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FRIDAY, MARCH 10th, 1944.

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CLIQUES.

On another page an old and valued correspondent calls attention to the famous bands of bygone years and what he considers was the shortness of their life. What was the reason, he asks, for this universally short tenure of a place at the top of the tree and the swift and sharp descent from it?

It is a question of more than merely historical interest, for before it can be answered other questions must be faced. What are the necessary conditions for producing one of these outstanding bands? What is the price that has to be paid? To what extent do they serve the best interests of the Exercise and the art of change ringing? These and other similar questions are of vital importance, and not the less so because, in effect, totally different answers have and are being given by people who approach them from different angles.

In order to form a band which can achieve performances of outstanding merit there must first of all be one or two men who are able to act as leaders, who can inspire others, and who are willing and anxious to devote the necessary time and trouble to the task. Then there must be others who are not only willing to follow the leaders, but must themselves be much above the average in ringing ability. That means there must be selection and there must be exclusion. This is where the difficulty comes in. If you want to ring a first class peal in a high class method you must have a first class band, and if all the ringing they do is to be of the same quality they must normally exclude from their ranks any ringers whose qualifications are not up to their standard.

The bare mention of such a thing is likely to raise a storm of protest in some quarters, but there is a good deal to be said for it. If the main object of change ringing is to be used in the service of the Church, then nothing but the best is good enough, and it would be quite right and proper if a rule, which is universal in the choirs of large and important churches, were extended to the belfries. This, however, in actual practice would only be fully possible in a very few exceptional cases. In the majority of belfries there is certain to be a great difference in the quality of the ringers and some who are not, and never will be, capable of taking part in really first class ringing. Not seldom these men are the last to recognise their shortcomings and deficiencies. What should be done? Get rid of or ignore the weak members and concentrate on those who are

(Continued on page 98.)

capable of forming a first class band? Or make the best of a bad job and be content with lower standards and lesser ambitions? Neither course is easy, and as a rule there is a compromise which works fairly well, but it does prevent many bands from reaching highest rank.

Now experience has abundantly shown that the existence of first class bands, with first class striking and first class method and peal ringing, is necessary to the life and wellbeing of the Exercise. They must be made up of men who are far more skilled than the average ringer, and therefore there must be selection and exclusion. How can they be formed, seeing that the necessary conditions are so rarely present in belfries? The only possible solution has, we think, been found by the Exercise, and it consists in those loosely connected bands, the members of which are drawn from various towers and are connected solely by ties of friendship and the ambition to ring peals. The class of bands which in some quarters are disparagingly termed cliques.

Theoretically it is anything but an ideal solution, and it is liable to abuse, but it has many advantages. The members meet each other because they desire each other's company. There is no question of 'rights,' and selection and exclusion are the necessary means by which the company is formed. Outsiders may be jealous, but they cannot claim that any of their rights are infringed. By means of these bands the life of the Exercise can be sustained, and standards maintained and raised. But only on one condition. The men who form a clique must never forget that they owe loyalty and service to their own home belfry and are bound to do what they can to help on those who are not so fortunate and not so skilled as they are themselves. Let us hasten to add that they seldom fail in their duty, and the members of the best cliques are just the men who do the most to improve service ringing by parochial bands.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

PRESTBURY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
Cheltenham Branch.

On Tues., Feb. 29, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S VARIATION.		Tenor 14 cwt.	
WALTER YEEND Treble	ARTHUR REED	5
WILFRED WILLIAMS	2	FRANK PRICE	6
WILLIAM DYER	3	WALTER C. ROSE	7
CHARLES W. MARTIN	4	*FRANK PENDRY	Tenor

Conducted by WILFRED WILLIAMS.

* First peal.

SOUTH WIGSTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Mar. 4, 1944, in Three Hours,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

JOHN E. CLARKE Treble	*WILLIAM J. ROOT	5
SIDNEY COX	2	WILLIAM A. WOOD	6
CHARLES MARSHALL	3	WALTER P. WHITEHEAD	7
CECIL E. CARR	4	W. ARTHUR RIDDINGTON	Tenor

Composed by J. CARTER. Conducted by W. ARTHUR RIDDINGTON.

* First peal in the method. Rung for the birth of a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Riddington and to celebrate Mr. John E. Clarke's 60 years as a ringer.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuces., Feb. 29, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes,
AT 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.		Tenor size 15.	
EDWIN JENNINGS	1-2	ERNEST C. S. TURNER	5-6
HAROLD G. CASHMORE	3-4	*MAURICE F. R. HIBBERT	7-8

Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

* First peal on handbells.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tues., Feb. 29, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,
AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATER, 5003 CHANGES;

ERIC A. DENCH	1-2	JOHN THOMAS	5-6
MRS. J. THOMAS	3-4	ALBERT J. WALLMAN	7-8
		DENNIS H. LANGDON	9-10

Composed by F. G. MAY.

Conducted by J. THOMAS.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Tues., Feb. 29, 1944, in Two Hours,
AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

BETTY SPICE	1-2	JOHN E. SPICE	5-6
MARGARET D. TELFORD	3-4	JOAN HOULDSWORTH	7-8

Composed by W. HARRISON.

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

The first peal in the method by all the band and for the society.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Sun., Mar. 5, 1944, in Two Hours and Three Minutes,
AT EXETER COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF SPLICED PLAIN AND KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*MARGARET D. TELFORD	1-2	JOHN E. SPICE	5-6
WILLIAM L. B. LEESE	3-4	*ALAN WHITE	7-8

Composed by A. J. PITMAN.

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal in more than one method. The first peal of Spliced for the society, and the first of Spliced Plain Bob and Kent to be rung on handbells. This peal contains 1,696 changes of Kent Treble Bob and 72 changes of method.

HANDLING A BELL.

RAISING AND PEASING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Would it explain the point in dispute between Mr. Biffin and the writer of the article on preliminary instruction that the former meant raising and lowering bells in peal, while the latter referred to the operation being done on bells singly? We in the South-West before and after ringing invariably raise and lower all the bells in rounds, for which purpose each ringer before raising takes up a coil of rope which is gradually released as the bells rise, and in lowering gathers up a coil as the bells fall. This method, if properly done, can be very pleasing to listeners, but it depends on the force used with each pull to produce accurate timing in the process.

In raising and lowering his bell singly the ringer naturally wants to get it done as soon as possible, so it is immaterial whether he does it with a coil or a loose end, and as only two or three bells are done at once there is little risk of the ropes being entangled.

Exeter.

T. LAVER.

SCUNTHORPE, Lincs.—On Saturday, February 19th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: F. Lord 1, C. B. Chester 2, *Rev. A. Muxlow 3, M. Lings (first in method) 4, G. E. Feirn 5, G. W. Moody 6, J. Bray (conductor) 7, *G. Thompson 8. * First quarter-peal.

HALESOWEN.—On Sunday, February 20th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: A. H. Harris 1, A. Timmins 2, A. Greenhall 3, J. H. Cox (conductor) 4, H. Shilvoek 5, T. Greenhall 6, W. H. Webb 7, R. Ingram 8.

THE 'TOP OF THE TREE.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The able articles we have recently had on 'Handling a Bell' have provoked in me some musings at the other end of the scale—the short life enjoyed by practically all the expert bands during our history.

In my early days London Surprise Major was the top of the ringing tree, and by 1890, when I was learning to pull a bell, only four companies had reached that goal—Norwich, Woolwich, Benington and Burton-on-Trent. Cambridge Major, by the same date, had been achieved by only five—Benington, Burton, Oxford, Royal Cumberlands and Duffield—and Superlative by nine or ten.

Since that time many of us can remember the rise of a host of followers, and to all 'Ichabod' can be written against their names. Think of some of them—Norwich, Woolwich, Benington, Burton, Oxford, Duffield, Brighton, Kidderminster, Saffron Walden, Gloucester, Newcastle, Crawley, St. Stephen's, Westminster, Bristol, Hughenden, Caversham, Whitley Bay, Fulham, Leiston and others. These were all more or less resident bands, and, therefore, no mention is made of companies practising in the London area and others built up on similar composite lines. Omitted also are the names of one or two 12-bell bands, some of whose member side-tracked and rang Major. By 1939 most of these once famous bands had passed into oblivion and their achievements unknown by younger generations and probably forgotten by the older ones.

It recalls old William Estcourt's historic and prophetic words after the record Stedman Cinques at Painswick—'I have brought you to the top of the tree, and you will go down quicker than you climbed up.' There must be reasons for this universally short tenure of a place at the top of the tree and the swift and sharp descent from it. Is it that one man alone in the company has had all the drive and progressive qualities necessary for welding a team together and to bring it to the top, and when he suspends activities from one cause or another the whole drops to pieces? It certainly was so in the case of the three oldest companies—Thurston at Norwich, Banister at Woolwich, and Squire Proctor at Benington—and I suspect the same applies to most of the others.

Henry Hubbard, of Norwich, took part in the second peal of Superlative and the first of London, and in the 1845 edition of his book on ringing says, 'They have been much practised in Norwich, inasmuch as 5,376 of the former and 5,280 of the latter were rung by the same persons, the accomplishment of which required much labour and perseverance.' And yet they were content with one peal of each. A pity Thurston died at so early an age. His band grasped Cambridge and attempted a first peal in the method and failed, and apparently tried no more. A sorry job, considering Middleton's immortal composition was born in the city!

I have mentioned that one or two 12-bell bands had side-tracked to Surprise Major. This, to my mind, is a doubtful experiment. A 12-bell band needs to be very strong in the back to do this and maintain 12-bell ringing at the same time. In this connection I recall sentiments expressed by the late Henry Swain, a prominent Royal Cumberland, in the last century. His portrait and memoir appeared in 'The Bell News' many years ago, and a paragraph in that memoir said that 'during his membership the society had several times been brought near to dissolution as a 12-bell company, owing to certain members forming a smaller clique and practising advanced Major methods.' Speaking generally, maintenance of 12-bell ringing is a full-time job, and leaves no room for variety on lesser numbers.

Going back to Superlative for a moment, we know the figures first appeared in the 1788 'Clavis,' and we know the vast amount of it rung to-day. It seems, therefore, unbelievable, but is nevertheless true, that I have rung on more than one occasion (and you, too, Mr. Editor, I believe) with the conductor of one of the earliest peals—the sixth—rung in the method! The top of the tree of earlier times has now sprouted to loftier heights with the advent of Spiced Surprise in a multiplicity of methods, and when things get going again we may well wish that bands who reach the topmost branches will thoroughly dig themselves in and enjoy a far longer life than the ones of past days. The moral of all this is fairly obvious! 'B.'

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT HEADINGLEY.

A meeting of the Leeds and District Amalgamated Society was held at St. Michael's, Headingley, on February 26th, at which members were present from Armley, Bradford, Bramley, Burley, Drighlington, Headingley (St. Chad's), Leeds Parish Church, Selby, Wakefield and the local tower.

At the business meeting, held in the belfry, Mr. Senior, the vice-president, took the chair. The election of Mr. John Silk, of Selby, was confirmed, and the secretary reported the receipt of replies to letters sent to Mr. J. F. Harvey and the executors of the late Mr. G. Titterton. Thanks were given to the Vicar and churchwardens, and to the local company, especially Mr. Johnson and Mr. Talbot, on the proposition of Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. H. Morley.

The next meeting will be at Armley on March 25th, at which nominations should be made for the election of the officers.

THE BEST PEAL OF BELLS.

RINGS IN WALES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The quest of Mr. Sharpe for the best bells in the different parts of the country does not appear to be new, and the bells of Laleston Church, near Bridgend, were reputed in the 18th century to be the sweetest in Glamorgan. Wil Hopcyn, the bard of Llangytwydd, described them as 'Wychion chwirydu—chwech yn chwarae' in his native tongue (Beautiful sisters—six—playing together).

What does Mr. W. A. Coles, of Hayes, mean about the bells of Aberystwyth? I was not aware that this beautiful holiday resort had any bells. Recently a local lady resident left a sum of money in her will to install a ring of bells at Holy Trinity Church, and I presume that we shall have to wait before this bequest can be carried out. Has Mr. Coles confused the ring of eight at Llanbadarn Fawr, a small place two miles out of Aberystwyth? This ring is of very pleasing tone, and the church, dedicated to St. Padarn, has a central tower which no doubt Mr. Morris will deal with in his series.

EDWARD J. THOMAS.

Elephant and Castle, Carmarthen.

KENT, SUSSEX AND SURREY.

Dear Sir,—I have been very interested to read in recent issues of 'The Ringing World' letters concerning which is the best ring of bells in various parts of the country, and should like to offer my opinions of a few towers in my own part of the country.

I agree with Mr. Coles that eight is the ideal number of bells for a ring, and that for tone the tenor should weigh from 20 to 30 cwt. Leaving out the glorious 12 at Canterbury Cathedral, I think that the finest bells in Kent for their weight (tenor 20½ cwt.) are the Simpson tuned eight at Wrotham. Unfortunately, these bells are very difficult to hear in the ringing chamber—a west gallery—and they would be greatly improved by having an amplifier fitted, as Mr. Chaddock suggests for these cases.

As regards Sussex, I think the glorious eight at East Grinstead (tenor 23½ cwt.) take some beating, with the eight at Withyham, not far away (tenor 18 cwt.), a close second.

Surrey has many fine rings, but I think that the honours go to the 12 and 10 bell towers of St. John's and St. Peter's, Croydon. These latter bells are, I believe, Simpson tuned (I am not sure about St. John's), and are a grand compliment to Gillett and Johnston's.

Although owing to the ban I have not had many opportunities of hearing bells in other parts of the country, among the best of the few I have heard (leaving out the heavier rings) are the eight in the new tower at Rugby (Warwick), tenor 2½ cwt.; St. Cuthbert's, Edinburgh (8, tenor 20 cwt.); Ross-on-Wye, Hereford (8, tenor 24½ cwt.); and St. Mary Magdalene's, Launceston, Cornwall (8, tenor 17½ cwt.). Of the 10-bell peals I have heard, I think both for tone and go that All Saints', Fulham (Middlesex), tenor 21½ cwt., impressed me the most, but as I heard very few 12-bell rings, I will not venture to offer an opinion.

Concerning six-bell towers, I think one of the loveliest little rings I have heard are the recently augmented ring at Cranford, Middlesex. For their weight (tenor 8 cwt. approx.) these bells are a treat both to ring on and listen to, while of the heavier rings of six I think that for beauty of tone Horsmonden, Kent (tenor 19½ cwt. in D), are the finest in the district.

PETER N. BOND.

Bosham, near Chichester.

ACOUSTICS OF THE BELFRY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to Mr. W. H. Southard's letter re the peal of eight where the trebles cannot be properly heard, I have recently had a case somewhat similar that I am glad to say I have cured. If Mr. Southard would care to send me the following particulars I will do my best to help him:—

1. How much clearance is there between the top of the wheels of the treble, 2nd and 3rd bells to the bottom of the girders or beams that support the bells in the upper frame?

2. How many openings are there for letting the sound out, and are they above the top bells, on a level with them, or below the bells when they are set on end, and what are the dimensions of them?

3. What are the dimensions of the bell chamber?

4. Are there any openings that sound can get out of, about on a level with the three small bells?

5. Could Mr. Southard send me a rough plan of both frames and show the window openings in relation to them?

JOHN H. B. HESSE.

Wood View, Wroughton.

DEATH OF MR. ARTHUR H. WHITE.

The death is announced of Mr. Arthur H. White, of Aldrington, Sussex, who passed away on February 16th after a very short illness, at the age of 53. Mr. White joined the band at St. Leonard's, Aldrington, in 1909, and became captain in 1911. The funeral was on February 22nd and before the service the bells were rung half-muffled.

PAUL REVERE.

BY DR. ARTHUR H. NICHOLS.

(Continued from page 91.)

It is certain that Revere was a practical ringer, having been a member of the guild which had charge of the eight sweet-toned bells of Christ Church, cast 1744 by Rudhall. These bells, moreover, together with those of the West Church and the First Church of Roxbury from the same foundry, supplied him with perfect models. In other Boston steeples, moreover, were suspended some of the best productions of the Whitechapel foundry; and he even took pains to import a model bell from the foundry of Warner, Cripplegate, sold in 1795 to the North Congregational Society of Newburyport.

With resourceful industry Revere sought persistently to correct and improve his methods. In 1804 he sent his son, Joseph Warren Revere, then associated with him in business, to visit the principal foundries in England and the Continent, and from information thus gleaned and increasing experience he was enabled after a few years to turn out superior instruments, of which his masterpiece still booms out from the massive tower of King's Chapel, filling the neighbourhood with its dignified mellow reverberation. The following is the contract, contained in Revere's stock book for supplying this bell:—

'Agreement made this twenty-sixth day of December, 1815, by and between Aaron Dexter and Joseph May in behalf of the proprietors of King's Chapel of the one part and Paul Revere and Son of the other part.

'The said Paul Revere and Son agree to take the Church Bell, now belonging to King's Chapel and pay therefor twenty-five cents per pound: they also engage to convey the said Bell to their Foundry, and form an exact mould there of: and with the whole metal of the old Bell and as small addition of other suitable metal, they engage to cast a new Bell which shall in all respects, size, shape, weight, and tone, resemble, as exactly as possible the present Bell, as it was when unbroken. The new Bell shall be examined and compared with the old one by the said Dexter and May or any three Judges whom they may appoint, and if approved of, the said Dexter and May shall pay there for forty one and two thirds cents, per pound at the end of one year from the time of receiving said Bell; which shall be warranted by the said Paul Revere and Son to be merchantable, strong, sound, and free from all latent defects. The old Bell to be delivered, and the new one to be received at the door of King's Chapel in Boston.

Aa. Dexter,
Jos. May,
Paul Revere & Son.'

Witness George Cabot.

The peculiarity in the sound of this bell not having escaped notice, gave rise to some unfavourable criticism, as indicated by the following letter preserved among Revere's papers:—

'Boston, Oct. 28, 1816. Sir, Since the arrival of the New Bell at the Old South much has been said respecting the one you cast for the Stone Chapel—I assure you as a friend and for the future credit of your Foundry, that it is highly necessary you should do something to harmonize the sound and give it greater power of vibration, if ever you wish to have your name celebrated as a Bell Founder. I am a friend to all American manu-

facturers and strongly advocated in your behalf, that you should have the recasting of the Bell—but I am sorry to say, I am sorely disappointed in my expectations and I beg you to consider that this Hint is from a friend, who ardently wishes you success and I hope all expense on your part will not come in contact with your future interest and celebrity—I do not speak my own sentiments only—on this evidence only I should not have presumed to have addressed you, but I speak the sentiments of hundreds, and have delayed until the present moment, hoping some arrangement would have taken place between you and the Church, but as nothing has been done, I hope your own pride will be roused to pay due attention to this sincere but friendly Hint. Anon.'

If it is not too late to reply to this criticism, it may be explained that as regards length of vibration, it is true that this is shorter than many of the older bells then heard in Boston, and which the anonymous critic had probably in mind as a standard of comparison. Mines no longer produced the elastic copper used by the older founders. Hence, in order to increase the brittleness of the amalgam, it became necessary to add to the proportion of copper, and this addition doubtless impaired the duration of vibration. Compared, on the other hand, with the products of modern founders, this bell is of fairly long duration, powerful and mellow.

It can be demonstrated, moreover, that the writer's condemnation of the harmonic sounds of the bell is still less justifiable. It happens that these sounds were studied and recorded by the late H. P. Munroe, who was endowed with a phenomenal perception of the overtones of bells, a talent exercised for many years in the tuning department of the Blake Bell Foundry. Incidentally, it may be mentioned that the tones and overtones of a bell can be best demonstrated by sounding a trombone or violin within a foot of the instrument, when, in accordance with the law of synchronous vibration, each separate sound will be clearly drawn out.

By this method Munroe showed that the lowest sound of this bell (drone) is G flat; the next, or fundamental, note is slightly below E flat; the third sound is A flat; the next a little below F on the fifth line; and the highest C above the F, which is also a little flat.

Now, while this combination of sounds forms unquestionably a harmonious discord heard with the impact of a clapper, this discord is resolved as the overtones die away, and the ear is thereby delighted by this unique and charming sequence of harmonic effect, not unlike that prominent in competitions dealing with counterpoint. It is therefore this accidental combination of sounds, which no calculation could reproduce, that imparts a brilliant characteristic to King's Chapel bell, enabling it to be identified even when heard from afar. Fortunately, it has received good care and is in perfect condition.

From the stock book of Paul Revere and Son it appears that between the years 1792 and 1828, three hundred and ninety-eight bells were cast at their foundry. Of these the heaviest, weighing 2,884 pounds (25 $\frac{3}{4}$ cwt.), was sent to Providence R.I. Many of the lighter bells were shipped to Cuba and Puerto Rico for use on sugar plantations. In 1804 the foundry was transferred to Revere's estate in Canton, still owned by his descendants.

Paul Revere died in 1818, and the business was carried on thereafter by his son, Joseph, till 1828, when it was

conveyed to the Revere Copper Company, which never undertook bell casting. Bells from this foundry were inscribed in flat Roman letters with no attempt at ornamentation: 'Paul Revere,' 'Paul Revere & Son,' or 'Revere & Co.' but followed almost without exception by the date of the casting. They can thus be distinguished by those cast by an older son, Paul, associated with his father, until 1801, but who later cast bells on his own account, which were usually inscribed Revere, and rarely bore a date. On the inner waist of many bells can still be discerned the figures in blue chalk written at the time of casting to record the weight.

In the endeavour to trace the subsequent history of Revere's bells the writer has made many personal ascents of many towers, and addressed circulars to clergymen and town officials, to whom he is indebted for many details. It would be an ungracious task to describe the neglected disorderly condition of most church towers visited. Many steeples were so faultily designed as to be virtually inaccessible, or approached only by a ladder from the ridge pole of the main edifice. Circuitous narrow passages leading to the belfry are often made the receptacle of combustible rubbish, the accumulation of many years, all covered with grime, soot, dirt and dust. In one tower inspected the conditions were so bad that canvas suits were provided for the benefit of visitors wishing to mount the steeple, and were found as necessary as in the descent of a coal mine.

Under these circumstances it can easily be imagined how little attention is bestowed upon the bells, which were found with appurtenances loose and unadjusted; or perhaps the clapper, worn at the crown staple, had dropped down so as to strike near the rim of the bell,

thus emitting a faulty sound or even detaching fragments of the metal.

In no single instance was there found a genuine bell rope in use like those made for at least a century in England, and which is absolutely necessary for the safe and easy management of the bell. Modern American founders ignore the existence of bell ropes and, fancying that a bell should be tucked up in a curved yoke and hauled back and forth like a suspended cart wheel, supply invariably an ordinary rope of three times the required weight, with a superfluous coil resting on the floor. The experienced ringer, on the other hand, knows that when the bell is hung upon the principle of the pendulum the friction at its gudgeons or bearings is reduced to a minimum, while the rapidity of rotation imparts a distinct superiority of tone.

The thickness of the rope should in reality be determined not by the weight of the bell, but by the force of the ringer in pulling. In other words, the measurement of the strength required for a rope should not much exceed the degree of force required to control the bell. Hence, for a bell of average weight and properly suspended the rope should not exceed twice the thickness of a sash cord. Greater thickness is, of course, desirable at the points where the rope is grasped by the ringer, which is obtained by interweaving wool to form what is called the tufting. (To be continued.)

LEFT OR RIGHT?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have always understood a right-handed ringer has his right hand at top and tail end of rope in his left, and a left-handed ringer has his left hand at top with the tail in his right, but what is wrong with left or right as long as he makes a good job of his striking and makes his rope run nice and does not try to hang his fellow ringer?

E. C. GOBEY.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

.....

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MUFFLES,
Etc.

'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The official journal of the Central Council of
Church Bell Ringers.

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Members of the Middlesex County Association are asked to note
that the meeting arranged for Feltham will be held on March 18th,
not on March 11th as advertised last week.

By a stupid oversight, a quarter-peal of Bristol Surprise Major
was included among the quarter-peals of Treble Bob Major we recently
published. The calling, 1W, 1R, 2W, 2R repeated, produces as the
second course end 32546, which is one of the courses false against the
plain course, and as both are rung from Middle to Wrong there is
internal repetition.

HOW FAR CAN BELLS BE HEARD?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—One Saturday afternoon, in the summer of 1891, Mr.
Lindoff and myself were at Harwich, attempting a peal on St.
Nicholas' Church bells (which, by the way, came to grief). After-
wards, while standing on the Harwich sea front, we suddenly heard
some bells, and after listening for a time we thought they must be
the bells of St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, and, further, we distinguished
the method as Double Norwich Maximus. On the next day (Sunday)
we took the boat to Ipswich, and on visiting the tower for evening
service ringing we found we were correct, both with the sound of the
bells and the method rung, as the Ipswich company confirmed this.
(This peal attempt also was lost.)

Now, sir, the distance as the crow flies is about 12 miles, and both
the late Mr. J. Motts and Mr. W. Catchpole told us that when the
wind was right this had been heard there many times before.

R. W. STANNARD.

133, Beccles Drive, Barking.

USEFUL ARTICLES.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Thank you for the highly entertaining articles on Paul Revere.
I must add my congratulations to the rather embarrassing number
you have already received on the diversity and interest of the articles
which reach us week by week.

In particular I would like to mention the value of the Sunday
service touches which appear from time to time and whose usefulness
certainly cannot be measured by the small space they take up. It
would be a fine thing if you could eventually publish them in a per-
manent pocket format. I believe a collection of such touches would
prove useful both for ringing at services and meetings. Such a
publication, but for the war, would have appeared, together with a
series of others: doubtless the time is not far distant when surplus
energy (and money!) may be diverted into such channels.

NOLAN GOLDEN.

The Cottage, Checkendon Court, near Reading.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT HAWKHURST.

A meeting of the Tonbridge District of the Kent County Association
was held at Hawkhurst on February 26th and was attended by 21
members from Bexhill, Benenden, Horsmonden, Lamberhurst,
Lewisham, Tunbridge Wells, East Peckham, Wadhurst, Thorne, Yorks,
and the local belfry, as well as Mr. T. E. Sone, of Paddock Wood.
The Vicar took the chair at the meeting, at which Mr. E. Woodage,
of Lamberhurst, was elected a member, and Shipbourne was selected
as the place of the next meeting.

RULES OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

The rules of the Central Council are given below for the benefit of members and secretaries of affiliated societies. Special attention is called to Nos. 3, 5, 7 and 10.

1. The Council shall be known as the 'Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.'

2. The Council shall consist: (1) Of Representative Members elected by affiliated Societies. (2) Of Honorary Members, not exceeding twenty in number, elected by the Council. Any recognised Society, Association or Guild of Church Bellringers (hereinafter referred to under the general term 'Society'), numbering not less than seventy-five members, shall, upon application, if eligible, be affiliated to the Council, and shall subscribe to an undertaking loyally to abide by the rules and decisions of the Council.

Affiliated Societies shall be entitled to elect representatives in the following proportion:—

A Society, the number of whose members is 75 or over, but does not exceed 150, one Representative; exceeds 150 but does not exceed 300, two Representatives; exceeds 300 but does not exceed 450, three Representatives; exceeds 450, four Representatives.

Four Representatives shall be the limit of representation allowed any one Society.

For the purpose of this rule the basis of calculation of members for territorial and diocesan societies shall be the number of annual subscribing honorary and ringing members, and resident life members.

No representative member shall be eligible as an honorary member.

The voting powers of honorary members shall be equal with those of representative members.

(Note.—Here and elsewhere in these Rules the word 'member' shall be taken as meaning 'member of the Council.')

3. The election of representative members shall take place triennially, at least four weeks before the commencement of each triennial session, and the names and addresses of those elected shall forthwith be forwarded to the Secretary of the Council. In the event of a vacancy the new member shall be elected only for the unexpired period of the triennium.

4. Honorary members shall be elected for three years and, on retiring, shall be eligible for re-election (retirement and election taking effect as from the end of the annual meeting), provided that any honorary member who during his term of office may be elected a representative member shall, *ipso facto*, vacate his honorary membership. The Council may fill a vacancy among the honorary members at any annual meeting of the Council.

5. All societies returning representative members to the Council shall contribute annually, in January, 5s. on behalf of each representative member to which they are entitled, to meet the expenses of conducting the business of the Council, and no representative member shall be entitled to speak or vote at an annual meeting of the Council until the subscription of the Society he represents be paid.

6. The Council shall meet once annually, about Whitsuntide, in some convenient centre, as agreed upon at the previous meeting, but the Meeting following the Triennial Election shall always be in London. Any meeting of the Council may be extended to additional sittings on the same or the following day on a motion for adjournment being put and carried. The President shall have power, in case of emergency, to call special meetings of the Council, and he shall at any time summon such a special meeting on receipt of a requisition signed by twelve members.

7. At the Annual Meeting next after each Triennial Election a President, an Honorary Secretary, who shall also act as Treasurer,

and an Honorary Librarian shall be chosen from among the members to serve for three years. In the event of the President, Honorary Secretary or Honorary Librarian vacating office before the expiration of the three years, the ensuing meeting shall elect a member to fill the vacancy during the remainder of the period. The retiring President, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Librarian shall be eligible for re-election at the expiration of their term of office. The President shall retire from the chair immediately his successor in office is elected but the Honorary Secretary shall continue in office till the business of the meeting is concluded. All nominations for these offices shall be sent to the Honorary Secretary, signed by two members of the Council, not less than two calendar months previous to the meeting, and such nominations shall appear on the agenda paper. The next business after the election of the President and Honorary Secretary shall be the election of honorary members.

8. The Council shall triennially appoint at the London Meeting two Auditors, who shall audit the Annual Accounts of the Council and report to each Annual Meeting.

9. The Council shall appoint a Standing Committee and shall have power to appoint Committees for any purpose for which it may appear desirable; and also, if the state of the funds permit, to allow the necessary expenses of holding the Committee Meetings. Each Committee shall appoint a convener and shall report annually to the Council. All reports, except that of the Standing Committee, shall be made in writing to the Honorary Secretary at least 14 days before the meeting. Such reports as have not previously been published or circulated shall be read at the meeting.

10. All resolutions to be proposed shall be sent to the Honorary Secretary in writing, signed by two members of the Council, not less than two calendar months previous to the meeting, and shall be placed by him on the agenda, together with the names of the proposer and seconder of the resolution. But it shall be competent, on a vote of the majority of the meeting, for the Council to discuss a subject not upon the agenda paper, provided such subject does not affect the Rules or Constitution of the Council.

11. At the meetings of the Council the President shall take the chair, and in the event of his absence the members present shall elect a Chairman for that meeting. The Chairman shall have a casting vote. Twenty members shall form a quorum. Every new member, whether representative or honorary, shall, before taking his seat, be introduced by a member to the President, or, in the absence of the President, to the Chairman of the meeting.

12. Each member shall have one vote.

13. Full notice of the date, arrangements and agenda for each meeting shall be advertised in the ringing papers approximately seven weeks previous to such meeting, but it shall not be incumbent on the Honorary Secretary to send notice to each member. The names of the members present and the business transacted at each meeting shall be entered in the minute book and reported to the ringing paper. Copies of the resolutions passed by the Council shall be forwarded to the affiliated societies as soon as is convenient after the meeting.

14. At each Annual Meeting the Honorary Secretary and Treasurer shall submit the audited statement of accounts for the previous year for adoption by the meeting.

15. Alterations in the Rules of the Council shall be made only at the Annual Meetings, and every notice of a proposed alteration shall be sent to the Honorary Secretary, as laid down in Rule 10. All alterations in the Rules of the Council shall be passed by a majority of two-thirds of those present and voting.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Let me add my difficulties to those of the Rev. E. S. Powell, and let me add two more reasons why the Council should not meet on Whit Monday.

As Mr A. V. Davis says on the same page, though in another context, 'Service ringing comes first.' This rules out Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays in peace time for Council meetings. For one cannot ring on Sunday, and get there or back, from the other end of England, maybe, if the Council meets on those days. And in war time such a restriction is even more necessary, for it is harder than ever to get anyone to fill one's place.

We are asked, at this crisis, to avoid travelling as much as possible, and especially on holidays. Ringers rightly pride themselves above all things on being loyal, and I am sure would avoid having meetings on holidays. Not only would the difficulty of getting on to trains or buses be insuperable (especially for us older ones), but where are we to get anything to eat or drink?

So far from the Council itself meeting on a holiday, I would ask the Standing Committee to advise all societies to avoid such days for their meetings this summer.

The end of September is the earliest time for the Council to have anything like a useful meeting, unless there is a great and unexpected change in our national outlook.

HERBERT DRAKE.

Ufford Rectory.

ACOUSTICS OF THE BELFRY.

TRURO CATHEDRAL.

Some time before the last war in a conversation with the late John W. Taylor, he told me he had just had what was for him a rather curious experience.

He had just been to the opening of the new bells at Truro Cathedral, and when he was inspecting the finished job, he had great doubts as to whether the bells would be heard sufficiently in the ringing chamber, owing to the heavy stone vaulting. But when the bells were pulled off, to his astonishment the noise was deafening. There seemed no reason for it and he could not account for it in any way.

He had to leave early to get back to Loughborough; on his journey he pondered the matter deeply, and at last he saw light. When he changed trains at Bristol he telegraphed to Dick Lane, the bellhanger, 'Look at the rope shoots.' These had been made and fixed by a local firm, and, as Mr. Taylor had guessed, were four-sided tubes instead of the usual open channels. The result was that they acted like the old-fashioned speaking tubes and brought the sound directly from the bells to the ringing room.

After so many years the details of my meeting and talk with Mr. Taylor are blurred in my memory, but the main features are distinct enough. Here is an example of how easy it is to cure the defect of inaudible bells in the ringing chamber. The device has often been used and can be completely successful.

J. A. T.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 93.)

The Church of St. George, Anstey, Hertfordshire, is a cruciform edifice of flint and stone, with a central embattled tower supported on four Norman arches. On the external south-west angle of the south transept is a turret forming a three-quarter circle with a loop-hole window which, opening into the transept, led by a winding stairway to the priests' chamber. It was afterwards used as a way of access to the belfry until the lowering of the roof in 1831, and the substitution of an internal ladder rendered it useless.

As early as 1552 there were here 'iiij bells in the steeple' which number, if Chauncey is correct, was increased to five before 1700, in which year the present treble—making six—was added. The bells are now dated:—treble 1700; second 1778, by Pack and Chapman; third, 1764, by Lester and Pack; fourth and fifth, 1616, and tenor undated. The latter is an interesting ancient bell with an invocation to 'Sancte George' and the capitals are crowned. It is in bold Gothic letters, while the second line gives the name of the donor, Sir Richard Pantan.

The Norman church of St. Mary, Ellesmere, Shropshire, has a broad central tower, which is a solid structure supported by four arches, also presumably Norman. From the ground floor to the commencement of each arch it is about 10 feet; to the apex of each about 30 feet; and to the ringing room floor 32 feet, while the tower extends to a height of approximately 73 feet. It appears somewhat taller on account of its situation on fairly high ground overlooking the Mere.

The tower is approached by means of a spiral stone stairway on the south side of the church. These steps actually continue up the short separate spire of and on to the roof of St. Anne's or Oteley Chapel, situate at the south-east corner of the church. To reach the central tower, however, a left turn is made about halfway up them. A few more steps are then ascended, when a narrow flat passage is reached. This passage is inside one of the interior walls and leads to more spiral steps. The latter continue up the south-west corner of the central tower, past the doors of the ringing room, clock room, bell chamber and on to the leads on top. On the west side of the passage referred to, which is about ten feet in length, there are three long windows of thick plain glass, from which can be viewed the greater portion of the aisles in the interior of the church below. The only window in the ringing room looks out to the south, a few feet above the almost flat roof of St. Anne's Chapel.

There are eight bells, tenor approximately 21 cwt. in E. The treble, 4th, 5th and 6th are by Thomas Rudhall, 1768; the 2nd, 3rd and 7th are by Abraham Rudhall and dated 1727, and the tenor was recast by J. Rudhall in 1799. They were overhauled by Mears and Stainbank in 1894, but still hang in the original old oak frame upon which someone has carved the date 1712.

Shortly after the recasting of three bells in 1727 the society succeeded in ringing a peal thus recorded on a tablet still in the belfry: 'The Whole Peal of Grand-sire Triples was (on the 4th day of Feby., 1730,

within the space of three hours & 5 minutes) compleatly rung by the following Persons. Joseph Langford: Thomas Franks: John Sadler: Thos. Kynaston: Willm. Gough: Willm. Davies: Thos. Sadler: Jas. Eaton.' In the ringing room also is a board bearing typical Salop 'Ringers' Rules' in rhyme.

Although the bells go well, only some eight or so peals have been rung here, possibly because the village is rather off the beaten track. They include Grand-sire Triples, Kent Treble Bob, Double Norwich and Stedman. Of the latter, the last, rung on July 1st, 1939, was the quickest, being rung in 2 hours 56 minutes. For many years (until 1920) there was only a 'stoney' band of ringers, but Mr. T. Butler, sen., started a change-ringing team with good success. Although many of the band are now serving in the Forces, it is hoped ere long to have a re-union. Meanwhile, a number of new recruits are coming along.

The magnificent church of St. George, Doncaster, Yorks, with its lofty central tower, was entirely destroyed by a disastrous fire which occurred on February 28th, 1853. It was rebuilt by Sir Gilbert Scott in 1858, and is a very handsome edifice. The approach to the ringing chamber is thus described: A flight of stone steps is entered from outside, and at the top one traverses the roof of the north aisle, then up some wooden steps to the ringing room. The stairways are in good condition and lighted with electricity, while the ringing chamber is large and spacious.'

The bells have had a chequered history. In 1552 there were 'iiij belles.' About 1579 two were recast by a founder named Bellingham, who received £20 for additional metal. In 1592 the 'Ladye Bell' was recast. In 1692 Cuthbert Pease contracted to find wood for yoking and hanging the great bell, and keeping it in good order for four years for £4 10s. In 1720 there were five bells, which weighed 77 cwt. 2 qr. 25 lb., and on one of them was inscribed: 'Daniel Hedderly cast vs five A.D. 1720.' In 1721 these were sent back to Hedderly to be used in making a new ring of eight with a tenor 29 cwt. 1 qr. 20 lb. In 1749 James Harrison, of Barrow-on-Humber, was employed to tune the tenor and five others, and rehang four of them. In 1834 the tenor, having been cracked by the clock hammer, and another being injured, the whole ring except the 7th (which had been recast by Hilton, of Wath, in 1791) was recast by Thomas Mears. The tenor of this ring was 31 cwt. 24 lbs.

After the fire of 1853, as much bell metal as possible was recovered from the ruins, and sent to Messrs. Warner and Sons with a view to it, or its equivalent, being employed to cast a new ring. Warner's agreed to allow four per cent. on its value till the new ring was wanted. This was designed by the late Lord Grimthorpe and cast by Warner's in 1858. The tenor of this ring is 30½ cwt. in C sharp.

It used to be customary to ring the 6th to summon the Town Council: 5th for the Highway Board; treble for Vestry. Up to 1835 it was the custom to ring the bells in full peal on November 5th and January 30th each year. It was also usual to ring a bell at the expiration of an apprentice's time of service, but this was almost entirely discontinued after a fatal accident in the belfry in 1728.

The church of St. Mary, the Virgin, Kempsford,

Gloucestershire, has a central tower situated between nave and chancel. It is remarkably fine and has strongly projecting diagonal buttresses more suitable for a western tower. The upper part is of good outline, but simple in detail. It has a clock and six bells, tenor approximately 19 cwt. The treble is by Henry Bagley, 1739; second by A. Rudhall, 1700; third and fourth bear the arms of Thynne and Coventry, dated 1678; fifth by Mears, 1846; and tenor by J. Rudhall, 1830.

The church of St. Mary, Chesham, Bucks, is a cruciform building chiefly in the Early English and Decorated styles, with a central embattled tower and octagonal spire. Much interesting data on the ancient history of the bells here, is given in Cock's 'Church Bells of Buckinghamshire,' pp. 343/4. There is now a ring of six, tenor 17 cwt., all by Thomas Mears, of London, 1812, and a Sanctus by John Sturdy, who died in 1456. The bells were rehung in 1885 by Mears and Stainbank. Like many central towers, the ringing room is reached over the church roof, then through a doorway about 4 feet high. A large beam across the centre of the room, at eye level, divides the rope circle in two.

The grand central tower of St. Mary's, Nottingham—already referred to—contains a fine recast ring of ten. Here the ascent to the ringing chamber is somewhat similar to St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent; or St. Martin's, Leicester. After ascending a spiral stairway at a corner of the transept, you pass along the roof of the same, then go up about four wooden steps, and then a short stone stairway cut through the tower wall, and so into the large ringing room. Of the old ring of ten the treble was by C. and G. Mears, 1856: second, third, fourth and tenor by Lester and Pack, 1761 and 1765 respectively. Fifth, 1699; sixth, by H. Oldfield; seventh, 1690; eighth, 1605; ninth—a grand old bell bearing four impressions of the Royal Arms alternating with four founder's marks. It has three rows of decoration and lettering finely stamped. The circular mark on this bell was reserved for Henry Oldfield's more important works, among which was Great Tom of Lincoln, cast 1610. Names of the Mayor, wardens and aldermen appear on this bell, which is dated 1595. The old tenor weighed 34½ cwt.

In 1935 Messrs. Gillett and Johnston recast the whole ring except the ninth referred to above, and the tenor is now 35½ cwt. in C. The old frame was taken down, and a new massive iron A frame, supported on steel girders, has been erected. The large dimensions of the tower enabled this to be planned diagonally across the tower, so that the greatest stresses are taken on the corners of the building, where great strength lies in its buttresses.

The great interest of St. Mary's, Nottingham, to ringers is the fact that this was the church where William Doubleday Crofts, the Nottingham solicitor, who was a pioneer of change ringing in the Sherwood Forest district, did most of his ringing. The first peal recorded here was 5,040 Grandsire Triples on February 3rd, 1761, and the first of Caters (5,040 Grandsire) January 1st, 1765. In 1775 they rang 6,012 Grandsire Caters, followed by 8,046 in 1776. In 1777 the Leicester Scholars, having rung 10,080 at St. Margaret's, the Nottingham Society set out to beat this. On March 3rd, 1778, they accomplished 10,260 Grandsire Caters, still the longest in this method yet rung in the Midlands.

In 1788 they rang 5,040 Bob Royal; in 1789 a peal of 5,080 Oxford Treble Bob Royal, and in 1791 they accomplished 5,040 Double Bob Royal. They also went to many other towers, some a long distance away like King's Norton by Galby, Leicestershire; Uppingham, Rutland, and at the opening of Chesterfield bells in 1820, after ringing for morning service at St. Mary's, Nottingham, they started for Chesterfield **on foot**, after having subscribed to pay the coach fare of their conductor, Richard Peat. They arrived safely and rang their peal—5,364 Grandsire Caters—on May 23rd, being the second peal to be rung at Chesterfield that day.

William Doubleday Crofts achieved fame as a ringer and composer, not only in and around Nottingham, but as far afield as York and London. It is to be regretted that no record is available of his public life, except what we gather from his ringing MSS.; these are still in a state of perfect preservation, and were praised by Jasper Snowdon, who interleaved them with written remarks. Mr. J. W. Parker, of Sunderland, has said:

'The whole of the papers are extremely interesting, and, considering the time they were written, reveal the writer as a wonderful man. At that time there could have been little or no chance of learning from an outside source, and yet the contents of the MSS. show Crofts to have the knowledge of and a keen insight into many things which would put him to the forefront, even to-day. His touches and peals seem surprising for the time. . . . The most interesting is the writer's proof of Treble Bob methods by the lead ends. In the case of Oxford it is as exact and detailed as that published 100 years after by the late Jasper W. Snowdon, even though set out in a different way.'

Crofts' ability as a ringer is proved by his peal records. Physically a very powerful man, he performed some very remarkable feats at the heavy end, which was a much more formidable task than it is to-day. Thus, in the first peal at Gainsborough, it took two men to ring the tenor bell behind 5,040 Grandsire Triples, yet a year later Crofts turned the same bell single-handed into a peal of Bob Major. In the long peal of 10,260 Grandsire Caters at St. Mary's, Nottingham, in 1778, when the bell-ropes were 30 feet longer than they are to-day, he rang the 9th bell single-handed through the whole seven hours twenty-two minutes. He was elected a College Youth in 1765, and was one of that society's band who rang the first peal at York Minster in 1787. Two of his compositions, 5,280 Treble Bob Major and 5,000 Treble Bob Royal, find a place in Snowdon's book. He rang 31 peals in all, of which he conducted 27. His portrait, painted by Richard Bonington, hangs in the Nottingham Castle Art Museum.

(To be continued.)

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT OXHEY.

A meeting of the Watford District of the Herts County Association was held at St. Matthew's, Oxhey, on March 4th, and was attended by 40 members and friends from several counties.

Evensong was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. Langmead Casserley, assisted by the Rev. T. P. Hearn and the Rev. P. L. Spencer, both local ringers. A collection made for the Benevolent Fund of the association amounted to £1 3s.

Tea was provided at the Vicarage, and at the meeting the president (Mr. H. G. Cashmore) was in the chair. Six of the young Oxhey band were elected members. A touch of six Spliced Surprise Major methods, Superlative, Cambridge, London, Bristol, Wembley and Watford, was rung on handbells, and on tower bells the beginners had rounds and the experts Bristol Surprise.

RANDOM RAMBLINGS BY A COUNTRYMAN.

To the Editor.

Sir,—First of all may I congratulate you on the standard of the ringers' journal? I was much struck by the leader on 'Rhythm.' It has been the fashion in some circles to criticise the bands of experts, who prior to the war used to tour country districts during the summer and ring peals wherever they went. Even leaving out the fact that we countrymen have always found them full of readiness to help us in our elementary efforts, they do an enormous amount of good in showing us what good striking really means.

I come from a country of perhaps precision or clockwork striking, and I well remember one of our ringers listening to a peal by one of these expert bands. The whole thing was against his ideas and principles. He was a round ringer; in his opinion the tenor must come last, an open lead was faulty striking. He gave up a bit of his dinner hour to come and criticise. He remained for the full three hours in open praise, moving from one place to another to find the best value. It was this very word 'rhythm' that he used and which so well expressed all that he was trying to say.

There has been a great deal said on Simpson tuned bells. The expert pianist will only play on the perfect piano. Those of us not so expert will often prefer the individual tone of our own cottage piano, provided it is not out of tune. Thus most ringers and most parishioners prefer the individual tone of their own bells, provided they are not out of tune with each other. That a bell may be out of tune with itself merely adds to the individuality and therefore to his liking for it.

It has often been said that once you have heard one ring of bells cast by a certain firm you have heard the lot. If the firm is aiming at perfection of tuning, it is obvious that weight for weight this must be so, and it is to the credit of the firm that they achieve their aim. I do not know very much about casting, but assume that it is the object of a reputable firm to cast as near in tune as is possible and then to tune up. In early days of Simpson tuning there were some very thin bells cast, and it did look as if a firm might be tempted to cast any sort of block of metal and then tune it into a bell. It is mainly in these earlier bells that one hears the 'howl' which some people complain of.

But in any case if you have a ring of bells each of which is tuned perfectly in five tones, it stands to reason that somewhere and at some time you can pick out each of these tones. Everything else being perfect, you will just get the music, just as in a choir. But stand in one particular place and you'll hear one tone to the detriment of the others either in bells or choir.

The tones exist, therefore they can be heard and, as towers cannot be made perfect from every angle, what is called the 'howl' must exist. In bells not tuned on this principle obviously it cannot exist, because the tones don't form any obvious tune or rhythm.

It may seem a big come down from some of the 'perfect' rings your correspondents have mentioned to a little six-bell ring at St. Veep in Cornwall. Cast by the Penningtons, they were shortly before the war rehung. Fortunately they fell into the hands of a firm who appreciated them and were not all out to produce something of their own, however beautiful that might be. They were just put right and rehung and are, in the opinion of many who have since rung there, an absolutely perfect job. Incidentally, their treatment created far more confidence in the bell founders than would have been the case (as with so many) if they had been thrown into the melting pot and reproduced as Messrs. So and So's perfect five tone principle bells.

Finally, when all the firms have found the right answer as to thickness, weight and size and all tune in the same method, will not all rings, weight for weight, be exactly alike? And shall we like it?

C. F. J.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT RUMNEY.

A meeting of the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association was held at Rumney on February 26th, at which there was a good attendance of members from Aberavon, Swansea, Caerphilly, Pontypridd, Cardiff, Penarth, Llangynd, Llanfrechfa, Ebbw Vale, Newport, St. Mellons and Newton Nottage.

Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. C. K. Smith, and tea followed in the Parish Hall. The Vicar presided at the meeting and welcomed the ringers. Mr. J. W. Jones, the hon. secretary, spoke of the coming meeting of the Central Council.

At present there is no regular ringing at Rumney, but the Vicar, who has recently come to the parish, has got together some learners who are being instructed with tied clappers by two of the old band. It is hoped that open ringing will shortly be done for Sunday service.

A number of new members were proposed, including 16 from the local belfry. Thanks were given to the Vicar and to the ladies who provided and served the tea.

The ringing before and after the service included the standard methods and plenty of rounds.

IPSWICH.—On Sunday, February 27th, at St. Mary-le-Tower on handbells, 720 Spiced Oxford and Kent Treble Bob Maximus. Ilkeston Variation: G. A. Fleming 1-2, H. E. Smith 3-4, C. J. Sedgley (conductor) 5-6, G. E. Symonds 7-8, W. E. Garrett 9-10, F. J. Tillet 11-12.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

All lines exceeding six in any one insertion are charged at the rate of 4d. per line.

The charge for notices other than of meetings is 2s. 6d. for each insertion.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, March 11th, 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

LADIES' GUILD.—Western District.—Meeting at Weston, Bath, Saturday, March 11th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—N. G. Williams, Hon. Sec., Weston House, Weston, Bath.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—Annual meeting, Christ Church, Blacklands, Hastings, March 11th, 2.30 to 8 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Names to John Downing, Acting Hon. Sec., 2, Hughenden Road, Hastings.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Meeting at Apsley End, Saturday, March 11th. Usual arrangements.—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Clifton on Saturday, March 11th, 3 p.m. Tea 5.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD AND KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION (Tonbridge District).—Meeting at Edenbridge, March 11th, 3 p.m.—T. Saunders and C. A. Bassett, Hon. Secs.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Wisbech Branch.—Meeting at Outwell and Upwell on Saturday, March 11th. Upwell bells 2.30 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea 5.30.—W. Cousins, Dis. Sec., Terrington St. John, Wisbech.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Meeting at Royston, Saturday, March 11th, 3 p.m. Tea arrangements if possible.—A. E. Symonds, The Cottage, Windmill Hill, Hitchin.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Feltham, Saturday, March 18th. Bells 3 to 7.30 p.m. Short meeting in belfry at 5 p.m. Several cafes nearby.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., Perivale 5320.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—Annual meeting, Pulborough, Saturday, March 18th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting at Church Room. Names appreciated.—L. Stilwell, Acting Sec., Pulborough.

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MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—North and East District. — Annual meeting at St. James', Clerkenwell, on Saturday, March 18th, 3 p.m. Committee meeting 3.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting. Names by 14th to T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec., 57, Holloways Lane, North Mimms, Hatfield, Herts.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Meeting at Syston, March 18th, 3 p.m. Tea at Mrs. E. Payne's, near church, 5 p.m. Names by March 15th. Buses from bus station, Abbey Street.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Taunton Deanery.—Annual meeting, Saturday, March 18th, at Wilton. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea British Restaurant. Meeting 6 p.m., Club House, St. James' Street.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Luton District.—Meeting at Tilsworth, Saturday, March 18th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided.—D. E. Lidbetter, Hon. Dis. Sec., 13, Grove Road, Leighton Buzzard.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Derby District.—Meeting at Belper (8 bells), Saturday, March 18th, 2.30 p.m. Cups of tea provided. Bring food.—Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—Meeting at Barnet, Saturday, March 18th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. and during evening. Names for tea by March 14th.—R. Darvill, 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—West Dorset Branch.—Annual meeting, Bridport, Saturday, March 18th, 3 p.m. Service at 4.30. Tea and meeting 5.15. Names for tea by March 11th.—C. H. Lathey, Sec., Malmaison, Bradpole, Bridport.

BRIGHTON.—Practice, Saturday, March 18th, at St. Peter's, 2.30 to 7.30 p.m. Tea interval 4.30 to 5 p.m. No arrangements. Methods, rounds to Double Norwich Caters and Cambridge Royal.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery.—Meeting at Long Ashton, Saturday, March 18th, 4 p.m. Tea available.—Percy G. Yeo, Long Ashton.

EAST MARKHAM, NOTTS.—Practice meeting, Saturday, March 18th. Bells (8), 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Own arrangements for tea.—H. Denman, 9, Rockley, Retford, Notts.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual meeting at Marlborough, March 18th, St. Peter's (8), St. Mary's (6), 2.30 p.m. Names by March 14th.—T. A. Palmer, Baydon Hill, Aldbourne, Marlborough, Wilts.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—Meeting at Christ Church, Pendlebury, on Saturday, March 18th, 3 p.m. No refreshments.—Frank Reynolds, Branch Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—Meeting at Wath-on-Deerne, Saturday, March 18th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tea in Church House 5 p.m. Service 5.45 p.m., followed by business meeting. Names for tea to W. Green, 9, Moor Road, Wath-on-Deerne, near Rotherham, by 15th.—S. F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual committee meeting at Oxford, on Saturday, March 18th, in the Chapter House, Christ Church, at 3.15 p.m.—Richard T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Meeting at St. Leonard's Church, Middleton, on Saturday, March 18th.—I. Kay, Branch Sec., 30, Grafton Street, Moorside, Oldham.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Annual meeting at Dudley, Saturday, March 18th, 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Business meeting and light refreshments afterwards.—J. Goodman, Hon. Sec., 45, Holcroft Street, Burnt Tree, Tipton.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—Annual meeting at Balcombe, Saturday, March 25th, 3 p.m. Service and meeting. Names for tea by March 21st.—O. Sippetts, 10, Three Bridges Road, Crawley.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District.—Meeting at Whitstable, Saturday, March 25th, 2.30. Service 4 p.m. Tea, 1s. Names to Mr. C. C. Dilmot, 75-77, Oxford Street, Whitstable, by March 22nd.—B. J. Luck, Hon. Dis. Sec.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Dorchester Branch.—Owing to the continued illness of Mr. C. H. Jennings, 59, Portland Road, Weymouth, he is unable to answer any communications in connection with the secretaryship for the present. Any letters, therefore, may be sent to Mr. J. T. Godwin, 10, High West Street, Dorchester.

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SURREY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT BANSTEAD.

The annual meeting of the North-Western District of the Surrey Association was held at Banstead on February 26th and was attended by about 40 members.

The following officers were elected: Master, Mr. D. Cooper; secretary, Mr. G. Massey; treasurer, Mr. H. N. Pitstow; auditor, Mr. C. Dean; committee, Messrs. F. E. Collins, C. Potheary and H. O. Young. The present general officers were all nominated for re-election.

It was decided to leave the arrangements for meetings in the hands of the committee. It was hoped to hold the next meeting on Easter Monday. The annual general meeting will be at Croydon on May 20th.

The ringing during the afternoon and evening ranged from rounds and Grandsire Triples to London and Bristol Surprise Major.

KEWSTOKE.—On Sunday, February 27th, 1,260 Doubles (360 Union, 360 Plain Bob, 120 April Day, 420 Grandsire): W. Blake 1, W. Hart 2, J. Weaden (conductor) 3, S. Thomas 4, E. Avery 5, G. Prescott 6.

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