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FIRES AND BELL FRAMES.

A letter from one of our correspondents which appears on another page raises a question of some considerable importance. How far does an iron frame afford a safeguard to the bells against fire? Can that safeguard be made more effective? And would it not be well to collect all available information from present disasters to be used in the reconstruction of the future?

These are questions, essentially, of course, for experts, and the obstacles against the collection of details of the damage done in air raids are known to all. But a general ventilation of the subject can do nothing but good, especially if it leads ringers and steeple keepers to take notice of the conditions in their own towers.

The bitter experience of London seems to give good examples of the conditions which generally exist, and we will make a brief examination and contrast of them, but with the proviso that our knowledge is far too imperfect for us to do more than treat them as types.

St. Lawrence, Jewry, had a heavy ring of eight hung by modern fittings in an old wooden frame. The square, stone tower was surmounted by a rather elaborate spire of wood. In the church below, and almost beneath the tower, was a wooden gallery with the organ. Within the tower the floors and the joists were of wood, and there was a considerable amount of inflammable fittings. Under those conditions, when the nave of the church was set alight, the tower acted like a chimney and the whole of its contents from top to bottom became a raging furnace. Everything except the stonework was destroyed, and not even a trace of the bells could be seen among the fallen debris. They could not have escaped in any circumstances; if the frame had been of iron instead of wood, and they had not crashed to the ground, they must have been melted where they hung.

St. Bride's, Fleet Street, has a stone spire. The bells were hung in the original wood frame, and the joists and floors were wood. But the base of the tower was clear of inflammable fittings, and there was nothing to spread the fire from the body of the church to the belfry. Indeed, the conditions seem to have been as good as could be hoped for except for one thing. The exception is that, as is usual in churches which have an interior ceiling below the outside roof, there was an opening from the space between into the tower. It was through this, probably, that the fire spread from the roof of the church to the tower, and it is likely that, had the opening been closed by some fire-resisting material, the tower and bells might have escaped, as the tower and bells of St. Michael's Coventry, escaped.

(Continued on page 242.)

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Our information on this point is far too imperfect for us to speak definitely about St. Bride's, but here certainly is a point that should be taken notice of by all who have the charge of towers and bells. Some authorities have thought fit to take the bells down from the steeples, and there must be many who would go to the much less expense of isolating the tower from the roof space if the conditions seem to make it advisable.

The bells of St. Giles', Cripplegate, were hung in an iron frame, but this was rendered nugatory by the stocks being of wood except in the case of the tenor. The space below the tower was clear and was surmounted by a stone vaulting. The steeple was crowned by a wooden cupola, and there was a lot of wood inside. The chamber immediately below the bells was full of parts of disused partitions, wooden tablets, and other furniture. The bells crashed and were broken, except the tenor, which still hung on its iron stock, but was ruined by the fire. Here again it is unlikely that all-iron hangings would have made much difference.

At St. Andrew's, Holborn, the bells were in a modern iron frame with iron stocks. The space below the tower was clear, and though the fire reached the belfry and burnt all the wooden joists and floors, it probably was not so fierce as in St. Lawrence's and St. Giles'. Anyhow, the bells still hang, and it is hoped they are uninjured. But that remains to be seen.

Certainly here is a field for expert investigation, and we hope it will not be overlooked by the proper authorities. When the war is over, and they have time and opportunity, the Towers and Belfries Committee of the Central Council might bear it in mind.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BUSHEY, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, May 12, 1941, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

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

Tenor size 14 in D.

EDWIN A. BARNETT 1-2 | ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 5-6

*CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 3-4 | FREDERICK W. BRINKLOW ... 7-8

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

* 200th handbell peal.

ALDERSHOT, HAMPSHIRE.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, May 15, 1941, in Two Hours and Eighteen Minutes,

AT 37, HIGHFIELD GARDENS,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

WILLIAM H. VIGGERS... .. 1-2 | *HAROLD C. HOBDEN 5-6

SERGE. J. FREEMAN, R.A.M.C. 3-4 | MAURICE HODGSON 7-8

Composed by GEORGE WILLIAMS. Conducted by SERGE. J. FREEMAN

* First peal in the method on handbells.

SWINDON, WILTS.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, May 16, 1941, in Two Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes,

AT 81, COUNTY ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven extents, each called differently. Tenor size 15 in C.

*IVOR C. N. BELL 1-2 | †W. BERTRAM KYNASTON ... 3-4

†REV. MALCOLM C. C. MELVILLE ... 5-6

Conducted by REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE.

* First peal of Minor. † First peal of Minor 'in hand.' First peal of Minor as conductor. Rung after meeting short for Major.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

THE COLLECTIONS OF PEALS.

The committee appointed in 1892 to deal with calls and peal collections presented their report in the following year. It was debated and, after having been referred back for the consideration of one or two minor points, was adopted by the Council in 1894, and was printed.

It was intended to be the definitive statement on bobs and singles, but actually it added little or nothing to the Exercise's store of knowledge, and is only read to-day out of curiosity, if at all. It was rather a good example of the art of saying nothing much in a great number of words, and that was mainly because the committee had nothing much to say.

So far as the great majority of methods are concerned, custom and convenience have provided one bob, and all along ringers and composers have shown no particular desire to introduce any other. Some exception to this may perhaps be found in eighth's place Major methods, where both fourth's and sixth's place bobs have at times been recognised as allowable. It might, therefore, seem that there was no reason for raising the question and nothing particular for the committee to report about. But it so happened that at the time the attention of composers like Davies was largely centred on Grandsire and similar Triples methods. Up to but a few years before composition in those methods was, apart from the bob-and-single peals, represented entirely by Holt's compositions and their variations.

Holt had given his work to the Exercise, but the methods by which he worked remained a secret, and until the time of Davies, Hollis and Penning no composer, not even John Reeves, seems to have had any idea of how to set to work to produce a peal of Grandsire Triples. This state of ignorance was now being ended.

For practical purposes Holt's Ten-part was the most valuable, besides being an extraordinarily clever production. It has two in-course singles, and though special calls of the sort have never been altogether liked, they were looked upon as necessary and legitimate.

Davies' report, therefore, concerned itself largely with them and the proper form of those in other Triples methods. A good deal also was said about the proper single to be used in Union, all of which is of little interest to-day, for that method, after enjoying two or three years' modified popularity, has fallen into disuse.

About this time Joseph J. Parker produced his 12-part peal of Grandsire which quickly supplanted Holt's 10-part in the belfry, and in effect rendered in-course singles in the method unnecessary and obsolete. They must, however, always be used in the other pure Triples methods. Composers did not then understand the part symmetry plays in producing true peals, and the report recommended singles for Double Oxford, Court and similar methods which are quite useless for composition.

The primary purpose for which the committee was appointed was to make and publish a collection of peals, and this represented what was at the time a marked phase in the life of the Exercise.

The publication of a collection of peals might seem at first sight to be for the benefit of conductors. To some extent that was the ostensible reason, but it was not the real reason, nor has it been the real reason for the de-

mands which have been made from time to time for a 'register' of compositions. It was the composers and the would-be composers who wanted the collection and who hoped to benefit by it.

All along, though in varying degree, men have sought to be recognised as composers, and to be able to claim peals as their own. Many of them, probably the large majority, knew nothing really about composition, but it is a simple thing to put together course ends by means of a table of course ends, and not a particularly difficult thing (in some methods at any rate) to prove the result. So long as there was no means of publishing the figures there was not much inducement to be a composer, but when 'The Bell News' appeared and printed peals, composers began to multiply enormously. If the actual figures were different from any that had been printed before, the peal was supposed to be original and the man's very own.

It was inevitable, however, that more than one man should produce the same peal, and that led to innumerable disputes as to who really was the owner. The one test which was universally accepted by all, even by the leading men like Bulwer and Heywood, was priority of publication.

This view was reflected in a report presented in 1897 by the committee which then consisted of Bulwer, Davies, Dr. Carpenter and Henry Dains. 'The earliest ascertainable true composition,' they said, 'on any definite plan in any method which is not a reproduction or colourable imitation of a previous composition in the same composition in another method is entitled to be termed the original composition on that plan, and subsequent compositions on the same plan which are not demonstrably reversals or transpositions may be considered distinct compositions and allowed the distinction of originality.'

Here is the reason for the collection of peals. If a man could get his figures, with his name attached, into a Central Council book, then he had made good his claim against any who might come later.

All this, of course, induced men to take an interest in the theoretic side of ringing, it stimulated thought, and in the end did a lot of good. But at the time men were far more concerned to prove that their particular group of figures was independent of anything else, than to study the mathematical laws which control the production and relationship of true peals. That necessarily had to be left to the few, and only gradually have people realised that originality, in the sense that the word was used, simply does not exist.

It is necessary to know these facts to understand how the Central Council collections of peals were made, and why they were failures.

It is not impossible to make a good collection of the peals of any method, nor to publish it in a way which will be both useful and interesting. Indeed, Jasper Snowdon had done it in the case of Treble Bob; and his book may serve as the model for any collection. But Snowdon had several advantages which the later men lacked. He had an excellent method to deal with, he knew his subject thoroughly, he knew how to write a book, and he was not himself a composer.

Snowdon's collection of Treble Bob peals is an interesting book to read and study. It contains every known true peal produced in the method during a cen-

(Continued on next page.)

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from previous page.)

ture and a half. The peals are arranged systematically, with short explanatory notes, and particulars of first performances.

The method lends itself to this treatment. There is an enormous variety in the form and qualities of the peals, and they are easily seen from course ends, which even in one part peals seldom number more than fifteen or sixteen.

A dozen one part peals of Treble Bob can be put in two or three pages of a book and can easily be studied by the reader with interest. A dozen peals of Grandsire Triples would take a dozen closely printed pages, and would present the reader with nothing but a mass of figures which mean very little to him unless he is prepared to do an immense amount of pricking and close study. However a collection of peals of Grandsire Triples is presented, it can never be so interesting as a collection of peals of Treble Bob, and it is difficult to see how it can be made interesting at all, except to the very few people who are themselves composers of Grandsire Triples. There you have, perhaps, the greatest reason why the Central Council collections were a failure.

But that was not the only one. Snowdon had made his collection and studied how to present it, before he thought of publication. The later men thought of publication before they knew anything about what was really involved in making and editing a collection. The whole thing was carried out as an experiment, without much system and the men engaged had very little knowledge or experience of what is involved in preparing and writing a book. They thought and the Council thought that provided a man knew a lot about the composition of a method he was fully competent to write a book about it.

The first publication of peals by the committee was at the end of the printed report. It consisted of half a dozen peals of each Grandsire and Union Triples, ten of Grandsire Caters, one of Grandsire Cinques, and nine of Treble Bob Maximus. There seems to have been no other reason for this selection than that the committee happened to have them in their hands.

Still, the figures were well presented, and some of the peals were excellent. Parker's 12-part of Grandsire Triples appears in a text book for the first time, and the others in the same method, all by Mr. Banks James, marked a distinct advance in composition. Except for the composer, the peals of Union had little value then, and have none now. The peals of Caters and Cinques were similar to many with which the Exercise had for some time been familiar, and the peals of Maximus apparently were included for no other reason than that they were composed by one of the members of the committee, who took the opportunity of making good his claim to them.

In 1895 an appendix was published. It was a book of one hundred pages, and consisted of the figures of peals only without any explanatory letterpress. Except that the peals in the same method were grouped together, there was no system in the way they were given, there was no guarantee of originality as it was then understood, or of truth, and there were many mistakes in proof reading. The collection did not pretend to be exhausted or representative, nor to contain the most suitable compositions for a conductor's use. Such people as cared to take the trouble sent figures to the committee and they were printed. I myself, then a youth of eighteen, sent a dozen peals of Bob Major and they duly appeared. As compositions they were quite good, but with one exception (a very simple and ordinary four-part) of no use at all for the average conductor. They consisted of in-course one-parts, some six-thousands and three or four thirteen-thousands. One of the in-course one-parts actually was rung a fortnight ago.

The Appendix was of little use for the practical ringer and the composers were anything but satisfied with it. Nathan Pitstow, as one of the committee, took charge of Plain Bob, Treble Bob, Double Norwich, and Surprise, and out of 185 peals, 95 bore his own name. That gave a lot of offence, yet Pitstow ought not to have been blamed. It could not be said that his peals were not good peals, for they were among the best and most useful included, and it was not suggested that he left out other people's compositions to make room for his own. Any one of his critics would have done the same as he did. It was really a case of jealousy that one man should have figured as a composer more prominently than his rivals. It showed the falsity of the ideas which lay behind the demand for a collection of peals.

So far the attempt to publish a collection of peals had proved a failure. In 1896 the committee was reconstructed. Pitstow and Hattersley withdrew, Bulwer was brought in to take general charge and Dr. Carpenter and Henry Dains were added.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

EAST BERKS AND SOUTH BUCKS BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the East Berks and South Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild was held at Cookham on April 26th. The service in the church was well attended and the singing was good.

At the business meeting Mr. W. H. Fussell presided. All the officers were re-elected. The secretary said he had nothing to report. The Branch Master gave a retrospect and stressed the importance of keeping the bells well oiled and paying attention to ropes and fittings.

Mr. Fussell asked Canon Coleridge to make a presentation, on behalf of the branch, to the Rev. and Mrs. C. E. Wigg on the occasion of their marriage. The latter both thanked all for their kindness. It was decided to make a contribution from branch funds towards a wedding present, from the General Guild, for Mr. and Mrs. Wigg.

After an omnibus vote of thanks to the Vicar, organist and Mr. Fowler, who arranged everything, handbells were produced and made excellent use of, the methods including Grandsire Doubles to Caters, Plain Bob Major, Stedman Triples (and a tune), finishing with a plain course of Grandsire Doubles in octave.

Cookham has only six bells, and the extent of the ringing was one 120 of Grandsire Doubles and a plain course of Cambridge Surprise Minor, with silent bells.

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HEXHAM ABBEY BELLS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—It is interesting to note that the peal of Grandsire Triples rung at Hexham Abbey on September 4th, 1848, and referred to by Mr. Routledge in your issue of May 9th, is considered by Snowdon in his book, 'Grandsire,' to be one of the earliest, if not the earliest, known performance of Thurslans' Five-Part composition. I should be pleased to know if any of your readers have the record of an earlier performance. More information about the Abbey's old ring of six bells, tenor 70 cwt., would also be welcome.

Mr. Routledge's remarks about the noise recall to mind the occasion when, almost 90 years after the above-mentioned peal, a second peal of Grandsire Triples was rung in the same tower by a band from the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association at Easter-time, 1938, as follows: M. Anderson 1, K. Cheeseman 2, I. Anderson 3, T. W. Crowe 4, W. J. Davidson 5, J. Roach 6, K. Arthur 7, A. Deas 8. Conducted by K. Arthur, the composition being Moore's Twelve-Part.

This time, when the bells were being raised in peal, the noise was tantamount to bedlam, but on investigation it was found that the belfry door and a couple of trap doors leading to the clock weights were wide open. When this trouble had been rectified a start was made for our peal, and the tonal beauty of this glorious ring was enjoyed to the full without further interference.

Another point. Has any North Country ringer the complete history of the Union Society of Newcastle and Gateshead? There are the records of a few peals rung by this society in Newcastle Cathedral, All Saints', Newcastle, and St. Mary's, Gateshead, dating from 1790 to 1850, but otherwise there appears to be little else remaining to show of its existence.

K. ARTHUR.

14, Cranley Drive, Ruislip.

IRON BELL FRAMES.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Many readers will be sorry to see in your Belfry Gossip that the bells which hung in the oldest iron bell frame in the country have been destroyed. We have been led to expect that iron frames would be some safeguard in case of fire, but evidently they are not. Would it not be well to collect all the information on the matter for future guidance?

A. F. S.

THE BELLS OF BOURDEAUX.—The city of Bourdeaux was deprived of its bells for rebellion, and when it was offered to have them restored the people refused it after having tasted the ease and convenience of being freed from the constant din and jangling of bells.—'The Clavis.'

ENDOWMENTS FOR BELL ROPES.

Mr. Edward J. Thomas mentioned in a letter a piece of land at Skenfrith, in Monmouthshire, which had been given to provide for the repair and upkeep of bell ropes, and asked for similar instances.

In olden times such endowments were quite common, but, with one notable exception, we believe they have all lapsed either through neglect or fraud. The exception is at St. Martin's, Birmingham, where the endowment is now a very valuable one and provides money for many other than the original purposes.

In the report of the Commissioners of Inquiry into Charities, issued in the year 1843, mention is made of the Skenfrith endowment, which is said to consist of a house and £4. It had been alienated and a case had been certified to the Attorney General for the purpose of recovering the property.

Other endowments for bell ropes are stated in the report to exist at Leighton Buzzard, in Bedfordshire; Hinxton, in Cambridgeshire; Blackmore, Foxearth, Lambourne and Great Leighs, in Essex; Eardisley and Thuxton, in Herefordshire; Abkettleby, Sheepy Magna and Witherly, in Leicestershire; Yaxham, in Norfolk; Bradden, in Northamptonshire; Hook Norton, in Oxfordshire; Alveley, in Shropshire; Ashfield Magna and Lavenham, in Suffolk; Reigate, in Surrey; and Aneeley and Birmingham, in Warwickshire.

It is also stated in 'Church Bells of Nottinghamshire' that at Let Drayton in that county there is a small field up a lane called Long Ridding, which bears the name Bell-string Close. The tenant, who is usually the parish clerk, has it rent free on the condition that he provides new bell ropes when necessary.

We should be glad to know from our readers if any of these endowments still exist.

THE LATE GEORGE POPNELL.

HIS LIST OF PEALS.

The late Mr. George Popnell rang in all 256 peals, of which he conducted 13. They included the first peals of Yorkshire Surprise Major and Royal, Lincolnshire Surprise Major, Forward Major and Spliced Oxford and Kent Treble Bob Major in Wales, and the first peal of Spliced Yorkshire and Cambridge Surprise Royal in London. The following is the complete list:—

Doubles 9, Minor 12.

Triples: Grandsire 54, Stedman 30, Oxford Bob 4, Erin 1.

Major: Plain Bob 28, Kent Treble Bob 12, Oxford 1, Forward 1, Double Norwich 6, Spliced Oxford and Kent 1, Cambridge 15, Superlative 8, London 1, Bristol 2, Yorkshire 1, New Cambridge 2, Lincolnshire 1.

Caters: Grandsire 21, Stedman 13.

Royal: Plain Bob 3, Cambridge 5, Yorkshire 1, Spliced Cambridge and Yorkshire 1.

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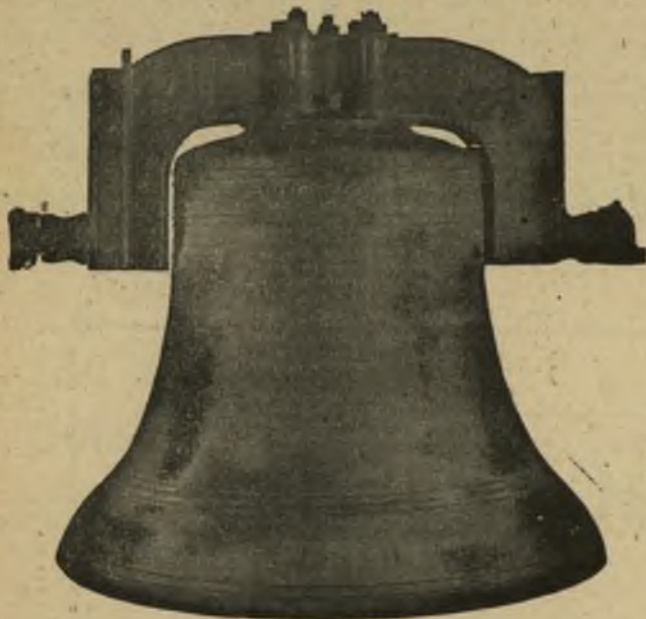
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THE EDITOR.

We are happy to state that Mr. J. S. Goldsmith's illness has taken a rapid turn for the better and he hopes to be home in a day or two.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

Members of the Society of College Youths should note the change in the place of to-morrow's meeting.

Congratulations to Mr. E. Alexander Young, who reached his seventy-third birthday yesterday.

We are now able to state that the church in South London referred to in last week's issue is St. John the Divine, Vassal Road, Kennington.

We regret that in announcing the death of Miss Edith M. Caton, of Mistley, we gave the date as May 25th instead of May 5th.

On May 19th, 1777, ten 'select performers,' members of the Society of College Youths, 'insatiated with glory,' rang 'a complete peal of 11,080 changes' of Oxford Treble Bob Royal at Shoreditch, which will be transmitted to posterity as a masterpiece of the art.

On the same date in 1827, 'a select company of Ringers rang 5,376 changes of that very ingenious and intricate Composition, Norwich Double Court Bob,' at St. Giles', Norwich.

The first peal on the ten bells at St. Michael's, Coventry, one of Tittum Bob Royal, was rung on May 20th, 1780, by the Birmingham St. Martin's Youths and conducted by Phineas Smith.

On May 20th, 1795, the Cumberland Youths rang at Edmonton 5,120 changes of Cumberland Treble Bob Major. There is some doubt as to what the method was, but it is almost certain it was an early peal of Kent.

On May 20th, 1840, a disastrous fire at York Minster destroyed the old ring of ten bells.

Thirteen thousand and fifty-four changes of Stedman Caters were rung at Cheltenham on Whit Monday, May 21st, 1888. C. H. Hattersley rang the 6th, C. D. P. Davies the 7th and Canon Coleridge the 9th. W. T. Pates conducted.

William Pye rang his 1,000th peal as conductor on May 21st, 1921.

Wednesday last was the 18th anniversary of the 12,675 Stedman Cinques at Southwark, to which Mr. A. B. Peck rang the tenor. It turned out to be no peal, but was a failure more praiseworthy than most successes.

On May 22nd, 1799, John Noonan sat in the belfry at St. Giles'-in-the-Fields and called from manuscript the first peal of Stedman Triples rung away from Norwich.

James W. Washbrook rang the 27 cwt. tenor at Kidlington and called 17,024 changes of Double Norwich on May 22nd, 1899. 'Some doubts were cast on the truth of the performance.'

The first true peal of Treble Ten in Ireland was rung at St. Patrick's, Dublin, on May 24th, 1901.

Fifty years ago to-day seven peals were rung. They were Grandsire Triples 2, Stedman Triples 2, Caters 1, Canterbury Pleasure Major 1, and Double Norwich Court Bob Major 1.

The last was at Caversham, and was the 100th peal by Canon Coleridge, who rang the tenor and conducted. He was then curate at Caversham and assisted in making a very fine band in the steeple. This was their first peal of Double Norwich (but not his) and they went on to Superlative, Cambridge and London. His first hundred peals included 13,000 and 15,000 of Stedman Caters, Treble Bob Royal and Maximus, and Cambridge and Superlative Major.

The Canterbury Pleasure Major was a 6,000 at Erith, composed and conducted by Edwin Barnett.

SPliced SURPRISE MAJOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I would like to be among the first to congratulate Mr. J. W. Parker on his composition of Spliced Surprise Major which you published last week. This is the first composition in which all the bells ring the whole of the work of all five methods used. Mr. A. J. Pitman sent me about five years ago a somewhat similar composition of 5,856 changes in four out of the five methods used by Mr. Parker. This composition contains one course each of London and Rutland, two courses of Cambridge and two courses each consisting of one lead of Cambridge and six leads of Superlative. In these latter courses the lead of Cambridge is the first lead in one of the courses and the last lead in the other. I made two attempts at calling this peal (shortened to 5,088 changes), and as far as I can remember we rang about half of it on each occasion.

So far only one peal has been rung in which the tenors ring the whole of the work of more than two methods. This was a peal containing London, Bristol, Cambridge and Superlative, composed by Mr. Pitman, which I called at Willesden on October 8th, 1935. This composition contained two courses each of the first three methods. I have spent many hours attempting to put together a peal in which the tenors ring the whole of the work of all of these methods. Mr. H. G. Cashmore and, I understand, Mr. A. J. Pitman have also tackled this problem. Perhaps one day one of us will be successful.

ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

65, Kingsley Avenue, West Ealing, W.13.

ST. CLEMENT DANES'.

DESTRUCTION OF FAMOUS LONDON CHURCH.

As we intimated in our last issue, St. Clement Danes' was one of the churches destroyed in a recent air raid on London. It had previously been badly damaged by high explosive bombs, and now it has been hit by incendiaries and burnt out, only the bare walls and the tower left standing. Some time ago the ten bells were taken down from the steeple for safety. They were on the floor below the tower, and so have escaped destruction, but two are said to have been cracked, probably by falling debris.

This adds another to the sad and growing list of Wren churches destroyed, and unfortunately it includes some of the most important of the works of the great architect, St. Bride's, St. Lawrence Jewry, St. Andrew's, Holborn, and St. Mildred's, Bread Street—it is difficult to find four among those that survive equal in value to these.



THE CHURCH OF ST. CLEMENT DANES.

What makes the loss of Wren's churches so regrettable is that they form an architectural group which is quite unique, England is extraordinarily rich in fine mediæval parish churches, and if we lost St. Peter Mancroft and St. Mary Redcliffe as we have already lost St. Michael's, Coventry, bad as it would be, we should still have dozens more of the same style and of little less value.

But Wren's churches stand alone. One or two by James Gibbs, such as St. Martin's-in-the-Fields and St. Mary's-in-the-Strand may at first sight seem to belong to the same group, but there are real distinctions, and church architecture very quickly developed into something different from that of Wren's churches.

St. Clement Danes' was of ancient foundation, and is said to have got its name because Harold the Dane, son of King Canute, and others of his countrymen were buried there. No particulars of the old church or churches on the site seem to have survived, and nothing is known of the bells they contained, but in 1680 the building which then existed had become very dilapidated and was pulled down. Two years later Wren's church was completed. The lower stages of the fifteenth century tower were left standing, but were recased, and in 1717 James Gibbs added the present spire. In 1693 William and

(Continued in next column.)

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

ANNUAL MEETING AT SALISBURY.

The Rev. C. C. Cox, of Lyme Regis, the Master, presided at the annual meeting of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild, held at Church House, Salisbury, on Saturday. Owing to war conditions there was a smaller attendance than usual, about 35 being present.

The annual Guild service was held at St. Thomas' Church, Salisbury. It was conducted by Canon Hellins.

A letter of apology for absence was read at the meeting from the president, the Earl of Shaftesbury. Another member who wrote regretting that he could not attend suggested that at the end of the war a victory peal should be rung by a band composed of Home Guardsmen.

The statement of accounts showed an increased balance in hand. The following officers were re-elected: Master, the Rev. C. C. Cox; hon. secretary and treasurer, the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards, Kingston Magna, Gillingham; assistant hon. secretary, Mr. F. Green; auditors, Canon R. E. G. Newman and Mr. W. Hinks.

It was resolved to send congratulations to Mr. George Williams on attaining his 84th birthday, also a message of sympathy and good wishes to Mr. Goldsmith, with an expression of appreciation of the way that 'The Ringing World' continues its good work and is always so full of interest.

The Master expressed sympathy with ringers whose towers had been destroyed by enemy action, adding that he did not think any bells had been lost in the Salisbury diocese. He hoped that the card on the preservation of belfry and bells, sent out by the general secretary, would be observed, and the records, such as noteworthy touches that had been rung, minute books of local Guilds, etc., would be carefully put away and preserved.

Thanks to the diocesan authorities for the use of the room and to the Vicar of St. Thomas' for the use of the church were expressed by Canon Hellins, and Mr. Edwards thanked Canon Hellins for conducting the service.

Grandsire Triples and Bob Major were rung on handbells in St. Thomas' Church before and after the Guild service.

(Continued from previous column.)

Philip Wightman supplied eight, with a tenor of 24 cwt. They are a very fine ring and fully justified the description of them in Strype's 'Survey of London'—eight noble bells.

The two trebles were added in 1843 by a man named Oliver, who was employed at the Whitechapel foundry, and who, as Mr. Albert Hughes thinks, did the work in his own time, borrowing the strickles and other tools. Several generations of Olivers have been employed at the foundry, and the family is still represented there.

Although they are one of the oldest octaves in London, the bells of St. Clement's do not figure very largely in the history of change ringing before the nineteenth century.

The first recorded peal was one of Oxford Treble Bob by the College Youths on February 12th, 1733. Benjamin Annable conducted. The next was ten years later almost to a day. On February 13th, 1743, the Eastern Scholars rang Bob Major, and after that there is no other recorded until 1760, when the College Youths rang another peal of Treble Bob.

In 1839 the headquarters of the St. James' Society were moved to St. Clement's, and ever since the belfry has been one of the most important meeting places of the London Exercise. This, in the first instance, was mainly due to two men, Thomas Tolladay and George Stockham, both of whom held the office of steeplekeeper for many years.

It is in St. Clement's belfry that the memorial to Challis Winney is to be placed. Fortunately, though the design is complete and the bronze cast, the erection had been deferred until after the war.

All London ringers will deeply sympathise with the Rector, the Rev. Pennington-Bickford, who takes a keen interest in the bells and in ringing generally.

Since we wrote the above we have learnt of more and even worse damage, which we can only hint at for the present. The ancient church illustrated a week or two ago, then damaged by a high explosive bomb, has since been completely destroyed by fire. The tower is gutted and all the bells down. The church with the finest spire in the City has been destroyed, the tower burnt out and, we fear, the world-famous bells destroyed. A suburban church with a very similar name has been destroyed by a high explosive bomb which partially demolished the tower and ruined the ring of eight bells. The tower where the first peal of Major was rung has been gutted, and Rudhall's ring of eight destroyed. We shall give further particulars when the regulations, which are necessary in the interests of the country, permit.

THE SURVEYOR'S REPORT ON THE FABRIC.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I would like you to state that, as surveyor to the Parochial Church Council, I immediately inspected the church and felt fully justified in reporting to the Rector that it is capable of full repair.

Irresponsible statements in the Press are much to be deprecated. Their echoes, too, are world-wide and can never be fully overtaken.

E. ALEXR. YOUNG, A.R.I.B.A., F.S.I. (retired).

GUILDFORD GUILD AND RINGING BAN

'AS LOYAL CITIZENS ACCEPT THE POSITION.'
CARE OF LIBRARY.

'It seems evident that the ban is not just the result of a brain-wave of some official, but that there are sound reasons for it, and the members of this Guild must, the committee feel, as loyal citizens, accept the position, but at the same time remaining firmly resolved that at the first available opportunity they will waste no time in recommencing activities and spare no effort to raise our art to the high standard it had attained at the time when we were forced to abandon it.'

With these words the Guildford Diocesan Guild, at their annual meeting at Guildford on Saturday, summed up the present position of the Exercise in the annual report of the Executive Committee. Mr. Walter Harrison (vice-president) was in the chair, supported by Mr. G. L. Grover (hon. secretary) and Mr. J. Corbett. Instead of the anticipated 60 members, a company of 100 taxed the tea tables. The Guild service was held at S. Nicolas' Church, the address being given by the Rector (the Rev. P. R. Lobbs).

At the outset of the meeting the secretary announced that he had received a letter from the Master (Major John H. B. Hesse), who was in Torquay, stating that he would not be coming back to Surrey for some time. Another absentee was Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, who was still in hospital after a very bad operation. An encouraging report of his progress was received.

The report of the Executive Committee stated that the total ban which the Government had thought necessary to impose on bellringing had dealt a terrific blow to ringing, and if it continued for several years would threaten their art with extinction. From time to time protests had been voiced and applications made to the Government for the lifting of the ban. The protests, not all of which had come from practising ringers, showed that their art was not without its supporters and admirers throughout the country, and the replies which had been read from the Ministry of Home Security, and in one instance from the Prime Minister himself, showed that ringers were not without sympathy even from Government officials.

Circumstances had been so unprecedented that it was impossible to compare the activities of the past year with those of any previous year. The membership position was as follows: Chertsey, hon. members 4, ringing members 33, Farnham, 20, 105; Guildford, 22, 112; Leatherhead, 29, 32; life and unattached, 34, 5; totals 109 and 287.

The committee placed on record that the authorities at Chertsey Church had declined to pay their affiliation fee. They felt that the prospects of a brighter future for the Guild so far as the Chertsey District was concerned had not been enhanced by the withdrawal.

NEW CATHEDRAL BELLS.

The committee had hoped to report increasing support for the Benevolent and Cathedral Bells Fund, but alas, contributions to both these funds had been small. The acceptance of the bells of All Hallows' would not render their Bell Fund redundant, as even if a certain quantity of metal was received as a gift, a large sum of money would still be necessary to provide for the rebanding and furnishing, to say nothing of possible recasting, which would be necessary to provide a ringing peal worthy of the new Cathedral.

Only four peals were rung on tower bells, that at Ewhurst being the first since augmentation. Four of the five handbell peals were the direct result of the exigencies of military service having demanded the presence of Sergt. John Freeman at Aldershot.

Particulars of the peals rung were as follows: Bramley, Bob Minor (conductor, W. J. Robinson); Haslemere, Grandsire Caters (F. W. Rogers); Ewhurst, Stedman Triples (C. E. Smith); Shere, Kent Treble Bob Major (C. E. Smith); Addlestone, Grandsire Doubles, handbells (E. Armstrong); Aldershot, Bob Minor, handbells (J. Freeman); Aldershot Bob Major, handbells (J. Freeman); Pyrford, Bob Minor, handbells (J. Freeman); Aldershot, Bob Major, handbells (J. Freeman).

SYMPATHY WITH THE MASTER AND MR. GOLDSMITH.

The report concluded: Not only members of the Guild, but every ringer in the land will join in recording sympathy with Mr. Goldsmith in his illness and in the fervent hope that he will soon be restored to his normal health and activity. Ringers, too, would regret to hear that Major J. H. B. Hesse, the respected Master, had met with an accident and broken his ankle. They trusted the fractured bone would speedily mend and be fit to stand his weight during the run of many a 5,040 in the future, including that with which we hope the Guild will be able to celebrate the confounding of the knavish tricks of our enemies and which will, we all sincerely pray, herald a lasting peace.'

(Continued in next column.)

SILENT APPARATUS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am glad my theory has not passed unnoticed and I would like to take this opportunity of enlarging on it and answering the two letters published.

First, I would point out that the tube must be fixed opposite the centre of gravity of the clapper and not at any point on the wheel as I suggested at first. Both correspondents mention that theories do not always work out in practice, but since I have neither time, facilities nor money to carry out experimental work, I decided to put the idea forward for anyone to take up.

Next, Messrs. Clark and Murrell think that the device does not sufficiently reproduce the movement of the clapper, but I will show how it does this exactly. It may best be explained by considering the various forces acting on the clapper. First, there is the arm which limits its swing to a particular arc inside the bell. This is reproduced by the tube which confines the mercury to an arc exactly parallel to that of the centre of gravity of the clapper. Next we come to a most important factor, that of speed. This is determined chiefly by the 'push' from the bell, but the end of the tube pushes the mercury at the same speed so there should be nothing to worry about there. Then there is gravity, which is constant in both cases, and air resistance, which is negligible, since both metals have a high density and present a similar shape to the air. Thus (theoretically) the mercury moves at the same speed through the same distance and parallel to the clapper. Therefore (again theoretically) the device should work perfectly. Then, if the bell is checked, the mercury shoots up to the end of the tube, causing the handbell to strike correspondingly sooner. Also, there is no reason why it should go up wrong.

Mr. Clark does not like the idea of a flexible lead, but a small coil to act like the balance spring of a watch should be quite satisfactory. Personally, I don't think it would be hard to obtain the rest of the apparatus—it is only a matter of several electric bells (easily convertible to produce a single strike) and the necessary yards of flex.

In conclusion, I would again mention that since these are only theories, any reply must also be theoretical and nothing can be settled until some experimental work has proved or disproved them.

T. R. BOYS.

3, West Street, Weedon, Northampton.

(Continued from previous column.)

The accounts showed a balance in hand of £44 18s. 1d., compared with £39 18s. 2d. at the beginning of the year. The Benevolent Fund had a balance of £68 9s. 2d., and the New Cathedral Bell Fund one of £37 16s. 3d.

The report and accounts were adopted.

The meeting stood in silence in memory of the following members who had died: Messrs. H. Prior (Farnham), G. Andrews (Ash), John Beams (Ewell), H. Tidy (Ewhurst, killed in action), H. G. Rance (Worplesdon, hon. member), H. J. Hunt and R. J. Harding (Yorktown, hon. members) A. Dean (Leatherhead), F. G. Woodiss (Banstead), Sergt. V. G. Elliott (Holy Trinity, Guildford, killed in action), D. Aying (Witley), and Mrs. S. G. Welsh (Cobham, life member). Sympathy was also expressed with the relatives of Mr. T. H. J. Cyphus, organist of S. Nicolas' Church.

THE OFFICERS.

The following officers were elected: Master, Major John H. B. Hesse; hon. treasurer, Mr. J. Corbett (Bagshot); hon. secretary, Mr. G. L. Grover (East Clandon); hon. auditor, Mr. R. Hasted (Farnham); Central Council representatives, Messrs. A. H. Pulling, A. C. Hazelden, G. L. Grover and A. Harman; committee, the Rev. F. A. Woodard, Mr. W. Massey and Mr. E. W. Morey (Chertsey District), Messrs. W. Gillians, W. A. Dollimore and F. Nye (Farnham District), Messrs. S. Petter E. J. Ayliffe and R. Whittington (Guildford District), the Rev. G. H. B. Coleridge, Mr. G. Marriner and Mr. A. J. Adams (Leatherhead District).

Mr. A. H. Pulling raised the question of the safety of the Guild library, and asked that the action of the librarian (Mr. A. C. Hazelden) in arranging for the dispersal of a number of books, many of which were valuable, should be confirmed.

Mr. Hazelden replied that bundles of books had been sent to Mr. Corbett (Bagshot), Mr. Grover and Mr. Ayliffe. The Guild approved of his action.

The meeting expressed its sympathy with Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, and the secretary was requested to write to him expressing the Guild's good wishes. Thanks were also expressed to Mr. Harrison for presiding and the Rector and choir of S. Nicolas' Church.

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THE STANDARD METHODS.

COMBINATIONS.

It used to be the custom to treat every method as a distinct and independent thing and to learn the rules for ringing it without reference to any other method. Perhaps it is so still with many people, but of late years we have recognised more and more that methods are very much interrelated and that gives us a lot of help in actual ringing.

Last week we described the relationship between second's and eighth's place Surprise Major methods, giving as illustrations Brighton and Ashtead. An understanding of the similar relationship in Minor methods is a very great aid in ringing spliced peals. We can, for instance, ring a 720 made up of Cambridge, Primrose, Ipswich and Norfolk Surprise Minor by treating the four as one method, and making the alterations involved by the second's or fifth's place at the order of the conductor as if they were special bobs.

This, we believe, is actually done by some bands and is capable of a good deal of development.

In order to combine methods in this way it is necessary for the ringer to know how every bell starts in a lead and (when all four methods are used) how every bell starts in a half lead, and this will modify the traditional way of learning methods.

In the new edition of 'Standard Methods' this is pointed out, and we will quote some further remarks of the book on the same subject.

'There is yet another way of dividing the work of a method which will be found very useful. This is to treat the work above the treble as a whole, and the work below the treble as another whole, and to note carefully how the work starts from and ends with the treble's path. When a man is learning a method he should not try to divide the work in this way, but when he has become proficient, he should adopt the plan as an addition to his other knowledge.

'The value of it lies in the fact that very often above the treble a method is exactly the same as another method, and below the treble exactly the same as a third method. For instance, York Surprise Minor is exactly the same as Cambridge Minor above the treble and as London Minor below the treble. It is evident, therefore, that a man who thoroughly knows Cambridge and London, and who knows how the work of those methods starts from and ends with the treble's path, can without any further study go and ring York.

'This is not an isolated or uncommon instance, and in these days, when so many new Major methods are being rung, this way of treating a method is often very useful. The man who realises that above the treble both Yorkshire and Rutland Surprise Major are exactly the same as Cambridge has saved himself half the trouble of learning those methods.'

The new Surprise Major book has something to say on the matter. 'The spread of method ringing is widening men's views and the possibilities of variation are beginning to be realised. When they are understood many of the most strongly held opinions of the Exercise will be radically altered. The old idea that every peal was composed by somebody and is his property, will no longer be tenable, and the effect on practical ringing will be just as great. For, suppose you have a band which can ring Norfolk, Peterborough and Ealing Surprise (and

nowadays that is not a very extravagant supposition), if you could say to them, ring Peterborough above the treble and Norfolk below, or Ealing above the treble, and Peterborough below; or make eighth's place at the lead end instead of second's; or any similar sort of thing—you would have, not just three methods, but ten or a dozen. There would be no necessity as now for the band to learn each of the dozen separately; all they would have to do would be to accustom themselves to the idea of passing from one method to another. This idea is becoming familiar through the ringing of spliced peals and could be developed without much trouble.'

If we could add to the Standard Methods one or two really good and suitable ones, by means of these combinations we could produce a very useful group of methods which, though not quite worthy of being admitted into the select group would be available at any time for occasional practice or peal ringing by really competent bands.

We have already given one or two instances of this, and here is a method, as yet unknown, which we think is worthy of some attention.

Brereton S.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	4 6 3 7 2 8 5 1
2 1 4 3 6 5 8 7	6 4 7 3 8 2 1 5
1 2 3 4 6 5 7 8	4 6 7 8 3 2 5 1
2 1 4 3 5 6 8 7	6 4 8 7 2 3 1 5
<hr/>	
2 4 1 3 6 5 7 8	4 6 7 8 2 1 3 5
4 2 3 1 5 6 8 7	6 4 8 7 1 2 5 3
2 4 1 3 5 6 7 8	6 8 4 7 2 1 3 5
4 2 3 1 6 5 8 7	8 6 7 4 1 2 5 3
<hr/>	
2 4 3 6 1 8 5 7	6 8 7 1 4 5 2 3
4 2 6 3 8 1 7 5	8 6 1 7 5 4 3 2
4 6 2 3 1 8 5 7	6 8 7 1 5 4 2 3
6 4 3 2 8 1 7 5	8 6 1 7 4 5 3 2
<hr/>	
4 6 2 3 8 7 1 5	8 1 6 7 5 4 2 3
6 4 3 2 7 8 5 1	1 8 7 6 4 5 3 2
4 6 3 7 2 8 1 5	8 1 6 7 4 5 2 3
6 4 7 3 8 2 5 1	1 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
<hr/>	
	1 7 8 5 6 3 4 2

Above the treble the work of Brereton is exactly the same as the work of Cornwall; below the treble the work of Brereton is exactly the same as the work of Superlative. A band which treats Cornwall and Superlative as standard methods could at any time they pleased ring a touch or a peal of Brereton.

With such a parentage Brereton is bound to be an interesting method, and when we examine it we find it has most of the good qualities, as well as some of the defects, of its parents.

Above the treble we get the 3-pull and single dodging of Cornwall, and the same good musical qualities; in fact for six of the eight sections of the course the changes are exactly the same as in Cornwall.

Below the treble, though the work is exactly the same as in Superlative, the actual rows are not quite the same. In one respect this is an improvement, for the bells always come to the front in their natural coursing order, and we get twice as much dodging by the tenors in 1-2 as we do in Superlative.

(Continued on next page.)

HANDBELL RINGING AT ISLEWORTH.

A very pleasant and successful afternoon of handbell ringing was held at All Saints', Isleworth, on Saturday, May 10th, when visitors attended from Guildford, Leytonstone, Kingston-on-Thames, Isleworth, Epsom, Dagenham, Hastings and Westminster. Nine members of the local band were also present.

Ringling started at 3 p.m. and continued until 4.30, when there was a short service, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. P. W. Shepherd-Smith. In welcoming the visitors to Isleworth, the Vicar, spoke in high praise of the effort that is being made by ringers to 'carry on.' He then introduced his new assistant priest, the Rev. K. Toole-Mackson.

Tea followed in the Mission Hall, after which more handbell ringing was enjoyed, and the opportunity taken to renew acquaintance with friends not met for many months.

Votes of thanks were accorded to the Vicar for conducting the service and for allowing the meeting to be held; to Mrs. Shepherd-Smith for accompanying the hymns, and to the ladies who prepared and served the tea.

Methods rung during the afternoon and evening included rounds and Queens on twelve, Grandsire Triples, Caters and Cinques, Bob Minor and Major and Stedman Triples, also a series of delightful tunes rung by the Dagenham band. A course of Grandsire Caters was rung by the local band immediately before the service.

As this little meeting was entirely an experiment, the local band are very pleased indeed with the result, and will feel encouraged to hold a similar one later on.

THURSTANS' COMPOSITION REVERSED.**THE PEAL AT CHISLEHURST.**

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It was a most interesting letter from Mr. I. Emery. I have a faint suspicion that the mystery can be unwrapped if he can remember when the second Single was called.

Thurstans' One-Part, being what one might call a cart wheel composition, can be commenced with any spoke, but must be continued on from there.

Now then, Mr. Emery, just visualise the scene again, and let us know when the second Single was called. 'Tis only 50 years ago.

H. H.

THE STANDARD METHODS

(Continued from previous page.)

The 5-pull dodge on the front is, of course, reproduced, and that is a defect which forbids us to place the method in the highest class, but there are very few among the simpler Surprise Major methods with which it cannot hold its own.

The first three sections of the course give a clear proof scale, but the fourth gives the two false course ends F 32465 and G 43265.

These are the same as those of Superlative and will allow of thirty full true natural courses, twenty-seven of them without the 2nd or 3rd in sixth's place at a course end. A good variety of musical peals is therefore possible.

There are about fourteen or fifteen Surprise methods worth ringing in which the work above the treble is the same as in Cambridge. The majority have been rung to peals and two of them, Yorkshire and Rutland, may rank as standard methods. Others, fairly well known, are Belgrave, Ipswich, Whitminster, Hinton, and Lincolnshire. The last is spoilt by a 5-pull dodge on the front in which the bells are not in natural coursing order. Pudsey is the same as Cambridge below the treble.

Cambridge, however, is not a method which readily combines with other methods.

THE LATE FREDERICK G. WOODISS.**LOSS TO SURREY RINGING.**

Ringling in Surrey and at Banstead in particular has suffered a severe loss in the passing of Frederick George Woodiss, who died on Sunday, May 11th, at the age of 51, after an illness lasting several months.

He began his ringing career at Hershham, but it was after he moved to the Sutton district that he extended his interest in the art to association affairs and became known to so many ringers.

For many years he was treasurer and later secretary to the North-West District of the Surrey Association, and he relinquished the latter office only about a year ago. He remained a member of the committee, however, and had also served on other committees.

He took a keen interest in the formation of the Guildford Diocesan Guild and was the first secretary of the Leatherhead District, in itself no mean task.

He was also a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths. He served during the Great War in the Grenadier Guards, and post-war years found him in business in Banstead, where he set about forming a change ringing band. He received some much needed help when other experienced ringers took up residence in the district, and from that time progress was steady and continued.

It was a red-letter day for him when the band rang its first peal, one of Grandsire Triples, to which he rang the treble.

He was now residing in Sutton and working in the City, but he was just as regular in his attendances at both Sunday ringing and practices, and it was due in no small measure to his patient and conscientious work that at the outbreak of present hostilities the band was ringing Spiced Surprise for Sunday services.

He had rung approximately 120 peals, ranging from Grandsire Triples to the Surprise methods, mostly for the Surrey Association.

Of a modest and genial disposition, he had a wide circle of friends throughout the Exercise. He leaves a widow, son and daughter, and to them we extend our deepest sympathy in their great loss. Mrs. Ernest Morris, of Leicester, was his cousin.

The funeral took place at Sutton on May 15th and was attended by relatives and friends and the following ringers: Messrs. C. H. Kippin, D. Cooper and E. G. Talbot, representing the Surrey Association; J. Hoyle and A. Harman, representing the Guildford Diocesan Guild, and A. E. Cheesman and H. N. Pitstow, representing the Banstead ringers. The service in Sutton Parish Church was conducted by the Rev. E. P. Woolcombe, Rector of Sutton, assisted by the Rev. Canon F. N. Skene, Rural Dean of Epsom.

At the interment at Sutton Cemetery a course of Grandsire Triples was rung over the grave by H. N. Pitstow 1-2, D. Cooper 3-4, C. H. Kippin 5-6, A. E. Cheesman 7-8.

Among the many floral tributes were wreaths from the Surrey Association, Guildford Diocesan Guild, and his fellow ringers at Banstead.

AN APPRECIATION.

It was with deep regret that I read of the passing from us of Fred Woodiss, for not only was he a very keen practical ringer, but also one who played a large part in guild and association work.

When Hershham secured its light peal of eight in 1901 his father, Mr. George Woodiss, sought my aid in order to assist teaching the new band, and I often used to see Fred at his home. He was then a schoolboy and little did I dream he would become one of my pupils, especially in handbell ringing. Soon after he had learnt to ring in the tower he became keen in handbell ringing and he used to love watching us struggle away at Triples and Caters. He would never push himself forward, but he grasped a lot, not only by watching, but also by acting as umpire. His progress was steady and sure, which soon stamped him as a good striker and one which promised him to become a progressive and reliable ringer. When Fred was on the tenors on even or odd numbers he could be trusted to keep perfect time, which resulted in many splendid peals being scored.

When the Great War broke out in 1914 he soon joined up and served in the Grenadier Guards. After his return to civil life he settled down in Surrey, and it was then that he followed up his ringing career by active work both in and out the ringing chamber. Fred always managed to look for the best in anyone and give every chance to those not so far advanced as himself, and this alone made him popular wherever he went. All he undertook was carried out with that thoroughness which not only helped to further the art, but made him a host of friends in every walk of life. He worked hard for our cause and we have lost a fine ringer and organiser.

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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.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—A district meeting will be held at Brentwood on Saturday, May 24th. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tower bells (silent) and handbells available.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch.—The annual general meeting will be held at Gainsborough on Saturday, May 24th. Service 4.30 p.m. Meeting in Ringing Chamber 6.15 p.m. Six 'silent' bells available afternoon and evening. Please make own arrangements for tea.—J. Bray, Hon. Sec., Trentwood, Burton-on-Stather, Scunthorpe.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. Nicholas' Church tower on Saturday, May 24th. Tower open 3 p.m. for tower and handbell ringing. Service (if possible) 5 p.m. A tea will be arranged if possible. A good muster is hoped for, as the President, the Rev. Arthur Scott, intends to be present.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec., 57, Amphyll Road, Liverpool, 17.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Loughborough and Burton Districts.—A joint meeting will be held at the Parish Church, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, on Saturday, May 24th. Handbells available at 2.30 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. Subscriptions are now due and reports ready. A good attendance is necessary.—A. E. Rowley and J. W. Cotton, Hon. Secs.

DOŇCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Campsall on Saturday, May 24th. Handbells available. Owing to catering difficulties those attending will have to make their own arrangements for tea. Ringing from 3 p.m.—Ernest Cooper, Hon. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—**Change in place of meeting.**—The meeting arranged for Saturday, May 24th, will be held at the Bell Foundry, 32-34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m., by kind invitation of the treasurer, Mr. A. A. Hughes. Handbell ringing and a good adjournment spot afterwards.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

HERTS ASSOCIATION.—Bushey.—Meeting, Saturday, May 31st, at the Studios, Falconer Road. Comfortable, pleasant room. Tea can be arranged. Handbell practice and social chinwag. All interested in ringing are welcome.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester and Bolton Branches.—A silent practice and joint meeting will be held at St. Mark's, Worsley, on Saturday, May 31st. Bells 3 to 7 p.m. Reports ready. Teas can be obtained for ringers who forward their names by Tuesday, May 27th. All ten bells will be available.—Joseph H. Ridyard and Peter Crook, Branch Secs.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Chelmsford on Saturday, May 31st. Service in the Cathedral at 4 p.m., followed by the meeting in the Chapter House. Tea afterwards at Cannon's Restaurant, Duke Street. Those requiring tea are particularly requested to notify the general secretary not later than Wednesday, May 28th. Tower bells (8, silent) and handbells during afternoon and evening.—L. J. Clark, Gen. Sec., 36, Lynmouth Avenue, Chelmsford.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Shipley on Saturday, May 31st. Silent bellringing practice from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tea may be obtained from café near the church. Business meeting 4.30 p.m.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Next meeting at Earl Shilton, Saturday, May 31st. Bells (silenced) at 3.30, followed by tea and meeting in the Schools at 5. Handbells afterwards. Names for tea to Mr. G. Newton, 26, Avenue South, Earl Shilton, by Thursday, May 29th. Reports available.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held (p.v.) on Whit Monday, June 2nd, at Kingsthorpe, when the Vicarage grounds will be open. Central Committee meet at the Vicarage 2.45. Service 3.30, with address by the Vicar. Tea 4.30, followed by meeting and election of officers. Tea, free to all resident members who are clear on the books and who apply to the general secretary for tickets on or before May 24th. Non-resident members and non-members 1s. 6d. each, to be sent with application for tickets. No application for tickets will be entertained after May 24th. This will be strictly adhered to. Bring sugar if required. Bells (6) (silenced) and handbells before and after the meeting.—Robt. G. Black, Gen. Sec., Stamford Road, Geddington, Kettering.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Bletchley on Saturday, June 7th. Handbells 2.45. Service 3.30, followed by tea (if possible) and meeting. Will those requiring tea please notify me by Saturday, May 31st? Please make an effort to attend.—R. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting will be held at Kingsley on Saturday, June 7th. Handbells available from 3 p.m. Will those who are staying for tea kindly notify Mr. H. Carnwell, Sunnyside, Kingsley, Cheadle, Staffs, on or before June 1st? No card, no tea.—Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Mr. William H. Hewett has removed to 119, Coleman Street, S.E.5.

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