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THE WISDOM OF SECOND THOUGHTS

Ringers, and particularly those who have entered the Exercise since this paper came into existence, will read with interest the article appearing this week in the Central Council series. It reveals the attitude of those who, at that time, 'governed' the Exercise towards 'The Ringing World' when it was, so to speak, an infant in swaddling clothes. It was a robust child and was already showing signs of ousting the then decrepit 'Bell News,' which came to an end not so very long afterwards. The question at issue at that meeting of the Council thirty years ago was whether the central body should give the new paper the same official recognition as was given to the one which, at that period, was providing the Exercise with very indifferent service. Perhaps it was partly misunderstanding, or it may have been personal feeling, which led to the motion being sidetracked; at this distance of time it does not matter, but the then hon. secretary (the late Rev. C. D. P. Davies), with greater vision than was shown by the president and others, saved the situation for the Council by acting on his own initiative during the succeeding year and putting the two papers on an equal footing in his official treatment of them. Similarly the members of the Analysis Committee, who at the meeting threatened to resign if called upon to make up the analysis for two papers, also realised that, if their tables were to have any value, the new journal could not be ignored for, as events proved, it published many more peal reports than its rival. Thus, when it came to the next meeting of the Council there was a complete *volte face*, and 'The Ringing World,' which had more than justified its existence, was welcomed with open arms, and those who had saved the Council from a serious tactical blunder were thanked—not because they had saved the Council, but because they had served the Exercise by the wisdom which came of second thoughts.

It will answer no useful purpose to discuss now what might have happened had the secretary and the Analysis Committee taken their cue from the action, or, if you prefer, the inaction, of the Council, but without any boastfulness we think we can claim that but for the support which has been given to it by 'The Ringing World,' the Council might well have ceased to exist. There were factors in the years which followed that might easily have led to the collapse of the Council. 'The Bell News' failed and went out of publication; there was, rightly or wrongly, a strong current of opinion among the general body of ringers that the Council was a kind of mutual admiration society that served no practical purpose, and then came the war that put an end to its activities for

(Continued on page 350.)

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nearly three years. Nothing but the help of a ringing paper could have restored its fortunes; and this support the Council received from 'The Ringing World,' which has always held that the best interests of the art and the prosperity of the Exercise need the backing of a central and authoritative body, not to manage its affairs, but to guide its activities into right channels and focus its opinions. 'The Ringing World' has endeavoured, not without success, to mould opinion with regard to the Council. Its efforts, we make bold to say, have led to a broader representation of all classes of ringers, and to a progressive attitude towards all those things which intimately concern ringing. During the thirty years that have elapsed since the meeting at Leicester, which Mr. J. A. Trollope this week describes, much has been accomplished, and while this journal has consistently stressed the important part which the Council must play in the organisation of the Exercise, it has also been among the Council's severest critics when criticism appeared to be necessary. When the time comes for the Council to function again it will be found that our policy has not changed. A central body is necessary to the effective life and activity of the Exercise. That life and activity can be made all the more useful when it comes under the refreshing influence of honest criticism.

BELLS BEFORE BUTTER. MAKE THE GERMANS PAY.

To the Editor.

Sir,—If Mr. X could take a vote of all the ordinary people in Britain he would find a great majority to agree with Mr. Lovett and make the Germans pay.

He says the reason we cannot do it is not because we are soft-hearted, but that is the real reason. If the boot was on the other foot, would the Germans let us off paying? No. Slaves or not, we should have to pay. X had better not rely on them being soft-hearted, because they are not. Does he remember how the late Lord Northcliffe always said from the start of the last war we should win the war and lose the peace. The Hun would come with tears and howl he could not pay, and what was the result? The present war. They could not pay their just debts, yet they could start building up their huge military equipment.

It may surprise him to hear I was told by a member of our own battery in Belgium, who knew the Germans thoroughly, before even the last push of the last war started, two things—one we would never fight on the Rhine, they would agree to any terms sooner than have that or their towns damaged, as they never had been hurt by war and would not have it; the second that it would be all right while the troops were in occupation, but as soon as they were gone the Hun would start building his army up again. One certainty was that they would not pay.

Mr. X makes the same mistake as some of our leaders; they judge the Germans by their own standards. But they are right outside any human race. Has he ever been to a ringers' meeting even in peace time and heard men boasting what they would do when they got into the capital of some country?

To end on a pleasant subject, could not Rupert write of some of his early trips round the Lincoln fens?

A. H. PULLING.

CONVERSION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Is there any real 'conversion' of the method, whatever it may be, whether Plain Bob or anything else, if we like to delude ourselves into saying that a plain lead is a bob lead, and that a bob lead is a plain lead? It isn't like 'reversal,' applied in cases where, for instance, the 2nd's place when treble leads is transferred to 5th's when the treble is behind. It is simply substituting (and quite wrongly I contend) one description for another. It seems to me that instead of 'conversion' it is only confusion. It doesn't convert the method: if it converts anything it only converts, in my opinion, the terms which are used to describe the particular form of lead.

If it really does convert the method, which Mr. Drake says will happen in the process of changing bob and plain leads, then Mr. Drake's converted method will be ruled out of court, because they will contravene the now well recognised rules for methods laid down by the Central Council. They will not, for example, have Plain Bob lead heads in the plain course, and few, if any, methods would enable all the working bells to do all the work of the method in the plain course.

But this apart, is it worth while adding complications by introducing unwanted terms? Some day we may want the word 'conversion' for a far more important purpose.

'OWD BOB.'

HANDBELL PEALS.

BRISTOL.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
(BRISTOL GUILD OF HANDBELL RINGERS.)

On Tuesday, July 8, 1941, in Two Hours and Twenty-Seven Minutes,
IN THE RINGING CHAMBER OF ST. JOHN'S-ON-THE-WALL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor size 15 in C.

THOMAS S. HARRIS 1-2	ALBERT M. TYLER 5-6
ROYSTON G. BRYANT 3-4	DONALD G. CLIFT 7-8

Conducted by ALBERT M. TYLER.

First peal 'in hand' by all. First peal of Triples as conductor.
First peal rung by the Guild.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, July 13, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,

AT 45, WALSINGHAM ROAD,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5000 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16½ in B flat.

EDITH K. FLETCHER 1-2	*EDWIN A. BARNETT 5-6
*CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 3-4	*ERNEST C. S. TURNER 7-8

GEORGE W. FLETCHER ... 9-10

Composed by W. BOOTH. Conducted by CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY
* First handbell peal of Treble Bob Royal.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, July 15, 1941, in Two Hours and Twenty-Six Minutes,

AT THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF AVALON COURT BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

EDWIN A. BARNETT 1-2	ERNEST C. S. TURNER... .. 5-6
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 3-4	FREDERICK W. BRINKLOW 7-8

Composed and Conducted by CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY.

The first peal in the method.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, July 17, 1941, in Two Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF LAVENHAM COURT BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

EDWIN A. BARNETT 1-2	JOHN E. SPICE 5-6
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 3-4	ERNEST C. S. TURNER... .. 7-8

Composed by J. W. PARKER. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

The first peal in the method.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, July 19, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty-Three Minutes,

AT THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 1-2	*EDWIN A. BARNETT 5-6
ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 3-4	EDWIN BARNETT... .. 7-8

Composed and Conducted by CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY.

* 50th peal together.

THE LADIES' GUILD.

MEETING AT CROYDON.

A most enjoyable meeting of the Central District of the Ladies' Guild was held on Saturday, July 12th, at St. Peter's, South Croydon. At this church there is an enthusiastic band of ladies who are practising double-handed handbell ringing and tower-bell ringing, under the leadership of Mr. Wills. Eight of the bells are tied, and during the afternoon and evening touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples were rung, as well as courses of London and Cambridge Surprise.

A short service was held, conducted by the curate-in-charge, the Rev. G. H. Golding. Tea followed—and what a tea for war time! Mrs. Deal, the vice-president, thanked all who had helped to make the meeting a success, especially Miss P. Terry and Mr. Wills, who had made all the arrangements, and the ladies who prepared tea.

Eight new members were elected and the vice-president welcomed them to the Guild and wished them success in their endeavours to be prepared when the bells again peal out.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

SAFETY OF THE SOCIETY'S PROPERTY.

The Master, Mr. Ernest Fenn, presided at the meeting of the College Youths last Saturday, supported by the hon. secretary, Mr. Alfred B. Peck, and the treasurer, Mr. A. A. Hughes, and among those present were Messrs. H. Langdon, R. F. Deal, E. Murrell, H. Miles, J. A. G. Prior, R. Stannard and F. Collins. The Master also said how pleased they were to see Mr. W. Clayton, of Reigate, Mr. Charles H. Kippin, of Beddington, Mr. Frank Darby, of Carshalton, Mr. J. W. Chapman, of Streatham, and Mr. E. A. Young, now happily recovered from his recent indisposition. A very old member and welcome visitor was Mr. J. W. Wilkins, of High Wycombe.

Mention was made of the society's property now in the crypt of St. Paul's. In answer to enquiries, Mr. Hughes said it had been handed over to the Cathedral authorities, and an inventory had been made and a receipt given by them. It was now in the strong room with the rest of the Cathedral property. Unless the whole building was destroyed, it may be regarded as quite safe against any air raid or other enemy action.

Mr. Young called attention to the bust of Mr. W. T. Cockerill and the bookcase placed in the belfry as a memorial to him. The belfry could be regarded as a reasonably safe place, but it might be well to move the case from the centre of the room to the archway leading to the stairs.

Other speakers spoke about safeguarding the bust, and it was decided to take steps to do what was possible.

Handbell ringing followed and the usual hour or two of social intercourse. Some of the members who had come up from the suburbs then paid a visit to the ruins of some of the City churches, and that despite the heavy rain.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

NEW LADY MEMBERS.

The first Sunday meeting of the Burton District was held at Ticknall on July 13th and was attended by upwards of twenty members from Burton (St. Paul's), Netherseale, Overseale, Melbourne, Derby and the local company. The members were pleased to welcome Lance-Corpl. Wilfred G. Wilson, of Ealing, at present stationed in the county of Derby.

Handbells in the church were kept busy before the Sunday School anniversary service, at which the members attended.

After the service tea was served in the Welfare Hall, for which thanks are especially due to Mr., Mrs. and Miss Marriott.

A short business meeting followed, over which the Vicar (the Rev. J. G. Pope) presided. He welcomed the members to Ticknall and thanked them for the handbell selections before the service.

Two Ticknall lady ringers, Miss May Soar and Miss Kathleen Connel, were elected members of the association. It was decided to hold the next meeting at Measham on Saturday, August 16th.

The secretary proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar for presiding, and, in reply, the latter spoke of the enforced silence of the tower bells. He said it was the sacrifice ringers were making in the war effort, but he trusted that happier days would soon be here and the bells ring out loudly their message of peace.

Methods and selections on handbells concluded the meeting, which was well worth while.

FORWARD OR BACKWARD?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In your issue of July 11th the Rev. E. Bankes James gives us the origin of the expression 'backward hunting,' which is interesting, but then proceeds to give an illustration of what is meant by the term, which seems to be quite wrong.

Surely the science of change ringing is a number of bells 'changing their positions in the order of striking.' This science, like others, has natural laws. Three of these are that (a) a bell may change position with the bell that has followed it, (b) with the bell that has preceded it, and (c) may retain its position in the order of striking.

It may be argued that if (a) is a forward move, then (b) must be backward; however, it is generally accepted that hunting only, as illustrated by Mr. James, is all forward movement. Then, so long as its meaning is understood, the expression 'backward hunting' may be used for any retrograde step or steps interrupting the forward movement.

I know Mr. James' brilliance in matters of change ringing and thus fail to understand his present contention. When bells are translated to figures for scientific purposes, all figures and rows have equal value. Whatever movement, touch or peal starts from 1234, exactly the same may start from 3421, or any other row, odd or even. Then the figures given by Mr. James, with the addition of two appropriate rows to the second set, are 1 and 2 following:—

(1)	(2)	(3)
3142	2143	4132
1324	1234	1423
1234	1324	1243
2143	3142	2134

The third set is added to relieve any confusion of the mind, caused by the second set having the same rows as the first, in backward order. It can be seen that the movement of the bells is exactly the same in every set, yet Mr. James says that in the first they are hunting, but in the second are hunting backwards. This does not seem right to me!

JOSEPH W. PARKER.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from page 340.)

THE COUNCIL AND 'THE RINGING WORLD.'

A glance back through the years conjures up memories of many Central Council meetings held in different places and under diverse conditions. Some of the meetings were more successful than others, and some of the places were more interesting; but, as a whole, the memories are most pleasant ones. Occasionally, of course, there were incidents which might better have been otherwise, but they were surprisingly few, and in only one case did the meeting leave a general feeling of failure. That was the session at Leicester in 1911.

For that there were several reasons. The meeting was generally a very dull one; the social conditions were defective; and there was one short and sharp incident of a very unpleasant nature.

In the days before the Great War the territorial associations had not yet formed the excellent custom of providing entertainment for the members, outside the actual meeting, but naturally during the week-end, when so many friends and acquaintances were gathered together from all parts of the country, there was much pleasant intercourse, and as much ringing as could be had. All that was easier in smaller towns, where the visitors necessarily stayed nearer to each other than in large towns like Leicester, where they were more or less lost in the crowd, and in the absence of an appointed headquarters had less chance of running across each other. Heywood always entertained a number of leading members, usually at the principal hotel in the place, but as Leicester is no great distance from his home at Duffield, in that year he invited them there, and nothing was seen of them except at the actual meeting. Other members, too, were staying outside the town, and John W. Taylor, who was the natural leader of the local people, came backwards and forwards from Loughborough nine miles away. A certain amount of peal ringing makes a very pleasant addition to the amenities of a Council meeting, but a lot of it can easily split the visitors into a number of separate and unrelated parties, and that happened to a great extent at Leicester. There were four bands who attempted peals in the neighbourhood. One, which included George and Ernest Pye and Bertram Prewett, rang four peals of Cambridge, Superlative and Stedman; another band, with Mr. Frank Bennett as conductor, rang one out of four arranged; another rang Double Norwich at Southwell Minster, with Law James as conductor. This band was made up of H. S. T. Richardson, H. Law James, A. T. Beeston, E. H. Lewis, J. W. Parker, Joseph Griffin, William Storey and C. W. O. Jenkyn. The fourth band included Miss Edith Parker (as she then was) and her father. None of the men in these peals met together until the morning of the meeting.

After the Council's meeting nearly all the members went straight out of the town, and there were less than a dozen at the social gathering in the evening. Those dozen did not include any of the men who were usually considered as the most prominent members of the Council.

Apart from the peals, there was little or no ringing at Leicester, and I did not hear a single bell in the town during the whole time.

The meeting, as I have said, was a very dull one. The principal debate was about a scheme which was presented by a committee who had been appointed to revise the table of points for peals which the Council at that time officially recognised. The committee included several eminent ringers, and the formula they drew up was a clever one, but, though the majority of the members believed in a rather lukewarm fashion that points for peals were a good thing, the details bored them.

That and the exceptionally hot weather may have had something to do with the shortness of temper which was shown when the last item on the agenda was reached. It concerned the relationship of 'The Ringing World' to the Central Council.

'The Ringing World' had been founded three months before. For about thirty years the ringers' newspaper had been 'The Bell News,' which, taking the whole of the time together, had served the interests of the Exercise well. But the merits of the paper had consisted almost entirely in two things; it provided a record of the peals that were rung, and it supplied a medium by which ringers could communicate their ideas to their fellows. A large number of excellent articles had been written for it from time to time, which still make its pages interesting reading. Harvey Reeves, the editor, had been a ringer and something of a composer, but he had long since ceased to take any interest in ringing matters. He was quite unknown personally, and he printed just what was sent to him. Then he died, and the people who succeeded him knew still less about ringing.

It is not surprising, therefore, that there was a growing feeling among ringers that a new and better paper was urgently needed. Two attempts had already been made, and both had been failures. When 'The Ringing World' first appeared in 1911, it was received with enthusiasm by some, and with goodwill by the majority, tempered by the fear lest the rivals should kill each other, and the attempt to give the Exercise two papers should result in it having none at all.

If the new paper was to prove its worth it must have a fair chance and equal treatment by the Council. To this end, notice was given of a resolution to be submitted at the Leicester meeting, which proposed 'that the Central Council give to "The Ringing World" recognition equal to that accorded to "The Bell News" for the publication of official reports and communications, and that any peals published exclusively in "The Ringing World" shall be counted in the Central Council's analysis.'

I do not know who was responsible for the drafting of this motion, but it was sent to the secretary signed by Mr. James Parker. He could not, however, move it and handed it over to Mr. Frank Bennett. Mr. Bennett had to return home before the meeting, and in his turn handed it over to me. I willingly undertook it, because I had no personal feeling other than the general good of the Exercise, and thought the resolution would have been adopted without question and without discussion. If I had any bias, it was in favour of 'The Bell News,' for, though I recognised its failures and shortcomings, I was a frequent contributor to its pages and, in fact, wrote the general summary of the meeting for it.

To my surprise, the resolution was opposed with much heat, first by the members of the Analysis Committee, who thought it would mean extra work for them, and then by the President. Heywood spoke hotly and with

passion. He roundly declared that if the resolution were passed he would refuse to work it. In effect he told the Council to choose between himself and 'The Ringing World.' The situation began to look very ugly. I, of course, never thought of withdrawing; most of the members were in favour of the resolution, but were bewildered at the turn things had taken. Ultimately the 'previous question' was moved and carried, but only by about twelve votes to six, the majority sitting still and doing nothing.

It is not easy to account for Heywood's action, but undoubtedly it was partly due to his misunderstanding the word 'reports' in the resolution. The reports which were asked to be sent to 'The Ringing World' were the reports of committees, but he took it as meaning the reports of the debates. For a long time he had written up the reports of the meetings which appeared in 'The Bell News' from the very imperfect notes made by Benjamin Keeble. He thought he would have to do the job twice over, and he flatly refused. Actually, of course, the Editor of 'The Ringing World' is a skilled reporter and needed no such thing.

But probably Heywood's real, if unconscious, grievance was that he had not been consulted on the matter. He had been so accustomed to control everything connected with the Council that he resented any action affecting it which had not had his approval. And he genuinely did fear that the advent of the new paper would mean that both it and the old one would become bankrupt and the Exercise left with none. It was suggested that he was influenced by the fact that he had helped 'The Bell News' financially, and would lose his money; but such a thing is not in the least likely. He

was above such a motive. It was rather wounded pride than fear of financial loss that made him lose his temper.

It was a lame and impotent conclusion, and I made up my mind it should not end there. Heywood's action was universally condemned in the Exercise, and Davies, as secretary, very wisely acted as if the resolution had been passed. Next year at the London meeting I moved 'that this Council, in extending its hearty welcome to "The Ringing World," has heard with satisfaction from the hon. secretary that he has from the first appearance of the paper sent for publication in its columns all essential official notices and reports of the Council, and notes with pleasure that the analysis of peals for the past year has been compiled from and appeared in identical terms in both ringing papers alike.' It was passed without opposition.

In the interval a good deal of pressure was put on me not to do anything which would appear to reflect on Heywood, and just before the meeting one prominent man came and begged me not to make a scene. I never had any intention of referring to Heywood's action in any way, but I had a fixed intention not to give way one inch on the original question.

The whole incident was a rather ridiculous one, and probably did far more good to 'The Ringing World' than it did harm. It is important in the history of the Council, for it formed the definite division between the earlier days when the Council was kept in leading strings by Heywood, who guided and controlled it in every way, and the later days when the control and influence passed into the hands of the younger generation (different in class and education from the earlier ringers), who now form the backbone of the Exercise.

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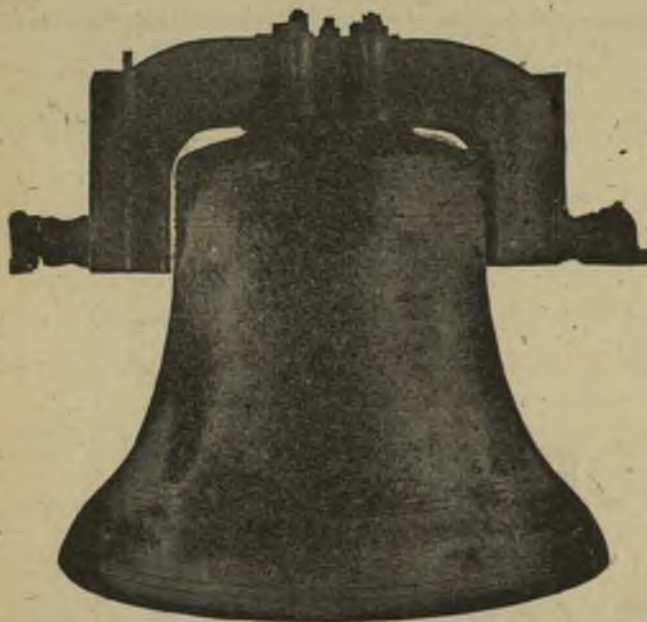
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BELFRY GOSSIP.

A walk through the City of London leaves many vivid and unforgettable impressions, and not the least is that of the striking and unexpected views one gets of familiar towers and steeples seen from new and unfamiliar aspects across the ruins of destroyed buildings.

As one walks along Eastcheap suddenly a gaping hole in the houses reveals Wren's tower and spire of St. Dunstan's-in-the-East. There it stands amid the ruins of the church and the warehouses which but lately almost entirely hid it, and it is now fully revealed for the thing of beauty it is. From top to bottom it has been gutted by fire. Not a floor is left, only the bare shell of stone, which, however, does not appear to be seriously damaged. On the ground beneath are several of the bells, some smashed, but one or two, we hope, still sound.

Our latest information is that the bells of St. John's, Waterloo Road, are undamaged. The church was almost destroyed by a high explosive bomb in an early raid, but the fire did not reach the tower.

The bells of another destroyed London church, St. Vedast's, Foster Lane, appear also to be all right, but it is difficult to find definite information.

Handbell peals in two new methods, and a couple of other handbell peals thrown in, is not a bad record for one week in these war times. But we fear that the splendid Bushey handbell performances will not continue very much longer. Still, while the sun shines perhaps a little more hay will be made.

A further grant of probate, in respect of settled land, valued at £427,145, has been issued in the estate of Major Percy Horace Gordon Powell-Cotton, Quex Park, Thanet, the late owner of Quex Park with its tower and twelve bells, who left unsettled estate already valued at £94,153, making a total of £521,298.

Fifty years ago to-day three peals were rung. One was Grandsire Triples, one Kent Treble Bob Major and one Stedman Triples. The last was on the heavy eight at Merton College, Oxford. Two men were at the tenor, and Washbrook, who conducted, rang the seventh.

On July 21st, 1923, a band of the Chester Diocesan Guild rang at Over 17,280 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major in ten hours. Mr. Robert Sperring conducted and Mr. James H. Riding rang the tenor. The composition was by Mr. J. W. Parker and the peal is the record for the method, but four years later 17,824 changes of Oxford, composed by Mr. T. B. Worsley, were rung at Heptonstall.

On St. James' Day, July 25th, 1889, eight members of the St. James' Society each named James rang at St. James', Clerkenwell, a peal of Grandsire Triples.

The Norwich Scholars rang the first peal of Double Oxford Bob Major, 6,000 changes, at St. Giles', Norwich, on July 26th, 1832.

On the same date in 1872 the bells of Waterford were opened, and next day the College Youths rang the first peal—Grandsire Triples—in Ireland.

James W. Washbrook, perhaps the greatest all-round ringer who has ever lived, was born on July 27th, 1864.

SCROOF.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Where *did* the word 'scroof' come from? Can someone tell us? Your contributor, writing in the article on 'Standard Methods' on July 4th, asked 'What history lies behind the use of the word, so familiar to London ringers?' I believe 'scroof' has long been in the vocabulary of ringers, but only in London. It will be interesting to know its origin and its early use in the Exercise.

'INQUIRER.'

HANDBELL RINGING.

WHEN DID IT BEGIN?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Can you please furnish me with any information regarding the use of handbells? At the meeting at Halstead recently the Vicar wondered whether history was repeating itself. The ringers' jar which we have in our belfry was made in the time of the Reformation when the ringing of church bells was forbidden, and the Vicar inquired whether handbells were rung at this time.

If we can be furnished with any information regarding dates and uses of handbells at this time we should be grateful.

HILDA G. SNOWDEN.

BELL HANGING 220 YEARS AGO

The 'Western Flying Post' of July 14th, 1760, had the following advertisement:—

There is lately Hung to Sally and set going by John Bush, Bell-Hanger of Chew-Stoke near Bristol in the County of Somerset, a large Peal of Six Bells in the Town of Yeovil in the said County; The Tenor consisting of near 50 cwt; they are allowed to be the largest Peal of Six that is in the Country, and required before new Hung 22 or 23 Men to ring the Six Bells; but since they are hung by the said Bush the same has been rung for several Hours by 7 Men only and 50 3 or 4 different Peals of Changes; Consisting of 120 Grandsire Changes in each Peal.

N.B.—The said Bush has work'd in the Business upwards of 30 Years, and is thought to be a very experienced Man, and will be ready to serve any Parish, if required.

NICHOLAS HAWKSMOOR. A FAMOUS CHURCH ARCHITECT.

By RICHARD F. DEAL.

The destruction by enemy action of a fine church in the east of London—St. George's—brings to our notice the name of the remarkable man who was responsible for the design of this and of four other London churches of the same character.

The influence of Sir Christopher Wren is seen to greater or less degree in the work of many who followed him, but he appears to have handed down his art by personal instruction to very few. His only outstanding pupil was Nicholas Hawksmoor, of whom we are told that he entered Wren's household as 'scholar and domestic clerk' at the age of 18. It is not known whether Wren undertook to impart to the young man any other art than that of architecture—he was, of course, a master of other branches of learning—but we may assume that he would direct his pupil's talents into the channel in which



CHRIST CHURCH, SPITALFIELDS.

his assistance would eventually be of the greatest value, for Wren at that time must have had a vast amount of work in hand, including designs for the rebuilding of St. Paul's and about fifty churches in and about the City.

Wren was repaid by the devotion and assistance of his former pupil, who was associated with him in all his most important work for a period of 30 years.

The churches designed by Hawksmoor are St. Mary Woolnoth, City; St. Anne's, Limehouse; Christ Church, Spitalfields; St. George's, Bloomsbury, and St. George's-in-the-East, of which only the walls remain. In some cases he was more fortunate in his sites than was his master, and usually was not hampered by considerations of economy. His style is heavier and less fanciful than that of Wren—he obtained his effect by contrasting big masses of plain stonework with bold projections and deeply recessed openings.

St. Mary Woolnoth is considered by some to be his best work. This is a small church, square on plan, and its designer made the best of a confined site. Internally it is lofty and of fine proportions, and

the twelve Corinthian columns are well arranged. In this and in the other churches named there is much excellent woodwork and some carving, though generally not of such a high order as that in the Wren churches. By the way, we must divest ourselves of the idea that all the carved wood in the churches of the Wren period is the work of Grinling Gibbons—there is probably enough in St. Paul's alone to have kept that industrious man occupied for the whole of his working life!

In my opinion Hawksmoor's style appears at its best in the west front of Limehouse Church. The porch with its detail on a big scale, and the great tower rising proudly above the mean buildings about it, form a grand picture when seen either from the Thames or at close quarters. Some artists have ably recorded it.

Spitalfields is probably the largest of these churches and internally is very good. Here there are no galleries except at the west end. The church is of great height and has a fine plaster ceiling, deeply coffered, and arched over the aisles, making an effective contrast with the plain walls and shafts of the columns below. The west front of Spitalfields is impressive, having a portico of unusual design. The tower is given the appearance of great breadth by buttress-like projections at each side, which add greatly to its strength.

The grouping of the massive tower and four-domed turrets at St. George's is picturesque. Hawksmoor was not so fortunate at Bloomsbury, though here he made good use of his site. This church has a fine portico of orthodox design and was one of the first London churches in which this feature was introduced. The tower is rather insignificant, though strongly built. Its designer was criticised and the parishioners ridiculed for terminating the steeple with a statue of King George I. as expressed in the following lines:—

'The King of Great Britain was reckoned before,

The head of the Church, by all Protestant people;

His Bloomsbury subjects have made him still more,

For with them he now is the head of the steeple.'

It is recorded that the statue was given by an 'eminent parishioner and vestryman,' so it is unlikely that the architect was responsible for this absurdity.

Hawksmoor held several important offices, in some of which he succeeded Wren. He was clerk of works at Greenwich Hospital, deputy surveyor of Chelsea College (or Hospital), surveyor of Westminster Abbey and of all new churches. At Westminster he assisted Wren in the completion of the western towers. He was associated with another famous man, Vanbrugh, in the erection of the Palace of Blenheim, Oxfordshire, and carried out work at All Souls' and Queen's Colleges, Oxford. He designed machinery for restoring to the Perpendicular the west front of Beverley Minster.

Hawksmoor died on March 25th, 1736, aged 75. The churches briefly described are not all well known to ringers. St. George's-in-the-East had a fine eight which unfortunately perished with the church, as already noted in these columns. Spitalfields has eight bells, which replaced a peal of twelve lost many years ago by fire, of which accounts have also appeared. Limehouse and St. Mary Woolnoth each have three bells.

We can admire these churches, not for any romantic beauty such as we find in mediæval buildings, but for their skilful planning and sometimes stately proportions, and for the excellence of their construction. We can also with advantage study the wood and plaster work found in them, all no doubt originating in the brain of the architect, though in his day the individuality of the craftsman would find more scope than has been allowed in later years. We may hope that St. George's will rise again from its ashes, and that its companion churches will be spared and freed from various disfigurements necessitated by 'A.R.P.' to preserve for many years a phase of church architecture which is typically English.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT YORK MINSTER.

The summer meeting of the Eastern District of the Yorkshire Association was held at York on Saturday, July 12th, and was attended by over 20 ringers from Headingley (St. Michael's), Market Weighton, Nunburnholme, Ripon, Selby, Sherburn-in-Elmet and the local company.

Choral evensong was attended in the Minster, prior to which handbell ringing took place in the belfry.

Tea was served in the Feasegate Cafe and was followed by the business meeting. Mr. F. Cryer, the vice-president, was in the chair, and he began by asking those present to stand in silence in memory of Dr. Bate, Dean of York, who had recently passed away.

A vote of thanks to the Minster authorities for permission to hold the meeting was proposed by Mr. F. Wilkinson, seconded by Mr. F. G. Sherwood, and was responded to by the Ven. Archdeacon England, who gave the association a most hearty welcome to York, saying that he hoped very soon the bells of the Minster would be ringing out once again for peace and victory.

The Archdeacon had to leave early, as he had another meeting to attend, this being the fourth meeting he had attended during the day.

A vote of thanks to the Minster ringers for the excellent arrangements was passed, and Mr. Earnshaw responded, welcoming those present.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Selby in September. Further handbell ringing took place till 8 o'clock, which ended a very happy meeting on a really hot summer day.

LONDON CITY CHURCHES.

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST AIR RAIDS.

The committee set up by the Bishop of London to deal with war damage to the City churches has issued a memorandum on the work it has so far accomplished.

The committee, states the memorandum, has devoted much time both to safeguarding, so far as possible, the contents of churches hitherto undamaged and to carrying out first-aid repairs and salvage when churches have suffered from enemy action.

It is out of the question that any attempt should be made at present to decide which churches ought ultimately to be reconstructed, but the committee has endeavoured to ensure that first-aid repairs and protection shall be given where any substantial remains of the church have survived, so as to keep the way open for reconstruction should it be desired to take this course. This has involved considerable cost, and has inevitably in some places proved useless owing to the results of subsequent bombs—a risk which cannot be avoided.

As soon as the committee was constituted a tentative list of typical examples of woodwork, monuments, fonts, bells and other furniture was formed, and the objects were removed from the churches to places of greater safety or were protected in situ. Sometimes it was possible to construct brick chambers in the bases of the towers (the great strength of which architecturally has been amply proved), and church fittings placed in such chambers have survived widespread damage done to the church itself.

In other churches the furniture has been removed out of London or to crypts in the London area. In this way the committee set out to preserve at any rate a representative selection of such woodwork and other fittings; a course which was subsequently recommended by the president of the Society of Antiquaries.

Later the list was extended and other works of art, including some of considerable size like the screens in St. Peter upon Cornhill and St. Margaret Lothbury and the clock of St. Magnus the Martyr, have been successfully removed; and this work will be continued wherever practicable.

Altogether several thousand pounds have been expended from church funds on the City churches alone. Some of this expenditure will ultimately be repaid under the provisions of the War Damage Act, but there will be no repayment of the large sums expended in the precautionary work.

The following City churches have been destroyed or so badly damaged that they cannot be used for divine service: All Hallows', Barking; Christ Church, Newgate Street; St. Andrew's, Holborn; St. Andrew Wardrobe; SS. Anne and Agnes'; St. Bride's; St. Dunstan-in-the-East; St. Giles', Cripplegate; St. Lawrence Jewry; St. Magnus-the-Martyr; St. Mary Abchurch; St. Mary Aldermanbury; St. Mary-le-Bow; St. Mildred's, Bread Street; St. Nicholas', Cole Abbey; St. Olave's, Hart Street; St. Stephen's, Coleman Street; St. Stephen's, Walbrook, and St. Vedast's, Foster Lane.

Three rings of twelve bells and six of eight are known to have been destroyed.

INSURANCE OF BELLS.

A STRICTLY UTILITARIAN POLICY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your arguments and inferences on this subject are perfectly correct, but there is one point not mentioned hitherto which has to be taken into account. It is this:—

The Government has taken on the responsibility for the repair of the fabric of *all* bombed churches and church schools, etc. It is the considered opinion of many people that when rebuilding has to be taken in hand the Government will only pay the cost of a building adequate (and no more) for holding a reasonable number of worshippers. It does not follow that a church which has previously had a tower with a ring of bells will have a tower provided again. In other words, the policy will be strictly utilitarian, and will in some districts certainly be contingent upon the real need for a rebuilt church on the same site.

As you remark, the insurance rates are high, 30s. per £100 for six months only. If extended at the same rate this will be £3 per cent. per annum. The plan adopted (by official advice) as the basis of insurance is: What is the minimum sum necessary to provide chairs, a reading desk, some books, church plate and the barest necessities to refurbish a church which has been completely destroyed?

It is only too well known that the great majority of church congregations have the utmost difficulty even now in making financial ends meet, especially in poor districts in towns and small country villages. These latter often have large and beautiful churches. The official form for insurance definitely classes insurable objects as follows: (a) Organ; (b) bells; (c) other furniture (under certain limitations). The present scheme is only valid till September 30th next, but it is presumed that it will be extended for six months at a time on the same terms. I am certain that wherever the money for the adequate insurance of organs and bells is provided—money, not only 'strongest representations,'—church authorities will gladly take out the required policies. (Rev.) A. M. SAMSON.

St. Peter's Vicarage, Loughborough.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

SUGGESTED REVISION OF SERVICE FORM.

A very enjoyable meeting of the Northern Division of the Essex Association took place at Halstead on July 12th, when twelve ringers attended from six parishes, viz., Halstead, Greenstead Green, Earls Colne, Braintree, Bocking and Dunmow.

Handbells were rung in church before the service, which was conducted by Canon T. H. Curling (Vicar), assisted by the Rev. R. Poston (assistant priest), with Mr. I. T. Chapman, A.R.C.O., at the organ. The service took place in the chancel of the church, and the Vicar, in the course of his address, spoke of the fellowship amongst the ringers. He hoped the time would not be far distant when the bells would ring again for victory.

Tea was partaken of in the new Congregational Schoolroom, and was ably served by Mrs. A. Snowden.

The business meeting followed, with the District Master (Mr. H. W. Smith) in the chair. It was proposed by Mr. H. W. Smith, seconded by Mr. L. W. Wiffen, that the secretary try and arrange the next meeting at Braintree some time in October.

A discussion followed upon the association's form of service. Mr. L. W. Wiffen said it was a matter he had wanted to discuss for some time. The Psalms were not pointed, and the hymn tunes were in too high a key and needed a great deal of effort in singing. Mr. Wiffen went on to say that he had enjoyed the service which had taken place in the afternoon, the Vicar had rightly chosen some different hymns from A. and M., and the ringers had had the privilege of using the psalters in the chancel.

Mr. I. T. Chapman explained all that was needed to put the service as it was wanted.

It was decided to bring forward the suggestion kindly offered by the organist at the next committee meeting.

The District Master proposed a vote of thanks to the Vicar for allowing the meeting to take place at Halstead, and also for his excellent address, and to the organist for his services. The service, he said, had been enjoyed by all, as they were very fortunate in having an organist able to transpose the tunes into a lower key.

The Vicar, in reply, said he was very pleased to see the association carrying on in spite of all the difficulties that prevailed at the present time.

The ringers then adjourned to the Vicar's lawn for further handbell ringing. Methods rung included Grandsire Caters, Kent Treble Bob Major, Bob Major and Grandsire Triples.

Donations were gratefully received from Mrs. T. Ray and Mr. H. S. Martin towards expenses for tea.

BRISTOL'S NEW GUILD.

HANDBELL RINGERS' ACTIVITY.

In order to maintain the interest of as many ringers as possible and to cultivate handbell ringing, a Guild has been formed in Bristol for the promotion of handbell ringing alone.

The Guild was formed under the title of 'The Bristol Guild of Handbell Ringers,' its activities being governed by a set of 15 rules compiled by the founders. The office of Master of the Guild is held by Mr. Donald G. Clift, former Master of the Llandaff and Monmouth Association, and that of secretary by Mr. Albert M. Tyler, present secretary of the Bristol City Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Association. Other ringers who helped in its formation include Mr. Thomas S. Harris, present chairman of the Bristol City Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Association, and Mr. Royston G. Bryant, member of the Executive Committee and Bristol Rural Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Association.

A certificate of membership is being prepared, and it is intended to issue these certificates to all members for a nominal fee when completed.

The present standard of the ringing includes Grandsire Triples, Bob Major and Stedman Triples, the former being almost at peal-ringing standard with some members.

A suggestion that a model bell frame should be constructed and made the property of the Guild is receiving direct attention, and it is hoped to see this completed before the end of the year. The tenor is expected to weigh about 2 lb.

The Guild has been holding regular practices since its formation in November, but the departure of Mr. S. H. Riches, of St. Werburgh's, to the Forces gave a temporary setback to the progress that these practices were making.

The next business meeting will be held during August, the announcement of which will be made at a later date. Ringers wishing to attend these practices will be gladly welcomed, and details of membership, etc., may be obtained from the secretary, whose address is 5, Addison Road, Victoria Park, Bristol 3.

Thanks are extended to ringers from Bath and Cheltenham who have been able to help and to enjoy some of the handbell ringing.

As will be seen elsewhere, the Guild has scored its first peal, the hon. secretary having called Parker's Twelve-Part.

BOB MAJOR LEAD ENDS.—Imperial was much practised in the City of Norwich in the latter part of the last century (the 18th). Although full of work, its formation is not such as to excite admiration owing to the tenors being so much apart, and the change of the treble lead not being legitimate as will be observed by comparing it with other methods.—Henry Hubbard, 1845.

THE STANDARD METHODS DUFFIELD.

In the spring of the year 1887 Sir Arthur Heywood sent to 'The Bell News' a series of articles which he afterwards published in book form. In these he reviewed the state of Royal and Maximus ringing as it then existed, and went on to recommend a new method which he had worked out, and named Duffield after the village where he lived. His remarks are valuable and can be read to-day, half a century later, with interest, allowance having been made for the passage of the years.

I am desirous (writes Heywood) of directing attention to the present state of the art in regard to ten and twelve-bell ringing. Eight-bell ringing has for many years received a large share of notice in the more advanced methods, until at the present time there are several bands and very many individual ringers who can tap away in peals of Double Norwich and Superlative with as much ease and certainty as in Treble Bob. But when we turn to ten and twelve bells the same progress is by no means apparent: in fact, the proportion of peals of Royal and Maximus to those of Major is much less than it was in the last century. Doubtless one reason is because the advance in Major ringing has been chiefly effected by country companies, who, being confined to eight bells, have concentrated thereon their energies. Again the unprecedented and deserved popularity of Stedman Caters and Cinques, so infinitely more interesting and convenient to ring than long and monotonous courses of Treble Bob, has perhaps kept town companies from turning their tenors in so frequently as formerly.

But the question arises: Why has ringing on ten and twelve bells been confined to Treble Bob? I make the statement under correction, but I believe it to be a fact that for seventy years no peal of Royal or Maximus had been rung in any other method, except perhaps an odd peal of Plain Bob, until the somewhat discreditable spell was lately broken by the energy of the Ipswich Society, whose peals of Double Norwich Royal indicate the possibility of Double Norwich Maximus in the near future, a performance which, if achieved, will place that company on a pedestal of fame not second to the Norwich of the past.

The question admits of an answer in the extreme difficulty of attempting new methods where there are a large number of ringers, and where, consequently, the practices of a special band would entail temporary exclusion on the rest. It may be argued that Plain Bob was learnt and rung in several variations, and subsequently Treble Bob; then why not other methods? The reply to this is that all these were methods which could be equally well practised on eight bells, and of which the extension to ten and twelve involved no material alteration in the work; that is, to say, that anyone who could ring them on eight could ring them equally well on higher numbers when accustomed to the extra ropes. The rapid rise of Stedman from five to eleven bells was doubtless due to this valuable property.

Now of the finer Major methods—except Double Oxford, where the length of dodging would be excessive—none can be extended to Royal or Maximus without entailing alterations in the work so extensive as to leave the original hardly recognisable in its new form. Such a case is that of Double Norwich, in which the relation of Major to Royal and Maximus is so slight as to make

them to all intents and purposes different methods. The same applies to Superlative which, though extended to ten bells by Shipway, has been little practised. The difficulties in the way of learning such methods with a band of so many as ten ringers appear too great to justify any hope that more than an occasional attempt will be made in this direction. The impediment seems absurd, but it none the less exists, and, taken together with historical evidence, clearly points to the inference that no further general advance in ten and twelve-bell ringing can be expected until some more musical and interesting method than Treble Bob makes its appearance which, in addition to being fairly easily learnt, shall be capable of extension from Major to Royal and Maximus without any radical change in the work.

Before proceeding farther, let us glance briefly at the musical properties of the ten and twelve-bell methods now existing. Plain Bob we may dismiss as having had its day and no longer possessing any special attraction. Treble Bob, at present in general use, is in many ways very defective, as has been pretty clearly stated by greater authorities than myself. The endless making of second's place in front, together with the wide and frequent parting of the heavy bells, causes the music to be, except near the course ends, very unsatisfactory.

With respect to Double Norwich Royal and Maximus, the music cannot for a moment be compared with that of Double Norwich Major, for while the latter is one of the most perfect of methods, the former, in which the beautiful double dodging is entirely done away, have little more to recommend them than that they keep the tenors well together—a most important point, however, for with ten and twelve bells the effectiveness of the beat is largely dependent on the regular and equidistant positions of the heavy ones. On these grounds Superlative Royal, in which they are mercilessly knocked about, stands at once condemned. Double Oxford on the higher numbers would not be pleasing for, as the bells in front and behind dodge till the treble parts them, what are only five-pull dodges in Major would be extended to seven and nine-pull dodges in Royal and Maximus; a length tedious alike to hand and ear.

Other ten-bell methods there are, but their virtues are few and their faults many, and there is no likelihood of their ever being practised. Shipway's principle alone remains to be noticed. It has four-bell work in front and triple dodging in all other places, the bells going in alternately quick and slow as in Stedman. Here, one would think, is just the desired method, as with simply the extra places to dodge in, it runs the same on all even numbers. Unfortunately the alternating quick and slow work parts the tenors so widely that, except at the course-ends, there is no regularity in the music, and there is the further objection that the slow work is complicated and the continuous triple dodging tedious.

We arrive, therefore, at the conclusion, not only that there is no ten or twelve-bell method in existence that can be said to produce the best of music, but also that of such methods as there are none but Plain Bob and Treble Bob are suitable for general practice—Grandsire I altogether ignore as being on even numbers a bastard system—and that therefore, as has been already stated, no general advance can be anticipated in the direction indicated until some more harmonious method than these

(Continued on next page.)

THE STANDARD METHODS.

(Continued from previous page.)

is found which shall be equally capable of extension from Major to Royal and Maximus.

The required method must be:—

1. Capable of being practised on eight bells and of extension to ten and twelve without material alteration in the work.
2. Regular in its work, keeping the heavy bells well together, more especially when they come behind.
3. Not too lengthy in the course, thus admitting of handy touches.
4. Arranged to have as much double dodging as possible for the sake of the music.

With regard to this last condition, it is generally admitted that double dodging is the finest movement in change ringing. It brings out the full force of a musical position, but yet stops short of monotony, and occurs continually in every one of the more harmonious systems on seven and eight bells. For this reason no ten or twelve-bell method could without it be considered as entitled to a first rank.

From this point, Heywood goes on to discuss the different lines on which the required method might be formed, and ultimately arrived at Duffield as the only satisfactory solution of the problem. He worked it out on eight bells, and says that on pricking the course the method will be found to possess the following extraordinary list of qualities:—

1. One false course-end only against the whole plain course so long as 7-8 are kept together, and none so long as 6-7-8 are kept together even if singles are used. If the 6th is moved and singles are used, only two extra false course-ends occur.
2. Perfect in construction, quadruple and triple changes alternating with each other.
3. The tenors well together, except in the four-bell work, where the brief parting brings up the identical music for which Superlative is renowned.
4. Capable of producing an endless variety of peals in which the 6th may be kept at home throughout.
5. Very convenient for short touches.
6. Avoiding any difficulty as to who shall ring the treble in a peal, all the bells working alike.
7. Easily learnt by a good band and capable of extension to ten and twelve bells by simply dodging in the extra places as in Stedman, thus making the ringing of Royal and Maximus a mere question of opportunity.
8. Producing quickly recurring course-ends with the 7th and all the bells about it dodging in the home position.

Sir Arthur Heywood had no small reason to think he had solved the problem he set out to tackle, and if Duffield has not turned out to be what he expected, one of the chief reasons is that it has never had a fair trial on ten and twelve bells. The method which actually did provide the means by which ringers broke away from the monotony of Treble Bob was Cambridge. In some respects Cambridge is the method Heywood was searching for, but had he known of its capacity for extension it is pretty certain he would have rejected it, for he had little good to say of it as a Major method.

SURFLEET, LINCS.—At Glyn Garth on July 11th, 720 Bob Minor on handbells: Mrs. R. Richardson 1-2, R. Richardson (conductor) 3-4, J. S. Goldsmith 5-6.

NOTICES.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

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

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.

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

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—A meeting will be held at Tonbridge on Saturday, July 26th. Service in church at 4 o'clock. Business meeting after tea. One very important item is to elect a new district secretary. Subscriptions for 1941 can be paid at this meeting. — T. Saunders, Peckham Bush, Paddock Wood, Kent.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—A ringing meeting will be held at Sapcote on July 26th. Bells (silent) at 3.30 p.m. No tea. Handbells during evening.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Idle on Saturday, July 26th. Handbells in the tower from 3 p.m.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—A 'silent' practice meeting will be held at Whittle-le-Woods on Saturday, July 26th. Bells ready at 2.30. A cordial invitation is extended to all ringers who are at liberty to renew their acquaintance with this tower. We regret that we cannot provide the usual repast, but will endeavour to supply tea if you can bring along your own sandwiches.—F. G. Bradley, Chief Ringer.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Reading Branch.—A meeting will be held at Henley on Saturday, July 26th. Handbell ringing in the Chantry House, adjoining the church, from 3.30 p.m. Own arrangements must be made for tea.—E. G. Foster, Hon. Branch Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Watford District.—Meeting at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, Saturday, July 26th. Handbells from 3.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. All ringers welcome.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

ACCRINGTON, LANCASHIRE.—A practice will be held at St. James' Church on Saturday, July 26th. Tower bells (6, with silent apparatus) available from 2.30 p.m. Also sets of handbells. All welcome.—R. Leigh, Newstead, Willows Lane, Accrington.

BOURNEMOUTH AND DISTRICT.—A garden meeting will be held at The Chantry, Madeira Road, Bournemouth, by kind invitation of the Rev. R. L. C. Newhouse, on July 26th, at 2.30 p.m. Handbells, social and ringing chatter. Service in St. Peter's 5.30. Tea 6 p.m., and more handbells if desired. If wet meet at St. Peter's Hall.—Arthur V. Davis.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Arksey on Saturday, July 26th, at 3 p.m. Handbells available. Tea can be provided for those who notify me. Owing to rationing we cannot provide sugar.—Ernest Cooper, Hon. Sec., 6, Grosvenor Crescent, Arksey, Doncaster.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—West Dorset Branch.—A meeting will be held at Beaminster on Saturday, July 26th. Tower bells with Seage apparatus from 3 p.m. Tea and meeting at 5.30. Please notify me for tea.—C. H. Lathey, Hon. Sec., Malmaison, Bradpole, Bridport.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday August 2nd, at the Bell Foundry, 32-34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Henlow on Saturday, August 2nd, also handbells. Please notify Mr. L. Bywater, 12, Newtown, Henlow, Beds, if requiring tea. Should like to meet our old friends. All will be welcomed.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy, Beds.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—A meeting will be held in the belfry at Balcombe on Saturday, August 2nd. Handbells and ringing on six silent tower bells. Mr. A. Laker, 4, Barnfield Cottages, Balcombe, will try and arrange a cup for tea for those who notify him by July 31st. Preliminary notice.—Joint meeting with Sussex County and Hawkhurst Guild at Wadhurst, August 19th. Details later.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

SURREY ASSOCIATION (North-Western District) AND GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD (Leatherhead District).—A joint meeting will be held at Leatherhead on Monday, August 4th. Ringers may meet at Boxhill S.R. station at 3.30, to ramble through Norbury Park to Leatherhead. Service in Leatherhead Church at 5 p.m. Tea at the Duke's Head at 5.30 p.m. Eight bells (silent) and handbells available at Leatherhead belfry from 3 p.m. and after tea. Names for tea to Mr. G. Marriner, 7, Poplar Avenue, Leatherhead, by Wednesday, July 30th. All ringers heartily welcome.—G. W. Massey and A. H. Smith, Dis. Hon. Secs.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—A meeting will be held at Stanmore on Saturday, August 9th. Handbells available at 3 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea to follow, for which names must be sent to me by Tuesday, the 5th. By kind invitation of the Rector, the gardens will be open as usual.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD. — Guilsborough Branch.—A meeting will be held at Ravensthorpe on Saturday, August 9th. Bells (5, silent) will be available from 3.30 p.m. Tea will be provided, but will members please bring their own sandwiches and sugar. Bus leaves Northampton (Derngate) at 3 p.m.—H. H. Shives, Hon. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—A meeting will be held at Loughton on Saturday, August 9th. Service at 4.30 p.m. Business meeting to follow. Handbells available during afternoon and evening. De-

tails regarding tea in next week's issue. All ringers heartily welcome.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Lewisham District. — A meeting will be held on Saturday, August 16th. Place and other details announced next week. Please notify me of any business to be placed upon the agenda. Subscriptions can be paid at this meeting. — A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec. Temporary address: 53, Hengist Road, Erith, Kent.

'THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE.' Part IV. Reprinted from the Journal of the Berks Archaeological Society. To be obtained from the author, Mr. Frederick Sharpe, Derwen, Launton, Bicester, Oxfordshire. Price one shilling.

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SILENT RINGERS SHOULD KEEP SILENT.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I am afraid that when we ringers speak of 'ringing the bells silent,' and association secretaries send reports of such activities at their meetings to the local Press (as many do), far too many are apt to forget one thing—that working behind the scenes is a body arming to the teeth whose aim it is, not to silence the bells for the duration, but for all time if they can.

Every action and every scrap of information which favours their policy is likely to be made into propaganda by them for the post-war years. This 'silent ringing' is just the kind of thing that this body is looking for, and ringers should take a warning that unless we go very carefully about this business we may have it thrown at us after the war—'ringers got their pleasure during the war without annoyance to anyone, therefore there should be nothing to prevent them doing the same now.'

I happen to know from personal experience that those who favour this view have considerable influence on certain sections of the Press, and can it be that their influence has already extended to parts of the ecclesiastical authorities, and to the Ministry of Home Security? This latter question, I contend, is not free from doubt.

The Ministry of Home Security at the commencement of the war put out a circular, 'Don't use careless talk which may give away vital secrets to the enemy.' The ringing fraternity should make this motto their own, since it is the only thing of any value offered to them by the said Ministry.

Ringers need now to form themselves into a 'Home Guard' of their own; after the war may be too late and find this 'enemy' too firmly established with consequences which may be regrettable to the Exercise and all those other lovers of bells. 'ANTI-SILENT.'

SILENT APPARATUS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Was there any missing of the point on my part? I asked a question—which, by the way, Mr. Post again asks—and I gave one example; Mr. Maurice Clarke gives another.

May I endorse as fully as possible what you say in your leader of June 13th, that what we have really to avoid is the lowering of the standard of striking by the use of such apparatus.

Woodbridge, Suffolk.

HERBERT DRAKE.

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