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PEAL RINGING.

The Analysis for 1940 which we published a fortnight ago provides a striking commentary on the times we are living in. Instead of the usual double page table with a couple of extra pages of comments and explanations, we have a bare page, and this meagre record will be still more meagre when the Analysis for last year appears. In the first half of 1940 the reduction of peal ringing was caused by the war; in the second half the ban completely put an end to all tower bell peals.

Most of us cherish the hope, if only unconsciously, that when peace comes we shall be able to pick up the dropped threads of our lives, and to resume our interests and activities as they were before war came, and not least among them are the peals which we were planning to attempt and which we hoped to ring. We still look forward to them, and though we sometimes realise that there will be difficulties in the way, we do not intend to let those difficulties thwart us if we can help it. Let us hope that our intentions will be fulfilled and that peal ringing will again be as popular as it was.

Meanwhile, it may be useful to consider what is the proper place that peal ringing holds in the life of the Exercise. On that question opinion is by no means unanimous. There are, and always have been, ringers who look upon peal ringing as the most important thing in the art and towards which all their energies and hopes are directed. In normal times they always have a programme of peals before them and they lose no opportunity for carrying it out. Other things, such as practices and meetings, are well enough in their way and are useful and indeed necessary, but the other is the really important thing, because only in peal ringing can these men get what they feel to be the best out of the art of change ringing.

There are other people, and they have perhaps increased noticeably in more recent years, who think that the one important thing for the Exercise is to ring the bells for the Sunday church services. They do not altogether object to peal ringing, but they hold it should be an extra and occasional activity; and often they are prone to consider that those who put peal ringing first are selfish and lacking in their duties and responsibilities.

These two contradictory views are held and held strongly, but fortunately ringers, like Englishmen in general, are seldom logical persons, and it is quite possible for two such seemingly mutually destructive opinions to exist side by side, not only in the Exercise at large, but even in the same individual. It is well that it is so. That man is of the most value to the Exer-

(Continued on page 246.)

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cise who when he is concerned with peal ringing treats peal ringing as the really important thing, and at the same time never neglects his duties as a churchman and a service ringer. Whatever others may think, he finds no difficulty in bringing the two into harmony.

Are peal ringers selfish? Some are of course, but then so are some who look no further than service ringing. Success in peal ringing means getting together a number of men, who are bound together by ties of friendship and common aims, and who are prepared to consider each other's interests. Such a body must be to some extent exclusive, but, as everyone can see for himself if he uses his eyes, it is just these people who are the most active and willing in helping others. Whatever theoretical objections there may be against peal ringing; experience has proved that it is of the utmost value to the Exercise. The keenest peal ringer is usually the best service ringer. We hope, therefore, that after the war peals will speedily resume their old place in the life and activity of the Exercise.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, May 21, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15.

*EDWIN JENNINGS 1-2	HAROLD G. CASHMORE	... 5-6
*ERNEST C. S. TURNER	... 3-4	FREDERICK W. BRINKLOW	... 7-8

Composed by C. MIDDLETON. Conducted by H. G. CASHMORE.

* First handbell peal of Surprise Major.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 23, 1942, in Two Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor size 15.

EDWIN JENNINGS 1-2	HAROLD G. CASHMORE	... 5-6
EDWIN A. BARNETT 3-4	ERNEST C. S. TURNER	... 7-8

Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

BRANKSOME, DORSET.

THE LADIES' GUILD.

On Saturday, May 23, 1942, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes.

AT 101, SURREY ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten different callings. Tenor 15 in C.

MISS FAITH M. CHILD 1-2	MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY	3-4
MISS JESSIE C. CHICK 5-6		

Conducted by MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY.

Miss Chick was elected a member of the Guild before starting.

DEATH OF A FEERING RINGER.

It is with great regret that we have to report the death in the Essex County Hospital on May 6th of Mr. Percy J. Langstone, of Feering, after a long illness patiently borne.

Deceased had been employed for 42 years by Messrs. Hurst and Sons at their trial grounds except for a period during the last war, when he was wounded three times and was a prisoner of war for nine months. After resuming work he underwent a serious operation, from which he never fully recovered.

He was of a modest disposition and it can truly be said he was the friend of all and the enemy of none. He had rung 40 peals, all Major, and was an excellent striker.

The interment took place on May 9th amidst many expressions of regret. There were present besides relatives some of his former work-mates, who also sent beautiful floral tributes.

Deceased was a bachelor and was 57 years of age.

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TWO EIGHTEENTH CENTURY BANDS.**BROMLEY AND HORSHAM.**

By J. A. TROLLOPE.

Among the bells destroyed in earlier air raids was the ring of eight at Bromley in Kent. Bromley is now part of the outer suburban ring of London, but it was once and for long centuries a village deep in the heart of the country, living its own self-centred life. In May, 1773, the bells of the parish church of St. Peter and St. Paul were recast and made into an octave by Thomas Janaway, of Chelsea, and at the same time a 'sete of youths join'd in articles to learn to ring.' They made such progress that on September 22nd in the following year they rang 'a half-quarter Peal of Bob Major which is 5000 & 40 changes.'

These youths were young men whose ages varied from eighteen to twenty-six and they were artisans employed in the village. Three were carpenters, two were shoemakers, and one each a bricklayer, a breeches-maker, and a gardener. Two of the carpenters, brothers named John and William Chapman, whose ages were then eighteen and twenty-three, became the mainstays of the new society.

In the first peal the tenor was rung and the bobs called by William Cook. He had taken part in the first peal on the bells, one of Oxford Treble Bob Major, rung in June, 1773, by James Barham and his band. Possibly he was one of the Leeds men and had accepted an invitation to settle in Bromley and become the instructor and captain of the newly formed company.

During the closing years of the eighteenth century the Bromley Youths rang many peals in the then standard Major methods, including three or four six thousands. On February 15th, 1783, at their home tower they accomplished 12,672 changes of Bob Major. William Chapman conducted from the tenor, John Chapman rang the seventh and James Barnard the sixth.

Barnard was a London man, and for many years a friend and supporter of the elder George Gross. As far back as the year 1774 they had rung peals together for the Cumberland Youths, and both were in the famous 12,000 of Treble Bob Royal at Shoreditch in 1784. When Gross quarrelled with the Cumberlands and left them to form the Junior Cumberlands Society, Barnard was the only one of the long peal band who went with him. The two men were still peal ringing together in 1800. In 1783 it would seem that Barnard was living for a time at Bromley or nearby, for his name for twelve months was absent from the records of any London society.

William Chapman and his brother joined the Cumberland Youths and rang some peals with them, William calling Oxford Treble Bob Major at Lewisham in 1786, and Bob Major in 1787. The society at the time had no outstanding conductor, for George Gross had left them, and John Reeves had not yet rejoined.

On March 19th, 1789, the Bromley Youths rang Reeves' peal of Real Double Bob Major 5,520 changes 'which is the full extent of changes that can be obtained in this method with the tenors together, and the first peal of Real Double with two bobs in a lead rung in England.' Charles Purser had called 5,184 changes at St. Dunstan's-in-the-West for the College Youths on March 12th, 1778; and six days later John Reeves called 5,264 changes at St. Giles'-in-the-Fields for the London Youths. Both peals evidently were false.

William Chapman continued to be an active ringer for many years, and when he died in 1817 he had taken part in more than sixty peals, a great number for those days. At his interment the bells were rung muffled, and on the Wednesday following, January 15th, a muffled peal of Grandsire Triples was rung in his memory by the Bromley Youths conducted by John Allen. This was the first recorded muffled five-thousand ever accomplished. A broadsheet with the particulars of the peal was printed and a framed copy, after having been for many years in a local tavern, was preserved in the belfry until the recent catastrophe.

In 1828 Allen called one of the earliest name peals, Grandsire Triples, with a band of Johns.

The Bromley Youths were typical of bands in the late eighteenth century all over the country and, like the majority of them, they much declined after the first quarter of the nineteenth century. They had kept a record of their performances in a peal book, and though it had gone through some adventures, it had found a home in the church. During the raid it suffered no damage, but by a most regrettable oversight, it was afterwards left exposed to the weather and has been practically ruined.

Not very far from Bromley, over the border in Sussex at Horsham, there was a company very similar in character and skill to the Bromley Youths. Before the year 1751 there was a heavy ring of six in the steeple, the tenor of which is said to have weighed 36 cwt. In 1752 they were recast by Lester and Pack into a ring of eight, and in due time an excellent band of ringers was got together.

They consisted of good class townsmen, prominent among them being members of the family of Lintott. In old Camberwell Church there was a brass to the memory of Henry Lyntot, born at Horsham in Sussex, who died in 1600. In 1633 William Lyntott was paid £3 15s. 4d. for carrying Horsham tenor to and from Chertsey to be recast; and the family seem to have been leading and prosperous tradesmen of the town.

The first peal in the steeple was one of Grandsire Triples rung on April 11th, 1766, by local men and conducted by Thomas Bristow. Thomas Lintott rang the fifth and Thomas Aldridge the tenor.

On May 2nd, 1775, the Horsham Society rang 5,040 changes of Union Triples at Bolney, the first in the method in Sussex. Bristow again conducted and Thomas Lintott rang the sixth.

The latter was now beginning to take the leading part in the band. On February 28th, 1775, he joined the Society of Cumberland Youths before ringing the treble to a peal of Bob Major at Whitechapel, and from that time he was an active member of the London society.

In the next year the Cumberland Youths paid a visit to Horsham and rang 5,152 changes of Bob Major, the first peal in the method on the bells. George Gross conducted, the elder Samuel Muggeridge rang the tenor and Samuel and Francis Wood were at the fifth and sixth. Thomas Lintott rang the second, William Tyler, another local man, the treble, and James Wilson, of Cuckfield, and Samuel Beecham, of Bolney, rang the third and fourth. The peal book specially notes that 'the ropes were hard twisted, with worsted sallies.'

On Sunday, May 17th, 1777, a band of Cumberland Youths, made up from Horsham and the surrounding

(Continued on next page.)

BROMLEY AND HORSHAM

(Continued from previous page.)

villages, rang what was claimed to be the first peal of Bob Triples ever accomplished in the county of Sussex. Lintott conducted from the fifth. On August 27th he paid another visit to London and rang the second to 5,152 changes of Bob Major at Whitechapel. On Sunday, November 16th, a band of Cumberland Youths, all of them inhabitants of Horsham, rang at the parish church 'a peal of Backward Grandsire Triples,' 'being the first ever rung reversed in this method by any men in the Kingdom.' The composition was by John Holt and Thomas Lintott called the bobs.

Exactly what was rung is doubtful. It may have been Reverse Grandsire Triples, or it may have been Holt's Ten-part with the calling of the second half rung before that of the first half. Perhaps the former is the more likely, but when in 1782 George Gross called at Hackney '5,040 Grandsire Triples Reversed' the performance was claimed in the Cumberlands' peal book as the first in the method. The Horsham peal was booked as Backward Grandsire Triples and no claim was made for it. Christopher Wells had called the Ten-part reversed at Stepney in 1769.

On the last day of the year 1777 the Horsham band went to Brighton, and with Lintott again as conductor, rang the first peal, one of Grandsire Triples, on the bells in St. Nicholas' steeple.

In the following June George Gross, with Edward and Benjamin Simmonds, paid a visit to the Horsham band and spent a busy week-end peal ringing. On the Sunday they rang 5,264 changes of Bob Major at Bolney and then went on to Brighton, where, next day, they first repeated the 5,264 and then rang 6,160 changes in the same method. The three visitors and four of the Sussex men, Thomas Jones, John Wheatley, Thomas Lintott and James Wilson, rang in all three peals. George Gross conducted.

On July 15th the Horsham company, with James Wilson, of Cuckfield, rang what seems to have been the first peal at St. John's, Southover, Lewes. The method was Grandsire Triples and Thomas Lintott conducted. A month later he called the 5,264 changes of Bob Major at Dorking with a mixed band, which included Edward and Benjamin Simmonds, and Samuel Muggeridge. The composition apparently was the same as Gross had called at Bolney and Brighton.

On November 5th Lintott called the peal again, this time with his own band and in his own tower, and four days later he further imitated Gross by calling the 6,160.

The figures of the 5,264 are lost, and there is no clue to what it was like. It consisted of forty-seven courses and it is rather difficult to imagine what, specially attractive, there can have been in such a seemingly awkward number, but evidently there was something, for two days after Christmas Day, at Epsom, Lintott called it yet again. The band was a mixed one and included the brothers Simmonds. Two days after that George Gross met the band at Croydon and called the in-course extent of Bob Major with the tenors together, fifty-nine courses. This he claimed as his own composition, but the figures are lost. It is somewhat of a pity, for if we could compare them with the similar peals in the 'Clavis,' we should have had a good means of testing

whether Gross was really an original composer or whether his best peals were copied or stolen from John Reeves.

On February 15th, 1779, a band composed entirely of Horsham men rang a peal of Bob Triples at the parish church, and on May 24th some of them helped to make up a band that rang 11,088 changes of Bob Major in six hours and fifty minutes at St. Nicholas', Brighton. George Gross rang the treble and conducted, Thomas Jones and Thomas Lintott, of Horsham, rang the second and third, Joseph Welland, who came from Chiddingley, rang the fourth, Edward Simmonds the fifth, John Wheatley, of Epsom, the sixth, James Wilson, of Cuckfield, the seventh, and Benjamin Simmonds the tenor. It was most unusual in those days to make up a band from so many scattered towers, but there seems to have been in Sussex a lot of friendliness and co-operation between bands, and that undoubtedly was an important factor in their success as peal ringers.

In 1781 Lintott called a peal of Bob Triples at Horsham, and soon after that the Horsham men seem to have dropped their close connection with the Society of Cumberland Youths. They rang the first peal on Uckfield bells in 1785, all of them being Horsham men, except James Wilson, who rang the tenor. All the band were old members of the Cumberlands Society, but the performance was not entered in the peal book.

What seems to have been Thomas Lintott's last peal as conductor was one of Grandsire Triples on September 12th, 1792, at Leatherhead, where the bells had just been opened and where a fortnight earlier the College Youths had rung the first peal in the tower. Anthony Lintott, who rang the second to the Grandsire, apparently was one of Thomas Lintott's sons and the nephew of the Anthony Lintott who had taken part in the peal of 1766. In 1794 the younger Anthony called Holt's Ten-part at Horsham, his father and brother, Thomas Lintott, junior, ringing the third and fifth. Thomas Jones rang the sixth and Thomas Bristow the seventh.

In 1798 Charles Barber and James Bartlett from Kensington visited Horsham, and Bartlett called the original. In this peal Anthony Lintott rang the seventh, and another member of the family, James, the third. Thomas Jones was at the treble and a visitor from Halifax, William Bottomley, at the sixth. This was practically the end of the Horsham Society as an active peal ringing company. One peal was rung in 1810, another in 1818, and on October 10th, 1821, 5,040 changes of Grandsire Triples. The band was made up of George Jones, Thomas Lintott, James Whybrow, Isaac Aldridge, Thomas Jones, William Oakes, Thomas Lintott, junior, and John Vaughan. It was fifty-five years since the first peal had been rung in the steeple, and so obviously these men were the sons and grandsons of the men with the same names who took part in the earlier performance. The Thomas Lintott who rang the second was the son, and the Thomas Lintott who rang the seventh was the grandson of the man who had done so much to make Horsham company one of the best of the provincial bands.

After 1821 enthusiasm for the art of change ringing declined in Horsham and, like in so many more places, at the same time virtually came to an end.

(Continued on next page.)

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**ST. ALBANS DISTRICT.**

A most successful 'Bell Week' was arranged in St. Albans beginning on Sunday, May 10th, when handbells were rung in St. Peter's Church for morning and evening services. Previous to matins Grandsire Doubles were rung by Mrs. Fergusson 1-2, Miss K. West 3-4, R. Darvill 5-6. In the afternoon at Fellowship the same band rung Grandsire Doubles and Bob Minor, and for evensong Grandsire Triples were rung by Mrs. Fergusson 1-2, W. L. Buckingham 3-4, R. Darvill 5-6, Miss K. West 7-8.

On Tuesday evening following, a lantern lecture was given by Mr. W. Ayre in the Institute showing many interesting views of bell founding, bell hanging, position of bells in motion, different types of frames, etc. The lecture opened with a course of Grandsire Triples by F. Spicer 1-2, R. Darvill 3-4, W. Ayre 5-6, H. J. Hazell 7-8, and closed with a slide showing a course of Bob Major.

On Saturday, the 16th, the district meeting was held. The tower being open to anyone interested, many took the opportunity of seeing bells in motion. Some recruits were attracted to the art.

The election of officers took place at this meeting, and the secretary was asked if he would be willing to stand again.

Although Mr. H. J. Hazell was elected two years ago as acting war-time secretary for the duration of the war, there was a feeling that another might be better able to carry out the duties, so a proposal was made that Mr. R. Darvill be elected. The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to Mrs. Fergusson for providing tea.

Further ringing was indulged in till about 8 p.m., a good course of Double Norwich being 'rung' on the silent tower bells.

BROMLEY AND HORSHAM.

(Continued from previous page.)

Edward and Benjamin Simmonds, whose names have been mentioned above, were Leatherhead men and keen and active ringers. Edward removed to Islington, where he set up in business as a carpenter and bellhanger. Benjamin remained at home and for several years was the leader of a good band and a conductor who called several peals. The names of both brothers frequently appear in the peal books of the College Youths and Cumberland Youths.

THE SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.**ANNUAL MEETING AT GLASGOW.**

The Scottish Association held their annual meeting at St. Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow, on Saturday. Although the majority were members of the local band, ringers from Dundee, Alloa and Paisley were also present. Prof. Reginald O. Street (president), Mr. W. H. Pickett (Master) and Mr. C. R. Raine (hon. secretary and treasurer) were re-elected to their respective offices. As Mr. Raine expects to go on service shortly, it was agreed that Mr. E. A. Stafford should carry on as acting secretary until his return.

Mr. Pickett reported that, with the exception of Glasgow, all practice seemed to have ceased altogether. He appealed to members to try and keep things going so as to keep the bands together. Messrs. E. W. Pye, H. Bryson and A. E. Jemmeson, of St. Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow, were elected members of the association.

The next annual meeting was fixed for St. John's, Alloa. The President announced the death of the Rev. W. Wilson, St. John's Church, Alloa. He took a keen interest in ringing and was always ready to welcome the association to St. John's. Members stood in silence for a few moments as a mark of respect.

It was agreed to send parcels to members serving with H.M. Forces. Sgt. Preston thanked the association, on behalf of serving members, for parcels previously received, and gave an assurance of their appreciation.

The Very Rev. J. G. Murray, Provost of the Cathedral, conducted the service and afterwards joined the members at an excellent 'pre-war' tea, provided by Mrs. Preston in her usual satisfying manner.

A return to the tower was made, when Stedman and Grandsire Caters and Triples and Kent Treble Bob Royal were brought round, also rounds and call changes.

Thus ended a very enjoyable meeting, although numbers were small.

REV. W. C. PEARSON'S NOTEBOOK.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The notebook, full of cuttings, which belonged to the Rev. W. C. Pearson, and was found under such peculiar circumstances by the two Sittingbourne ringers, has been offered to the Cambridge University Guild by Mr. J. E. Spice. The Guild has decided to accept the book, and it will be placed in the Pearson collection, with a note attached giving the facts of its discovery.

We think that, as mention has been made of the book in 'The Ringing World,' readers should know what has become of it.

K. S. B. CROFT, C.U.G.

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THE EDITOR.

We are very sorry to say that the condition of Mr. J. S. Goldsmith is much worse, and is causing anxiety.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

The ban was referred to at the Oxford Diocesan Conference. The Rev. C. W. Fisher, of East Hendred, asked if they were doing the right thing by letting the matter go without comment. It was a grievous loss that they went on year by year without hearing their bells. Canon Coleridge explained the situation and what had been done.

Mr. Ernest Turner made an interesting variation from normal usage when he called Holt's Original last Saturday. Instead of leaving the singled-in block till the end, he called a single instead of the 88th bob, 573624, then two bobs and another single, and then went on with the peal as usual, coming home with a bob. Mr. Harry G. Miles suggested the alteration.

Those ringers who have had the pleasure of meeting Mr. J. Van Luyt, of Capetown, will be sorry to hear that he has been unwell for some time and has been obliged to go to hospital for treatment and is still away from his duties in the Town Planning Department at the City Hall.

Mr. Van Luyt is the carillonner at the City Hall, where there is a carillon of nearly 50 bells. He is also a gifted musician and a well-known conductor.

On Mr. Van Luyt's visits to Europe he always looks up his ringing friends in England and the Netherlands, especially his old friend, the late Josef Denyn, of Mechlin, whose death was recently reported in the Press.

The first true peal of Treble Tea in Ireland was rung at St. Patrick's, Dublin, on May 24th, 1901. Four days later at Bray, Mr. John S. Goldsmith called the first peal of Surprise Major (Superlative) outside England.

The first peal of Stedman Caters was rung on May 28th, 1787, by the ancient Society of College Youths at St. John's, Horsleydown. The bells, which had been unringable for many years, perished in one of the air raids. The peal board recording the Caters had disappeared a long-time ago, but a copy is given in Davies' and Trollope's books on Stedman.

The record peal of Bristol Surprise Major, 15,264 changes, was rung by the Middlesex County Association at Hornchurch in Essex on May 28th, 1912. William Pye rang the tenor and conducted.

Forty-one years ago to-day the first handbell peal of Stedman Caters on the sea was rung by a band returning from a ringing tour in Ireland.

The College Youths rang 5,000 Oxford Treble Bob Royal at St. Sepulchre's, Holborn, on May 30th, 1741.

The first peal of New Cumberland Major was rung at St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, on May 31st, 1886.

Fifty years ago yesterday five peals were rung. One was Double Norwich Court Bob Major and two each of Grandsire and Stedman Triples.

ST. LAWRENCE'S, BRENTFORD.

Brentford, where the Middlesex County Association held last Saturday week its annual meeting for the first time, was at one time reckoned as the county town and was the principal market town between London and the Buckinghamshire border, but it was not an original parish. The Church of St. Lawrence, where the meeting was held, is of ancient foundation, but was a chapelry in the parish of Hanwell. Like many other churches in the district, it has kept its mediæval tower, on to which a new nave and chancel were added in the eighteenth century, the result being insignificant architecturally, but not without pleasing features.

The bells are a ring of six, all with one exception of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries by the Whitechapel Foundry or Warner's. The third is a pre-Reformation bell by William Culverden, of Aldgate, and dates from about 1510. About fifty years ago Warners recast some of the bells and hung the lot in a cast-iron frame. Space was provided for two trebles, but so far it has not been possible to add them.

The first peal on the bells was one of Cambridge Minor rung on March 18th, 1933, by the College Youths and conducted by Mr. O. W. Roberts. Since then three or four others have been rung by the Middlesex County Association, all of them conducted by Mr. Ernest C. S. Turner.

At the other end of Brentford High Street there is another church in what was once a part of the parish of Ealing. Here there is a ring of six bells cast at Whitechapel in the present century. They have never been hung for ringing.

THE RINGERS' CONFERENCE.

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

The discussion on Mr. C. T. Coles' motion is continued.

Mr. ERNEST C. S. TURNER: The advocates of a National Association have said a lot about the benefits we should gain from such an organisation, but except for one thing they do not seem to have made up their minds what those benefits really would be. The one definite thing is that anyone visiting a different part of the country to ring a peal would not have to pay an entrance fee to the local association. That no doubt would be an advantage to the individual, but would it be great enough to justify scrapping and recasting the whole of the Exercise's present organisation? If such a thing is desirable it could easily be attained by the present associations agreeing to forgo the payment of the subscription by peal ringers. But why should they? It is not a great thing to expect a man who enjoys the benefit of peal ringing in a strange tower to contribute something to the expenses of the body that provides him the means of so doing. No other people get their pastime so cheaply as ringers do, and it is greatly to be feared that they take the privilege as a matter of course with little thoughts of gratitude. That brings us to the fundamental weakness of all these suggestions. We are asked to support large schemes which will cost a lot of money to run and a lot of officials to work. Where are the money and the men to come from? That is what we should like to know. We have no guarantee whatever that even a small proportion of ringers would be willing to pay the annual subscription necessary, and we have no reason to think that the men who voluntarily carry on the work of the present associations would be willing to scrap their present arrangements and take orders from some central officials. And would the present bodies agree to hand over the funds they have accumulated during the last fifty or sixty years? It is hardly likely.

WHAT GOOD WOULD IT DO?

And then what benefits would or could a National Association give us that we cannot get from our present diocesan or county associations? We must not forget that almost all the problems and difficulties that face ringers are local, not national. Such things as getting together and keeping together a band, complaints of people who object to bellringing near their houses, getting permission to attempt peals at home or in strange towers, and all the difficulties that arise from slackness on the part of some of the band, rivalries, jealousies and the rest. These are the real problems that face ringers, and no National Association can help. Our local associations can help and do help, though it is indirectly and by fostering the right spirit among ringers and securing the help and co-operation of the clergy.

Mr. ARTHUR H. SMITH, Great Bookham: Following the evolution of the human race from separate local tribes to the powerful nations of to-day, it seems to me that a National or English Association is the natural trend for ringing.

Some 60 or 70 years ago local societies were being amalgamated into county or diocesan guilds, but chiefly since the last war many different guilds have sprung up inside these, with a consequent overlapping of boundaries, many ringers being resident members of two or more societies, which gives an inaccurate total of ringers, and also with two or more societies having an 'interest' in the towers for peals, meetings, etc., it is a small wonder that some of the more 'convenient' towers have been overdone in the past to the detriment of those who follow on.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

Among the speeches I note a fear of the National Association being a secular body. That surely lies with its members, and I would like to ask, what was the Central Council? Perhaps if that had had some influential church officials at its head it would not have failed us when the testing time came, for even if it were impossible to avert the ban, it could have given weight to the forming of a national body of alarm-givers, which many have tried to do locally only to be frozen off in official red tape manner.

The Central Council complained that lack of funds hampered their work of publications. Well, if the many balances, large or small, of the various societies were pooled, under a national fund, a good deal could be done, for after all the moneys were subscribed for the advancement of ringing, and quite large sums are lying tied up doing nothing of the sort. So from that you can gather that I too feel that motion (b) savours too much of smugness to be supported, and that it was proposed by an official makes it worse.

Some question the financial side of the proposed scheme. As a member of a comparatively small trade union, about 3d. per week of my contribution goes to the general fund, which provides me with legal aid, accident and death benefits and a journal (issued monthly before paper shortage) besides paying the salaries of the head office and organising officials.

The Rev. F. LI. EDWARDS: I am not at all convinced that ringers would gain much advantage by forming a National Association, or that the result of such a movement would be anything very different from what we already have. Any nation-wide organisation has to be worked through district branches with local secretaries. It would be only natural that the present diocesan and territorial guilds or associations should in most cases constitute the districts for this purpose. There would be a central committee, on which the various districts would be

(Continued in next column.)

MONS. JOSEF DENYN.

A FAMOUS CARILLONNEUR.

We printed a letter last week from Mr. E. J. Thomas, of Carmarthen, in which he told us that he had been informed by a Belgian soldier now serving in this country that Monsieur Josef Denyn, the famous carillonneur, of Malines, has lately passed away. Belgium at present is, of course, in complete subjection to the Germans, and the news that reaches this country of what happens there is very scanty. We are not likely, therefore, to receive any confirmation of M. Denyn's death, but, since he had reached an advanced age, it is not unlikely.

For many years M. Denyn was generally acknowledged, not only in his own country, but throughout the world, to be the most skilful of living carillonneurs. He had many friends in England, and for long it was his custom to pay an annual visit to Cattistock, and give a recital on the carillon in the church there. Our readers will remember that those bells were destroyed by fire some months ago. He held the post of carillonneur at St. Rombold's Cathedral at Malines, and as far back as July, 1912, the twenty-fifth anniversary of his appointment was celebrated in the city by a festival attended by the King and Queen of Belgium and a large concourse of people from all parts of the country, when a recital was given by the leading bell-masters, and a new bell cast by van Aerschodt, of Amsterdam, with a medallion portrait of Josef Denyn on it, was added to the carillon.

Although the use of bells is common throughout the world, the Low Countries, Holland and Belgium, are the only ones besides our own that have developed bell music on any system. We evolved the very English system of change ringing; they invented the carillon. Carillon music is just as much a national characteristic of Belgium as change ringing is of England.

CARILLONS AND CHANGE RINGING.

There have been many attempts to compare the two systems, mostly by enthusiastic advocates of carillons, and almost all to the disadvantage of change ringing. But the two are so diverse that all comparison is futile. It is easy enough to contrast the 'monotonous and mearingless repetitions of changes' and their absence of anything like melody, with carillon music which can broadcast over the countryside the works of the great musical masters; but that sort of thing misses the whole point of the matter, for though the English ringing peals have small claim to be considered as formal music, they have an appeal and an æsthetic value which the other lacks.

From time to time attempts have been made to introduce carillons into this country, sometimes in their complete form, but more usually as chimes, such as that at Coventry Cathedral. Cost is, of course, a great obstacle to the installation of a complete carillon, but Loughborough has one which will bear comparison with the best anywhere.

The English bellfounders for long have cast the best and truest bells in the world and manufactured the most efficient mechanism. There are several notable English made carillons abroad, especially in America.

There are in Belgium about 30 carillons of importance, and in Holland about 20. The most famous are Bruges, 47 bells; Antwerp, 47 bells; Ghent, 52 bells; and Malines, 45 bells. The last, which, as stated above, was in the charge of Mons. Denyn, is usually considered the finest of the lot.

Unlike English bells, which always belong to the church in which they hang, Belgian bells are always the property of the town. In some cases, Bruges, for instance, and Ghent, they hang in secular towers built for the purpose. In others, Antwerp, for instance, and Malines, they hang in the towers of cathedrals; but in all cases they are owned and controlled by the civic authorities. At Antwerp there are other bells the property of the Church, though they are seldom or never used.

THE RINGERS' CONFERENCE.

(Continued from previous column.)

represented. The association would hold an annual meeting, which in theory all members would be entitled to attend; but as no building would be available to accommodate half the ringers of England, attendance would in practice have to be limited to a proportional number of representatives from each district and—you would practically have the Central Council over again!

True, a full-time paid secretary would mean in some ways more continuous activity, but only in some ways, as the various committees of the Central Council are more or less constantly at work, and on any matter of importance the Standing Committee are consulted by post from time to time, but in my view it is a certainty that only a minority of the computed 40,000 ringers would pay annual subscriptions to the proposed association—and at 5s. a year only a comparatively small minority. It is, in fact, very doubtful whether the financial result would ever warrant the appointment of a full-time secretary.

In short, it does not appear to me that the proposed innovation is likely to prove either practicable or appreciably advantageous.

The CHAIRMAN: In answer to an enquiry which has reached me, I should like to say that any number of votes may be sent in on the same postcard, provided the names are given separately.

YE LAIE OF YE ANTIENT RINGER.

The following 'poem' appeared in the second number of 'The Ringing World.' We think it is just good enough to reproduce.

Ye Menne of ye Tower of Sainte Ioseph
Of ye village of Sumthyngeforde,
Were assembled one daie in iovial waie
Adowne ye festal boarde,
And with Pipes, and with Songes, and with Glasses
They were merrie with one accorde.

Then warm'd with ye festive spirite
Their fancyes flyghte tooke wynges,
And they told Grete Thynges of their doynges,
And of Menn of Olde did they synges,
And ye 'Famous Pele of Steadman's Cinques
That ye Colledg Youths did rynges.'

Then upp spake an Antient Ringer,
Of hoarie miene was hee,
'Ye talke,' quoth hee, 'of your doynges
And what ryne fellowes ye bee,
But lysten, and I will tell you
Of ye Thynges That Have Happen'd to Mee.'

Then a hushe felle over that meetyng
For they'd heard ye yarne before,
And they knew when ye old manne was started
He was goode for an houre or moore,
And they at ye farthest corner
Began to crepe to ye dore.

'It was,' quoth that Antient Rynger,
'In ye sumer of Forty-two
Wee ascended ye towere of Saint Ioseph
Eight trustie menne and true,
To ryng of ye Pele of Bob Maiors
Forty thousand, three hundred and two.

'And I was ye Manne at ye Tenour
And ye bobbes were call'd by Mee,
And ye Ingenious Composition
I had work'd out specialie;
And ye seven obey'd all ye orderes I gave
With grete fidelitie.

'Wee started at sixe of ye mornyng
And range through ye reste of ye daie
And ye folloyng mornyng was breaking
When ye manne at ye fyfth gave waie;
So I tooke his rope in addition to myne,
Though that's nothyng to me but plaie.

'Mornyng was waning to evenyng
Ere ye Third and ye Sixth lye outs;
So I tooke one rope with my elbowe,
And wounde ye other aboute
Ye parte that I usually sitt onn
And continu'd ye bobbes to shouts.

'Then an hour or two lapsed sans excitement
And a pele I'd begun to compose,
When another manne's rope fell vacant,
I really forget now whose,
So I tooke ye taile ende in my mouthe
And call'd ye bobbes through my nose.

'Ye dawne of ye fyfthe daie was breakyng
When ye pele at length came rounde,
And settyng ye eight bells I was ringyng
I look'd arounde me and founde
Seven prostrate lifeless figures
Scatter'd aboute ye grounde.

'Saie Ryngers! Tell me trulie
Have I not Glorie wonne?'
Hee looked arounde about ye borde,
But answer came there nonne.
By twos and threes they'd all clear'd oute
And left him nere a one.

J. A. T.

FIRST THINGS FIRST.—It has frequently been observed that learners oftentimes attempt to ring rounds and sometimes changes before they are capable of managing a bell itself properly, which is the reason we have so many awkward practitioners in this art, for the attention being divided betwixt the management of the bell and the method of the changes, the former which ought to claim the first attention is frequently neglected, which brings on a train of ill habits that soon grow familiar, become natural by constantly practising, and are at last incorrigible.—'The Clavis.'

AS OTHERS SEE US.

SCOTTISH WRITER VISITS GLASGOW BELFRY.

It is interesting often to read what outsiders think of us. Here are some of the experiences of Mr. Jack House, a regular contributor to the 'Glasgow Citizen,' who accepted an invitation to visit the belfry of St. Mary's Cathedral. He admits the terminology of campanology is a mystery to all but bellringers, and asks ringers to forgive him for any mistakes. In the following extracts he has mixed the treble with the tenor, but that is a small matter.

Every second Saturday six or eight men ring the bells of St. Mary's Cathedral in Great Western Road, Glasgow. Yet the military don't turn out, nor is there an invasion scare. The only people who can hear the bells are the campanologists themselves.

I went to St. Mary's Cathedral on Saturday to see and hear the bells rung. As I climbed the steps I could hear the bells of St. Mary's chiming as clear as if we were back in the ringing days of peace.

Behind an oaken door I found the bellringers in their grey stone chamber. Six men, shirt-sleeved, were pulling rhythmically on ropes that ran through holes in the high wooden ceiling above them.

High on the stone walls I saw little bells. As the ringers pulled, a hammer struck each bell. But the real bells of St. Mary's, far above in the tower, were silent although they were swinging. Each has been gagged for the duration.

The little bells sounded pleasant, though not impressive. But the band were taking them seriously. A campanologist has a lot to remember, and he can't take his mind off his ringing for a moment.

Every now and then the conductor of the band called 'Bob.' At first I looked round to see which bellringer was Bob. Then I found it was an instruction to ring the changes.

A seventh bellringer, who wasn't ringing at the moment, explained that the six men were ringing Cambridge Surprise Minor. If there had been another ringer present they'd have had eight on the job, and that would be Cambridge Surprise Major.

He showed me the music for Cambridge Surprise Major. It consisted of rows of numbers with lines running down and across the rows. The card looked as if it was recording a descent in the patient's temperature. But it's all quite clear to a bellringer.

While the six men were ringing, the seventh man took me up the turret stairs to the belfry. There are 100 steps altogether, so I was 'peching' slightly when I reached what seemed to me an infirm wooden platform directly above the bells.

There are 10 bells in St. Mary's Cathedral. They weigh some 6½ tons! The biggest is the treble, which is 1 ton 12 cwt. 1 qr. 6 lb.

The conductor is the representative of a firm of organ builders. Other men in the band were a professor of the 'Tech,' a soldier who was a bricklayer in England in private life and a member of a famous bellringing family, a draughtsman, a Customs officer, a Post Office man, and a tea warehouseman.

Among the bandsmen I didn't see are a tailor, an engineer, two electricians, and two CA apprentices. It took about a year and a half to train each of these men to be a change ringer. I doubt I couldn't learn it so fast.

I had a shot at pulling the rope. They gave me the giant treble to practise on. You're supposed to pull the rope until a piece decorated in red, white and blue comes down to meet you. It's this piece you pull when you're actually ringing.

I couldn't get the knack of it at all. One bellringer pulled down the red, white and blue and hung on. Treble lifted him high in the air. Inexperienced bellringers are sometimes lifted right to the ceiling if they don't let go at the right time.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

A meeting of the Barnsley and District Society was held at Felkirk on May 16th, at which members were present from Eastwood, Rotherham Parish, Sprotborough, Sandal and a good muster of the local company. Handbells were rung in the Schoolroom during the afternoon, and the business meeting followed tea, the Vicar, the Right Rev. J. H. Dickenson, presiding.

The business, being of usual routine, was soon disposed of. The chairman assured the members he was pleased to meet them once more, and although he was leaving in a day or two, he wished the society good luck in the work it was doing and hoped it would carry on.

Mr. Moxon, Sandal, replied, and thanked the Vicar for the kindness and welcome he had given the ringers during the five years he had been at Felkirk, and wished him every success in his new parish.

Further handbell ringing followed in methods from Doubles to Bob Royal. Some of the members climbed to the ringing chamber to try the silent tower bells, but as this is not very musical they soon had enough.

It was agreed to hold the next meeting at Wath-on-Deerne on Saturday, June 20th, as the annual joint meeting with the Southern District of the Yorkshire Association and the societies within its district.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.**ANNUAL MEETING AT SALISBURY.**

The annual meeting of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild was held in the Church House, Salisbury, on Saturday, May 9th. Owing to increased difficulty of transport, there was only a small attendance. Those present were representative of the four city churches and five of the eight branches. The president, Master and others had written apologising for inability to attend.

The chair was taken by Mr. A. F. Martin Stewart, vice-president, who, during the proceedings, spoke in eloquent terms of the devoted services of the late Mr. S. Hillier to the cause of the Guild, and paid tribute to the memory of Mr. Doel. All present stood in silent respect to the memory of members of the Guild who had passed away during the last twelve months.

The general secretary presented his statement of accounts, which showed an augmented balance in hand.

On the proposal of Mr. J. E. Figgures, seconded by Mr. C. H. Jennings, all the officers were re-elected: The Rev. C. C. Cox, Master; the Rev. F. L. Edwards, secretary; Mr. F. Green, assistant secretary; the Rev. Canon Newman and Mr. W. Hinks, auditors; the Rev. Canon Gorringe, Mr. E. Coward and Mr. J. I. Davis, members of committee.

Mr. W. Foot, of Berwick St. John, who has been an active member of the Guild ever since its foundation 60 years ago and has trained many young hands, was made a life member in recognition of his splendid work as a ringer over such a long period.

In view of much difficulty and delay caused by existing circumstances in getting in all the necessary returns for the annual report, the secretary suggested that a combined report for 1941-2 be issued later in the year. On the motion of Mr. G. K. Norton, seconded by Mr. F. W. Romaine, it was unanimously agreed that this should be done; also that it should be left to each branch to decide what amount it should pay to the Guild funds for 1942.

Authority was granted to the Master, secretary and assistant secretary, with the Rev. C. A. Phillips and Mr. F. W. Romaine, to act as a standing committee in making any future arrangements for the business of the Guild, while the present difficulties continue.

The Chairman spoke in moving terms of the illness of Mr. J. S. Goldsmith and of the incalculable debt under which he had placed the whole Exercise by his devoted labours, and the secretary was requested to write him a letter of sympathy.

A short service was held in the Church House Chapel.

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL.

The plans for the rebuilding of Coventry Cathedral, which was destroyed in the great air raid on the city, have been entrusted to Sir Giles G. Scott, the architect of Liverpool Cathedral.

The tower, the apse and the outside walls were unaffected by the bombing and will be incorporated in any new building.

The tower is one of the three finest in England and challenges comparison with Salisbury and Norwich. The apse, too, is a characteristic feature of the old cathedral that has to be included in the new one, but the old arcade has been utterly destroyed.

The building was more like a large parish church. Now the architect intends to give it all the impressiveness of a cathedral without dwarfing the tower and spire. It is a difficult problem of proportions.

New parts will be blended with those that are left, but the new will not be a copy of old Gothic in any way. They will have to be in a Gothic style if there is to be no violent contrast, but it will have a definitely modern treatment.

But there will be no rebuilding until after the war.

DEATH OF MR. A. V. SELBY.**AN OLD KENSINGTON RINGER.**

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Albert Victor Selby, who passed away on Wednesday, May 20th, in Westminster Hospital, at the age of 67. The funeral service was at St. Mary Abbot's last Tuesday and the interment at Kensington Cemetery, Gunnersbury.

Mr. Selby was born at Westerham in Kent, where, with his two brothers, he learnt to ring. He joined the Kensington band about 44 years ago and with them did most of his ringing. He had taken part in about 50 peals, including Stedman Caters and Cinques, Double Norwich Caters and Treble Ten, and several Major methods, including Superlative. He was a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths.

MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION**LEICESTER DISTRICT.**

Syston—noted for its 'turkey suppers' and other enjoyable 'do's' in past times—was the scene of a very successful meeting on Saturday, May 16th. The tower bell were available (silent), and touches were brought round in Grandsire and Stedman Doubles and Triples, Plain, Kent Treble and Cambridge Surprise Major. The local sexton, clerk and general factotum, Mr. Ernest Payne, kindly arranged for tea at his home, and a most sumptuous spread was provided, for which he and Mrs. Payne are to be complimented, considering present catering difficulties. About 30 members and friends sat down, and towers represented, included Belgrave, Billesdon, Broughton Astley, Leicester Cathedral and St. Margaret's, Sibleby, Thruxington and others. Also welcomed were Mr. and Mrs. Baker (Gainsborough), Mr. and Mrs. T. Groombridge, jun. (Kent, now at Nottingham), Miss B. Rayfield (Eastbourne) and Pte. R. Davison, R.A.O.C. (West Hartlepool).

The Vicar of Syston (the Rev. F. Tetley), in a witty speech, welcomed the association to Syston, and hoped it would not be long before he could welcome them again to come and have a right royal peal and after it a 'celebration' feast at some place 'within the meaning of the Act.' He was not a ringer himself and recalled his ignorance on a visit to a belfry where he heard a peal in which someone named 'Bob' was always being called at, and who was no better at the end than he was in the beginning. He was pleased to become an honorary member of the association, and hoped to make fuller acquaintance of members when better times prevailed.

At the meeting which followed, the local chairman, Mr. George H. T. Walker, presided, supported by Mr. H. W. Perkins (local secretary) and Mr. Ernest Morris (general secretary).

It was decided to hold the next meeting in June at Sibleby (six bells), and to arrange a combined meeting with Hinckley District in July, either at Enderby, Whetstone or Countesthorpe, both of which would be advertised in due course. It was further decided to emulate the Hinckley District's plan of having a collection at each meeting to help pay for advertising future meetings in 'The Ringing World,' and thus help to keep down the general expenses of the association. This concluded the business, when further ringing and a convivial at the local helped to make the meeting a very happy and successful one.

STEDMAN TRIPLES.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—The letter and figures in your last issue of 'The Ringing World' bring up old history.

The figures of Washbrook's No. 1 peal of Stedman Triples were published in 'Bell News,' December 7th, 1889, page 423.

The following week he corrected an error, the Editor making the remark, 'Our correspondent's own mistake, not ours.'

On January 4th, 1890, page 465, appeared several peals of Stedman Triples by J. J. Parker with the remark about this same peal published by Washbrook claiming to have discovered it on September 20th and venturing to publish it as the first composer.

The interest of composers in getting in first in those days was very keen and most interesting. I hope these few remarks may be of interest.

1, Chestnut Avenue, Eastleigh.

GEORGE WILLIAMS.

PLAIN BOB AND GAINSBOROUGH.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—It is becoming the custom in several places to ring peals on handbells, in which each course consists of two leads of Plain Bob Major, one of Gainsborough Little Bob and two of Plain Bob. These are published as Spiced peals, and no doubt they are technically. But actually the method is Bob Major throughout with a sixth's place bob in each course. Five of the bells ring nothing but Bob Major, the treble makes sixth's place in one lead in each course, and the tenors have an extra dodge together behind.

On handbells the tenors, after dodging in 3-4 and 5-6 up, dodge in 7-8 behind, and then dodge in 3-4 and 5-6 down; instead of making the second's place and the parted lead.

What happens is that the difficult part of the tenors' work is cut out and peal-ringing becomes comparatively easy for a beginner. It is quite a good device, though it would not be likely to appeal to expert ringers. But in the report it appears as two methods 'spiced,' and that is rather misleading. I heard one man say it should be called the Emaculated Variation of Bob Major.

'HANDBELL RINGER.'

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Clocks, Chime Additions, Re-
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ELEMENTARY COMPOSITION.

FOR THE AVERAGE READER.

A1	23456	W. R.	B1	23456	W. R.
	45236	— —		52436	— —
	24536	— —		43526	— —
	52436	— —		24536	— —
	43526	— —		53246	— —
	54326	— —		25346	— —
	35426	— —		32546	— —
	42356	— —		54326	— —
	34256	— —		35426	— —
	23456	— —		42356	— —
				34256	— —
				23456	— —
A2	53246	— —			
	25346	— —			
	32546	— —	B2	45236	
C1	23456	W. R.	D1	23456	W. R.
	45236	— —		45236	— —
	24536	— —		24536	— —
	53246	— —		53246	— —
	25346	— —		25346	— —
	32546	— —		34256	— —
	54326	— —		23456	— —
	35426	— —			
	42356	— —			
	34256	— —	D2	52436	— —
	23456	— —		35426	— —
				42356	— —
				54326	— —
C2	52436	— —		32546	— —
	43526	— —		43526	— —

Last week we were discussing the construction of a peal, and we selected it not only because it is an interesting composition in itself, but because it illustrates in the simplest way and without complications, the general principles which lie behind all composition.

We may broadly state those principles in the following manner. First state clearly the problem to be solved. Next collect the material available, and sort it out and arrange it. Then see how it can be joined together into one block.

First, our selected problem is to produce the longest peal of Bob Major possible, using bobs at the Wrong, Middle, and Home only.

Our material consists of the sixty in-course Natural Courses, but we know at the start that we cannot get more than fifty-nine of them into our peal.

We restrict the range of our investigation by deciding that first of all we will arrange our material by grouping together all those Natural Courses which have the same bell in sixth place at the course-end. There are twelve Natural Courses with the 6th at home, and we know that what we can do with them we can similarly do with the twelve with the 5th in sixth's place, the twelve with the 4th in sixth's place, and the others.

Twelve is an even number, and therefore the twelve Natural Courses with the 6th at home cannot be gathered into one round block. There must be two of them. So we thoroughly examine the various ways in

which the twelve Natural Courses can be set down in pairs of complementary blocks. We find that there are forty-eight ways which consist of those given above and their variations, produced in the manner we described last week. We set down these forty-eight either on paper or mentally. We then take the twelve Natural Courses with the 5th in sixth's place at the course-end and treat them in the same way. So with the other Natural Courses.

We have now got our material arranged and grouped, and our problem is next to join together one pair of complementary blocks with each of the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th in sixth's place at the course-end. That to the full extent we cannot do. We shall have to be content in one instance with a single block instead of a pair, and since we wish our peal to be as long as possible, we select one form of the block B1 (which contains eleven Natural Courses) and discard the odd course which will not appear in our peal.

To join the blocks together we must use bobs at the Middle arranged in Q Sets, and in order to simplify our problem we first restrict ourselves to the plan of taking the block B1 as our basis and joining the other blocks to it, two at a time.

We must use Q Sets at the Middle, and, to see what are available, we set down all the Q Sets at the Middle in which the 6th is involved. Here they are:—

23456	43652	63254
42356	32654	62453
34256	24653	64352
32546	52643	62345
53246	23645	63542
25346	35642	65243
52436	42635	62534
45236	25634	65432
24536	54632	64235
35426	45623	65324
43526	53624	63425
54326	34625	64523

As we have discarded the Natural Course 45236 we cannot use the eighth of these Q Sets, but all the others are available for our use.

We have to join to the block B1 two blocks with the 5th in sixth's place, two with the 4th, two with the 3rd, and two with the 2nd. We need four Q Sets. We go through the above table and we group together all the fours in which each of 2, 3, 4, and 5 is twice a sixth's place bell. For instance, the first, second, fourth and fifth.

23456	43652	63254
42356	32654	62453
32546	52643	62345
53246	23645	63542

Similarly the third, ninth, tenth and eleventh; the first, third, seventh and twelfth; and others.

When we have selected one particular Q Set for use, we turn back to our groups of blocks and we pick one pair of complementary blocks with each of 2, 3, 4 and 5 in sixth's place, making sure (this is the important thing) that each block contains one member of our selected Q Sets, and one member only.

When we bob the selected four Q Sets the four pairs of complementary blocks will join up with the foundation block B1 and we shall have a peal of fifty-nine courses.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch. — The next meeting will be held at St. John's, Worcester, on Saturday, May 30th. Service in church 3.30 p.m., followed by business meeting. — Ernest F. Cubberley, Branch Hon. Sec., Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — The annual general meeting will be held in St. Peter's belfry, Brighton, on Saturday, May 30th. Tower open and handbells available 3.30. Business meeting 4.30. Address by the Vicar of Brighton. No tea arrangements. Half rail fare, maximum 2s., to resident members.—S. E. Armstrong, Hon. Gen. Sec.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting at Belbroughton (D.V.), Saturday, May 30th, 3 p.m. Bells (6) available 'silent.' Tea 5.15 p.m. at the Shoes. Handbells and social evening.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at the Studios, Bushey, Saturday, May 30th.—Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch. —Next meeting will be held in the schoolroom, Crossstone, Todmorden, on Saturday, June 6th. Assemble 3.30 p.m. Subscriptions due. Reports to hand.—Ivan Kay, Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Bletchley on Saturday, June 6th. Handbells 3 p.m. Service 3.30, followed by tea and meeting. Will those requiring tea please notify me by Saturday, May 30th. No names, no tea. Please make an effort to attend. All welcome.—R. H. Howson, 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — The next meeting will be held on Saturday, June 6th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch. —The annual meeting will be held at St. Giles', Lincoln, on Saturday, June 6th. Business meeting 3.30 p.m., 'silent' ringing afternoon and evening. Please make own arrangements for tea.—J. Bray, Hon. Sec.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting will be held at Kingsley on Saturday, June 6th, at 3 p.m. Handbells available. Will all those who require tea kindly notify Mr. H. Carnwell, Sunnyside, Kingsley, Staffs, not later than June 2nd? — Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Burton District.—Our next meeting is to be held at Rolleston-on-Dove on Saturday, June 6th. Handbells available at 4 p.m. Tea in the Church Room at 4.45 p.m., followed by meeting. Cups of tea will be provided, but members must take own eatables and sugar. Visitors warmly welcomed.—J. W. Cotton, Hon. Sec., Overseal.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD. — Elloe Deaneries Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Moulton on June 13th. Service 3.30. Tea 4.15, followed by business meeting. Bells available for 'silent' ringing. Handbells, bowls, etc., on Vicarage lawn. All who intend coming to tea must send their names to Mr. T. H. Charlton, Hogsgate, Moulton, Spalding, not later than Tuesday, June 9th.—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—A meeting will be held at Leigh on Saturday, June 13th. Further announcement next week. — T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec., Peckham Bush, Tonbridge.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch. —A meeting will be held at Huyton on Saturday, June 13th. Handbells and tower bells, with clappers removed, will be available from 3 p.m. A short service will be held at 5 p.m., after which tea and meeting. Tea will be provided only for those who send their names to Mr. W. R. Birchall, 68, Rupert Road, Huyton, on or before Wednesday, June 10th.—George R. Newton, 57, Amphill Road, Liverpool, 17.

NATIONAL GUILD OF POLICE RINGERS. — A meeting will be held at Leicester on Saturday, June 13th. Assemble 12 mid-day at Hotel Belgrave, Loughborough Road (near tram terminus). Luncheon 1 p.m. Ringing, Cathedral (12), 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. Tea at Cathedral Church House 4.45 p.m., followed by meeting. Social evening, Hotel Victory, Great Central Street, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Notifications for meals to Inspector H. J. Poole, Hon. Sec., 150, Narborough Road South, Leicester, as early as possible, not later than first post Thursday, June 11th.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preliminary Notice. —An important general meeting of the Yorkshire Association will be held at Selby on Saturday, June 20th. Please book the date. Full particulars later.—L. W. G. Morris, Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

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