was held in the next year, 1682, in accordance with custom the names of all the aldermen below the chair were put, one by one, to the meeting and voted upon by a show of hands. When, as almost invariably happened, a poll was demanded, four candidates were put forward, two of them Whigs and two Tories, of whom Tulse was one. The Whigs, confident in their numerical superiority, split their votes between their two men, but the Tories were wiser and gave 2,233 votes to Sir William Pritchard, while Tulse received only 236. Even so, the Whigs had the higher poll but, after a scrutiny, Pritchard was by fair means or foul declared duly elected.

The reaction against the Popish Plot was now in full swing. The feeling of the country had turned against the Whigs, and Charles and his Government, who had long bided their time, proceeded to crush their enemies, and among them the corporations of the big towns. The plan was to issue writs of *quo warranto*, calling upon the towns to show cause why their charters should not be annulled on account of alleged irregularities. By packing the bench they made sure of a legal judgment in their favour, and one by one the corporation had to surrender their charters.

London's turn came. On a writ of *quo warranto* judgment was given against the city, and the charter declared forfeited. On October 13th the King issued a new commission in which the terms were that 'no Lord Mayor, sheriff, recorder, common serjeant, town clerk, or coroner of the City or Steward of the Borough of Southwark, shall be capable of, or admitted to the exercise of their respective offices, before his Majesty shall have approved him under his seal manual.'

It meant that the age-long traditions of free election and free government were swept away at a blow, and for some years the control of the city was in the hands of the Government and their supporters. Sir William Pritchard, the Lord Mayor and 17 aldermen, including Tulse, were reappointed, but the rest were ejected. The Common Council ceased to exist.

When Pritchard's term of office was ended, the Court of Aldermen was informed of his Majesty's commission having been issued to Sir Henry Tulse to be Mayor for the ensuing year, and he was sworn with the usual accompaniment of civic procession and banquet, but without any formality of election. The dinner was held at the Grocers' Hall, for Tulse was a member of the Grocers' Company and Master in 1681-2.

The Whig opposition was crushed, but they made an attempt at revenge. An action was brought against Sir Henry Tulse and Sir Robert Geoffrey alleging that as sheriffs they had illegally sold the office of under-sheriff. The respondents did not contest the action in the Courts, but petitioned the King. The matter was referred to the Attorney General, who reported in their favour, and a warrant of *nulli prosequi* was issued to stay proceedings.

Tulse showed his political leaning still further when he appeared as the principal witness in an action brought by the Duke of York (afterwards King James II.) against a Mr. Pilkington, one of the aldermen, on account of words spoken in the Court of Aldermen. The defendant was found guilty and fined the enormous sum of £100,000.

It would, however, be utterly wrong to suppose that Tulse and the Tories who worked with him were merely servile tools of a despotic monarchy. They were the successors of the old Cavalier party, and their main motive was their intense loyalty to Church and King. Presently this very loyalty brought them into sharp opposition to the new King, James II.

James was a bigoted Roman Catholic, who put what he thought to be the interests of his Church before all things else. One of his objects was the repeal of the penal laws by which all power and influence were kept in the hands of the members of the Church of England. To further this end, all those members of town corporations who opposed the repeal were ejected and their places

supplied by men who approved, mostly Nonconformists and Papists. From these reformed corporations a number of addresses were sent up to the King approving his policy, but none came from the Court of Aldermen, which (with the Common Council in abeyance) was the governing body of the City of London.

Jefferys, the notorious Lord Chief Justice, waited on them and lectured them in his usual bullying style, but they refused to submit, and a large number of them were dismissed, among them Sir Henry Tulse.

Tulse was a great benefactor to the Church of St. Dionis, Backchurch, which once stood at the corner of Lime Street. He gave a marble font and marble steps leading up to it. They are now in the Church of St. Dionis, Parson's Green, Fulham.

Tulse's family vault was inside St. Dionis' Church, and when he died he was buried there. When the church was pulled down and his body removed, the stone which had covered the vault was placed in the court which marks the old churchyard, and there it is now. The inscription was recut in 1937 as part of the celebration of the tercentenary of the Ancient Society of College Youths.

Sir Henry Tulse's daughter married the first Lord Onslow, but she came to a tragic end. She drowned herself in a pond in the grounds of the Archbishop's palace at Croydon. The family of the present Lord Onslow is descended from Tulse, and there is, I believe, a portrait of him at Onslow Park, near Guildford.

Sir Henry Tulse, during an active life, filled many offices in the City of London. He was Alderman in 1673 and Sheriff in the same year, Master Grocer in 1681, Lord Mayor in 1683, and President of Bethlehem and Bridewell Hospitals in 1689.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.

ANNUAL MEETING AT HARTFIELD.

The fourteenth annual meeting of the East Grinstead and District Guild was held at Hartfield on Saturday, February 22nd.

The church room had been commandeered overnight by the military for use as a cookhouse, but the Rector (the Rev. H. A. James) most kindly offered a room in the Rectory as a substitute, and the meeting was held in very comfortable quarters.

Mr. A. L. Ryman was in the chair, supported by the vice-chairman (Mr. C. J. Ladd), the treasurer (Mr. R. D. Divall), the hon. secretary (Mr. B. Saunders), the assistant hon. secretary (Mr. C. A. Bassett) and the auditor (Mr. E. J. Oliver).

The meeting expressed its regret at the illness of the Editor of 'The Ringing World' and hoped for his speedy recovery.

The committee's report was read by Mr. Bassett. It pointed out the difficulties of carrying on in these troublous times, but said that they were attempting to maintain the continuity of the Guild and wished the members in all sincerity the best of luck throughout the coming year.

The balance sheet, which showed a balance of £31 in the Post Office Savings Bank and £1 ls. in petty cash, was adopted. It was agreed that the financial position was very satisfactory.

Mr. Oliver proposed the re-election of all the officers en bloc, but Mr. B. Saunders asked to be relieved of the office of hon. secretary. He pointed out that the assistant secretary had been doing all the work and he was secretary only in name. He offered to continue to do the Guild's printing. Mr. Bassett was then appointed secretary, Mr. Saunders being placed on the committee, and the other officers re-elected.

In the prevailing conditions it was not possible to fix the next meeting, and the matter was left in the hands of the secretary and the committee.

It was regretted that members joining the Forces did not notify the secretary, and so it was not possible to keep in touch with them.

It had been advertised that no tea arrangements could be made, and it was a very pleasant surprise to find that the company were to be entertained by the Rev. and Mrs. H. A. James and Mr. J. W. Ritson, a vice-president. Mr. A. Batten thanked the Rector for the use of his room and the hosts for giving and serving the tea.

In his reply, the Rector said how pleased he was to have the Guild at Hartfield, the church room was always at the disposal of the Guild, and as for the tea he was glad to think they had been able to supply it. He congratulated the Guild on having so many enthusiasts to keep the movement alive.

Handbell ringing concluded a very successful meeting.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

.....

THE

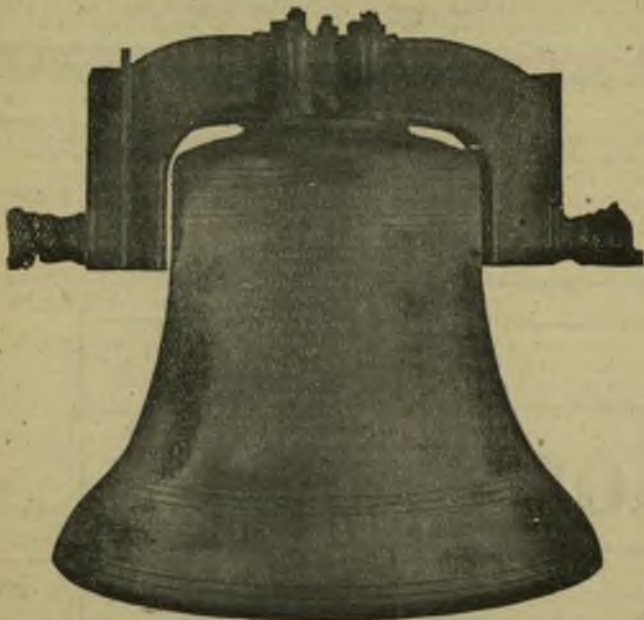
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THE EDITOR.

As we go to press we learn that Mr. J. S. Goldsmith is not quite ready for the major operation, which will not be performed until about a week's time.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

We are informed that the twelve bells of St. Mary Redcliffe, Bristol, have been removed to a place of safety for the duration of the war. St. Clement Danes' bells are now safely stored.

Mr. E. Stone, of 99, Keresley Road, Coventry, has returned to that address after the recent big air raid.

Mr. F. N. Golden would be glad to get into touch with Mr. A. J. Corrigan. His address is 21, Brabazon Road, Norwich.

A friend has sent us from the north of Scotland a cutting from a Cambridge newspaper headed '150 years ago' and giving an account of the death of George Gross. It was Mr. Borrett's extract from the 'Norwich Gazette,' and evidently had been copied from our columns.

The handbell peal at Liverpool was rung in an air raid shelter at the Church House. We have often heard the question asked what use can air raid shelters be put to after the war? Perhaps this supplies the answer.

The band was indebted to Mr. G. R. Newton and Mr. Fred Owen for making the necessary arrangements.

Since the destruction of St. Nicholas' Church, Liverpool, last December, the services have been held at the Church House, and the ringers regularly ring handbells for the 3.30 p.m. service on Sundays. Also, by invitation, they went to the training ship H.M.S. 'Eaglet' on two Sunday mornings recently and rang for the 11 o'clock service.

On March 5th, 1888, 12,041 changes of Stedman Caters were rung at Appleton. James W. Washbrook composed the peal and called it from the ninth. F. E. Robinson rang the seventh. It was the longest length in the method at the time, beating the 11,111 changes rung by the College Youths at Fulham in 1883. It stood as the record for only two months.

On March 6th, 1832, the Oldham men rang the then longest peal of Maximus, 7,392 changes of Kent Treble Bob.

March 8th is the anniversary of the long peal of Grandsire Caters, 12,600 changes, rung in 1737 on the old ten bells at St. Peter's, Man-croft, Norwich. The band included several of the famous ringers whose names have been recently mentioned in our columns, Thomas Melchior, John Gardiner, Robert Crane, Edward Crane, William Porter and others.

On the same date in 1859 the Birmingham men rang 10,047 changes of Stedman Caters. It stood as the record peal until it was beaten by the College Youths' performance at Fulham, mentioned above.

Fifty years ago to-day three peals were rung. One was Double Norwich Court Bob Major, the other two Kent Treble Bob Major.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

WEST DORSET BRANCH.

The annual meeting, postponed from December, was held at Beaminster on Saturday last, March 1st, when members of the branch were joined by visiting members from Dorchester.

Bridport is the time-honoured centre for the annual meeting, but on this occasion Beaminster was chosen, as the bells there are fitted with the 'Seage' apparatus, which some time since had been overhauled and was more or less in working order. A few hitches had to be overcome at the start, and while the 'technicians' were struggling some Grandsire Doubles and Triples and Bob Minor were rung on handbells. Most of those present had not touched a rope since the ban came into operation, so the use of the apparatus lent an additional attraction to the meeting and enabled some touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Bob Major to be rung on the ropes with the miniature bells sounding in the ringing chamber.

This apparatus has been in the tower for a great many years and it would be interesting to know what improvements have been made on the original invention up to date, as to the ringers it seemed a device with great possibilities, particularly if wire connections could be eliminated and foolproof electric contacts arranged.

Canon G. C. Hutchings, the Vicar, conducted a short service at 4.30 p.m., and after an excellent tea at a nearby cafe the Master of the Guild, the Rev. C. Carew Cox, who is also chairman of the branch, presided over the business meeting.

All the officers, some of whom were serving in the Forces, were re-elected. The hon. secretary, Mr. C. H. Lathey, reported that a number of towers had made no returns and in consequence there was a drop in subscriptions. But his balance sheet, nevertheless, showed the satisfactory figure of over £8 in hand. It was reaffirmed that each tower should be responsible for the subscriptions of its members on active service.

It was decided, all being well, to arrange another meeting at Beaminster during the summer.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the incumbent for the use of the tower and for the service, also to Mr. Lathey and the Beaminster members for their arrangements, resulting in a very pleasant, if small, gathering.

HENRY JOHNSON COMMEMORATION.**ENJOYABLE LUNCHEON AT BIRMINGHAM.**

The annual gathering, which takes place each year in Birmingham, to honour the memory of the most famous of all Birmingham ringers, Henry Johnson, was held for the fifty-third time last Saturday. In view of the difficulties of the times through which we are passing, there was necessarily some curtailment of the usual proceedings, but in the opinion of those who attended it was no less enjoyable than former gatherings.

An excellent luncheon was served in the Connaught Room at the Imperial Hotel, to which a company of 55 sat down. Councillor A. Paddon Smith presided, supported by the Rev. Canon S. Blofeld (Vicar of Edgbaston), Mr. T. H. Reeves (hon. secretary), Mr. F. E. Haynes (Ringing Master), Mr. A. Walker (vice-president) and Mrs. Walker, Mr. A. A. Hughes (hon. treasurer, Ancient Society of College Youths), Mr. H. Knight (hon. secretary, Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford) and Mr. F. W. Perrens. The visitors included Mr. R. Richardson (Master, Lincoln Diocesan Guild), Mrs. and Miss Richardson, Mr. F. Skidmore (Bristol United Ringing Guilds), Mr. William Saunders (Coalbrookdale), Mr. J. H. Shepherd (Swindon) and Mr. F. E. Collins (Croydon).

The Hon. Secretary said that letters of apology had been received from Mr. James George, Mr. J. W. Jones (Newport), Mr. J. F. Smallwood (Bath), Mr. F. B. Yates (King's Norton), and one from Mr. J. A. Trollope on behalf of Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, who had regularly attended this gathering for many years, and was in hospital at Woking where he had been prepared for an operation. The hon. secretary was asked to convey to Mr. Goldsmith the sympathy of all his old friends who had met that afternoon, together with their best wishes for a speedy recovery.

CHURCH AND STATE.

After the toast of the King had been enthusiastically honoured, Mr. F. E. Haynes proposed 'The Church and State.' He said that whatever might befall England and its democratic Church and constitution, bellringers would couple duty towards the Church with duty towards the State. Many members had been called upon to serve in His Majesty's Forces. If it were conceivable that we should not be victorious in this struggle we should have neither Church nor State, therefore our loyalty was now needed more than at any time in our history. With the toast the speaker coupled the name of the Rev. Canon S. Blofeld, who had always shown a helpful interest in the welfare of the Guild.

Canon Blofeld, who responded, said he thought it was a little hysterical to silence our church bells. All regretted it and felt it had never been justified. We had some basic belief that evil cannot win. We must try to strengthen in our minds something more than Britain's prosperity—something more than Britain's democracy—something based upon the eternal belief that goodness must endure.

The hon. secretary then read a telegram from the hon. secretary of the Ancient Society of College Youths, conveying the best wishes of the society for a successful gathering.

The Chairman proposed the toast of 'The memory of the late Henry Johnson.' For the first time, he believed, the toast was to be given by someone who never knew Henry Johnson. He had heard probably 40 different men praising the famous Birmingham ringer, whose memory would never fade so long as ringing was practised.

The toast was drunk in silence, and afterwards a course of Stedman Cinques was rung on the handbells by D. T. Matkin 1-2, F. W. Perrens 3-4, F. E. Pervin 5-6, A. Walker 7-8, G. F. Swann 9-10, F. E. Haynes 11-12.

THE GUILD OFFICERS.

The toast 'Continued Prosperity to the St. Martin's Guild' was proposed by the chairman. He had the honour that afternoon of presiding over the smallest gathering at a Henry Johnson Commemoration. The hon. secretary had overcome many difficulties in making the arrangements, and he was to be congratulated upon having succeeded in such extremely difficult times. The officers of the Guild were determined to keep the continuity of the commemoration unbroken, and it should never be said that Hitler (or anyone else) could prevent them from meeting. In the years to come it would be remembered that the 'old boys' had kept the Guild going through the most difficult period England had ever experienced. The speaker then said it was his sad duty to refer to the passing of their beloved Master, the late Alderman J. S. Pritchett, whose fame was world-wide so far as the ringing Exercise was concerned. He was a very distinguished man and a good ringer. His silvery voice would be for long remembered by visitors to the Birmingham dinner. They lamented the passing of one who was a distinguished adornment at many happy gatherings. The speaker referred also to the passing of Mr. Jonathan Preston, for many years an auditor for the Guild. Mr. Preston began his ringing career when a new peal of bells was installed at Erdington Parish Church, and from that day his interest had never faded. The Guild had lost another member by the tragic death of Mr. Stephen Wood, of Bristol, whose valuable work for the Exercise was well known to everyone in the room. No ringing society, said the speaker, could continue without a good secretary. It was a task that had recently become even more thankless than usual now that ringing was forbidden. Mr. Reeves was the finest secretary they could have, and he knew that he had the support of every member

(Continued in next column.)

DESIGN OF BELL FRAMES.

A REPLY TO MR. HUNT.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I fear that Mr. Hunt has overlooked the fact that the article on bell-cages was written from the point of view of an archaeologist. The use of the word 'bell-cage' should have given the clue. As a 'greybeard,' I dare not be a prophet—but as a carpenter and ringer I certainly have strong opinions as to how a bell frame should be constructed.

The engineer has been unable to improve on the design of the modern timber frame. This is shown in the numerous examples of both iron and steel frames, with which we are blessed or cursed to-day—according to one's point of view. They still consist of the same triangulated truss; so I consider that the progressive plan has reached its end, and has progressed beyond the day of the corner or end posts. I will give my reasons for dumping the corner post on the junk-heap of the past after I have dealt with the braces.

I do not agree that 'struts made from wood are a failure because the splayed shoulders shrink.' That the shoulders occasionally shrink I do not deny, but it must be borne in mind that the shoulders remain straight so that they still provide a good seating for the head and cill when the vertical bolts have been tightened up. The argument about shrinkage can and has been overdone in the past. Once a frame (assuming, of course, that it is constructed of well-seasoned timber—not just dried) has adjusted its moisture content to that of the average for the tower, for all practical purposes it will perform its job well, when given its due attention.

Now in a frame with corner posts these will prevent the vertical bolts of the braces from doing their job. It is like trying to cramp two pieces of timber together, with a block between them—it just can't be done. The corner posts hardly transmit any thrust from the head to the cill, it is the braces that do this job; so like all superfluous members, corner posts have been discarded.

I am interested in Mr. Hunt's ideal bell frame and note that each truss requires 18 bolts against the two in the modern timber frame. As experience in the 15th and 19th centuries proved that many joints and fastenings were a source of weakness, I would suggest that such a large number of bolts are also a source of weakness; bearing in mind that the two bolts per truss of the modern frame are often neglected, still more would 18 bolts per truss be likely to be neglected.

The spanner always has been the helpmate of the bolt, and, as far as I can see, always will—fate has made them inseparable.

The 19th century bellhangers have experimented with composite frames of wood and iron or steel, and from the experience gathered they gave the composite frame up for good. The modern bellhanger realises that it is a case of all wood, or all iron and steel—like oil and water, they are bad mixers. It appears that they have yet to learn that cast-iron and rolled steel are also bad mixers.

G. P. ELPHICK.

Southover, Lewes.

HENRY JOHNSON COMMEMORATION.

(Continued from previous column.)

of the Guild. The Guild was fortunate also in having Mr. F. E. Haynes as Ringing Master, although there was little for him to do at the moment.

KINDRED SOCIETIES.

The speaker had much pleasure in coupling the name of Mr. T. H. Reeves with the toast 'Continued Prosperity to the St. Martin's Guild.' Mr. T. H. Reeves, in reply, thanked the chairman for the toast, and the ladies and gentlemen for so kindly receiving it.

Mr. A. Walker proposed the toast 'Kindred Ringing Societies.' It was true, said the speaker, that the numbers were less than on former occasions, but he felt that what they were lacking in quantity they made up for in quality. It was a friendly gesture on the part of the Ancient Society of College Youths to send their good wishes, and he was glad to know that they were still meeting. He was sure that their kind wishes were reciprocated by Birmingham ringers. He congratulated Mr. A. A. Hughes upon his efforts to preserve the records of the Ancient Society, and thanked him and also the other visitors for overcoming the inconvenience of present-day travel to attend the luncheon.

In response, Mr. A. A. Hughes said that he had been particularly charged by members of the Ancient Society of College Youths to convey hearty greetings from the City of London. They had been closely associated for many years—two cities badly scarred but far from scared.

Mr. F. Skidmore also replied, saying that it was gratifying to see that the centre of England was still maintaining a lively interest in ringing in spite of the ban. He congratulated them upon their menu, which appeared to have been chosen from non-rationed foods, thereby causing no hardship to anyone.

A short business meeting followed, though there was very little business to transact. Mr. F. Skidmore (Bristol) was elected a life member of the Guild. It was decided that the next meeting should be held at headquarters.

The early evening was occupied by handbell ringing. The company dispersed much earlier than is usual at Birmingham dinners, but it was agreed that the efforts of the officers of the Guild had been well worth while.

REVERSALS.

THE RIGHT USE OF THE TERM.

To the Editor.

Sir,—The discussion on this subject reminds me that I have somewhere an article about it, which I wrote 40 years ago, for the then 'Bell News,' but never typed out; had it been sent, the question might have been settled once for all.

What we have to decide is whether we ought to use the word 'reverse' in a strict or in a general sense. We are told that Nature abhors a vacuum. Whether this be so or not, it is quite certain that in writing out change ringing we can never leave one space blank. If one bell wants to move in one direction, it cannot do so until another is ready to take its place. Every movement has its opposite. This goes right through change ringing, so that there is nothing of which we cannot say that one way is the ordinary way, and another is the 'reverse.' We can even go so far as Mr. Bankes James and say that the hunt being one side of the treble is the ordinary way, and the other side is the reverse variation.

There is nothing wrong in so doing. The only thing to be said against it is that it makes the word 'reverse' useless, and it would be better and less misleading not to use it at all.

If, however, we are going to use the word in future (as all ringers want to do), it would surely be best to use it in the same sense as is used in other matters. The best known is with regard to coins. If you take a coin and place it so as to see what is called the 'heads,' in the best way, this view is called the 'obverse'—(from two Latin words, meaning 'turned towards you'). Now suppose a line drawn as a tangent to the right edge of the coin, to represent the position of a hinge; and on such a hinge turn the coin over. The view now seen is called the 'reverse'; another word from the Latin, and meaning 'turned back.' From this use of the word every other use may be made to radiate.

If, however, instead of turning over the coin, we keep the same face up, but screw it round, so that the line which was a tangent to the upper edge, becomes the tangent to the lower edge, we have not reversed the coin, but we have turned it upside down, or inverted it. What we see might be called the 'inverse,' and the process by which we attain it may be called 'inversion,' or 'inverting.'

Now all these things may be done with rows of changes. The most usual is with regard to methods. We speak of a reverse method when we mean one in which the work that is ordinarily done when the treble is leading is now done when the treble is behind. To this use of the word no one could possibly object.

The word is, however, often used in other senses. Thus a slow six in Stedman is often said to be the reverse of a quick one. In this case the six has merely been inverted; one begins at the other end, as it were. If one wants a technical term for it, it must be called an inverted six.

To turn anything upside down, or invert it, one must take the last first, and go on until the first is last. This can be done either with the ringing, or with the method, or with the calling. In the first case the rows are rung all the same as before, but by taking the last row first, the music is entirely different. The changes are the same, but their order is inverted.

In the second case, the diagram would be turned upside down. That part of the method with which you usually end would become the beginning. As methods nowadays are usually symmetrical, this means that most methods are not altered by being inverted.

In the third case, the last call would become the first, and so on. This would be the true inversion the touch or peal. Whether there can be any true reversal of a touch or peal I must leave to others to say. At any rate, before we can talk about the reverse of a peal, we must first decide what a reverse is, or should be. From the number of different so-called reverses which have been suggested no one seems to have considered this primary question yet.

Ufford Rectory.

H. DRAKE.

HANDBELL RINGING AND APATHY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was interested to read the account in your issue of the 28th February of the inaugural meeting of the Highcliffe Society. Amongst other things, I read that a system of teaching handbell ringing was employed which has many novel features. As one of many ringers who are, I hope, trying to teach beginners even in these difficult times, I would like to ask the members of the Highcliffe Society if they could explain their new methods, in order that other ringers may profit by their experience.

I should also like to remind 'Numskull' that the reason for the apathy which he complains of is not merely a lack of enthusiasm on the part of the ringers, but rather a lack of ringers. Now that so many men have been called up, it is very difficult, and sometimes impossible, to get together a band capable of ringing even Grand sire or Plain Rob. As an example, I would tell him that I am now the only member of what was a very keen and flourishing band now remaining.

Nearly all ringers would agree that once a man is 'bitten' by ringing there is no fear that he will lose his keenness, and I believe that there are enough keen ringers to carry the Exercise through the severest tests, and to come out victorious. 'YOUNG RINGER.'

Beechcroft, Sundridge, Kent.

ERIN DOUBLES.

THE EXTENT NOT POSSIBLE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—One hundred and twenty changes cannot be obtained in Erin Doubles for the simple reason the work forbids. There are ten combinations of any three bells in front with any two remaining over and dodging behind. Each of these combinations contain six permutations or changes. Therefore, only 60 changes can be produced because of the particular work, and this with the aid of two normal Stedman singles. Any bobbing in front would ruin the method.

One hundred and twenty changes of Stedman Doubles can be produced because, in addition to the two singles, the work of slow and quick sixes is equivalent to bob work in Erin Doubles, which, if applied to the latter, would utterly ruin it. F. A. YORKE, Major, R.A.

Somewhere in England.

AN AMENDED SINGLE.

Dear Sir,—May I trespass on your space to offer an improved single for use in the extents of Erin Doubles which I forwarded. I trust it will be more acceptable, as it only affects the work of two bells.

As will be seen, the substitution of the improved single causes the order of sixes 10 to 20 of the extent published on the 14th ult. to be changed to 10, 15, 16, 17, 18, 11, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20.

- 21435
- 12453
- 14235
- 41253
- 42135
- 24153
-
- 24513
- 42531
- etc.

C. KENNETH LEWIS.

A NEW MAJOR METHOD.

A SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENT TO DUFFIELD.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It is well known that, contrary to Sir Percival Heywood's hopes and expectations, 'Duffield' has never become popular amongst the ringing fraternity. It may be that one reason for this is that it is too simple, or, again, that the dodging at lead is considered to be less musical than if it were in 5.6.

I venture to enclose the course of a method which, in my opinion, is an improvement. It is still, of course, very simple, but the work in the front, which takes the place of that in 'Duffield' in the middle places, is rather more interesting than plain hunting, and the dodging is transferred from 1.2 to 5.6, thus improving the music, and making all dodging and bobs exactly like Stedman.

The coursing order is better, which matters little in a peal, but is important for short touches.

JAMES F. HARVEY.

Baildon, Yorks.

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|----------|----------|
| 12345678 | 76854213 |
| 21436587 | 67582431 |
| 24135678 | 65784213 |
| 42316587 | 56872431 |
| 43215678 | 58674213 |
| 34126587 | 85762431 |

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| 43162857 | 58726341 |
| 34618275 | 85273614 |
| 36412857 | 82576341 |
| 63148275 | 28753614 |
| 61342857 | 27856341 |
| 16438275 | 72583614 |

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| 61483725 | 27538164 |
| 16847352 | 72351846 |
| 18643725 | 73258164 |
| 81467352 | 37521846 |
| 84163725 | 35728164 |
| 48617352 | 53271846 |

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| 84671532 | 35217486 |
| 48765123 | 53124768 |
| 47861532 | 51327486 |
| 74685123 | 15234768 |
| 76481532 | 12537486 |
| 67845123 | 21354768 |

12345678

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THE STANDARD METHODS.

THE SCIENCE OF RINGING.

Last week we gave Bulwer's suggested rules for methods. The interesting thing about these suggested rules is that all, except, perhaps, the last, were laid down from the standpoint of the composer of peals. No thought seems to have been given to the actual ringer in the belfry, and this attitude is common to almost all the opinions expressed by authorities at the time and later. Davies went much further. To him the one important thing was that the regular succession of the nature of the rows should never be broken. That was the fundamental law of method construction, and in comparison with it nothing else mattered very much. It seems to us now a totally untenable position, but it is very remarkable how many well informed men did share his views, if not to the full extent. Heywood laid down the axiom that every bell that can must move, and he also expressed the opinion that places made together are a defect. This opinion was adopted by a number of people, and is still held by some. There seems to have been an idea, more or less definitely held, that places are a necessary evil; there must be some of them, but the fewer there are and the more they are hidden up, the better.

Older men will remember the keen and long-drawn-out controversy which followed Bulwer's action. It lasted for years, and in the end the Exercise accepted three general principles for method construction. The first is that no bell may strike more than two consecutive blows in any one position, the second that the lead of a method must be symmetrical, and the third that the lead ends should be what are known as Bob Major lead ends. All three, and especially the two last, were strongly opposed, but nobody to-day is likely to challenge them.

In all these arguments and controversies men looked on a method solely as a means of producing changes, and that, of course, is one of its most important uses. But it is not the only one and, as we strongly urge, an equally and perhaps more important use, is to provide 'work' for the individual ringer.

The fundamental defect, of Heywood and the other authorities was that they attempted to lay down rules and to set up standards for the art and science of change ringing before they understood what the art and science essentially are. Few people even now understand. That is nothing to their discredit, but we shall very much better understand method construction if we know something about how change ringing actually came about, and what was the root idea which produced it and developed it.

Change ringing was not the invention of some mathematical genius who sat down with pencil and paper to work out an elaborate scheme of producing the permutations of figures according to scientific rules. It might conceivably have been so invented, but actually it was not. It appeared in the belfry among the practical ringers, and we may safely say that the real birth of change ringing was when, after having been used for years to good round ringing, men began to say to each other all over the country, 'Let's have some variety. Change places with me.' The idea of the movement of the individual bell among the others is the fundamental idea. We know from Duckworth's *Tintinnologia* that this idea of movement was the original idea, and we know from our personal experience that it remains the

most important idea, however much we may forget it when we sit down with pencil and paper to compose peals or construct methods. Is it not remarkable and significant how a man identifies himself with the bell he is ringing? He says, 'I was in 5-6,' or 'I should have gone down to lead.' Not, 'I was striking my bell in 5-6.' Notice also how almost every technical term we use in the belfry implies movement and little else. Hunting, dodging, bob, course, lead—you can go through the lot; they are all alike in this respect.

We have compared the work in a peal to a walking tour across country, and we showed how we react to similar conditions in both cases. But the analogy must not be pushed too far. When we are on a walking tour we can go within limits, pretty much where we like, but when we are ringing, our movement is restricted by certain definite conditions which are inherent in the nature of the case. The movement in change ringing is not the movement of a physical object in space and time, but the movement of an abstract entity among other similar entities. This, no doubt, sounds very dreadful, but the idea is really a very simple one. Our object in mentioning it is to point out that given a definite number of bells in a row and the intention to alter their relative positions by moving them among each other, what we can do and what we cannot do, depend on an exact self-contained science, in just the same way that, given the idea of a point and a line, the whole of geometry follows as a logical science. Change ringing and geometry are, in fact, two kindred sciences.

We do not intend to develop this thought further or to try to explain the nature of the science of change ringing. It is an intensely interesting study for those who like that sort of thing, but obviously they are not many. What we want to point out is that the only justification of any general law of method construction is in the fact that it is implied by the nature of the science. That and that alone is the justification for the general rules of symmetry and Bob Major lead ends.

We will next consider some of the rules which people have tried from time to time to lay down. First there is the rule that no bell should strike more than two consecutive blows in any one position. Is that implied by the fundamental nature of the science? Not absolutely, though the principle on which it is based is so implied. For if a bell lies for any length of time in one position it may contravene the root idea of movement. But place making, as we shall see presently, is a part of movement, and movement may take the form of a succession of places in the same position. Thus the long fourths at the bob in Treble Bob, and the long thirds at the single in Grandsire, are each really three distinct places, and so can be justified. So, too, can the four blows behind in Bob Triples. Nevertheless, the Exercise has come to the conclusion that while there are sufficient reasons for allowing such a thing at calls, there is none for allowing it in the plain course of a method. The distinction is based on purely practical grounds.

DAMAGE TO HISTORIC BUILDINGS.

Steps are being taken by the Ministry of Works to secure the proper treatment of churches and other historic buildings damaged in air raids. Selected local architects with special knowledge of the historic buildings in their district have been chosen, in consultation with the Royal Institute of British Architects, to assist and advise local authorities before and during the work of demolition and removal of debris.

WHAT IS A GOOD SURPRISE METHOD ?

MUSIC AND PLACE MAKING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was glad to read Mr. Woolley's letter. The views of men of his standing were what many of us were hoping to see. I agree with him in most of the points he raises, although, perhaps, not in all.

In a previous letter I suggested that one of the points of a good method was that bells should not occupy a position for too prolonged a period. By that I meant that when dodging behind they should certainly do so long enough to bring out the music, but how long that should be is, perhaps, a matter of opinion. Two or three dodges, I should say, is good; four, probably, rather too long.

For the purpose of comparison between various methods, it doesn't seem to matter very much whether one considers the tenors divided when two or more or when three or more bells come between. In the majority of cases the relative result would be much the same, although not necessarily always so.

Mr. Woolley confines his remarks regarding 'back-handers' (perhaps a crude, but still an expressive term) to those at the front of the change. I am not so much concerned with these. The idea that they may be more difficult to strike is of no importance; they are, of course, no more difficult than backstroke leads when bells are dodging. But when they come at the back, as they must in due course, they do interrupt the rhythm of the changes and so interfere with the music. Changes are rung in pairs, or should be. In a sense they are couplets, and in a verse of poetry we may begin a line with any word we please, but it is very important how we end it. When back-stroke places are made behind, the couplet is broken, the expected rhyme or sequence does not come, and the ear experiences a sense of something lacking. I can quite see, however, that there may be genuine disagreement on this point, just as there is on the question of the merits, or otherwise, of modern music. Being a lover of Mozart and Beethoven, perhaps I am a bit old-fashioned. If so, I am still unrepentant. However, I am at one with Mr. Woolley on the merits of Bristol, although even the sun has spots, and I generally endorse his criticism of the opinions of the Rev. C. D. P. Davies on Major, who, for some reason or other, failed utterly to appreciate its beauties.

That Bedford is a method on the 'lengthening-lead' plan is an obvious advantage. I must confess that I had overlooked this, having gone no further in my consideration of it than the plain course. When short touches are desired, this is an extremely useful quality, and the method certainly deserves a good many extra points for this. I thank Mr. Woolley for pointing it out.

As regards classification, I was not aware that it had been decided that the whole pulls where the treble leads and lies do not constitute 'cross-sections.' This was not the opinion of the author (or the reviser) of 'Standard Methods.' But in any case a mere question of classification has nothing to do with the merits of a method, and the deduction of 5 points on this account is a minor detail.

May I say how grateful we are for the very interesting series of articles with which you are favouring us on this question? We shall look forward with appreciation to as many more as you feel disposed to give us.

JAMES F. HARVEY.

Baildon, Yorks.

OLD RINGERS' RIVALRY.

NORWICH VERSUS AYLSHAM.

Mr. Charles E. Borrett continues to send us most interesting extracts from the old Norwich newspaper. Here is one which should be read in connection with the controversy over the first peals of Stedman, of which an account appeared some few months ago in our columns. Thomas Melchior published a retort, in which he said that the Norwich men did not believe that the Aylsham men had ever rung a peal of Grandsire Triples. The peal at St. Margaret's, Leicester, referred to was rung in February, 1730, 'in 3 hours 6 minutes and 27 seconds, to the great satisfaction of all the hearers.'

'Norwich Gazette,' November 6th, 1731.

'Norfolk, Aylesham. This is to inform all those who are lovers of the Art of Ringing, That we whose Names are here-under written, the Society of Ringers in the said Town of Aylesham, did on Monday, the 1st of November instant, ring the Peal of Grandsire Triples, containing 5,040 changes, in the Space of 3 Hours and 11 Minutes, which was never known to be done in so short a Time but by the above-mentioned Company, once by the Leicester Scholars only excepted, and whereas it has been inserted in the Newspapers that the Company of Ringers belonging to the Parish of St. Peter's of Mancroft in the City of Norwich, did lately ring the Peal of Stedman's Triples: we the Company above-mentioned, and whose Names are here under-written, take Leave to tell them, that we do not believe they did or can prick or ring the said Peal to Truth, notwithstanding their several Pretensions, they having often contradicted themselves in pricking the same.

John Amyas, jun. Treble, Ralph Spurrell 2nd, William Westly 3rd, Robert Lubbock 4th, Robert Scott 5th, Edward Barnes 6th, Thomas Spurrell 7th, Jonathan Ulph Tenor.'

DESTRUCTION OF CHURCHES & HISTORIC BUILDINGS.

A NATIONAL RECORD.

The tragic destruction and mutilation of churches and other historic buildings by enemy action, in ancient cities like London, Bristol and Coventry, as well as in the countryside, have had one immediate sequel. At the invitation of the Royal Institute of British Architects a conference was held on November 18th to initiate a scheme for the compilation of full graphic, photographic and other records of buildings of merit, whatever their date, which have been damaged or are in outstanding danger of damage by warfare. As a result the National Buildings Record has been formed under a council.

The work of the National Buildings Record will be threefold: (1) The compilation of a central index of records for purposes of reference, and the avoidance of duplication. This index is already in being, thanks to the Architectural Graphic Records Committee, but contains as yet only a title of the material existing throughout the country; (2) the supplementing of these records by adequate surveys where records are non-existent or incomplete; (3) the record of damage to buildings and of evidence of history or construction which such damage often discloses.

The urgency of the task which has been undertaken has been recognised by the Government, and the Minister of Works and Buildings has promised the full co-operation of his department.

THE FIRST PEAL OF FORWARD MAXIMUS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I saw it was claimed in your columns a few weeks ago that Mr. John Carter had called the first peal of Forward Maximus in 1899. This was incorrect, as the following is an account of the first peal in the method on 12 bells and which was rung at St. Martin's, Birmingham, 5,040 changes, on Tuesday, January 13th, 1903, in 3 hours and 42 minutes: *Thomas Pigott 1, *John Jagger 2, Tom Miller 3, *Charles Dickens 4, William H. Barber 5, Thomas Reynolds 6, *A. J. Hughes 7, *Albert Walker 8, *A. Paddon Smith 9, *Joseph Pigott 10, *James E. Groves 11, Arthur E. Peglar tenor. Composed by John Carter and conducted by W. H. Barber. First peal rung in this method on 12 bells and was rung at the first attempt. * First peal of Maximus, eight of them and almost a record in that respect.

Mr. John Carter later provided a marbette tablet for this peal.

I don't think many of them have rung a peal in the method since owing to the monotony and similarity of the work throughout, though it is certainly musical.

C. L. ROUTLEDGE.

62, Jesmond Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

ARE RINGERS APATHETIC ?*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—There are one or two statements in the letter signed 'Numskull' which seem to call for a reply—that is if a numskull is worth replying to. He writes about the ban on ringing, and appears to forget that there are circumstances possible when orders will be given for the bells to be rung. What would happen if this contingency arose and it was found that the clappers of the bells had been removed or securely tied up? I suggest that the person or persons responsible would be in danger of being locked up as fifth columnists, with perhaps somewhat grim results. Much as I regret the imposition of the ban, I cannot help feeling that it would be wrong to do anything to put the bells out of action. Nobody would think of interfering with a weapon of war to make it fit to play with, and whilst the ban is on our bells are instruments of war. (Perhaps this is why so many churches are being destroyed, but that is another matter!)

I would also point out to Numskull that the winter months have hardly been suitable, especially in London and other big towns, for activities which must be confined to the evening time—he may find that during the summer months matters will, in this respect, improve.

C. T. COLES.

ODD STRUCK BELLS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—You ask us to write letters about side issues. Here is one that may interest some of your readers.

Which is the easier and more comfortable to ring; a bell slow at backstroke and quick at hand, or a bell slow at handstroke and quick at back?

I have heard at times the most opposite answers to this question. Some people say that a bell can be controlled much better at backstroke, and, therefore, provided the handstroke pull is made properly, there should be no difficulty in putting in its right place any bell slow at back, no matter how slow it is. Other people say that the open lead helps you when you are ringing a bell slow at handstroke and badly hampers you when you are ringing a bell slow at backstroke. Both sides claim famous tenor men as holding their views.

Is it possible to correct an odd struck bell without calling in a bell founder? It is usually said that, when a bell is hung by cannons on a wooden stock, what you must do is to slacken the hangings on one side and tighten them on the other. Which side must be tightened? And what do you do when the bell is bolted through the crown to an iron stock? Call in the bell founder, I suppose.

If a bell is rung with the clapper on the wrong side, what effect has that on the oddity of the striking? And would such a thing be likely to injure the bell?

E. C. S. TURNER.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6.

All communications should be sent to **THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.**

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

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. per quarter.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—The next meeting will be held at St. Albans Abbey, on Saturday, March 8th. Bells with a new kind of apparatus available from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tea at McMeekeans at 4.15. Business meeting in the tower at 5.15. Further ringing on handbells and tower bells 6.30 onwards. Come and try something new in 'silent' tower bells.—Harold J. Hazell, Dis. Sec., 15, King's Hill Avenue, St. Albans.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at the Haymarket Hotel (opposite St. James-in-the-Horsefair), on Saturday, March 8th. Handbells 2.45 p.m. Tea and meeting 4 p.m.—A. Tyler, Hon. Sec., 5, Addison Road, Victoria Park, Bristol, 3.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—The annual district meeting will be held at Guiseley on Saturday, March 8th. Handbells available in Parish Hall from 1.30. Ramble arranged to commence 3 o'clock. Tea at approximately 5 p.m. Business meeting at approximately 6 o'clock. Election of officers, etc. Annual reports now available.—F. Rayment, Dis. Sec., Bramley.

BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Felkirk on Saturday, March 8th. Handbells available at 2.30 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. Six silent tower bells will also be available if required. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Leatherhead on Saturday, March 15th. Bells available at Parish Church in afternoon if required. Service 4 p.m. Tea at the Duke's Head at 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. Handbells, etc., available afterwards. Names for tea must be sent to Mr. Arthur Dean, 24, Church Walk, Leatherhead, by Tuesday, March 11th.—G. W. Massey, Hon. Dis. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Welcome to Hethersett, March 15th. Six tower bells from 3 p.m. and handbells in church. Service 4.15. Tea 4.45 at the King's Head, followed by business meeting and more handbells. Reports to hand. Subscriptions gladly received.—F. Nolan Golden, Sec., Brabazon Road, Norwich.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch.—Quarterly meeting and handbells at Rodbourne Cheney Sunday School (opposite Church) on Saturday, March 15th, 6 to 8 p.m. — W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Swindon, Wilts.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—The annual district meeting will be held at The Cottage, Oakway, Reigate, at 5 p.m. on March 15th.—A. T. Shelton, Hon. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—A district meeting will be held at Little Clacton on Saturday, March 15th. Handbell ringing at the Vicarage (opposite church) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea at Blacksmith's Arms 5.15 p.m. Business meeting and more ringing at the Vicarage afterwards. Names for tea by Tuesday, March 11th, please. Neighbouring friends in Suffolk are cordially invited. There is a good bus service from Ipswich and Colchester passing the church, but visitors coming by car must get a permit before entering the coastal defence area.—Leslie Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., Lower Barn Farm, Dedham.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held at Dudley on March 15th. Service at 4.15, followed by unveiling of a peal board for the late secretary, Mr. H. Sheppard. Business meeting after. No arrangements can be made for tea. — John Goodman, Hon. Sec., 45, Holcroft Street, Burnt Tree, Tipton.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 15th. Members will meet at the 'Two Brewers,' Shoe Lane, E.C.4, at 2.30. Business meeting and handbells at 15, Farringdon Avenue, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting for practice, Brierley Hill (D.V.), Saturday, March 15th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Social evening to follow.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual general committee meeting will be held in Reading (D.V.) on Saturday, March 22nd, at the Central Girls' Club, 29, Chain Street (opposite St. Mary's Church House), at 3.15 p.m. It is hoped that all branches will be represented.—Richard T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Henlow on Saturday, March 22nd. Bells (6, silent), also handbells, available, commencing at 3 p.m. Tea at 5. Will those requiring tea please write Mr. L. Bywaters, 12, New Town, Henlow, Beds? — C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy, Beds.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Kilburn on Saturday, March 29th. Further details will be announced later.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

HERTS ASSOCIATION.—Meeting, Saturday, March 29th, at Guides Studio, Falconer Road, Bushey, at 3.45. Handbells. Social chat. Comfortable room. Tea arranged. A welcome to all interested in ringing, whether handbell ringers or not. Call in and see. Bus service close handy. — C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Annual Meeting. — Preliminary Notice. — The annual meeting will be held (D.V.) at Worcester on Saturday afternoon, May 17th. Resolutions for the agenda should reach me by Saturday, April 19th (Rule 10). Tea will be arranged, if possible, but **only** for those whose **names** are given to the branch or general secretaries at least ten days before the meeting. Will members please note, as the committee have decided to strictly enforce this?—J. D. Johnson, Gen. Sec.

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