



No. 1,632. Vol. XXXVII.

FRIDAY, JULY 3rd, 1942.

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

Price 3d.

**PRINCIPAL
BELLFOUNDERS**

**JOHN TAYLOR
& Co.**

LOUGHBOROUGH

**GILLETT AND
JOHNSTON
CROYDON**

Tel. THORNTON HEATH 3221-2-3 and 3120

**MEARS AND
STAINBANK**
34, WHITECHAPEL ROAD
LONDON, E.1

Tel. BISHOPSGATE 2599

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

THE RINGERS' CONFERENCE.

The Ringers' Conference has had bad luck. For it to be completely successful it was necessary not only that ringers should take a great interest in it at the start, but also that nothing should happen to lessen that interest, or create anything in the nature of an anti-climax.

The first condition was obtained readily enough and the Conference started on its way with the best of prospects. But then came the unfortunate death of its chairman, Mr. John Goldsmith, and at the same time when the item on the agenda was reached which everybody was expecting to provide the greatest amount of interest and excitement, it turned out to be very much of a damp squib. There had been quite a lot of hinting at the need for drastic alterations in the organisation of the Exercise and the great advantages to be derived from a National Association, but when it came to the point, no one came forward with any definite proposals, or even expressed whole-hearted belief in the necessity for change. It is a rather dull job to defend things as they are, especially when they are not seriously attacked, and so the debate turned out to be rather disappointing, and interest sensibly waned.

In these circumstances we have decided that it is advisable to publish what remain of the 'speeches' sent to us and to bring the Conference to an end, rather than run the risk of it fizzling out. That does not mean, in any way, that we intend to closure discussion on any of the subjects which have been mentioned. Quite the contrary. Our columns are just as freely open for the expression of opinion and we shall welcome it. The only difference will be that it will be published in the normal form of letters to the Editor, and without the restrictions of the 'rules of debate.'

There remain some items on the agenda which have not been reached. It may seem rather discourteous to the men who gave notice of them, if we do not let them be discussed before winding up the Conference, but we hope they will not take it so. We have no trace of any of their 'speeches,' and if they were sent they have unfortunately been lost. But any views these gentlemen would like to express we will gladly publish. One of the resolutions concerned the future of 'The Ringing World,' but that is a matter which has now passed from the realms of academic conjecture to stern reality, and the fact has been recognised by the mover and seconder.

The Conference has not been a complete success, but it certainly has not been a failure. It was always an experiment in which there was risk of a fiasco, but with better luck it would, we think, have pulled through

(Continued on page 302.)

triumphantly. As it was, it did something to elicit opinion and maintain interest, and to do that is worth, in these days, running risks. We may now say that the whole idea, both in its inception and its execution, was largely Mr. Goldsmith's. He did not sign the letter which first suggested the scheme, but the thought was conceived in his sick room, and he worked out the details himself. It was the last thing connected with change ringing in which he took an interest. Even after he had entirely turned the leader writing of 'The Ringing World' and the editing of the paper over to other hands, he still controlled this, for he felt that it had great possibilities of good for change ringing and the Exercise at large.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, June 20, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,
At 45, WALSINGHAM ROAD.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5021 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16½.

ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 1-2	† JOHN E. SPICE 5-6
* MRS. E. K. FLETCHER ... 3-4	GEORGE W. FLETCHER ... 7-8
‡ KENNETH S. B. CROFT ... 9-10	

Composed by HENRY JOHNSON. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER
* 100th handbell peal. † 50th peal. ‡ First peal of Grandsire Caters on handbells.

DAGENHAM, ESSEX.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Sunday, June 21, 1942, in One Hour and Fifty Minutes,

At 106, GAY GARDENS.

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

LEONARD W. BULLOCK ... 1-2	JAMES A. BULLOCK 3-4
THOMAS H. BULLOCK 5-6	

Conducted by THOMAS H. BULLOCK.

First peal as conductor. A birthday compliment to James A. Bullock.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, June 24, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty Minutes,

At 45, WALSINGHAM ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor size 16½.

* MRS. E. K. FLETCHER ... 1-2	JOHN THOMAS 5-6
ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 3-4	THOMAS W. LEWIS 7-8

Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

* 350th peal.

WITNESHAM, SUFFOLK.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

(ST. MARY-LE-TOWER SOCIETY.)

On Sunday, June 23, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty Minutes,

At UPPER STREET.

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16.

GEORGE A. FLEMING 1-2	CHARLES J. SEDGELEY ... 5-6
HOBART E. SMITH 3-4	WILLIAM J. G. BROWN ... 7-8

Composed by DAN PAENTICE. Conducted by CHAS. J. SEDGELEY

CHIMES AND CHIME TUNES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have a considerable amount of data on chimes and chime tunes, originally collected with object of producing a book on the subject. Part has already been published in other journals, but I never submitted any to 'The Ringing World' as being a subject rather outside the scope of this paper. I should be pleased to write on this matter if the Editor thinks fit. In the meantime, if Mr. F. M. Taylor cares to write to me direct, I shall be happy to help in any way I can with this subject.

ERNEST MORRIS.

24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

[Anything from Mr. Morris is always welcome. A discussion on chimes would be very interesting, but must not be technical, and we cannot print musical notation.—Editor 'The Ringing World.']

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

VISIT TO HERTFORDSHIRE.

Last Saturday, by kind invitation of the local ringers, the Ancient Society of College Youths held its meeting at Bushey in Hertfordshire, and the experiment of paying a visit to an outlying district turned out to be a brilliant success. Besides those members who regularly go to the meetings at Whitechapel, there were many from widely separated parts of the country and some most welcome guests. These included Mr. George Fletcher, Mrs. Fletcher and Mr. W. J. Nudds, of the Society of Cumberlands, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin A. Barnett, Mrs. Deal, Mrs. Cashmore, Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Jennings, Mrs. Mayne and Mrs. Strickland. The Oxford University Society was well represented by Miss Patricia Scaddan, Messrs. J. E. Spice and W. L. B. Leese and Lieut. Gibbons.

The Master presided at the business meeting and was supported by the hon. secretary, Mr. A. B. Peck, and the hon. treasurer, Mr. A. A. Hughes. Among members present were Messrs. J. H. Shepherd, H. Hoskins, C. W. Roberts, E. C. S. Turner, F. Collins, G. N. Price, C. H. Kippin, J. E. L. Cockey, J. A. Trollope, R. F. Deal, H. Cashmore, E. Jennings, C. Mayne, H. Hodgetts, F. Smith, J. Strickland, K. Arthur, W. Whitehead, T. Fox, W. Williams, A. Bennett, J. Prior, J. Thomas, W. H. Passmore, S. H. Hoare, C. George and I. Attwater.

The Rector of Bushey welcomed the society and congratulated the members on their efforts to keep alive interest in the art of change ringing. He had heard a lot about the College Youths and was pleased to meet them. He mentioned the good work his own band were doing on handbells.

The Master mentioned the recent deaths of two members, Mr. C. Gordon and Mr. Ernest Brett, and the society paid tribute to their memory.

Mr. Trollope read part of a letter which had reached him that morning. It was written by the late Mr. J. S. Goldsmith to be delivered after his death. In it the writer asked that his last greetings and farewell should be given to all his ringing friends, and he expressed the hope that ringing would soon come back to its own.

A report was received from Mr. D. G. Cliff of the handbell peal in Wales, and the Master congratulated the band through Mr. Wilfrid Williams.

Mr. F. A. Young referred to the leading article in 'The Ringing World' on the ban. The late Editor had set a high standard and one difficult to follow. He would like to congratulate the writer of this article and asked the Master's permission to read the concluding paragraph. An excellent finish to a fine article.

The secretary was asked to send congratulations to Mr. G. R. Pye, who reached his 70th birthday on Tuesday.

The Master proposed a vote of thanks to the Bushey company, especially Mr. Cashmore and Mr. Jennings, for their invitation and great welcome. It was very nice to feel they had such friends. Mr. Young seconded the resolution and it was carried unanimously.

After the tea the Master thanked Mrs. Cashmore, Mrs. Jennings and their lady helpers.

During the afternoon and evening there was much handbell ringing, most of it of good quality. It included Grandsire Triples, Bob Major and Royal, Stedman Triples, Caters and Cinques, Double Norwich Major and London and Cambridge Surprise Major.

GRAMOPHONE RECORDS FROM CHURCH TOWERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Can you or any of your readers please tell me if there is a loophole in the present restrictions governing the use of church bells which permits a church to play records of bellringing from its tower? Holy Trinity Church in this town regularly puts on these records before Sunday services, and I have been asked why is this allowed and why cannot I get permission to ring our Parish Church bells and so give the real stuff. I know the answer to the latter, but what is the answer to the former?

I should also be interested to hear if such records are being 'broadcast' from other churches about the country where they have the necessary apparatus.

WILLIAM DYER, Ringing Master, St. Mary's, Cheltenham.
69, Gloucester Road, Cheltenham, Glos.

SOME CORRECTIONS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The first handbell peal in Wales was rung at Welslupol, Montgomeryshire, in February, 1897. The peal at Gilwern was the first Major on handbells in the Principality.

A. P. Goddard was alive and well on the far side of British Columbia when I last heard from Vancouver. He rang in the Abingdon peal.

The personal statements made by the late James W. Washbrook to Canon Coleridge in 1889 and to James H. Shepherd in 1890 require consideration with Washbrook's letter to 'The Bell News' early in 1890.

There is no doubt that an entirely new composition was rung at Braughton. See Robinson's book, 'Among the Bells,' and William Willet's report of the Herta tour in 'The Bell News.'

W. H. FUSSELL.

19, Farnburn Avenue, Slough.

THE RINGERS' CONFERENCE.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

As explained in our leading article, we find it advisable to close the Ringers' Conference, and we print below the remainder of the 'speeches' that have reached us. They are in continuance of Mr. C. T. Coles' resolution.

'That this Conference is of the opinion that the present basis of the organisation of ringing societies has resulted in great advancement in the art of change ringing; has stimulated interest in ringing matters generally; and has caused very considerable additions to the number of ringing peals of bells in the country. It further registers its belief that with the loyal help of all ringers, the present associations and the Central Council are capable of overcoming post-war difficulties.'

DUTY TO THE CHURCH.

Mr. T. H. REEVES, Birmingham: As regards a National Association, at the moment I am opposed to it, and for the very obvious reason that up to the present nothing has been advanced in its favour that could not be obtained through our present diocesan guilds and associations and the Central Council, except perhaps the very doubtful benefit of a unified subscription. A National Association could only function according to the authority given to it by the members, and that is what our present Central Council does to-day. I cannot agree with Mr. Trollope's remarks that ringers have flatly refused to submit themselves to any authority. After all, every association has its rules, and all its members must submit to and obey them. A National Association must have an efficient central organisation which would have to be paid for out of members' subscriptions, and I am afraid that even a modest 5s. per annum subscription would prove very difficult to collect. Personally, I am of the opinion that 50 per cent. of the ringers of the country are not interested in any association, and 75 per cent. are not interested in any association outside their own diocesan association, and so I feel sure that the remaining 25 per cent. would not be able to run and finance a national organisation.

As regards the future, most things connected with ringing can be left to take care of themselves until after the war. The most urgent matter I would suggest is the continuance of 'The Ringing World.' We are all agreed that we must have a journal, and so arrangements should be made now to keep it going during the war period, and should be the immediate business of the Central Council after the war to arrange for its continuance on a sound financial basis.

Another thing which should receive our serious thought now is our present attitude to church matters. I would commend the speech made by Mr. R. Richardson when seconding the motion. Ringers like to be considered as Church workers and an integral part of Church organisations, yet I wonder how many ringers attend the Sunday services to-day that they regularly used to ring prior to the war. How can we expect to receive the help and sympathy of the clergy and church officials after the war when they see so few of us at the services now? The Church itself is passing through difficult times and we should do all we can by our presence and support to keep it going. Then after the war we may reasonably expect, and I feel sure will receive, the assistance of the clergy in finding new recruits for the befrieries, which I think might be obtained from the various youth clubs connected with the Church.

In conclusion, it is my opinion that the present ringers' organisations will accomplish far more by their local interests to revive change ringing after the war than could any National Association.

WORK OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

Miss BRENDA M. RICHARDSON, Sundridge: In considering how far the present organisations meet the needs of the day let us consider what we would wish them to do. It is no good for ringers to sit back and say that the Central Council is no good because it has not met since the beginning of the war. What would we as individual ringers have wished it to do at meetings which it has not done without them? We all know of Mr. Fletcher's work in trying to get the ban lifted; he could have done no more if the Council had met, he could have done no more as representative of a National Association. The analysis of peals rung in 1940 has shown us that the Central Council does not depend solely on its meetings to get its work done. There is at the present one outstanding question for the Council to settle, namely, the future of 'The Ringing World,' and we know that this matter has been and is under consideration, for have we not recently received a letter signed by many Council members asking for the support of the associations? We would not wish the Central Council to put ringing before the war effort. Even a National Association would not be justified in doing that.

There are doubtless other things which need consideration. The question of subscriptions for peals might well find a place on the first post-war agenda, but this is not the time to upset the organisation which has served us so well for the last fifty years. Let us by all means repair our house, but let us leave rebuilding till we are once more at peace.

Mr. EDWIN BARNETT, Crayford: Mr. A. H. Smith makes a very rash statement when he refers to the balances held by some associations, and then goes on to say they are tied up doing nothing.

Like many other people who have said the same thing at various times, he has apparently looked no farther on the balance sheets than the total worth of the associations concerned, taking no account of the interest those balances have earned and how they have been expended.

For example, my own association, whose assets for a number of years have been just over or under, as the case may be, £1,000.

How does he (and they) think our Benevolent Fund and our Belfry Repair Fund could exist and do what they do but for the interest that balance earns? (And no one has ever appealed to either of these funds in vain.)

We have five districts, and in each of these we provide a free tea at one meeting and half travelling expenses at another. If we were unable to do this, how many members, and youthful ones in particular, would be prevented from attending? It is our extra income again which makes this possible.

Also at our annual general meeting we provide a free lunch, or, as at the last one, a free tea and 2s. 6d. travelling expenses.

I venture to submit that no one can say with truth a large balance does nothing towards the advancement of ringing.

A SECULAR BODY?

Mr. A. BIGLEY: In the arguments for a National Society, it is said, 'Surely it lies with its members whether it becomes a secular body or not.' It lies with the members, the success or otherwise, of any organisation.

Then with regard to finance it is said, 'If the many balances, large and small, of the various societies were pooled under one fund a good deal could be done, etc., etc.' Now many of the good balances have been built up by the untiring work of branch secretaries and real live members, working together for years, for the good of their guild. Also much has been invested with the Government to help finance the war. After following on the heels of a real good branch secretary, I have found, or learned, that for complete success the personal touch is needed. How is a National Society to get in subscriptions if the local secretaries find it difficult to gather them all in? Besides, most guilds are made up of many free members.

In my opinion, any funds which could be disposed of could be used in a benevolent fund to help local members who have subscribed and now need a little assistance.

Instead of a National Society, we might call the Central Council a National Ringers' Council, and if all pull their weight in the present guilds we should have all we want to hold us together.

A DIOCESAN ORGANISATION.

Mr. W. W. WOLSTENCROFT: I should like to give my opinion on the question under discussion re a National Association. The title, to my mind, savours too much of the commercial and trade union aspect. The advantages and benefits we have received during the lifetime of the existing organisations are great and manifold and are greatly appreciated by all enthusiastic ringers and cannot lightly be put aside, while at the same time I believe much could be done to improve our present position as a living organisation.

It is my candid opinion that if any alteration should take place in our present system, it should be of a wholly diocesan character and void of any sporty, club or pothouse element. The towers, churches and bells—as was very forcibly put in the leading article of June 5th—are the sole property of the Church, and their use is vested in and is at the absolute discretion of the incumbent in whose care they are placed.

I would make it a point that all ringers be members of the Church, just as we find choirmen, organists, wardens, etc., joint workers together in a common cause.

Where dioceses are found too large to be worked by one secretary they could be sub-divided similarly to our existing county associations. A Central Council (till a better title could be found) could be appointed from the various dioceses, with a much smaller and more effective power than the present altogether too large one. This would reduce the financial burden of the various dioceses.

The objectionable system of paying for a ring on any given peal of bells would be done away with, as all would be rung under the Church's auspices and not under any one geographical area or society.

Whether the Exercise should take over the publication of 'The Ringing World' should not be done without careful thought, and only then if it was found impossible to carry on by the present owners. If I am not digressing too much I would suggest a charge be made for the entry of every peal rung, similar to the charges for advertisements of meetings. This would largely meet the taunt so often levelled at peal ringers, who occupy much valuable space in 'The Ringing World.' Peal reports could then be abolished from diocesan annual reports, which would free the secretaries from much time expended on their preparation.

I am fully conscious that to bring about any radical change seems insurmountable—like the decree on the ban on ringing by the Government; once made, it would take all the powers that be to alter it, even though it were shown to be defective in administration.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

It may interest Service ringers in Ripon to know that there is a weekly practice at the Black Bull, Market Square, on Mondays, 7.30 to 9 p.m.

In an air raid on Norwich last week three churches were destroyed and others damaged. In an East Coast town a twelfth century church was burned out and only the reredos now stands undamaged. The spire collapsed 15 minutes after incendiaries were showered on the building. Some of the bells crashed from the tower, and others were melted by the heat of the flames. It is not permissible to publish further details at present.

Although Canterbury Cathedral escaped a direct hit by high explosives in the raid on May 31st, many of its windows were blown out. The damage is estimated at thousands of pounds.

Incendiaries fell on the roof, but these were dealt with before they could set the Cathedral alight.

Two young ringers took part in a handbell peal recorded this week. Leonard W. Bullock is twelve years of age, and Thomas H. Bullock, the conductor, fifteen and a half.

Will Mr. Charles Turner, of Dover, kindly send his address to the editorial office?

At a Yorkshire meeting last week, when subscriptions were asked for, two members of a band unknown to each other each handed over the subscriptions of the whole company. A sign of a good team spirit.

Col. Sir Robert Williams, vice-president of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild, and the oldest Freemason in the United Kingdom, celebrated his 94th birthday on June 16th.

The first peal of Northampton Surprise Major was rung at Oswaldtwistle on June 28th, 1921.

On June 30th, 1833, Mr. Elijah Roberts, of the St. Martin's Company, Birmingham, tapped 'on a Musical set of Hand Bells, fixed in a frame and remained so for the whole performance, a complete Peal of that admired system, Steadman's Cinques, comprising 5,016 changes, composed by himself and conducted by Mr. Henry Cooper, and was accurately rung in a most masterly style in three hours and twenty-four minutes.'

On July 1st, 1931, the Middlesex County Association rang at St. Mary's, Ealing, a peal in twelve Spliced Surprise Major methods. This, which for the time being is the highest point to which method ringing has reached, was conducted by William Pye.

The ringers present at the funeral of the late Mr. W. E. White wish to express their thanks to Mr. Walter White and daughter for their kind hospitality afterwards.

'THE BELLRINGER.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was surprised to read your comments on 'The Bellringer' and the late Mr. W. Willson in the current issue of 'The Ringing World.' 'The Bellringer' was owned by W. E. Hunt and Marshall Bros., the printers. Mr. Willson was a contributor in addition to writing the various leaders from time to time. The paper was brought out in Manchester, where I resided for some considerable time.

I have previously dealt in the pros and cons as to the ceasing of the publication. Honorary fees were passed on to Mr. Willson for his work when funds permitted, but were not insisted upon, in order to foster the paper's progression. I have by me still all editorial letters, blocks and business correspondence at that period and general material for such a publication transacted by me and which advertisers can verify.

I have no axe to grind, but I should like to remove that wrong impression that is so general.

W. C. HUNT, late Editor of 'The Bellringer.'

Beeston, Notts.

[We very much regret our inaccurate statement, and hope Mr. Hunt will accept our apology. Our excuse must be that we were writing from memory after the lapse of many years, and were repeating what certainly was very generally believed at the time and since.—The Editor, 'The Ringing World.']

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT PRESTWICH.

The committee of the Lancashire Association met at Prestwich on June 20th, and at the same time a meeting of the Manchester Branch was held. The tower bells were started soon after 3 p.m. and kept going until train time with intervals on the handbells.

About 25 members sat down to tea and others came along after. In addition to the committee there were members from Ashton, Didsbury, Town Hall, Prestwich, Accrington, Cheshire, and several unattached.

Mr. F. Reynolds offered to take over the office of the branch secretary vacant by the lamented death of Mr. F. Reynolds.

The Rector (the Rev. Canon Paton Williams) met the members in the churchyard and gave a welcome. During the afternoon touches in the four standard methods were rung.

Brookfield, Gorton, was selected for the next meeting on July 18th.

MR. GEORGE R. PYE.

SEVENTIETH BIRTHDAY.

Mr. George R. Pye, known to his intimates as Bob, was 70 years of age last Tuesday, June 30th.

Bob is now sole survivor of the famous band of brothers who made much ringing history over a period of many years. His own peal list, whilst not as imposing as that of his brother William, contains several novel features. There are 1,701 peals on tower bells and 177 on handbells, a grand total of 1,878; which includes 360 conducted (25 on handbells).

A total of 288 twelve-bell peals includes 98 peals of Maximus (two on handbells) and 190 of Cinques (44 on handbells). The peals of Maximus include 86 of Surprise, which is, we believe, a record. These Surprise Maximus peals were rung in 40 towers. This is certainly a record.

Many other interesting details could be stated, but the main features are 239 peals of London Surprise Major, including five on handbells, 213 of Superlative Surprise Major (8 on handbells), 202 of Bristol Surprise Major, (3 on handbells), 195 of Cambridge Surprise Major, 97 of Cambridge Surprise Royal, and 44 of Spliced Surprise Major, Royal and Maximus. The peals have been rung in 562 towers, in 57 counties and with 1,080 ringers.

Among the many famous performances in which Bob Pye has taken part are the following: 15,312 Cambridge Surprise Maximus at Ashton-under-Lyne, 7,392 in the same method at St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, and 5,280 at Exeter Cathedral; 10,440 Cambridge Surprise Royal at St. Mary's, Walthamstow; 11,111 Stedman Cinques at St. Martin's, Birmingham; 18,027 Stedman Caters at All Saints', Loughborough; 15,264 Bristol Surprise Major at Hornchurch; 14,112 London Surprise Major at King's Norton; 15,072 Double Norwich at Erith; and 5,760 Spliced Surprise Major in nine methods at Willesden. Bob was also the conductor of the existing record of 6,063 Stedman Cinques on handbells; and has rung in non-conducted peals of Superlative Surprise Major and Stedman Triples on handbells. He was also one of the band who rang peals in all numbers of Spliced Surprise Major methods from three to twelve.

For some time past Bob has not enjoyed his former good health, but he is still alert in mind and takes a keen interest in ringing matters. He is always glad of a chat about the past palmy days of ringing before the war and the ban with any of his friends who call upon him. We wish him many happy returns of the day, and trust that his health will soon permit him to take a more active part in those ringing matters which have been almost his whole interest in life.

DEATH OF MR. JOHN A. BURFORD.

PROMINENT BRISTOL RINGER.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. John A. Burford, which occurred last Friday at his residence, 7, Ryde Road, Bristol, at the age of 69.

He had been suffering for many months from cancer, but bore his illness with the same cheerful spirit as he showed among his friends during his long ringing career.

He learnt to ring at an early age at Stoke Bishop, and about the year 1900 became a member of the St. Stephen's Guild, Bristol. He had rung nearly 300 peals, of which he conducted a large number, including the first peal of Clifton Surprise Royal. He took a great interest in Cambridge Surprise Royal composition and several of his peals have been rung. He also composed several peals of Stedman Caters, one of which, a 5,019, has become extremely popular. He was conductor of the St. Stephen's Guild for many years, succeeding the late James Hinton.

Those who knew him will remember him as a solidly built ringer always to be found at the heavy end, but his complaint reduced him to a very thin and tired out man. Nevertheless, he bore his illness with fortitude and always much appreciated the visits of his friends. He leaves a widow and sons and daughters, and among Bristol ringers a memory of comradeship and work well done.



MR. GEORGE R. PYE.

THE LATE MR. J. S. GOLDSMITH.

(Continued from page 297.)

'THE RINGING WORLD.'

'The Ringing World' first appeared on March 24th, 1911. Four days later, on March 28th, died Harvey Reeves, who in February, 1881, had founded 'The Bell News.' Thus the new journal came at almost the exact moment necessary to ensure that the Exercise should not lack an organ even for a single week; for though 'The Bell News' was carried on for three or four years more, the new proprietors were completely out of touch with ringing and the Exercise. Even more so than in previous years, the paper printed just what was sent it, and as it was sent. During sixty full years only two men controlled the ringers' weekly paper; Harvey Reeves was editor of 'The Bell News' for thirty years, and John Goldsmith editor of 'The Ringing World' for thirty-one years.

The first issue of 'The Ringing World' contained sixteen pages, in contrast with the twelve which was usual with 'The Bell News,' and in general style and make-up was very similar to what it is to-day. Just about that time more peals were being rung than at any other period in the history of the art, and no fewer than 43 were recorded in the first issue. In 'The Bell News,' which appeared the next day, 39 were recorded, every one earlier than those in 'The Ringing World.' It was one of the complaints against the older paper that it never was up-to-date with its news.

THE LEADING ARTICLES.

William Willson contributed an article, 'In Lighter Vein,' in his characteristic style; and a series on leading ringers with their portraits, was begun with an account of Mr. Alfred B. Peck, then Master of the Ancient Society of College Youths. Composition was represented by an article by Mr. E. Bankes James, giving a new Bristol Surprise Royal.

To-day the most interesting feature in the paper is the leading article, which set forth at length the aims Goldsmith had in view. 'We intend,' he said, 'to use our columns for the information, the instruction, and, we hope, the elevation of all who take an interest in the Art of Change Ringing and in the business and social side of the organisations which promote that art. There are two things in the conduct of a ringing journal which ringers rightly demand, and which it is our determination to carry out. One is that the journal shall be punctually in the hands of its readers week by week, and the other that passing events shall be recorded promptly.'

THE OBJECT OF THE PAPER.

'The furtherance of the art is the first object of this paper, and all that relates to its progress will find in it the warmest support. "The Ringing World" will be open for the fair and impartial discussion of all matters appertaining to the interests of ringers. We intend to spare no pains to keep the pages of "The Ringing World" interesting to beginners, as well as to the ringers of riper experience.'

These words accurately represent the aim Goldsmith had in view, and when in after years he looked back, he could quite fairly congratulate himself on not having been false to his ideal. When he reached his thousandth number he could write: "'The Ringing World" has from the outset had, as its principal aim, the elevation of

the art of ringing, the promotion of the interests of the Exercise, and the drawing together, through its columns, all the varied interests which are open to ringers in pursuit of both the art and the science of campanology. From first to last we have never deviated from that course.'

He especially valued the opportunity the leading article gave him of influencing opinion in the Exercise, and he was proud of the fact that no one but himself ever wrote it. Until he went on the tour to Australia in September, 1934, the series was absolutely unbroken. Then for four months the column had to be filled by another pen, but the regular leading articles were suspended and temporarily replaced by a series under another name and signed by the writer of them.

HIS LAST ARTICLES.

When he returned home Goldsmith at once resumed his leader writing; indeed, the first was written before his ship reached England, and there was no further break until, in February last year, he was suddenly taken ill and had to go into hospital for an operation. For four months the task was discharged by another, but when Goldsmith came out of hospital in June, he at once resumed writing the articles, and during the rest of the year, with two exceptions, all that appeared were from his pen. His last was the one for December 26th, and immediately after writing it he took to his bed, from which he practically never got up again.

To have written such an unbroken series of articles during so long a period was no mean feat. Many of them were written in circumstances of great difficulty and in times of trouble and anxiety. Some were dictated from a sick bed. It is not an easy job to find week by week, year in and year out, something fresh to say about ringing and worth saying. Necessarily what he wrote varied in quality, but all through he maintained a high standard and seldom was short of one idea for his readers to think about. As he wrote himself on the eve of his journey to Australia, 'few people connected with the art of ringing have had such an opportunity of directing thought and moulding opinion in the Exercise as the Editor of "The Ringing World," and the responsibility has not been lost upon him. Without egotism it may be said that the object always kept in view has been the elevation of the art and practice of change ringing, as well as the status of the ringers themselves. We hope and believe that the Art and the Exercise have on the whole benefited, as a result of what, since the year 1911, has appeared in print in this column.'

HUMOROUS SKETCHES.

Apart from the leading articles, Goldsmith's policy was to publish as many articles as space would allow, written by men who were authorities on the various subjects. He preferred for the sake of variety not to take part himself in this work, but he wrote the useful set of articles for beginners which appeared some years ago, and after the war started, and the problem of finding sufficient good stuff to fill the paper began to be acute, he contributed some excellent humorous sketches, notably those signed O.P.Q. One of the latest, a parody of the B.B.C. Brains Trust, was especially good.

We have mentioned that Mr. Goldsmith was a very fine reporter, and this gift he naturally used to the full in the service of 'The Ringing World.' He made a point of attending as many ringing meetings as possible,

(Continued on next page.)

DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM E. WHITE.

WELL-KNOWN MIDLAND RINGER.

We much regret to announce the death of Mr. William E. White, of Cotgrave, Nottinghamshire, which occurred on Wednesday, June 17th, at the age of 77.

The funeral took place on June 20th, and was attended by members of the Midland Counties Association and the North Notts and Old East Derbyshire Association. As the cortege approached the church Grandsire Doubles was rung at the base of the tower on a set of five handbells in a minor key, symbolic of the tower peal in Mr. White's younger days. A course of Grandsire Triples was rung at the graveside. The committal office was read by the Rev. R. F. Wilkinson, president of the Midland Counties Association, after which sprigs of acacia were dropped on the coffin by representatives of the Masonic lodge to which deceased belonged.

Mr. White joined the Midland Counties Association in 1887 and had rung 56 peals for it. A keen and loyal member, he had been the association's secretary from 1898 to 1918, treasurer from 1931 to 1941 and for several years representative on the Central Council. He took his duties as treasurer very seriously, and it is due in no small measure to him that the association's funds are in so healthy a state as they are to-day.

Earlier in the month, as recorded in our pages, he had celebrated his golden wedding. He will be greatly missed by a large circle of friends, and especially by those who really knew him.

ALL SAINTS' BAND, ISLEWORTH.

For the third war-time annual outing of the All Saints', Isleworth, band, held on Sunday, June 14th, the band went to the picturesque Thames-side parish of Shepperton. A most enjoyable afternoon was spent on the river in skiffs and a canoe, obtained from a local boat-house, and tea was greatly appreciated after the strenuous exercise of rowing. A welcome was given to the band by the Rev. and Mrs. Shepherd-Smith at the Rectory.

Handbells were rung for the evening service at the Parish Church, the methods being Grandsire Triples and Caters and Bob Major. After attending service the band was invited to the Rectory for refreshments, and the journey back to Isleworth then completed the outing.

MR. J. S. GOLDSMITH.

(Continued from previous page.)

CENTRAL COUNCIL REPORTS.

and whenever he went to one, there was sure to be a good report of it next week. This was especially true of the big social events like the College Youths' dinner and the Henry Johnson Commemoration.

For the Central Council he rendered invaluable service. It is essential to the usefulness of that body that its debates should be published, but it is no easy matter to get a good report of the speeches. For the first meeting of all nothing could be published except the minutes. Outside reporters were tried, but they made a sad hash of things, and for some years the published reports were written by Sir Arthur Heywood from notes made by Benjamin Keeble, a ringer, but an indifferent shorthand writer.

With the advent of 'The Ringing World' the Exercise had a full and surprisingly accurate report of the speeches. For Goldsmith a Council meeting was a very hard and strenuous time. During the day-long session he sat taking down the speeches and now and then getting up to make a speech himself (he was an honorary member of the Council). He would then attend the tea and take down more speeches, and immediately rush off to his hotel to write a summary of the day's proceedings, big enough to fill a full page of 'The Ringing World,' and get it off by post to Guildford in time for the paper which was printed the next morning.

This is one of the instances where it will be hard indeed to fill his place. The Council will have to face the problem of the reporting of the debates, and 'The Ringing World' is not likely again to have an account of the Council's meeting in the next Friday's issue.

(To be continued.)

MR. J. S. GOLDSMITH'S PEALS.

A 'JOHN' PEAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am very interested in your account of our dear friend, the late Mr. Goldsmith, particularly his peal record for 1912, for as far as I can remember the only peals I rang with him were in that year.

Two of the peals he rang that year were of more than passing interest. One, his third peal of Stedman Cinques, was a 'John' peal. It was his own idea, and I well remember how it was arranged. We were returning from Cambridge, and Mr. Goldsmith, Cheesman and I were having a 'final one' in London before catching our respective trains home when he said to Cheesman, 'You know, Jack, there are enough Johns about to ring a peal of Stedman Cinques.' Jack Cheesman, in his quiet way, replied, 'Is there?' and between us we jotted down the names. The peal was rung a month or two later at St. Giles', Cripplegate, and was, I imagine, the last peal rung for the old Waterloo Society. Of the band, Messrs. Hesse, Thomas, Sharman, Armstrong and Neal are still living. The other 'Johns,' Goldsmith, Cheesman, Carter, Orborrow, Golding, Matthews and Truss, have passed away.

The second was his peal of Cambridge Royal. This was at St. Clement Danes' on February 29th, and was probably the only one he rang on that date.

Coming down after this peal I remarked to Bert Prewett that I was rather pleased to have rung one on that date when he replied, 'So am I, as I have now rung a peal on every date in the year.' I don't think Bert ever mentioned this to anyone else, and certainly not to Mr. Goldsmith, as it has never appeared in print as far as I can remember.

E. BARNETT.

Crayford.

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS.

ANNUAL REPORT.

The war-time report of the General Committee of the Devonshire Guild has been issued and naturally is a small one.

'The wholehearted sympathy of the Guild,' says the committee, 'goes out to the South-West Branch in the terrible destruction wrought by enemy action in its midst last spring and particularly to the incumbents, congregations and members of the Guild at St. Andrew's, St. Charles' and other churches. As soon as the opportunity is offered, the Guild will have a great chance to extend its sympathy in the most practical way and thus show it less fortunate members in Plymouth and elsewhere the meaning of fellowship.'

We regret to record the deaths of the Rev. H. P. F. Scott, chairman of the N.D. Branch, and Mr. J. Woodley, of Emmanuel, Plymouth, a member of the General Committee and a staunch supporter of the Guild.

'The Exeter Branch have held four meetings, and the Aylesbeare Deanery and North-East one each with encouraging results. A certain amount of useful work has been done with handbells and the spirit of comradeship has been kept alive. Mr. C. R. Lilley has now rung a peal on every day of the year. We heartily congratulate him.

'Forty-seven members of the Guild are in the Forces.'

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

SUCCESSFUL MEETING AT DEREHAM.

A very successful meeting of the Norwich Diocesan Association was held at Dereham on Saturday, June 20th. The eight bells, deftly tied by Mr. Secker, were soon going to Bob Major, Kent and Double Norwich, and so good was the ringing that it did not worry folk outside the tower in the least when the tenors got parted. Handbells were also much in demand.

Twenty-nine members attended from Attleborough, Aylsham, Bergh Apton, Buxton, Caston, Dereham, Gorleston, Gressenhall, King's Lynn, Long Stratton, Norwich, Mulbarton and Wymondham. The Vicar, Canon Baumer, preached at the service, at which the president, the Rev. A. St. J. Heard, assisted.

Despite all difficulties, a splendid tea was provided by Mrs. Ames, helped by a willing band of ladies, in the Church House. At the business meeting which followed, a letter was read from Mr. Nolan Golden, whom his friends soon hope to see in the flesh again. A most helpful discussion followed about the financial state of 'The Ringing World,' which showed that the association is most anxious to do all it can to help to ease the situation; the desirability of working towards this in conjunction with all the associations was stressed.

Members stood in silence as a tribute of respect to the late Mr. J. S. Goldsmith.

Mr. Corby was elected a non-resident life member of the association. It was arranged to hold the next meeting at Attleborough on October 3rd if possible. The president thanked the Vicar, Canon Baumer, for the use of the bells and for preaching at the service, the curate for playing the organ, Mrs. Ames and her helpers for the splendid tea, and Mr. Secker for tying the clappers. Through the kindness of the Vicar, members were able to play bowls, as well as ring, after the business meeting.

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.

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

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Blackburn District.—A meeting will be held at Rishton on Saturday, July 4th. Tower bells (8) ready at 3 p.m. Handbells provided. Bring food. Cups of tea served in school.—R. Leigh, R. Blakey, C. Sharples.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — The next meeting will be held on Saturday, July 4th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY. — The annual meeting will be held in the Clergy House, Doncaster, on Saturday, July 4th. Committee meeting 3.30. General meeting 4 o'clock. Handbells available. — E. Cooper, Hon. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—A meeting will be held at Woodford on Saturday, July 11th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Service at 4.15 p.m. Tea and business meeting to follow. Those requiring tea kindly let me know by July 8th. All are welcome.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Dis. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—The summer meeting will be held at Queensbury on Saturday, July 11th. An attractive ramble will start from the schools at 3 o'clock. Tea (1s. 6d.) in Schools at 5 o'clock, followed by business meeting. Names for tea to Mr. C. Ellison, 9, Hazeldene, Queensbury, by Tuesday, July 7th. All welcome.—Frank Rayment, Dis. Sec., Bramley.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting will be held at Tonbridge on Saturday, July 11th. Committee meeting in the Parish Room at 3 o'clock. Service in church at 4.30, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. F. Childs. Tea at Carlton Cafe at 5, followed by business meeting in the Parish Room. Those requiring tea must notify me on or before Tuesday, July 7th. — Fred M. Mitchell, Hon. Sec., 114, Sun Lane, Gravesend.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Kettering Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Cranford on Saturday, July 11th. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea to follow for those only who notify me previously. — H. Baxter, 21, Charles Street, Rothwell, Northants.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Joint meeting of the Leicester and Hinckley Districts at Earl Shilton on Saturday, July 11th. Silent ringing 3.30 at Church. Tea at 5, but only for those who send their names to Mr. G. Newton, 26, Avenue South, Earl Shilton. Handbells in school after tea.—H. W. Perkins, W. A. Ward, Dis. Secs.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual business meeting will be held at Oxford on Saturday, July 18th, at 3.15 p.m., in the Rectory Room, Pembroke Street, St. Aldate's. Tea will be provided at 1s. 6d. each for all members who apply for ticket, accompanied by remittance, by Saturday, July 11th. This is essential, owing to difficulties in catering. A collection will be taken at tea for Guild Restoration Fund. Service in St. Aldate's Church at 5 p.m. A good attendance is earnestly requested. — R. T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Manchester Branch. — The next meeting will be held at Brookfield Church, Gorton, on Saturday, July 18th. Meeting at 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea at 5 p.m. Those who require tea must send in names not later than July 15th to Mr. E. F. Mawby, 4, Linton Avenue, Thornley Park, Denton, Manchester.—W. H. Shuker, 36, Colwyn Avenue, Fallowfield, Manchester 14.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION. — Northern Division. — A meeting of this division will be held at Shalford on Saturday, July 18th. Handbells available from 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Please bring own eatables for tea, cups of tea will be provided. Good bus service from Braintree and Deanery Corner, Bocking. Please make every effort to attend.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

KINGSTON-ON-THAMES PARISH CHURCH. — Arrangements have been made to recommence weekly practices on Tuesday evenings from 7.30 p.m. to 9 p.m., from July 7th next.—H. W. Barrett, Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Mr. T. F. King has removed from Bath to The Beeches, Chilcote, Wells, Somerset.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**VISIT TO IDLE.**

The Leeds and District Society's June meeting was held at Idle on Saturday, and once again a late start was tried to allow those who had been working late to attend. Handbells were soon heard in a touch of Minor.

Tea for drinking was supplied by the local company at 6 p.m., and handbells were again rung until the business meeting at 7 p.m.

Mr. J. F. Harvey presided and members were present from Armley, Bradford, Shipley and the local company. A vote of thanks to the local company was proposed by Mr. F. Rayment and seconded by Mr. L. W. G. Morris. Mr. Rayment referred to his early days in Yorkshire, when he came to live in Idle, and said the local company looked after him and welcomed him in a manner which spoke well for the future of ringing in the neighbourhood. Mr. Morris said the Idle ringers always gave a hearty welcome to any visitors. Mr. T. Hill, replying, said that he and his colleagues did what they could, and if the visitors were happy they were amply repaid.

The next meeting will be held at Drighlington on July 25th.

Send for
Booklet**SMITH of DERBY**Estimates and
Advice Free

for Church and Turret Clocks

Electric or Weight Driven

Makers of many famous Clocks, including St. Paul's Cathedral, London, and throughout the world.

JOHN SMITH & SONS, Midland Clock Works, Derby, Ltd.Head Office and Works—
QUEEN STREET, DERBYTel. No. **DERBY 45569**
'Grams. **CLOCKS, DERBY**

The Central Council Publications

TO BE OBTAINED POST FREE

from the

Rev. E. S. POWELL, Staverton Vicarage, Daventry

DETAILED LIST WAS PRINTED IN OUR LAST ISSUE AND WILL APPEAR NEXT WEEK.

The Jasper Snowdon Series

DETAILED LIST WAS PRINTED IN OUR LAST ISSUE AND WILL APPEAR NEXT WEEK.

All post free, on receipt of postal order, from

Miss **MARGARET E. SNOWDON**
Woodlands, Newby Bridge, Ulverston, Lanos

WM. POTTS & SONS LTD.

(ESTABLISHED 1833).

CATHEDRAL, CHURCH AND TOWER CLOCK MANUFACTURERS

Makers of many of the largest and most important Clocks
in the World.

CLOCKS REPAIRED AND DIALS RESTORED.

'THE GUILDFORD CLOCK WORKS,'

Bankfield Terrace, Burley, Leeds.

And at 9, Adelphi Chambers, Shakespeare St.,
Newcastle-on-Tyne,
and 96, Carver Street, Moorhead, Sheffield.

ESTABLISHED 1780

JOHN NICOLL,

Church Bell Rope and Clock Rope
Manufacturer,

64, LEWISHAM PARK, LONDON, S.W.13

Late of BERMONDSEY and PECKHAM.

Maker to St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Imperial Institute, Canterbury, Edinburgh, St. Albans, Lincoln, Durham, Peterborough, Melbourne (Australia), Rochester, Dublin, St. Patrick's, Manchester, Durban and Worcester Cathedrals, etc., etc.

Mufflers, Ringing Mats, Matting, Flag Lines, etc., etc.

THE RINGERS' HANDBOOK

by E. S. and M. POWELL.

Containing full and complete instruction from the first handling of a bell to the ringing and conducting of peals of Grandsire, Stedman, Plain Bob and Kent Treble Bob.

Large selection of Compositions included.

Price:— Complete edition, to 8 bells, cloth, 120pp., 2/9
(6 copies for 15/-), 8 bell edition sewn, paper covers, 64pp.,
1/2 (6 copies for 6/-).

Obtainable only post free from Rev. E. S. POWELL,
Staverton Vicarage, near Daventry.

'THE WORLD'S BEST BELLROPES'

NOTED FOR EASY HANDLING AND NON STRETCHING

Est. 1820

Tel. 2400

JOHN PRITCHARD (ROPES) Ltd.

LOUGHBOROUGH

Order your Bell Ropes now, before prices increase, pre-war quality, and send us your old Bell Ropes for repairs whilst not in use.

Clock and Chiming Ropes. Flexible Ends, Splicing and Repairs
RINGING MATS AND BELL MUFFLERS

THE RINGER'S BADGE,

Supplied as Stud for Buttonhole,
Brooch or Pendant

With name of your Association engraved
—as Illustration.



Exact size

out. HALL MARKED GOLD .. 45/-
HALL MARKED SILVER .. 7/6
GILT OR WHITE METAL .. 4/-

Names or Presentation Inscriptions can be engraved on the reverse side at a small extra charge.

GEO. STACEY, JEWELLER AND ENGRAVER,
6, PARK ST., MINEHEAD, SOMERSET

SUITABLE FOR PRESENTATION OR WEDDING GIFT

CORRECTLY MODELLED BELL INKSTAND
(Regd. Design)
IN SOLID SILVER



Diameter	2½in.	2½in.	3½in.	3½in.	4in.	4½in.	5in.	5½in.
Price	18/6	22/6	28/6	33/6	42/-	52/6	67/6	78/6

The 5 inch size is also made to hold 50 cigarettes

Initials and Inscriptions Engraved at Moderate Charges

T. E. RUSSELL Jeweller & Optician

Telephone 276

WOKING

Printed for the Proprietor by the Woodbridge Press, Ltd., Guildford, and Published by the Bells House Publishing Co., Ltd., Breams Buildings, London, E.C.4.