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EN BLOC

Now that the long evenings are coming and the dangers and inconveniences of the black-out much mitigated, we may expect there will be an increase in the number of meetings held by the various associations, and of that the larger number of notices in our columns give a welcome sign.

It is not an easy thing nowadays to arrange and carry out meetings even in the summer time, for the difficulties of transport are many, and there is the absence of any attraction in the form of tower bell ringing. But the attempt should be made, and members, even if they sometimes wonder whether it is worth the trouble of going, should make every effort to support their officers. It is not merely that a man cannot miss touch with his friends without suffering some loss, but unless some pains are taken now to keep things going, when the time does come to start ringing again the Exercise will be found wanting and the individual ringer suffer accordingly. We must not be misled by the success of the victory ringing last November. That was a very special occasion which appealed in a very special way to many whose interest in ringing had become lukewarm. There will be a similar, and we believe equally successful, appeal when peace comes, but what we must think of are the days of humdrum reconstruction which lie beyond that. Then it will be that those who in these dark days have striven to keep interest alive will reap their reward.

Especially should the average member make a point of being present at the annual general meeting of his association. The time is now coming when most associations hold their annual meetings, and there can be no better test of the continued vitality of the Exercise than full and enthusiastic attendance at these meetings.

The task of officers during these last three years and more has been a rather thankless one and they deserve support and encouragement, for upon the officers and the work they do depends in no small degree the success of the guild. Theirs is the work and the worry. Others reap the benefit, both immediate and prospective.

This brings us to a point which may be worth while considering at these annual meetings. It has been a general custom since the war, when the officers come up for election, for someone to get up and move that they be re-elected en bloc, and this is usually done, unless particular circumstances compel one to withdraw.

(Continued on page 178.)

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There are a lot of reasons for this custom. Most of the life and activities of the Exercise are in abeyance, and it is natural to treat the war period as years of marking time, and to keep things unchanged until full activities can be resumed. In any case, an association which has got a good secretary never likes to lose him.

But there is another side to the 'en bloc' habit which should be considered and especially after these three years. In theory the offices of an association are open to any suitable man who may secure the suffrages of the members, and all members alike have a voice in determining who shall fill them. An officer is elected for one year only and though he is eligible for re-election he should not be considered as having any more prescriptive right than another candidate. It is not always for the good of an association when a man holds an office year by year until he cannot be replaced by another, however suitable, without something of an affront to him.

It is always advisable not to allow the impression to grow up among the younger and less active members that the officers of an association have been selected by a handful of men who keep the control in their own hands. It may well be that the members as a whole desire to re-elect their officers, but the impression should be avoided that the whole thing has been cut and dried over their heads and behind their backs.

In the nature of the case the office of honorary secretary is a more or less permanent one, and most societies desire as few changes as possible, but it is usually desirable to let the other posts be filled in turn by any and every suitable persons.

We do but suggest general considerations. Each association has its own particular circumstances to consider and must make arrangements to meet its own particular wishes and needs. In most cases probably no changes will be made, but we suggest that the time has come when the 'en bloc' custom should be dropped and each officer elected separately in the old style.

HANDBELL PEAL.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, April 12, 1943, in Two Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor size 15 in C.

* WILLIAM C. PORTER 1-2	SGT. K. ARTHUR, R.A.F. ... 5-6
JOHN E. SPICE 3-4	MISS MARIE R. CROSS ... 7-8

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First attempt for a peal of Triples 'in hand.' Fiftieth peal as conductor.

THOSE EVENING BELLS

Those evening bells! Those evening bells!
How many a tale their music tells,
Of youth, and home, and that sweet time,
When last I heard their soothing chime!

Those joyous hours are past away!
And many a heart that then was gay,
Within the tomb now darkly dwells,
And hears no more those evening bells.

And so 'twill be when I am gone;
That tuneful peal will still ring on
While other bands shall walk these dells
And sing your praise, sweet evening bells!

—Thomas Moore.

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from page 169.)

THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY CLOSES.

John Noonan was now coming to the fore as a composer and conductor. On September 12th, 1796, he called 5,040 changes of Bob Major at St. Clement Danes, and in the following month 5,007 changes of Grandsire Major at Whitechapel, both his own composition.

On November 13th, 1797, he achieved his first outstanding performance by calling 6,003 changes of Stedman Caters at Christ Church, at the time the longest length in the method. For this peal Henry Symondson and William Tyler came back from the 'old' Cumberlandands.

Samuel Austin, who recorded the performance in the peal book seventeen years afterwards, added a note that 'the performance will remain a lasting honour to the Society, and an example worthy to be imitated by posterity'; but, unfortunately, the composition, which is given in Shipway's book, is a false one.

In 1799, John Briant, of Hertford, added two trebles to Pack and Chapman's ring of ten at St. Giles', Cripplegate, and on February 2nd the College Youths rang the first peal on the twelve, one of Grandsire Cinques. Two of the best of the living heavy bell men—Philip Pilgrim and James Marlton—were needed for the tenor.

Three weeks later the Junior Cumberlandands rang a peal of Grandsire Cinques at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, and a month after that, the College Youths rang 5,258 changes in the same method at St. Saviour's, Southwark.

The 'old' Cumberlandands now took a hand, and on April 22nd at Southwark achieved 5,390 changes. Thus, at the time, there was keen competition in twelve-bell ringing, four peals of Grandsire Cinques being rung by three different companies.

The younger Gross called the Cumberlandands' peal, and the band included his father, William Shipway, Thomas Reeves, James Barnard, Malachi Channon, James Nash, and John Wooding. George Harris was again at the tenor, and again he had to have help.

On April 8th, 1798, at Watford, George Gross called Holt's Original peal of Grandsire Triples. John Hints was in the band and several of the local men. Gross was the fourth man to call the peal and ring at the same time. James Bartlett, of the College Youths, had lately called it several times. He seems to have had the ambition of calling it from every bell, and he almost succeeded in doing so.

On September 17th, 1798, George Gross called at Edmonton 'a peal of 5,011 changes of Grandsire Triples, being the first peal rung without a single.'

The early composers, when they studied Grandsire Triples, noticed that though the two halves of Holt's Ten-part are complete and independent in themselves, yet it is quite easy to pass from one half to the other by making a bob in certain places. Thus the two halves can be joined together, but they cannot be joined together in round block form. In other words, the bells cannot be brought round at the end.

Since the plan would not give the full 5,040 changes, it was natural for men to try to see if they could not get from it, if not the extent, at least more than the five thousand which would be sufficient to rank as a peal.

In this way Stephen Hill, of Kidderminster, produced the 5,012 which is given by Shipway in his book.

Hill's composition was brought to London by John Noonan in 1793, and so was known to Gross, who used it to get his 5,011. Indeed, there seems to be an oblique reference to Hill's peal in the statement that Gross' peal was without a single. The other has an in-course single made at the treble's full lead by the bells in 2nds, 3rds, 4ths and 7ths lying still, two leads before the end.

Shipway, who must have known that the Edmonton peal had been rung even though he had forgotten it when he wrote his book, gives Hill's figures but not Gross'; and it may be either that Gross kept his peals to himself and allowed no one to see them, or else that the composition was false or contained such a departure from the method as led men to condemn it as illegitimate. There must have been some departure or the bells could not have come round at handstroke. Henry Johnson afterwards produced 5,025 changes on this plan by using an irregular start.

On April 28th, 1800, George Gross called 10,112 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Major at Edmonton. It was his own composition, and was the longest length in the method at the time, either composed or performed. The band was George Gross, sen., George Gross, jun., James Nash, Thomas Reeves, John Hints, James Barnard, Samuel Cowling and William Stephens.

Concerning this peal the Annual Register of April 28th, 1800, gives the following very circumstantial story. 'A short time since eight members of the Society of Cumberland Youths made an attempt to ring 15,136 changes of Oxford triple bob on Edmonton church bells. It required upwards of ten hours time to perform this task at 25 changes a minute. They had entered the ninth hour when an unlucky accident befell Mr. Gross, the composer of the peal, making an attempt to slacken his knee buckle, his leg became entangled in the coil of the rope, by which he was elevated to a considerable height, and thence falling down upon his head, he broke his collar bone. Had it not been for this accident no doubt the feat would have been accomplished and the performers crowned with perpetual honours, as nothing to be compared with such an achievement of strength and skill can be found in the records of the campanological art.'

As it stands this account cannot be accurate, though it was written at the time; and how much truth there is in it it is impossible to say. George Gross never composed a peal of Treble Bob Major so long as 15,136 changes, or if he did, Shipway never heard of it. A broken collar bone does not take long to heal, but in February, 1800, Gross rang a peal, and on April 28th he called the 10,112 changes at Edmonton. Osborn did not believe the story and he probably had made inquiries among men who were living and ringing when the attempt was supposed to have been made.

The figures of Gross' 10,112 are lost and we cannot be sure the peal was true. Shipway mentions it and another by Gross of 10,994 changes, but he does not give them in his book. It is pretty certain that, though the two men were contemporary members of the Society of Cumberland Youths, Shipway's knowledge of Gross' compositions was confined to the little he learnt about them from the 'Clavis.'

John Hints was a member of the Society of Cumberland

(Continued on next page.)

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from previous page.)

land Youths and so the Society of College Youths was closed to him, but he was one of those men who were quite prepared to ring with any band where there was a chance of a peal. Other ringers shared those views and just as the nineteenth century opened the old exclusive style of company might have become obsolete. But the time for that was not yet come.

In December, 1800, Hints called a peal of Grandsire Triples at St. James', Clerkenwell, for the Westminster Youths. It seems to have been the first peal by that company which eventually developed into the St. James' Society. William Williams was in the band, and Richard Mills, who afterwards became a leading man among the College Youths.

A week after the Clerkenwell peal Hints took part in a long peal of Grandsire Caters, 10,421 changes, at St. John's, Horsleydown, with a company who called themselves the Society of Surrey Youths. George Harris was one of the band and so was Robert Muggeridge, evidently a son of Samuel Muggeridge. He rang in one or two peals, but never attained the eminence of his father and grandfather.

When John Reeves left the Cumberlands, soon after calling the peal of Grandsire Maximus at Southwark, his name drops out of the contemporary records, but he seems to have continued to ring with the men of Whitechapel and the district, where he lived, and where the Society of London Youths still existed in a quiet and inglorious fashion. Reeves, we may be sure, had not altogether lost his interest in composition, though with the publication of the 'Clavis' his greatest incentive to work was ended, and, so far as we know, he produced nothing in his later years to compare with his earlier achievements.

He had covered the whole field of composition as he knew it; but Grandsire Triples he had to leave as he found it. There John Holt held the ground and the secrets of his peals had not been revealed to the Exercise. We may be certain that Reeves studied them carefully, and towards the end of his career he discovered how to add to the Ten-part the Q Set with the observation bell before, which gives the variation now usually known by his name.

It was an interesting and important discovery, and the peal was rung by the London Youths on February 7th, 1801, at St. Mary's, Whitechapel.

Reeves called from the second, which shows that, notwithstanding what he had said in the 'Clavis' of the superiority of calling by the bobs before over the 'absurd and unscientific' plan of ringing the observation and calling by the position of that bell, he did know by experience that the latter has its uses and advantages.

This was the last peal by the Society of London Youths, which not long afterwards faded away.

John Reeves took part in one more peal and that a notable one. Two bands—one of them a mixed company with John Noonan as conductor, the other belonging to the Cumberlands' society with George Gross as conductor—were striving for the honour of ringing what they thought would be the first peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Royal, or, as they called it, Court Bob Royal. The first peal in the method actually had been rung at Norwich in the year 1769, and the London men should have known it, for it is mentioned in the 'Clavis.'

Noonan's party was the first to succeed. On February 28th, 1801, they rang at Christ Church, Spitalfields, 'an excellent peal consisting of 5,040 changes of Court Bob Royal in 3 hours and 37 minutes.' 'This great performance,' said the tablet, 'being the first in this critical method, is highly esteemed for the correct striking and harmony it produced, and cannot be equalled but by the same exertion and perseverance, which must ever reflect honour and credit to the performers.'

The band was made up of Thomas Smith, James Purser, Joseph Ladley, William Beard, John Reeves, Anthony Cavalier, William Troup, Charles Barber, John Noonan, and Edward Bartell. Smith, Purser, Beard, Barber and Bartell were College Youths; Ladley Troup and Noonan were Junior Cumberlands; and Reeves was a London Youth. Cavalier had been out of the leading peal ringing bands since 1789, when apparently he quarrelled with his companions of the 'old' Cumberland Society. Before the end of the year he was back again with them and taking part in peals.

A little more than a month after the Spitalfields performance the Cumberlands rang their peal at Shoreditch. It consisted of 5,220 changes, one course longer than the other. The band was—George Gross, George Gross, junior, James Nash, William Shipway, John Poulden, John Hints, Malachi Channon, Thomas Reeves, Samuel Cowling and William Stephens. Since they had been robbed of the honour of ringing the first peal in the method, they made much of the fact (which really was not a true one) that they were the first of any society to ring a peal in 'that intricate method.'

It was not until October 20th, 1890, that the next peal of Royal in any method other than Plain Bob or Treble Bob was rung in London. This was at All Saints', Fulham, by the Ipswich company, who were the first to ring Double Norwich Royal after the peals mentioned above.

John Reeves lived for about twenty years after these peals and died when he was eighty years old, but we hear no more about him. His is one of the greatest names in the whole history of ringing, and few, if any, have done more than he did to develop the science of composition.

(To be continued.)

LEANING TOWERS.

(Continued from page 181.)

its name from the military order of the Knights Templars, by whom it was founded about 1145. Like all such foundations, it was originally a round church. It is sad to relate that in recent air raids on Bristol this grand church was utterly destroyed. Yet its leaning tower still stands, and, I believe, the bells are safe. They were rehung by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. in 1935, and the tenor is 21 cwts. 2 qrs. 1 lb. The inscription couplets on some of the bells are very quaint and as follows:

1. My sound is good which that for ee heare
Yovng Bilbie made me sovnd so clear.
God be praised.
2. Come let vs all sovnd ovt
I'le keep my place no dovbt.
Th Bilbie casted me 1726. Sing prais x to God.
7. A seventh bel I hope shall be
And with you all sing merrylie.
8. Come serve God all when I do cale.
There is also a Sanctus bell of mediæval date.

LEANING TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 173.)

The leaning steeple of St. Mark's Church, Old Street, London, of recent years took a further list from the perpendicular and—deeming it to be a danger to the extensive traffic passing to and fro beneath it, it was taken down. Alas, now the church is no more.

Another leaning spire formerly existed at St. Mary, Walsingham, Norfolk, but some years ago this was taken down and rebuilt. This church has a ring of five bells, including a pre-Reformation tenor, two dated 1622 and two 1736. At an early period Salisbury Cathedral spire—the highest in England—404 feet high, deflected twenty-three inches from the perpendicular, but there is no sign of further movement. The tower and spire of St. James', Westminster—on the south side of Piccadilly—is out of the perpendicular. The spire of St. Mary's Church, Stanwell, near Twickenham, Middlesex, leans considerably westward. The tower contains a ring of six bells.

At Barnstaple, North Devon, the old parish church of St. Peter (sometimes wrongly described as SS. Peter and Paul) stands near the centre of the town. It was consecrated by Bishop Stapledon September 9th, 1318, and is an edifice of stone in Gothic style with the tower on the north side containing a clock presented in 1913 and nine bells, i.e., a ring of eight and a clock bell, which latter hangs outside on the spire. The tower has a twisted steeple covered with lead somewhat after the style of Chesterfield, but, of course, not so crooked. The bells are rung in the south transept of the church

to the right of the choir stalls. Heavy curtains hang around so that the ringers do not actually stand in full view of the congregation as they otherwise would do. In January, 1803, a licence was granted to cast five old bells into six, and this work was carried out by John Briant, of Hertford. Later two trebles were added and the ring was rehung in 1920 by W. Aggett and Son. The tenor is 23 cwt.

Another very crooked spire is that at the little village church of St. Peter, Ermington, Devon, and legend says that the first bride to be married here was so beautiful that the spire turned round to have a look. There is a ring of six, consisting of five originally cast by Christopher Pennington in 1748, of which the 3rd was recast by Bilbie in 1799, and a new treble later added.

At St. Mary's, Yapton, Sussex, a very beautiful village church of the Norman period, the picturesque tower is so far out of the perpendicular that it has been necessary to prop it up with a large buttress on the south side. Rude Norman work is to be seen in the tower, in the arches and in the aisles, and the building has some quaint dormer windows. The tower contains four bells.

The small church at Puxton, Somerset, is 700 years old and has a low tower leaning away from the nave at least three feet out of plumb. Here hang two old bells of mediæval times.

A notable leaning tower is that of the Temple Church, Bristol, which deviates four feet six inches from the perpendicular. It is 110 feet high and contains a fine old ring of eight bells, which, up to the war period, were rung regularly in perfect safety. The church derives

(Continued on page 180.)

John Taylor & Co.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The wedding will take place quietly at St. Alban's, Streatham Park, S.W.17, on Wednesday next, between Charles William, eldest son of Mr. W. Denyer, 120, Ash Road, Aldershot, and Edna Phyllis, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. Page, 15, Furzedown Drive, Tooting, S.W.17.

The first peal of Penning's Triples was rung at Stansted on April 13th, 1907; and the record peal of Kent Treble Bob Royal, 14,000 changes, at Ashton-under-Lyne, on April 13th, 1914.

On April 17th, 1820, the Birmingham men rang 7,200 changes of Kent Treble Bob Maximus at St. Martin's. It was at the time the longest length of Maximus, supplanting the 7,104 by the Cumberlands at Southwark in 1802. It is generally supposed to be the first of Kent Maximus ever rung, but that is more than doubtful.

Sir Arthur Heywood died on April 18th, 1916.

Twelve thousand and six changes of Grandsire Caters were rung at Painswick on April 18th, 1737.

On April 18th, 1894, the Cumberlands rang the then record peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, 13,440 changes, at Romford; and on the same date in 1927, what is still the longest true peal of Treble Bob Major, 17,824 changes, was rung at Heptonstall. It was in the Oxford Variation.

The first peal of Killamarsh Surprise Major was rung on April 18th, 1936, conducted by Albert Nash; and on the same day the first peal of Hughenden Surprise Major was rung at Hughenden, conducted by Mr. Harry Wingrove.

William Pye called the first peal of Spliced Surprise Major in seven methods at Willesden on April 19th, 1932. The methods were London, Bristol, Cambridge, Rutland, Yorkshire, Norfolk and New Gloucester.

James R. Haworth, who is still remembered by several London ringers was born on April 21st, 1821.

On April 22nd, 1889, what was then the record peal of Grandsire Caters, 15,227 changes, was rung at Cheltenham. It was beaten on December 27th, 1932, by one of 16,271 changes at Appleton, where on April 22nd, 1922, the record length for any method, 21,363 Stedman Caters, was rung.

The first peal of Levenham Surprise Major was rung at Helmingham on April 22nd, 1938.

Primrose Surprise Major is the same as Cambridge, but with eighth's place instead of second's at the lead end. The first peal of it was rung at Edenham, in Lincolnshire, on April 23rd, 1932, conducted by J. W. Lake.

On April 24th, 1905, 8,232 changes of Double Oxford Bob Major were rung at Tanfield, and on the same date in 1924, the first peal of Belgrave Surprise Major (an inferior variation of Yorkshire) was rung at Chester.

To-morrow is the fiftieth anniversary of the first 'name' peal of Stedman Triples. It was rung at Southover, Lewes, and was conducted by Mr. George Williams. Eighty-six years ago to-day another 'George' peal, one of Grandsire Triples, was rung by the St. James' Society at St. George's, Camberwell.

NORWICH CATHEDRAL

Many diocesan ringers' associations hold their annual service in their cathedral, but at Norwich the normal thing has been to hold it at St. Peter's, Mancroft, which is an obvious centre for ringers in this diocese. However, as in these days Mancroft bells cannot be rung, it seemed a good opportunity to hold the service in the Mother Church of the Diocese, and this will take place on May 1st at 3 p.m. It will be a good opportunity of showing the existence of the association to those non-ringers who attend the service. It is being arranged for a band to ring handbells in the triforium of the Presbytery before the service, and the Precentor, who is general secretary of the association, will be glad to conduct any ringers up the most interesting Norman tower, between 2 and 2.30 and after the business meeting, if they will let him know.

The Cathedral has five interesting bells, notes C sharp, B, A G sharp, F sharp. Nos. 1, 2, 4 and 5 were cast at the Norwich foundry in pre-Reformation days, and bear the inscriptions: 1, Fac Margareta Nobis Hec Munera Leta. 2, Quesumus Andrea Famulorum Suscipe Vota. 4, Subveniat Digna Donantibus Hanc Katerina. 5, Orate Pro Aia Roberti Brentham Monaci Norwici. Sum Rosa Pulsa Mundi Varia Vocata.

The monk Robert Brentham was gardener to the Cathedral Priory in 1451, and torched at his funeral in 1469 cost 8d. No. 3 is inscribed Anno Domini 1635 J.B. It is presumably a recasting by John Brend, jun. These bells are now hung dead, but a cross section of the Cathedral, dated 1784, shows them hung for ringing, and holes in the walls above the tower arches appear to show where joists for a ringers' floor were placed (something like the arrangement remaining to this day at Winchester Cathedral).

A wheel still hanging in the bell chamber is doubtless a relic of this period. Inside the tenor is scratched the name of Samuel Thurston, the great Norwich ringer of last century, who probably did some bricklaying in the tower. Thus Norwich Cathedral is of considerable interest to ringers, even if none of us have ever had a ring on its bells.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT HILLINGDON.**

The annual meeting of the South and West District of the Middlesex Association was held at St. Andrew's, Uxbridge, on Saturday, April 10th, and proved very successful, 32 members and friends being present from Beaconsfield, Beddington, Bishopsgate (St. Botolph's), Bushey, Ealing (Christ Church and St. Stephen's), Hayes, Hillingdon (St. John's), Kingsbury, Ruislip, Streatham, Twickenham, Uxbridge (St. Andrew's and St. Margaret's), Wembley and Windsor.

A short service was held at 4 p.m., conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. R. Home, who welcomed those present and stressed the importance of the recognition of ringers as church workers.

Tea was followed by the annual business meeting, presided over by Mr. J. A. Trollope, vice-president.

In his report, Mr. J. E. L. Cockey, the hon. secretary, said that it had not been possible to hold many meetings, and the position was not likely to become any easier, owing to the increasing difficulty in obtaining the use of church halls and the like, and to the difficulties of food rationing. The two meetings which were held were both enjoyable and successful, the annual at Cranford, attendance 30, in April, and the Acton meeting in October, attendance 32.

A number of handbell peals had been rung, which will be referred to in the general report at the annual general meeting. It is needless to state that Mr. E. C. S. Turner has been prominent in these as a conductor.

Two deaths had occurred during the year—the Rev. Dr. Flecker, Vicar of St. Peter's, Staines, an honorary member, and Miss I. L. Hastie, of Ealing, who had given much willing and cheerful assistance at Ealing and Acton in connection with service ringing. Her sudden and untimely death at a comparatively early age was a great loss and she is greatly missed.

Mr. Cockey was glad to state that subscriptions and many arrears had come in much better during the year, and he thanked those who had responded to his appeals.

'In regard to future policy, I can only appeal to all members to retain an active interest in the society, and to keep in touch with me as regards any information they may have, any suggestions for the good of the society, any possibilities regarding meetings and so on. It is very much a matter for the individual member these times, as towers are closed and local secretaries are often not in touch with their members.'

The annual statement of accounts was presented by Mr. E. C. S. Turner, and showed a sum of £5 8s. 10d. paid over to the general treasurer out of total receipts of £6 17s.

The election of officers resulted as follows: Honorary district secretary, Mr. J. E. Lewis Cockey; assistant secretary, Mr. W. G. Wilson; Ringing Master, Mr. E. C. S. Turner; Deputy Ringing Master, Mr. T. C. Bannister; committee, Messrs. H. C. Chandler (Heston), J. Herbert (Twickenham) and G. M. Kilby (Ruislip); auditors, Messrs. E. C. S. Turner and A. H. Fulwell.

The hope was expressed that it might be possible to hold the next annual meeting at Fulham, but owing to the present situation no definite action was taken. It is hoped also to arrange a number of summer meetings, probably at Cranford, Ruislip and possibly one or two other places.

On the proposition of Mr. J. Herbert, seconded by Mr. F. G. Baldwin, a warm vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Goodfellow, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Coles and Mr. F. Corke for arranging the meeting and for the excellent tea provided, great appreciation being expressed at the kindness of Mr. Goodfellow and company in twice recently making such successful arrangements on behalf of the association.

Handbell ringing was kept up at intervals during the afternoon and evening, the methods rung including Grandsire Triples and Caters, Stedman Triples, Bob Major and Double Norwich Major.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

At the meeting held on April 10th, the Master, Mr. E. G. Fenn, was supported by the secretary and treasurer, Messrs. J. H. Shepherd, H. Hoskins, E. Pye, W. H. Pasmore, C. W. Roberts, E. A. Young, R. F. Deal, H. G. Miles, J. F. Smallwood, E. J. Taylor, of Bradford, and L.-Bouindr. H. Thompson and Corpl. Len Fox.

The passing of two members was announced—Mr. W. Haigh of Rochester, and Mr. W. Latter, of Tunbridge Wells—and the members stood for a few moments as a token of respect.

Mr. F. Deal spoke of the courtesy and kindness that he had received from the late William Haigh at the time of his demobilisation at Chatham at the end of the last war.

On behalf of Mr. J. J. Lamb, of Greenwich, Mr. Hoskins handed over another ringing book for inclusion in the society's library.

Mr. Smallwood brought fraternal greetings from Mr. Albert Walker, of Birmingham. Mr. R. T. Hibbert stated that he had been asked by the sole surviving sister of the late Mr. J. Martin Routh to thank the members on behalf of herself and brother (aged 90 and 87) for their kind expression of sympathy to the family. The sister remembers ringing Grandsire Triples on handbells with Mr. Hibbert more than 50 years ago.

THE SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.**ANNUAL MEETING.**

The annual meeting of the Scottish Association was held at Alloa on April 10th, after service in St. John's Church, conducted by the Rector, the Rev. Canon Sturrock-Clarke. Nineteen persons sat down to tea in the Townhead Tea Rooms. These included 16 ringers from Alloa, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow, and R.S.M. C. Barker, of Sheffield.

Apologies for absence were received from Prof. R. O. Street, Cpl. C. R. Raine, R.A.F., R. J. G. Thom, J. Colville, and a letter was read from the patron, the Duke of Argyll, K.T., who expressed his satisfaction that the society was endeavouring to carry on in spite of depleted membership.

He recalled that, when the King and Queen were sailing up the St. Lawrence River, on their memorable visit to Canada, all the members of the churches, convents, etc., lined the river bank, while the sound of hundreds of bells came pealing across the water, at which their Majesties frequently expressed their delight.

Reference was made to the deaths during the past year of Sgt. A. McColl, R.A.F., Paisley, killed over Malta, Hugh White, Edinburgh, and J. S. Goldsmith. Twenty-three members are now serving with H.M. Forces.

Prof. R. O. Street (president), W. H. Pickett (Ringing Master), both of Glasgow, and Cpl. C. R. Raine, R.A.F. (hon. secretary), were re-elected to their respective offices, with E. A. Stafford, Glasgow, as deputy hon. secretary. Mr. Leslie Bounphrey and R.S.M. C. Barker were elected ringing members, and the Rev. Canon Sturrock-Clarke honorary member.

It was reported that no arrangements had been made at the various towers to have the bells rung as a warning of enemy action with two exceptions. In their case a chiming rope had been led down to the church, but no one knew who, or by whose orders, the bell was to be sounded.

The afternoon was spent in practice on St. John's tower bells (with clappers lashed), finishing with a service touch of Stedman Triples on handbells at the back of the church.

It was reported that St. Mary's, Glasgow, Society rang a touch of Stedman Caters 'on hand' in the Cathedral last Easter Day, and again in Glasgow Cathedral (St. Mungo's) on Sunday, December 27th, also a touch of Stedman Triples at the Church of All Hallows, Hillingdon, on Sunday, April 4th, 1943.

Eight members travelled from Glasgow to Alloa, where a set of handbells were kept going for most of the journey, in both directions.

THE UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION.**CENTRAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATION.**

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—There was one point in Mr. Russell G. Spear's letter which neither Mr. John E. Spice nor Mr. Malcolm Melville answered. Why should a number of people have special representation on the Central Council merely because they have been to one of the universities? They are already members of the different associations and guilds.

CHARLES GREEN.

A LETTER OF APPROVAL.

Dear Sir,—The founders of the new Universities Guild have gone to great trouble and pains to explain to the Exercise the purpose of its formation and the qualifications necessary for membership. The situation appears to me to be perfectly clear, and I cannot understand the criticism or opposition to its existence. I sincerely trust there will be nothing to prevent the new Guilds' affiliation to the Central Council when the time comes.

I believe that the Exercise has everything to gain and nothing to lose by the existence of such a society, and it should do much to further the interest and study of our art within the universities. If a few more ringing persons are produced by its activities they alone will justify its existence.

The young people concerned with the formation of this new guild are out for one thing only—progress in our study of campanology—and having met some of them, I can only regret I am not eligible to become a member of their new group.

ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

116, Alma Road, Bournemouth.

THE BAN ON RINGING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I think it would be very foolish to follow Mr. Russell G. Spear's advice and refuse to ring on any future occasion until the ban is lifted entirely. He is quite mistaken if he thinks that would impress the authorities, and the result might be that he would find towers closed to him, when he did want to ring. 'X'

RECONSTRUCTION

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. G. H. Williams is quite wrong. It is not the duty of a guild ringing master to instruct. He has to take control of the ringing at general meetings, and general meetings are not the times to instruct beginners.

'A RINGING MASTER.'

HUGH REGINALD HAWEIS.

A VICTORIAN WRITER ON BELLS.

(Continued from page 155.)

The decorations in bas-relief around some of the old bells are extremely beautiful, whilst the inscriptions are often highly suggestive, and even touching. These decorations are usually confined to the top and bottom rims of the bells, and are in low relief, so as to impede the vibration as little as possible.

At Mechlin, on a bell bearing the date '1697, Antwerp,' there is an amazingly vigorous hunt through a forest with dogs and all kinds of wild animals. It is carried right round the bell, and has all the grace and freedom of a spirited sketch. One one of Hemony's bells, dated 1674, and bearing the inscription 'Laudate Domini omnes Gentes,' we noticed a long procession of cherub boys dancing and ringing flat hand-bells, such as are now rung before the Host in street processions.

On some of the older bells the Latin grammar has not been properly attended to, and P. van den Gheyn has a curious affectation of printing his inscriptions in types of all sizes, so that one word will often contain letters from three or four alphabets. The old inscriptions are frequently illegible from the extreme narrowness of the Gothic type and the absence of any space between the words. One of the Ghent bells bears an inscription which, in one form or another, is frequently found in the Low Countries. Englished it is—

My name is Ruelant.

When I toll them it is for fire,

When I swing them there is stormy weather in Flanders.

The famous Strasbourg tower, although, unlike the Belgian towers, it possesses no carillon, and but nine bells in all, is remarkably rich in inscriptions, and has been richer. Its bells are interesting enough to warrant a short digression.

The first, or Holy Ghost bell, dated 1375, weighs about eight tons and bears the beautiful motto:—

O Rex Gloriæ Christæ veni cum Pace.

It is only rung when two fires are seen in the town at once.

The second bell, recast 1774, is named 'The Recall,' or the Storm-bell. In past times, when the plain of Alsatia was covered with forests and marsh land, this bell was intended to warn the traveller of the approaching storm cloud as it was seen drifting from the Vosges Mountains towards the plain. It was also rung at night to guide him to the gates of the city. It is fitted with two hammers and is constantly used.

The third, the Thor or Gate-bell, is rung at the shutting and opening of the city gates. It was cast in 1618. In 1641 the Thor bell cracked and was recast. It broke, and was recast again in 1651.

The Mittags, or twelve o'clock bell, is rung at mid-day and at midnight. The old bell was removed at the time of the French Revolution, and bore the inscription:

Vox ego sum vitæ

Voco vos—orate—venite.

The hanging of most of the Strasbourg bells, almost outside the delicate network of the tower, is highly to be commended. They can be well heard and seen. The same remark applies to Antwerp, and it is to be regretted that in such towers as Mechlin and St. Peter's at Louvain, many of the bells are so smothered up as to sound almost muffled.

Almost all the bells which are open to public inspection, and which can be reached, bear white chalk inscriptions that an illustrious countryman, Jones, of London, has thought it worth while to visit the bells on such a day, that his Christian name is Tom or Harry, and his age is, &c. &c. However, on the stone walls inside the Strasbourg tower there are some more interesting records. I copied the following:—I.M.H.S., 1587; Klopstock, 1777; Goethe, 1780; Lavater, 1776; Montalembert, 1834; and Voltaire. The Vo was struck away from the wall by lightning in 1821, but has been completely replaced in stucco.

In Mechlin tower I noticed the initials I. R. in the deep sill of the staircase window; underneath is a slight design of a rose window, apparently sketched with the point of a compass.

Close inside the clock-tower of Antwerp Cathedral, and sheltered by the skeleton clock dial, although exposed to the weather, is scratched the name Darden, 1670. It is strange, but true, that what we condemn in tourists is regarded by us with interest when the tourist happens to be eminent, or even when he happens to have been dead for two or three hundred years.

For the sake of contrast, it may be worth while to look into one or two English belfries, before I close this paper. I will select St. Paul's, Westminster Abbey and the Clock Tower.

The bells of St. Paul's Cathedral are four in number; three belong to the clock, and hang in the south-west tower; one small one hangs alone in the north-west tower and is rung for service. The largest bell weighs over five tons, and is commonly supposed to have been recast from the metal of Great Tom of Westminster.

The truth seems to be as follows. Great Tom was no doubt at one time conveyed from Westminster to St. Paul's, but having cracked, it became necessary either to recast it or to procure a new one. The bell metal was considered so bad, that by the advice of Richard Phelps, the bell-founder, a new one was made for £627. He allowed 9½d. a pound for the old bell, but did not work up any of this metal for the present bell. This is quite certain, as I have the best authority for saying that the old bell was not removed until the new bell was delivered at the cathedral.

The inscription is perfectly legible, and as copied by me on a particularly bright morning, runs thus—

Richard Phelps made me 1716.

A common fleur-de-lis pattern runs round the top, varied only by the arms of the Dean and Chapter, whilst the bottom is decorated by a few straight lines. The bell has a very fine tone and is rung at the hour.

There is absolutely nothing to be said about the other bells, except that R. Phelps made them, and that they are all, more or less, out of tune in themselves and with each other—a fact which that truly musical people whose metropolis they adorn will probably be prepared to deny with a vehemence equally patriotic and superfluous.

(To be continued.)

SABBATH BELLS.

The cheerful Sabbath bells whenever heard
Strike pleasant on the sense, most like the voice
Of one, who from the far off hills proclaims
Tidings of good to Zion.

—Charles Lamb.

MORE ABOUT Q SETS.

We have, in some recent articles, explained the nature and use of Q Sets as sets of calls—usually of bobs, sometimes of singles, and occasionally of bobs and singles—which form the links by which natural courses are joined together. When this is realised, the real nature of composition is not difficult to understand.

But bobs are not always used in the form of Q Sets, and natural courses are not the only blocks which can be joined together by Q Sets.

If we write down the twelve even course-ends of Bob Major, and from each of them pick a 5-course block in which each course is called Wrong and Middle, we shall have the in-course extent of the method set down in twelve independent and mutually exclusive round blocks.

A similar group of twelve will be produced if we call each course Wrong, Middle and Right.

23456 W. M.	23456 W. M. R.
-------------	----------------

42635 — —	64235 — — —
64523 — —	52643 — — —
56342 — —	36524 — — —
35264 — —	45362 — — —
23456 — —	23456 — — —

In either of these two groups of twelve we shall find that the rows which form a Q Set are either all bobbed or all plained—that is a necessary condition of a true extent—but these rows have no connection with each other, and the Q Sets are not links in a composition. To that degree they are not Q Sets in the fullest sense.

Having got our group of twelve blocks, we can proceed to join them together. If we wish to keep the groups intact we must use Q Sets, and they can be in the first group, Q Sets of bobs at Right, or Q Sets of omits at Wrong or Middle. In the second group they must be Q Sets of omits at either Wrong, Middle or Right.

The same laws will apply when we are joining these blocks as apply when we are joining independent natural courses. So long as we keep the blocks intact we can join only an odd number, and eleven blocks (or 55 courses, which is 6,160 changes) is the extent which can be had.

Besides the twelve even blocks there are twelve odd blocks, and the twenty-four between them contain the extent of the method with the tenors together, or 13,440 changes.

By means of bobs or omits arranged in Q Sets and with the aid of singles it is quite a simple job to link up these twenty-four blocks and so get the extent. If we wish to use no more than two singles we must employ the combined Q Set (consisting of bob, single, bob, single) of which we spoke in recent articles.

Here is an example of an extent formed from the first set of twenty-four 5-course blocks.

(Continued in next column.)

BENJAMIN ANNABLE.

IN LIGHTER VEIN.

We naturally think of old Ben Annable as the dominating figure of eighteenth century bellringing, the great authority on composition, the stickler for good striking, and the martinet of the belfry. But he had a lighter side, and in his manuscript book, mixed up with the figures of methods and peals, he wrote out an old-fashioned homely ballad, which apparently he was going to sing at one of the College Youths' social gatherings.

It was a traditional song, like many more popular among the ordinary people, come down from past ages and belonging to the same class as those Ophelia and Desdemona sang in such tragic circumstances. It is interesting to see the popular opinion of tailors, and the origin of the proverb about nine tailors making a man, which had nothing to do with the nine tellers of the death bell.

On the opposite page to the verses Annable wrote 'Xmas' three or four times, and 'Amo, Amo, Amas.' We do not suppose his knowledge of Latin was very profound.

I am taller by the head than my sister Kate
And She has got a husband here of late.
With a Lulabaly Bye
She has better Luck than I.

I wonder wt. the meaning be
that men are not i' Love wth. me.
I have as Clean a Skin as She,
It is well known.

I might have had a taylor Long ago.
he asked me, but still I answered no.
I had Rather live a Maid
than wed a theiving trade.
For wh—y I hate them all.

Their Cabbage won't Agree with me.
It is a downright Theivery.
I Love an honest man Quoth she,
and ever Shall.

Was I to have my Choice of all mankind
give me a Lusty Sailor to my mind
They are noble hearts of Gold
and Scorn to be Controuled.
Whilst Bat—tle from their arms Secure.

Besides when they do Come on Shore
they Rant and make the taverns Roar.
One Sailor's worth eleven Score
of taylors sure.

THE VOICE OF THE BELLS.

Bell: thou soundest merrily
When the wedding party
To the church doth hie.
Bell! thou soundest solemnly
When on Sabbath morning
Fields deserted lie.

—Longfellow.

MORE ABOUT Q SETS.

(Continued from previous column.)

All the Q Sets at R when the 6th is a sixth's place bell are bobbed.

When the 6th is a fifth's place bell, the following Q Sets are bobbed:—

S 32564	43562	45362
53264	54362	34562
S 52364	35462	53462
35264		

If the student will write out the peal from these directions, he will learn a good deal about how extents are composed.

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LONDON CHURCHES OF THE EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY.

By RICHARD F. DEAL.

(Continued from page 172.)

All Saints', Poplar, consecrated 1823, is about the last important London church in which the Greek influence is seen. It is from the design of Charles Hollis. There is no record of any other work by him. The architectural interest does not extend beyond the west end, which has a fine portico of four fluted Ionic columns and a graceful tower and spire 161ft. high. The louvre windows are recessed between Corinthian columns and pilasters with good effect.

Exception might be taken to certain details, but on the whole there is much to admire in the steeple of Poplar. I like to approach it from the east on a misty morning, when it appears quite suddenly as we pass a place once known as the Iron Bridge, rising majestically above a collection of commonplace buildings. Its lightness and grace contrast with the ponderous character of its neighbour at Limehouse. It is one of the few architectural highlights of a dreary road punctuated by stumps of unfinished towers, four in as many miles.

St. James', Bermondsey (1829), is by James Savage, whose office is said to have been in Walbrook. Familiarity with Wren's little spire of St. Stephen's is perhaps sufficient reason for taking this as his model for the steeple of Bermondsey, which falls far short of the original in proportion and detail. His reason for terminating the steeple with a dragon (the emblem of the City of London) is not clear; I know of no connection between the city and Bermondsey to account for it. Perhaps Mr. Savage was inspired only by a friendly feeling for the more famous beast of the same species (about nine feet long) which graces the steeple of St. Mary-le-Bow.

Another church by the same designer, in a very different style, is St. Luke's, Chelsea (1820), which has a wide and lofty nave covered with fan vaulting of Perpendicular character, properly constructed of stone, a remarkable achievement for an age which was usually satisfied by imitations of such things in lath and plaster. The effect is spoilt by the inevitable galleries and the flat plaster ceilings over the aisles, and the vault itself would have been improved by greater height. Window tracery and other details are thin and mechanical, as usual in Gothic work of the time, but Mr. Savage left us quite a good tower, 142ft. to tops of pinnacles.

St. Dunstan's-in-the-East near Eastcheap, was restored by Wren after the Great Fire of 1666; all that remains of his work is the tower, designed in imitation of that of St. Nicholas', Newcastle, of course on a smaller scale. In the arrangement, fairly common in Scotland, but rarely found south of the Border, flying arches springing from the corners of the tower carry at their intersection a small open lantern and spire. A famous example is the 'crown' of St. Giles', Edinburgh. The Scottish

steeples of this type are not all of true arch construction, as are Newcastle and St. Dunstan's.

The church became dilapidated, and was taken down in 1817. It was rebuilt by David Laing (architect of the nearby Customs House), assisted by Mr. (afterwards Sir) William Tite, who many years later designed the Royal Exchange. The new church had few outstanding features, but contained good work of its kind, and it accorded well enough with Wren's tower and spire, which is about 180ft. to the vane.

At the other end of the city stands St. Dunstan's-in-the-West, consecrated July 31st, 1833. The architect, Mr. John Shaw, had then been dead exactly a year, and the work was finished by his son. St. Dunstan's, like St. Bride's, has associations with the Press. The ancient church narrowly escaped destruction in the Great Fire, and must eventually have become an obstruction to the traffic of Fleet Street, which would be reduced in effective width near this point by Temple Bar.

St. Dunstan's is a fair example of the Gothic of its time. From our point of view the chief feature is the tower, which, plain in the lower part, is elaborated in the upper stages by large and well proportioned louvre windows, and is terminated by a handsome open octagonal lantern, the whole reminiscent of Boston Stump.

It is quite likely that the designer was inspired by that grand work of the fifteenth century, and he may, too, have known one of the ancient parish church towers of York, which has a very similar lantern arrangement.

The church is octagonal in plan, the tower being on the south side. There are eight bells, cast at White-chapel in 1832, tenor 19 cwt. They have not been rung for many years, and one or two are cracked, probably through misuse. I think I have known only one ringer—the late Dan Lovett, of St. Sepulchre's—who could claim to have rung a peal at St. Dunstan's-in-the-West.

The thirty or forty years which followed the building of the Waterloo churches produced very little of interest to London ringers, and it was not until well into the second half of the century that the Gothic Revival brought out the fine work of Sir Gilbert Scott, G. E. Street, J. L. Pearson and others. This opens up yet another chapter in London's history of church building.

The churches briefly mentioned here have for the most part suffered only superficial damage during the recent troubled period, the exceptions being Waterloo and St. Dunstan's-in-the-East, but I believe in the former case the bells are intact.

St. Dunstan's had a fine eight originally by Rudhall. Church and bells were badly damaged by fire and high explosive, and the bells are now bricked up in the base of the tower.

It is, of course, impossible to foresee the eventual fate of St. Dunstan's, but whether the church is completely restored or not, we may reasonably hope that public opinion, perhaps supported by the influence of the Corporation, will ensure preservation of Wren's graceful tower.

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NOTICES.

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

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

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, April 24th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—E. Berks and S. Bucks Branch.—The annual meeting, Cookham, on Saturday, April 24th. Bells (silent) 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea for those who notify me. Business meeting to follow. Subscriptions now due. Annual reports can be obtained at meeting.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District.—A meeting will be held at Christ Church, Epsom, on Easter Monday, April 26th. Tower open for handbell ringing from 3.30 p.m. Service 5 p.m., followed by tea and meeting in Christ Church Parish Hall.—D. Cooper, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec., 51, Waddon Road, Croydon.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Albans, on Saturday, May 1st. Silent ringing at St. Peter's tower at 2.30 p.m. Choral evensong in the Cathedral 4 p.m. Preacher, Rev. D. Bickerton, Vicar of Redbourn. Tea and annual meeting at Waterend Barn, 5.30. Those who require tea must notify secretary not later than April 30th.—G. W. Cartmel, Hon. Sec., Duffield, St. Albans.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting will be held in the tower of St. Peter's, Brighton, on Saturday, May 1st. Handbells 3.30 p.m. Address by the Vicar of Brighton.—S. E. Armstrong, Hon. Gen. Sec.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held at Lincoln on May 1st. Meeting in the Cathedral Chapter House 3 p.m. Evensong 4 p.m. 'Silent' ringing on the Cathedral bells during the afternoon and evening. Will all members please make own arrangements for tea?—F. W. Stokes, Hon. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting will be held at Norwich on Saturday, May 1st. St. Giles' bells (silent) 1.45 p.m. Handbells in Cathedral 2.45 to 3. Evensong in Cathedral 3. Preacher, Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow. Tea and meeting at Cathedral Restaurant 4.15. Names for tea must be sent to me by April 26th. A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting will be held at Croydon on Saturday, May 1st. The tower of Croydon Parish Church will be open for handbell ringing at 3.30 p.m. Service at 5 p.m. Tea

at the Parish Hall, Sylverdale Road, followed by business meeting. Please notify Mr. D. Cooper, 51, Waddon Road, Croydon, for tea, not later than April 27th. Nominations for general officers to reach me at least 14 days before the meeting.—C. de Ste C. Parks, Assistant Sec., 44, Torr ridge Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Eastern Division.—Saturday, May 1st, at St. Peter's, Colchester. Handbells in the belfry 2.30 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting 4.15 p.m. at Crispin Court. Bring own food.—Leslie Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., 113a, Great Thurlow, Suffolk.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at Leicester (not Burton), Saturday, May 1st. Bells of St. John's (10), near Midland Station, and Cathedral (12) open for silent ringing, 2 p.m. to 4.45. Committee meet 4 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., followed by general meeting, in Cathedral Church House. Handbells, etc., afterwards. Only those who notify me by April 28th can be accommodated for tea at reasonable price.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec., 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting will be held at the Leeds and County Conservative Club, South Parade, Leeds, on Saturday, May 1st, at 3 p.m. A social evening on the same premises from 6-8.30 p.m. Handbells available. Tea obtainable at the many city cafes. Reports will be available, and subscriptions are now due.—L. W. G. Morris, Hon. Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting will be held at Leek on Saturday, May 1st, at 3.30 p.m. Handbells available. Will those requiring tea kindly notify Mr. E. A. Ridgway, 11, Shirley Street, Leek, Staffs, not later than April 27th?

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—The quarterly meeting will be held at SS. Peter and Paul's, Shoreham, near Sevenoaks, on Saturday, May 8th. Further particulars next week.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Hengist Road, Erith, Kent.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—A meeting will be held at Sedgley on Saturday, May 8th. Bells (silent) available at 3 o'clock. Service in church at 4.45, with address by Rev. T. H. H. Kilburn, B.A. (Vicar). At 5.30 cups of tea will be provided; please bring own sandwiches. Handbells available.—H. Knight, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual general meeting will be held at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, on Saturday, May 15th. Full particulars later.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Sec.

GREETINGS.

Easter greetings to all old ringing friends from Frederick S. Macey at University College Hospital, Private Wing, Grafton Way, W.C.1.

HALL GREEN, BIRMINGHAM.—On April 9th, at 92, Etwell Road, a quarter-peal of Plain Bob Minor (1,440 changes) in 39 minutes: *Arthur D. Cook 1-2, George E. Fearn 3-4. *Richard J. B. Hadden (conductor) 5-6. *First quarter-peal.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE,

'Not only bellringers, but many others will welcome this book.'—*The Times*.

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