



THE RINGING WORLD

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COVERING BELLS.

The reader who looks through the list of miscellaneous performances will probably be struck by the number of quarter-peals, 720's and other touches, rung nowadays with what may be called irregular covering bells or leading bells. It is quite usual for a 720 of Minor to be rung in an eight-bell tower with the second left out and the tenor a cover; or Doubles to be rung with 4, 6, 8 as covers, or with 1, 2 always leading and the tenor always behind. It is quite easy to see why these things are done and to appreciate the intentions of those who do them, but it is a question to be asked whether they do not do harm to the interests of the ringers concerned. That they are contrary to the best traditions of the Exercise, and would not be countenanced by the best bands, is not to be gainsaid. The excuse for them is that there are not enough competent ringers to ring the eight bells to Triples or Major, and the multiplication of covers is intended to give those who are just able to handle a bell an opportunity of taking part. When there are but seven men in a belfry and one is a tenor man, it seems quite natural that Minor should be rung with a cover, and it is hard to blame the band that does it. Yet the fact remains that the result is not only musically unsatisfactory, but, when the band is composed wholly or largely of beginners, is an obstacle in the way of acquiring that sense of rhythm which all ringers should strive after. It will do a man and a band far more good to ring Minor on six bells than to ring it with a cover, for in that case the ear is being misled by false values. Fifty years ago one or two peals of Triples were rung by bands who had met short and rang their five-thousands on seven bells without the second and with the tenor turned in. These performances raised a storm of protest in the Exercise, and the matter was brought before the Central Council. The decision, after the question had been debated at more than one meeting, was that it cannot be denied that a true peal on seven bells, with or without a cover, is a peal of Triples, but that such a performance without a cover is most objectionable and contrary to the best interests of the art. This decision was so much in accordance with the best opinion of the Exercise that those performances completely ceased and no attempts have since been made to repeat them. There can be no doubt that it was a distinct raising of the standards of the Exercise, and the point to be considered is whether there is not at present a tendency to lower them again.

(Continued on page 154.)

We need not fear that there will be any peals of Triples rung without covers. In any case they would be so few as to be negligible. The danger is that new bands should come into existence lacking that sense of musical values which can appreciate why ringing on seven bells is objectionable. To appreciate rightly the music of change ringing is not a gift which comes to a man easily or without taking pains, and in their eagerness to make progress in method ringing the great majority of beginners almost entirely miss it. For that reason, if for no other, any practice which tends to prevent the best musical results should be deprecated. Unless a man does appreciate the musical and rhythmical qualities of the changes he rings, he can never be a really good ringer, any more than a man can be a good violinist unless he appreciates the musical qualities of what he plays.

When there is a belfry full of learners it is by no means always easy to do the best thing, and many instructors are almost compelled to do what appears to be the easiest; but it cannot be insisted on too strongly that it is far better and more helpful for beginners and far more enjoyable for them, to ring six bells with some chance of getting tolerable results, than to multiply covers to make room for everyone who is just able to handle a bell.

We have said before that the large proportion of peals of Grandsire Doubles now being rung is, in the circumstances, a good sign, and the same may be said of the quarter peals; but it must also be pointed out that Grandsire Doubles with a covering tenor is not the best method for a band of beginners when once they have mastered the preliminaries of change ringing. The covering tenor forces itself so much on the ear that it tends to obscure the finer points of striking. Bands in six-bell towers, if they wish to become proficient, should turn the tenor in and ring Plain Bob Minor. It is significant that for a long period the Central Council refused to recognise a five-thousand of Doubles as a peal, if it were rung with a covering tenor.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

A meeting of the Devizes Branch of Salisbury Diocesan Guild, held on April 7th at Keevil, was attended by 40 members from Melksham, Keevil, Bishops Cannings, Holt, Bratton, North Bradley, Steeple Ashton, Devizes (St. John's and St. Mary's), Southbroom (St. James') and Westbury. The methods rung during afternoon and evening were Grandsire, Stedman, Bob Minor, Kent, Cambridge and rounds. The Guild service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. L. Porter, and tea was served in the Institute by Mrs. Gumm and helpers.

TWELVE BELL PEAL.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Thurs., Apr. 12, 1945, in Three Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5019 CHANGES;

Tenor 25 cwt.

JILL POOLE Treble	HERBERT W. PERKINS ... 7
LOUIS E. ALLEN 2	SHIRLEY BURTON 8
MRS. H. J. POOLE 3	PERCY L. HARRISON ... 9
HARRY G. WAYNE 4	FREDERICK H. DEXTER ... 10
HAROLD G. JENNEY 5	HAROLD J. POOLE 11
SIDNEY O. CHENEY 6	JOHN GRANT Tenor

Composed by FREDK. H. DEXTER. Conducted by H. J. POOLE.
Rung half-muffled for Thomas Taylor, many years Cathedral steeple-keeper.

TEN BELL PEALS.

WILLENHALL, STAFFS.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.
On Sat., Apr. 7, 1945, in Three Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5067 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt.

J. DENIS HOLDEN ... Treble	EDGAR T. SMITH 6
HERBERT KNIGHT 2	GEORGE W. HUGHES 7
HOWARD HOWELL 3	FRANCIS BROTHERTON ... 8
ALBERT D. COLLINS 4	HARRY BOSWELL 9
CHRISTOPHER WALLATER... 5	DAVID HINGLEY Tenor

Composed by J. E. GROVES. Conducted by H. KNIGHT.

WRINGTON, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 7, 1945, in Three Hours and Twenty-Six Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5093 CHANGES;

Tenor 37 cwt.

HERBERT W. KNIGHT ... Treble	LT. C. GLENN, K.N.V.R. 6
*HOWARD H. YATES 2	GEORGE TALBOT 7
L.A.C. M. F. OAKSHETT ... 3	*†EDWARD E. FISHER... .. 8
EMLYN F. HANCOCK 4	*NORMAN H. COOMBS 9
THOMAS W. KIMBER 5	LEONARD DERRICK Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by CLEMENT GLENN.

* First peal on ten bells. † First peal in the method.

APPLETON, BERKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Apr. 14, 1945, in Three Hours,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAURENCE,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5039 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

*EDWIN DREWETT ... Treble	*ALLEN CORNISH 6
EDGAR HUMFREY 2	ALBERT DISERENS 7
WILLIAM JUDGE 3	GEORGE HOLIFIELD 8
REGINALD REX 4	RICHARD WHITE 9
FREDERICK MESSENGER... 5	FRED WHITE Tenor

Composed by the late G. HOLIFIELD. Conducted by G. HOLIFIELD.

* First peal on ten bells.

SOLIHULL, WARWICKSHIRE.

THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.

On Sat., Apr. 14, 1945, in Three Hours and Thirty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ALPHEGE,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5039 CHANGES;

Tenor 21 cwt.

ERNEST T. ALLAWAY ... Treble	DANIEL T. MATKIN 6
*RICHARD J. B. HADDEN 2	JOHN A. BRAGG 7
EDGAR C. SHEPHERD ... 3	SAMUEL BRAGG 8
THOMAS H. REEVES 4	FRANK E. HAYNES 9
JOHN PINFOLD 5	GEORGE E. FEARN Tenor

Composed by E. C. SHEPHERD. Conducted by D. T. MATKIN.

* First peal of Grandsire Caters. First peal of Grandsire Caters as conductor. Half-muffled for President Roosevelt.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

HUGHENDEN, BUCKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, April 7, 1945, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 12½ cwt.

WILLIAM HENLEY ... Treble	PERCY NEWTON 5
GEORGE MARTIN 2	WALTER LEE 6
ALFRED LEVETT 3	Cecil C. MAYNE... .. 7
WILLIAM WELLING 4	HARRY WINGROVE Tenor

Composed by J. W. WASHBROOK. Conducted by G. MARTIN.

DUDLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD

On Sat., Apr. 7, 1945, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 21 cwt. in E flat.

*HAZEL BLOOMER ... Treble	GERALD SWALLOW 5
CYRIL TABERNER 2	HAROLD SHUCK 6
*J. HAROLD WHITE 3	GEORGE HUGHES 7
†NORMAN G. LEECH 4	SAMUEL E. WEBB Tenor

Composed by C. D. P. DAVIES. Conducted by NORMAN G. LEECH.

* First peal. † Seventy-fifth peal.

HALLOW, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 7, 1945, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PHILIP AND JAMES,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor 21½ cwt.

HORACE J. BENTLEY... ..Treble	*CHRIS F. BLISSETT 5
*GEORGE AMBLER 2	ALLEN MORGAN 6
WILLIAM RANFORD 3	ERNEST F. CUBBERLEY ... 7
GEORGE E. LARGE 4	REGINALD WOODYATT ...Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE E. LARGE.

* First peal of Grandsire Triples 'inside.'

ALDERSHOT, HAMPSHIRE.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wed., Apr. 11, 1945, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL-THE-ARCHANGEL,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 8½ cwt. in A flat.

FRANK C. W. KNIGHT ...Treble	WILLIAM H. VIGGERS ... 5
ALFRED H. PULLING ... 2	*HAROLD S. HORDEN ... 6
WILLIAM J. ROBINSON ... 3	FREDK. A. H. WILKINS 7
GEORGE L. GROVER ... 4	CPL. C. F. ANDREWS ...Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF.

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

* 50th peal.

CALVERLEY, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Wed., Apr. 11, 1945, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. WILFRID,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 10½ cwt.

*ANNA SELLORS ...Treble	WILFRED LEE 5
†JEAN A. SOUTHERST ... 2	WILLIAM E. SCRIMSHAW... 6
BETTY SPICE 3	RONALD H. DOVE 7
WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 4	JOHN E. SPICE Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS.

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal of Treble Bob. † First peal of Treble Bob on tower bells.

BATLEY, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Thurs., Apr. 12, 1945, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 10½ cwt.

ANNA SELLORS ...Treble	BETTY SPICE 5
PERCY J. JOHNSON ... 2	FRED HODGSON 6
WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 3	RONALD H. DOVE 7
JEAN A. SOUTHERST ... 4	JOHN E. SPICE Tenor

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS.

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

BURNHAM, BUCKS.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Apr. 14, 1945, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

PRITCHARD'S FOUR-PART. Tenor 16 cwt.

*HILDA M. TAYLOR ...Treble	GEORGE L. GROVER ... 5
ALFRED H. PULLING ... 2	FRANK H. HICKS 6
WILLIAM J. ROBINSON ... 3	CLARENCE H. DOBBIE ... 7
H. WILLIAM BARRETT ... 4	GEORGE GILBERT Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE GILBERT.

* First peal of Bob Major.

NORTON, DERBYSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Apr. 14, 1945, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF NEW CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE M-JOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt.

*MILTON C. FOWLER ...Treble	*G. GORDON GRAHAM ... 5
J. EDWARD CAWSE ... 2	*ERNEST A. THORPE ... 6
JOHN H. BROTHWELL ... 3	*HERBERT O. CHADDOCK 7
F. BERNARD DITCHER ... 4	*JOHN E. TURLEY Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS.

Conducted by J. E. CAWSE.

* First peal of New Cambridge.

SIX BELL PEALS.

OVERTON, HANTS.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Mar. 31, 1945, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different callings. Tenor 10½ cwt.

*ANDREW TAYLOR ...Treble	BERT GARRETT 4
JESSIE M. KIPPIN 2	†ERNEST R. WARNER ... 5
ALBERT G. TAYLOR ... 3	CHARLES H. KIPPIN ... Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES H. KIPPIN.

* First peal. † First peal of Minor.

RAYNE, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Mar. 31, 1945, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven extents. Tenor 7½ cwt.

FRANK PARTNER ...Treble	HENRY PRATT 4
RONALD SUCKLING 2	ROBERT LE BEAU 5
DERICK TALBOT 3	STANLEY BONES Tenor

Conducted by R. SUCKLING.

WONSTON, HANTS.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Easter Monday, Apr. 2, 1945, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

In seven plain methods, viz., Frodsham Bob, Double Oxford, Double Court, Oxford Single Bob, College, St. Clement's and Plain Bob. Tenor 8 cwt. in A.

NESTA D. SMITH ...Treble	WILLIAM R. MELVILLE ... 4
JESSIE M. KIPPIN 2	RICHARD SMITH 5
WILLIAM MARKS 3	CHARLES H. KIPPIN ... Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES H. KIPPIN.

First seven-method peal by all except the conductor.

HARPFORD, DEVON.

THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

On Thurs., Apr. 12, 1945, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GREGORY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten callings. Tenor 7 cwt.

R. PITMAN ...Treble	BRIAN PIDGEON 4
S. SKINNER 2	J. QUICK 5
J. SMITH 3	W. HILL Tenor

Conducted by B. PIDGEON.

First peal by all except conductor.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tues., Apr. 10, 1945, in Two Hours and Fourteen Minutes,

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

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

ILKESTON VARIATION.

ERIC A. DENCH 1-2	JOHN THOMAS 5-6
MRS. J. THOMAS 3-4	CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 7-8

Composed by A. J. PITMAN. Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Fri., Apr. 13, 1945, in Two Hours and Twenty-Six Minutes,

IN THE CATHEDRAL BELFREY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

HAROLD J. POOLE 1-2	†JILL POOLE 5-6
*CHARLES MARSHALL ... 3-4	*PETER J. STANFORTH ... 7-8

Composed by FREDK. H. DEXTER. Conducted by H. J. POOLE.

* First handbell peal. † First of Bob Major.

CURIOUS TOWERS AND BELFRIES.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 70.)

At St. Nicholas', Deptford, Kent, whose tower contains a ring of eight bells, tenor $21\frac{1}{2}$ cwt, there is an unusual approach to the ringing room. Originally open to the church, it was permanently screened off, and access is now obtained by going down into the boiler house and then ascending a spiral stairway. This is somewhat similar to that at Manchester Cathedral and Hanley, Staffs. In 1901 part of the church tower was blown down during a gale on October 17th. Fortunately the masonry fell in the direction of the churchyard and no injury was done to the main fabric of the church. The tower to the level of the belfry floor was condemned, but later rebuilt.

Since the twelfth century there has been a church of St. Nicholas, Deptford. In 1630 it was enlarged, and in 1697 it was completely rebuilt with the exception of the tower. John Evelyn, the diarist, who lived nearby, was a regular worshipper here. All the bells date from 1701 except the tenor, which was recast in 1842 by T. Mears. They were retuned and rehung in an iron frame by Warners in 1904. As early as 1552 there were here 'v great bells of bell mettell suted hanging in the steeple'; also 'j little bell called a saynt bell, and on little bell sold.' This church has suffered damage in the present war and the tower has been impaired.

At Dunsfold, Surrey, the Church of St. Mary and All Saints possesses a ring of six bells, tenor 10 cwt. These rang in a bell turret on the west end of the church and the ropes come down amid pews. As early as 1552 this church had 'iij great belles in the steeple.' Of the old three bells, dated 1621, 1583 and 1649, the middle one was cracked and the whole subsequently increased to six.

At Dinder, Somerset, the ropesight is difficult, and the tenor ringer is hardly visible to the rest owing to being behind a clock case. The church, dedicated to St. Michael and All Angels, has a ring of six, tenor 14 cwt. It was originally a small Norman church, but enlarged about 1340 and again in 1480, and is now partly in Perpendicular style. The tower is of this period. One of the old bells had the curiously disjointed inscription: 'Repent I say by not too late thyself at al times redy make. R.A. 1646.'

St. Martin's Church, Eynesford, Kent, is a beautiful Early English church with fine west tower and shingled spire, beneath which is the only entrance into the church. There are eight bells with tenor 12 cwt. in G, and are so hung that the ropes fall four on each side of a narrow gap in the circle through which the congregation has to go to enter church. The tenor and 4th are by John Hodson, 1674; the 5th and 6th by Michael Darbie, 1651; 7th by T. Lester, 1746; 3rd by R. Catlin, 1748; and two trebles by Mears and Stainbank, 1904.

The Church of St. Petrock, Exeter, Devon, has a light ring of six, tenor $5\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. The treble is hung over the

others, and they are in a small tower at the south-west angle of the church, just at the side of the west entrance. They are rung from the ground floor and the ringers are thus in full view of the congregation from two sides—the north and east. The approach to the ringing room of Exeter Cathedral is very unusual. One commences—inside the Cathedral—by a spiral stairway at a corner of the west end and so ascends to the roof. On emerging from this stair turret you walk along the broad lead guttering, on one side of which is the roof, and on the other side a low parapet wall about two and a half feet high. On reaching the tower you ascend another spiral stairway, then do down a wooden staircase of several steps into the ringing chamber. Here are the great bells, tenor $72\frac{1}{2}$ cwt., and, fortunately, although the city and cathedral suffered heavy damage in air raids of 1942, the tower and bells are safe, and eight of the bells were rung on Sunday, November 16th, 1943, for the great victory in Egypt. Three bays of the south choir aisle were damaged and some side chapels destroyed. The choir stalls in chancel, the organ and the stone organ-screen also suffered heavily.

At Eythorne, Kent, the Church of SS. Peter and Paul has a light ring of five and the ropes fall on either side of the porch entrance. Two of the old bells, bearing invocations to St. Katherine and St. Mary Magdalen, were by Henry Jordan, of London, c. 1450.

At Fulmer, Bucks, the six bells, tenor $7\frac{1}{4}$ cwt., hang in a tiny west tower, and are rung from terracing provided for seats. The tenor ringer stands on the lower of three steps. The present church was consecrated on All Saints' Day, November 1st, 1610, and the treble bell, which is pre-Reformation—probably by John Saunders very shortly after he succeeded John White in the business in 1539, therefore came from the older church. It would be one of those mentioned in the 1552 inventory: 'Fulm iij belles in the stiple & leade that the tope of stypell is coverid wythe . . . on handbell.' The other bells date from 1617 to 1884.

At Fen Ditton, Cambs, the Church of St. Mary stands on the south bank near a bend of the river Cam. It is an edifice of Barnack ashlar in Early English, Decorated and Perpendicular styles. The west tower is Early English, and is a curious structure on four arches. It was taken down to its foundations in 1881 and carefully rebuilt. Here are five bells, with tenor 12 cwt. in G, and all except treble were recast in 1881. They are rung from the ground floor and consequently the ringers are 'open to view' by the congregation. This church was visited by Dowsing, the iconoclast, who 'beat down two crucifixes and ye 12 apostles, and many other superstitious pictures.'

At the Church of St. Michael-du-Valle, Guernsey, Channel Islands, is a ring of six, and to get to the ringing chamber one has to climb an iron ladder fixed to the outside wall of the tower to the level of the church roof, thence to the roof of the church and a few steps brings one to the door of the ringing chamber.



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The Church of St. Mary, Guildford, Surrey, has a ring of six, tenor 14½ cwt. It was once a cruciform church, though the actual transepts have disappeared. The entrance to the belfry staircase, a small stone spiral in the thickness of the wall, is in the north-east corner of the south chapel. Then comes a walk along a passage between the stone chancel vaulting and the outside roof, and up some steps into the ringing room. The circle of ropes hang around a large wooden clock case which completely blocks the view from the opposite side of the tower. The bells, however, are now considered unringable.

At St. Mary in the Elms, Ipswich, are five bells, tenor 36 inches diam. in G. The tower is of red brick and at the west end. The five bells hang so that the rope circle falls 21345, but the bells are now unringable, and the bottom of the staircase is full of rubbish. On one occasion the Ipswich ringers thought they would put the bells right, so got tackle and hoisted 1-2 out of their frames, but found the 2nd too large for 1st pit, so had to put them back where they were originally. The tenor is by Miles Graye, 1613, others by John Darbie, 1660.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

TONBRIDGE DISTRICT MEETING AT HADLOW.

The meeting of the Tonbridge District of the Kent County Association at Hadlow on Saturday, April 7th, was attended by 21 members from various towers in the district. Service in church was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. S. H. Monypenny. Tea was served in the King's Head, followed by the business meeting, the Vicar being in the chair. One new member was elected, and a report of the general meeting held at Maidstone on Easter Monday was given by the secretary. Goudhurst was selected for the next meeting on the first Saturday in June.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the South and West District of the Middlesex County Association was held at Christ Church, Ealing, on April 7th, and was attended by about 40 members and friends from Banstead, Beddington, Cranford, Darley Dale (Derbyshire), Ealing (Christ Church, St. Mary's and St. Stephen's), Croydon, Halifax (Yorks), Hillingdon (St. John's), Kensington (St. Mary Abbott's), Market Deeping (Suffolk), Ruislip, Taunton (Somerset), Twickenham, Uxbridge, Willesden, and Westminster (St. Stephen's). Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. A. A. de Vere, assisted by the Rev. R. W. Cowdry.

Tea in the parish hall was followed by the business, Mr. J. A. Trollope, the vice-president, being in the chair. At the beginning reference was made to the death of Mr. G. R. Pye, whose funeral had taken place earlier in the day. The company stood while the Vicar recited the Requiem Eternum.

The hon. secretary's report showed a year of progress, in spite of the absence of many ringers on service. Ten meetings had been held, with an average attendance of 40, the most notable being that at Acton in connection with the 700th anniversary of the founding of the church. Twenty-eight new members had been elected, most of them learners. The names of all those known to be on service were read, including three who had made the supreme sacrifice. Three peals had been rung, including two at Acton, both conducted by Mr. E. C. S. Turner—one, half-muffled in memory of the late Archbishop of Canterbury, and one to commemorate the 700th anniversary of the church.

The accounts for the year 1944 showed a balance in hand of £9 11s. 9d.

The following officers were elected: Hon. district secretary, Mr. J. E. Lewis Cockey; assistant hon. district secretary, Mr. W. G. Wilson; Ringing Master, Mr. T. G. Bannister; Deputy Ringing Master, Mr. F. G. Baldwin; Central Committee, Mr. G. M. Kilby, Mr. F. W. Goodfellow and Mr. J. E. Churchill; auditors, Mr. E. C. S. Turner and Mr. J. E. Churchill.

It was decided to hold meetings at Feltham on May 26th, at Cranford on June 23rd, and at Staines on July 24th.

The methods rung included Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Bob Major, Double Norwich Court Bob Major and Cambridge and Superlative Surprise Major. Christ Church bells are difficult bells to ring and the ringing throughout was poor. In the evening Acton belfry was open.

BENINGTON, LINCOS.—On Easter Day, 720 Bob Minor: A. Pearson 1, F. Harwood 2, W. Bradley 3, A. Burchall 4, H. Harper (conductor) 5, E. Barnes 6.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

.....

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Etc.

'THE RINGING WORLD.'

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

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.
Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.
The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk.
Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

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must be prepaid.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

The first session of the nineteenth Council (48th annual
meeting) will be held, on the recommendation of the
Standing Committee, on Whitsun Tuesday, May 22nd,
1945, in the City Council Chamber, Birmingham (by kind
permission of the Lord Mayor), at 11 a.m. precisely.

All notices of motions should be sent immediately.

A list of hotels in Birmingham is given below, and
members are advised to make their arrangements as early
as possible, as accommodation is very limited.

G. W. FLETCHER, Hon. Sec.

HOTELS.

The Grand Hotel, Colmore Row.
The Imperial Hotel, Temple Street.
The Queen's Hotel, New Street Station.
The Stork Hotel, Corporation Street.
The Woolpack Hotel, Moor Street.
The Midland Hotel, New Street.

TEMPERANCE HOTELS.

The Cobden, Corporation Street.
The Arden, New Street.

THE MONTH'S PEALS.

MARCH.

During the month of March 77 peals were rung, 61 of them on tower
bells, and 16 on handbells.

The tower bell peals were: Grandsire Doubles 5, Triples 5, Caters
1; Bob Minor 2, Major 11; Oxford Bob Triples 1; Kent Treble Bob
Major 2; Stedman Triples 6, Caters 1; Double Norwich Court Bob
Major 3; Kidlington Court Major 1; Cambridge Surprise Major 2,
Royal 1; Maximus 1; Superlative Surprise Major 2, Yorkshire 1,
Lincolnshire 1, Norfolk 1, Bristol 2, London 2; Three Spliced Plain
Major methods 1; Four Spliced Surprise Major methods 1; Minor 5,
Doubles 2.

The handbell peals were: Grandsire Triples 1, Caters 2; Bob Major
6; Little Bob Major 1; Double Bob Major 1; Kent Treble Bob Major
1; Oxford Treble Bob Royal 1; Stedman Triples 1, Cinques 1; Four
Minor methods 1.

In January 60 peals were rung, in February 74, making a total for
the year (so far) of 211. In March, 1944, 37 peals were rung.

SYNTHETIC BELLS.

Mr. Ernest Morris has sent us copies of correspondence he has had
with the Archdeacon of Loughborough and others regarding the in-
stallation of a machine called Cathedral Bells in Christ Church, Mount-
sorrel. Writing to the Vicar, he quoted from the MS. of a book he
has recently written:—

'To insert in a church tower a machine to imitate church bells to
call folk to service, or a gramophone reproduction of a peal of bells,
is nothing short of desecration. The human touch is immediately
lost quite apart from the impropriety of such an innovation.'

The Vicar wrote: 'We have only one bell and our small steeple
would not take much more. But even if it would I am not anxious
to have bells.'

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**ANNUAL MEETING.**

The annual meeting of the Midland Counties Association was held at Derby on Saturday, April 7th, and the bells of the Cathedral, St. Alkmund's and St. Peter's were available during afternoon and evening. Tea was served at Babington Cafe and over 90 members and friends sat down. The Provost of Derby, the Right Rev. P. A. Micklem, was present. The general meeting followed in St. Peter's Parochial Hall and about 120 members attended. The president, the Rev. Canon R. F. Wilkinson, was supported by the vice-president, Mr. Colin Harrison, the hon. treasurer, Miss I. B. Thompson, and the hon. secretary, Mr. Ernest Morris.

The hon. secretary, in his report, stated that 1944 had been a year of great achievement in all spheres. The districts had all had good meetings with average attendance up to pre-war standard. Since the last annual meeting there had been 210 new members elected, 42 rejoins and 18 honorary, a record number for any year. Peal ringing had been almost up to pre-war numbers, there having been 59 tower and 12 handbell peals on all numbers from five to twelve. The losses by death included John Austin, Maurice Swinfield, Samuel Cotton, Thomas Taylor, L.-Cpl. Reg. W. Collis, of Croft, killed in Athens, Flight-Sgt. Brian Wayman, W. H. Fussell, George R. Pye and J. E. Davies. The hon. treasurer's report, although giving an adverse balance on the year's working, showed the finances to be in a healthy condition. Two auditors, Messrs. J. Harris and F. Poole, were re-elected. The officers were re-elected en bloc.

Referring to the proposed division of the association, the President said that in this very important matter he trusted everyone concerned would faithfully abide by the decisions arrived at, all in good faith and in a friendly fellowship, whether the results were in accordance with their own individual opinion or not. Whatever action was ultimately taken would be for better organisation and a genuine effort to bring into the association every tower in the area with a ring of bells.

The result of the voting showed a majority in favour of division, and it was ultimately decided: (1) That the Midland Counties Association be divided as from December 31st, 1945, into three separate diocesan guilds, one each for the Diocese of Derby, Leicester and Southwell. (2) That all fully paid-up members of the Midland Counties Association become automatically members of the new guild which covers the area of their residence, and that ringing members automatically become life members of the other two guilds without payment. This resolution shall not apply to any person who expresses a desire not to be associated with the new guilds and notifies the general secretary. (3) That a complete report be printed, including the names and addresses of all members, balance sheets, peals and compositions, reports of meetings, etc., covering the period '941 (from last report) to the end of 1945. (4) That a suitable memento be purchased out of the association funds for the president, vice-president, general hon. secretary and treasurer in recognition of their respective services to the association. (5) The association's set of handbells—the disposal of these was to be left until the end of the year. (6) That the assets of the Bell Repair Fund be equally divided between the three new guilds. (7) That the remaining assets of the association, after all accounts have been settled, be divided between the three new guilds in equal parts. (8) That the official records of the association be kept by the Vicar of St. Margaret's, Leicester, in the parvis of that church, where already a portion is kept.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In the case of Leicester Diocese, I was asked by the local committee to supply a list of all towers with five bells and over—which I did—there being about 130. All the incumbents of these churches were circularised and a great meeting held in Leicester, at which the Bishop and Provost were present. It was unanimously agreed that a diocesan guild would benefit the art by the formation of new districts, thus gathering together all these towers. As a great body like the M.C.A., covering so large an area, it is quite impossible to visit many of these towers, but by the division into smaller branches there is no reason whatever why all should not be gathered in. Leicester local branch has already started on the work, and the fact that no less than 79 new members (mostly from five and six bell towers) have joined in the last 12 months speaks for itself.

I should like to see both Derby and Southwell Districts do the same, and if I can assist in any way would be only too happy to do so. I am quite certain that the art would definitely be advanced and every tower in each diocese brought in.

No one is more sorry than I to see the old association divided, for no one ever rang more peals (nearly 750), and after 21 years' work as general hon. secretary I feel the parting sadly. But this does not blind me to the fact that the new and smaller guilds can—and will—bring greater interest and advancement to our art.

ERNEST MORRIS.

RINGER'S DIAMOND WEDDING.

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Shepherd, of Exeter, celebrated their diamond wedding on April 6th. Mr. Shepherd, now nearing his 83rd birthday, joined the Devon Guild in 1879 and the College Youths in 1880. He still serves the parish of St. Sidwell, Exeter, where the 24 cwt. tenor of a peal of ten remains buried under the debris of the demolished tower.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**ANNUAL MEETING.**

The annual meeting of the Kent County Association was held at Maidstone on Easter Monday. Several towers, including All Saints', were open for ringing, and service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. R. O. Standen. A collection for the Benevolent Fund amounted to £2. Tea was at the Corn Exchange and 110 sat down.

At the business meeting Mr. F. White took the chair. In his report Mr. F. M. Mitchell stated that it was hoped that before long all the towers in union before the war would rejoin, and all the districts would resume their usual activities. Already there were signs of increased interest, and numbers of the younger generation were taking to the art. Seventy towers were represented in the subscriptions for the previous year and the membership was gradually increasing. The annual general meeting was held at Maidstone on Easter Monday, the attendance being good. District meetings had increased in numbers and interest was steadily reviving. In all 25 meetings had been held: Ashford, Willesborough, Whitstable, Chilham, Wingham, Sturry, Canterbury, Erith, Bexley, Beckenham, Dartford, Boxley, Aylesford, Linton, Rochester, Rainham, Hawkhurst, Shipbourne, Sundridge, Marden and Tonbridge (2).

During the year 26 peals had been rung, 19 on tower bells and seven on handbells. Tower bells: Cambridge Surprise 2, Double Norwich 1, Kent Treble Bob 3, Bob Major 1, Stedman Triples 6, Grandsire Triples 2, Minor, three methods 1, one method 1, Grandsire Doubles 1. On handbells: Bob Major 2, Grandsire Triples 3, Grandsire Doubles 2. Twenty-four were rung in the county and one each in Oxford and London.

Many of the members whose subscriptions had lapsed during the year had paid the arrears. More honorary members were joining or rejoining. By increased subscriptions and reduced expenditure the balance of £87 9s. had been increased to £101 1s. No demands had been made on the belfry repair fund and that balance had increased to £194 10s. 1d. Four grants had been made from the benevolent fund to the extent of £12 7s. The balance had increased to £362 1s. 5d. The total funds of the association had increased to £1,137 5s. 8d.

Messrs. E. A. Barnett, F. M. Mitchell, T. E. Sone and G. H. Cross were elected as representatives on the Central Council. All the officers were re-elected. Mr. F. M. Mitchell, in accepting office as hon. secretary, said it was 16 years since he was elected to succeed the Rev. F. Helmore, and he felt the time had come to hand the office to another. He expressed a wish to be relieved of the post next year.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.**ANNUAL MEETING AT WORCESTER.**

The annual meeting of the Worcestershire and Districts Association, held at Worcester on Easter Monday, proved almost a record in numbers, some 120 members and friends being present, including quite a number of visitors. The president, the Very Rev. Arthur Davies (Dean of Worcester) presided over the general business meeting held in College Hall, and he was supported by Mr. S. T. Holt (Master), the Rev. A. C. F. Davies (clerical secretary) and Mr. J. D. Johnson (lay secretary).

Among other matters, the report of the Central Committee stated that a book of belfry prayers suitable for all occasions had been written by the clerical secretary for the association. This had been printed, and a copy would be given to each tower, the committee strongly recommending their constant use. The committee also recommended the revival of the annual dinner as soon as travelling and catering conditions would permit.

The annual report and balance sheet were adopted, the latter revealing a healthy financial position, the total of the association funds now standing at the record of £164 7s. 10s. The librarian (Mr. C. W. Cooper) reported that during the year 16 applications had been received for the loan of 20 books, and 18 new performing and two life members were elected.

The whole of the officers were re-elected, and the addition of Mr. John Bass, of Wollaston, to the list of vice-presidents was received with applause. Messrs. B. C. Ashford, S. T. Holt and J. D. Johnson were elected as Central Council representatives. Arrangements for the annual peal were left to the Master, and Worcester was again selected for the next annual meeting, the business being concluded before lunch, leaving the afternoon and evening free for ringing. A proposal by Mr. B. C. Ashford that a fourth branch, centred on Redditch and known as the Eastern Branch, be formed, was referred to a sub-committee consisting of the clerical, lay and branch secretaries, to define boundaries and report to the next annual meeting.

The members later attended evensong in the Cathedral.

SUFFOLK GUILD.**ANNUAL MEETING.**

The annual meeting of the Suffolk Guild was held at St. Clement's, Ipswich, on April 7th, and was attended by about 50 members. Service in church was conducted by the Rector. The accounts showed assets of £62 12s. 2d. A proposal was made by Mr. O. Barnard, seconded by Mr. W. Brown, that a report should be printed this year. The Bishop of Dunwich wrote resigning the office of president of the Guild. Several new members were elected, and Mr. C. W. Pipe was appointed hon. secretary in the place of Mr. H. G. Herbert.

OLD BIRMINGHAM RINGERS.

BY JOHN DAY.

(Continued from page 140.)

ROBERT ROBERTS.

I have but a dim recollection of this gentleman, as he died the year before my ringing career commenced. He was the parish clerk at Aston, and I have lately been told that, including his successor, the late Mr. F. Roberts, the family had held such office for nearly three centuries.

He was in office when the bells were restored and increased to ten in 1814, and by uncle used to say that the two trebles were presented by Messrs. Short, Roberts, Hassall and one or two others. Roberts took the greatest interest in the bells, and kept the care of them in his own hands, seldom allowing anyone to go near them, consequently from the opening until his death in 1841, and even afterwards, until, say, 1850, they were always in excellent going order.

As a ringer he had not gone very deeply into the mysteries of the art, but what he could do he could do well, and it was he who gave Henry Johnson his first instructions in the management of a bell, encouraging him in every way, and after a time, ringing the tenor over the first peal of Grandsire Caters composed and conducted by Johnson. As a return for this kindness, when his health began to fail, Johnson used to do the writing for him, and attend in the vestry each Sunday morning, and that, too, for a very considerable time. Roberts was a great friend of my uncle's, and when I was a lad living at my grandsire's the names of Bob Roberts and Josh Short were household words with him.

Roberts had what I suppose would in the present day be called a weakness. He would never allow the jackdaws, of which there were a very great number about the tower in his day and for many years after, to be interfered with, while during nesting time he allowed no one to go near the bells but himself. He had boxes placed at the base of the spire for them to build in, but I believe the birds were ungrateful enough never to take to them. One season I particularly remember in the time of the late F. Roberts, who shared his uncle's notions in this respect, a pair had built their nest partly in the treble wheel, and Cutler gravely told us we could not ring the ten until Mr. Roberts gave him leave to take the bedstead down. Of course, the rubbish had to be cleared away periodically, and Cutler used to call this operation 'removing the furniture.' It did not, however, interfere with the going of the bells, for from 1814 until about 1868 or 1869, when E. Cresser, the brother of Amos Cresser, professed to rehang them, only three bells out of the ten, the seventh, eighth and tenor, needed repair. One can hardly wonder at the tenor needing it, when it is considered that it had been raised twice and rung for service every Sunday. In my opinion, a proof of good work originally, and proper care and attention after.

It is doubtful, I think, if there is another ring of bells in the kingdom on which so much peal ringing has been done as on the ring of ten at Aston. The late Joseph Spencer and one or two others had rung every bell round through peals of 5,000 and upwards, and there are several living now, including myself, who have rung every one except the tenor through peals. At the present time (1894) I understand they are in perfect order.

Robert Roberts died in November, 1841, and for some years after his death the bells were rung muffled on the anniversary thereof, Mr. F. Roberts giving the ringers a supper afterwards; and when he ceased doing so, my uncle kept the custom up for some little time after. This was a good proof of the respect in which he was held. The last ringer of the family was Mr. F. Roberts, jun., who rang several peals of Grandsire and one of Stedman Triples. He was a very gentle, kindly gentleman, who was cut off in his twenty-seventh or twenty-eighth year by consumption, in 1874 or 1875.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

BLAKENHALL, WOLVERHAMPTON.—On Sunday, March 25th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: K. Wright 1, T. Reynolds 2, A. Collins (conductor) 3, T. Martin 4, H. Boswell 5, R. Lunn 6.

SHILLINGSTONE, DORSET.—On Saturday, March 31st, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: B. Ridout 1, A. Haughton 2, A. Hart (conductor) 3, F. Hart 4, F. Winter 5, A. Dunn 6.

SOMERLEYTON, SUFFOLK.—On Saturday, March 31st, 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor: Mrs. G. Walpole (first 720 Treble Bob) 1, B. Barber 2, E. Brown 3, G. Bussey 4, S. Penn 5, G. Walpole (conductor) 6.

BANBURY.—On Sunday, April 1st, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: F. Selwyn 1, H. Alexander 2, W. Watson 3, J. Walton 4, J. Simons 5, J. Stretton (first quarter-peal) 6, H. Impey (conductor) 7, G. Stedman Morris 8. Also 1,259 Grandsire Caters: H. Alexander (conductor) 1, H. Impey 2, G. Stedman Morris 3, J. Walton 4, E. Pearson 5, W. Watson 6, T. Impey 7, F. Selwyn 8, J. Simons 9, J. Stretton (first quarter-peal of Caters) 10.

BADSEY, EVESHAM.—On Easter Day, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: W. A. Reed 1, A. J. Taylor 2, W. D. Sparrow 3, W. T. Hardiman 4, F. E. Jones 5, V. A. Hemming 6, G. J. Hemming (conductor) 7, R. Geden 8.

DEPTFORD.—At St. John's, on Easter Day, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: S. E. Daynes 1, F. W. Richardson (conductor) 2, R. G. Long 3, G. H. Daynes 4, T. A. Easterby 5, A. F. Bennington 6, H. W. Clark 7, E. S. Owen 8.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

JOINT MEETING AT WIGAN.

A joint meeting of the Wigan and Liverpool Branches of the Lancashire Association was held on April 7th at the Wigan Parish Church, so that the Bishop of Liverpool, Dr. Clifford A. Martin, could meet as many of the bellringers in his diocese as possible.

About 120 bellringers, representing the Wigan, Liverpool, Preston, Bolton, Manchester, Furness and Lake District Branches, were present, together with representatives from other County Associations. The president of the Lancashire Association, the Rev. F. F. Rugley (Ashton-under-Lyne), and members of the committee attended, whilst clergy from the Wigan and Liverpool districts were invited. The bells were rung during the afternoon and evening. The ringers operated in teams of ten, and the Bishop, who had done a little bell-ringing himself, had a pull at the bells.

The ringers attended a special service held at the church in the afternoon. During the course of his address, Dr. Martin said he was glad to have had the opportunity of meeting the bellringers of his diocese and surrounding districts in such large numbers. Bellringing had passed through a very difficult time, but although ringers had been idle for so long, many were already practising more, to increase their efficiency. Everywhere there was a great fellowship amongst bellringers, and a ringer was always welcome to the belfry of any church in the country. As a service to God and His Church bellringing was coming into its own again. He hoped that all the bellringers in the church would ring out the bells in their towns when victory was proclaimed, for there was no way in which this country could express its gladness better than through the ringing of bells. Expressing his joy that the bells had not given warning of invasion, the Bishop said he was sorry it was ever suggested they should be used for that purpose. The trumpet was for warning, but the bell for victory and gladness, rejoicing and happiness. Bellringing had always been associated with the Church and Church life, and was a call to worship. Caution was necessary to prevent the art losing its meaning, and every effort must be made to preserve its purpose. Unworthiness was not desirable in a bellringer no matter how accomplished he might be, and ringers should remember that, as part of the Church, the Church was judged by their activities at all times. Many hours of conscientious practice had been put in by the ringers, and, as Father of the diocese, he hoped they would continue their good work.

After the service the ringers had tea at the National School, Wigan. The Rector, Canon Hunter Rodwell, extended a hearty welcome to all present, and said he was more than pleased to have the Bishop with them. He expressed thanks to all who had contributed to the success of the meeting, and particularly to the Mothers' Union, who had catered so well for them. The Rev. F. F. Rugley, on behalf of the Lancashire Association, thanked the Rector and officials of Wigan Parish Church for their welcome and hospitality and paid tribute to the words of encouragement and warning by the Bishop.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association was held at Cardiff on Easter Monday and attracted an excellent attendance. Service at St. John the Baptist's was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. Canon Lewis, who gave an address.

Tea in St. James' schoolroom was followed by the business meeting, at which the curate-in-charge, the Rev. Francis J. Rees, took the chair. Mr. E. Stitch and Mr. J. W. Jones were appointed the representatives on the Central Council, and Mr. J. Lovett was elected as Master.

Mr. John W. Jones had given notice that he desired to relinquish the office of hon. secretary, which he had held for 43 years, and Mr. Fred Hannington was appointed in his stead. On the proposition of Mr. Prosser, seconded by Mr. Heath, it was unanimously decided 'That Mr. John W. Jones, in honour of his long term of office as secretary of this association and by virtue of many years' faithful service to the association, be elected vice-president. That he be by a special resolution elected a life member though resident within the area covered by this association.' Canon Lewis said he had known Mr. Jones for many years as one who loved and worked hard for everything connected with the Church and bells.

The next Monmouthshire meeting will be at Abergavenny, and the next Glamorganshire meeting at Caerphilly.

The bells of St. John's were rung until late in the evening, and many young recruits obtained their first ring on ten bells during the day.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

At the monthly meeting of the Luton District of the Bedfordshire Association, held at Woburn on April 14th, some thirty members and friends were present from Bedford, Biddenden, Bromham, Dunstable, Great Barford, Husborne Crawley, Linslade, Leighton Buzzard, Luton, Maulden, Northampton, Tempsford, Tilsforth, Toddington, Totternhoe and the local tower.

Tea, at the Magpie, was followed by a short business meeting, at which it was suggested that Flitton be the place of the next meeting on May 12th. Various methods were rung during the afternoon and evening, including Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Plain Bob, Kent Treble Bob, Double Norwich, Cambridge Surprise Major and Superlative.

THE BELLS OF MADRAS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Some time ago I had the opportunity of visiting St. George's Cathedral at Madras, where there is a peal of eight bells cast at the Whitechapel Foundry between 1871-1874.

The Cathedral itself is similar in design to many of Wren's London churches. There are two rows of six pillars at the front, standing at the top of a number of steps. The square tower, surmounted by a fairly short spire, is centrally placed immediately behind the pillars. Access to the tower is from inside the Cathedral up a large flight of wooden stairs. On the first floor up is an Ellacombe type chiming apparatus with ropes leading up to the bells, which are visible from this floor. Wooden steps give access to the roof and parapets round the tower, from which an excellent view of the city and the sea is obtained. The bells are hung dead on headstocks fixed in a heavy timber frame, in two levels, the four heavy ones below the others. At a guess, the tenor looks to be upwards of 1 ton. The tone of the bells is quite good, and they are full of 'ring' except the treble and 3rd, but this may have been due to the chiming apparatus, and as time was scarce and the bells difficult to get amongst, I did not make a close inspection. The bells are chimed for five minutes by a native youth on Sundays to non-stop rounds with a couple of variations. I was told that no English visiting ringer had been for a long time. I fished out my pocket book and chimed about 15 hymn tunes, followed by call changes and the 1st lead of Plain Bob and Grandsire Triples.

The Cathedral stands in open ground surrounded by trees and looks very well. It is indeed a pity that these bells should not be chimed to better advantage—being so rare a possession to churches in the East, as most churches (C. of E. and R.C.) possess at the most four bells in this country, and usually only one.

NORMAN CHADDOCK.

India Command.

[Messrs. Mears and Stainbank's catalogue lists the Madras bells as a ring of eight, with a 20 cwt. tenor, cast in 1871.—Editor.]

DEATH OF MR. W. H. THOMAS.

The death is announced of Mr. William H. Thomas, of the West of England Varnish Co., Small Street, Bristol, and Winford, Somerset, one of Bristol's best-known ringers.

He learned his ringing at an early age at St. Michael's, City, and then went to the Clifton Parish Church tower, where his ringing reached a high standard.

He was a member of St. Stephen's Guild for 30 years and was well known as a ringer throughout England and Wales.

His wife, who died some years ago, was also an experienced campanologist. His three sons are also ringers, the eldest being Master of the Oxford Guild during his undergraduate days.

Mr. Thomas' three brothers are also keen and experienced ringers.

The funeral of the late Mr. William H. Thomas took place at Cranford Cemetery on Wednesday, April 11th. There was a very large gathering of ringers and friends present to pay their last respects to one who was not only a great ringer, but of a personality very much respected throughout the Exercise.

His business took him to many parts of England, where he combined these visits with his ringing friends in their respective towers. He was not in the forefront of peal ringing (although he rang a large number), but often expressed that ringing for Sunday services gave him greater joy than time spent for long peals. His ringing was of a high standard.

Following the burial service, a short course of plain Grandsire Triples was rung at the graveside by Mr. F. Leaker (St. Thomas'), Mr. P. Williams (St. Philip's), Mr. A. Prince (St. Stephen's) and Mr. S. Briggs (Yorkshire).

THE BELLS OF WASHFIELD, DEVON.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I should like to make a slight correction to my last letter. On looking through the vestry minutes I find our No. 2 bell was cracked in 1861 and sent to Mears and Stainbank to be recast. This solves the problem of late date on bell. Our treble has been going strong since 1787, when William Bilbie, of Chewstoke, Somerset, made it with the four others. Our ring of six is now one of the loveliest in Devonshire.

J. MAURICE TURNER, President, N.E. Devon Guild.

Washfield Rectory.

THE SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING AT GLASGOW.

Thirty-one ringers were present at the annual meeting of the Scottish Association, held at St. Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow, on Saturday, April 7th. The total membership is 108, 77 of whom are ringing members and 24 serving with H.M. Forces, including two prisoners of war.

Nine new members were elected, seven being under 16 years of age. The Ringing Master, Mr. W. H. Pickett, congratulated the St. James', Paisley, band on the progress of their juvenile ringers.

The arrangement of an association peal was left in the hands of the Ringing Master. A suggestion that the suitability of a peal of bells as a war memorial be brought to the notice of various authorities was discussed and left to the secretary for action and report.

The service was conducted by the Provost, the Very Rev. M. P. G. Leonard, D.S.O. (late of Hatfield). He and the Rev. J. W. Johnson were elected honorary members. The Glasgow Press gave some prominence to the ringing before and after the meeting. It was also announced by the B.B.C. in the Scottish News Bulletins.

CRANFORD, MIDDLESEX.

Before evening service on April 8th at St. Dunstan's, Cranford, the Rector, the Rev. Maurice Child, dedicated a board erected to record the first peal on the bells, which have been restored and augmented to six during the war. During the afternoon methods from Grandsire Doubles to London Surprise Minor were rung.

The board was presented by Mr. W. H. Coles, the conductor of the band, who later on in the evening gave a talk to members of the Cranford Youth Club on 'Bells and Change Ringing.' This was illustrated on handbells by Mr. and Mrs. John Thomas, Mr. E. C. S. Turner and Mr. G. Kilby.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT KILBURN.

The North and East District meeting of the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild, held at St. Augustine's, Kilburn, on Saturday last, was attended by some thirty ringers, and methods in all classes were rung. At the outset of the business tribute was paid to the memory of George R. Pye.

The provisional election of Mr. J. Bullock (Dagenham) as a non-resident life member was ratified, and Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Donaldson (Clerkenwell) were elected ringing members. It was announced that a district ringing practice would be held at Willesden on Tuesday, May 1st, and the annual general meeting of the association at Clerkenwell on Saturday, May 12th. The tower of St. Mary's, Willesden, was open in the evening, at which further ringing took place.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT BROOMFIELD.

Ringers were present from Great Baddow, Chelmsford, Broomfield, Danbury, Maldon, Springfield, Writtle, Brentwood, Black Notley, Romford and Stanstead on April 7th at a meeting of the South-Eastern District of the Essex County Association, held at Broomfield, where the bells have recently been rehung on ball bearings by the local band. The Vicar, the Rev. J. F. Rutherford, conducted the service and gave an address. Mr. P. A. F. Chalk was elected a ringing member, and the hon. secretary was requested to write to the Bishop of Chelmsford wishing him a speedy recovery from his illness. Maldon was selected as the place of the next meeting.

The methods rung included Plain Bob, Double Court Bob, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, and Cambridge and London Surprise Minor.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

KINGTON DISTRICT MEETING AT EARDISLAND.

A meeting of the Kington District of the Hereford Diocesan Guild was held at Eardisland on April 7th. Ringing commenced at 2.30. The Guild form of service was held in church, conducted by the Vicar.

After tea, at which 20 members from six towers sat down, a short business meeting was held, the Vicar presiding. One new member was elected. It was decided to hold a practice at Lyonshall in July and the next meeting at Kington in September, and if possible to arrange a combined districts practice at Leominster at an early date.

The local band were congratulated on the progress they had made, six members learned to ring with silent bells, and since the ban was lifted the bells have been rung for two services every Sunday.

Ringing was kept up till nine o'clock in the following methods: Grandsire, Stedman, Reverse Canterbury Doubles, Plain Bob, Kent and Oxford Bob Minor.

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MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

RUISLIP, MIDDLESEX.—On Easter Day, 720 Bob Minor: P. Thrift 1, G. M. Kilby (conductor) 2, A. Hunter 3, W. S. Beaumont 4, T. Collins 5, W. Bunce 6. Also 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: F. Blondell (conductor) 1, G. M. Kilby 2, A. Hunter 3, W. S. Beaumont 4, T. Collins 5, W. Bunce 6.

STAVELEY, DERBYSHIRE.—On Easter Day, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: L. G. Palmer 1, A. White 2, W. T. Palmer (conductor) 3, S. Smedley 4, A. E. Parsons 5, J. Knott 6, F. Adams 7 (covering).

FREISTON, LINCS.—On Easter Day, 720 Single Court: A. Pearson 1, F. Harwood 2, W. Bradley 3, A. Burchall 4, H. Harper (conductor) 5, E. Barnes 6.

LYME REGIS, DORSET.—On April 2nd, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: F. Rickards 1, Rev. C. C. Cox (conductor) 2, J. E. Philbrick 3, Mrs. C. W. Powell 4, S. Philbrick 5, H. G. Keeley 6.

LITTLE MUNDEN, HERTS.—On Easter Day, 720 Oxford Treble Bob: W. Williams 1, A. Phillips 2, B. Patmore 3, A. Carter 4, N. Patmore 5, E. Overall (conductor) 6. Also 720 Plain Bob: W. Williams 1, A. Phillips 2, S. Head 3, A. Carter 4, N. Patmore 5, B. Patmore (conductor) 6.

COTGRAVE, NOTTS.—On Easter Monday, 1,260 Bob Minor: G. Savill 1, A. Lygo 2, E. Dale 3, J. Hayes 4, S. Loach 5, C. Burrell (conductor) 6.

ABERDARE.—On Tuesday, April 3rd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: *A. George 1, F. Shale 2, *D. Kerley 3, J. A. Evans 4, F. Rowsel (conductor) 5, J. T. Williams 6, *Sergt. T. C. Davies 7, *D. Richards 8. * First quarter-peal.

FOBBING, ESSEX.—On Saturday, April 7th, 720 Bob Minor: R. Blackmore 1, Mrs. B. Wiltshire (first 720) 2, A. Reeve 3, S. M. Bailey 4, Miss C. Ohnnyer (conductor) 5, H. Chinnery 6, G. Saunders 7.

PORTSMOUTH.—On Sunday, April 8th, at the Cathedral, 1,260 Stedman Triples: J. D. Harris 1, L. P. Cook 2, S. E. Cook 3, H. A. Nobes 4, W. Tate 5, J. H. Hunt 6, F. W. Burnett (conductor) 7, W. A. Theobald 8.

NORTON, STOKE-ON-TRENT.—On Sunday, April 8th, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: O. Williams 1, S. B. Bailey 2, G. E. Lawrence 3, W. C. Lawrence 4, C. S. Ryles (conductor) 5, J. Waller 6. Also 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: G. E. Lawrence 1, S. Bailey 2, J. E. Wheelton (conductor) 3, W. C. Lawrence 4, O. Williams 5, J. Walley 6.

HARPOLE.—On April 8th, 1,260 Doubles, being 240 St. Simon's, 240 Plain Bob, 240 April Day and 540 Grandsire: W. Parkinson 1, Miss H. Smith 2, W. Collins 3, T. Garrett 4, F. Browning (conductor) 5.

HANDSWORTH, SHEFFIELD.—On Sunday, April 8th, 720 Cambridge Minor: Mrs. J. E. Turley 1, Mrs. H. Kelly 2, J. G. Brothwell 3, A. Allwood 4, H. Taylor 5, J. E. Turley (conductor) 6, J. H. Brothwell 7.

FULHAM.—On Sunday, April 8th, 1,263 Stedman Caters: H. Belcher 1, H. Langdon (conductor) 2, H. G. Miles 3, C. Dean 4, W. J. Paice 5, A. Jones 6, A. B. Wiffen 7, J. F. Smallwood 8, R. F. Deal 9, H. M. Page 10.

STAVERTON, NORTHANTS.—On Sunday, April 8th, 720 Bob Minor: Miss Maud Clarke 1, Miss Priscilla Jackson 2, Rev. E. S. Powell 3, H. Haynes 4, Mrs. E. S. Powell 5, D. C. Birkinshaw (conductor) 6.

WILLESBOROUGH, KENT.—On Sunday, April 8th, 720 Double Bob Minor: M. Gillham 1, Pte. H. G. Keeley 2, Pte. R. Newton 3, M. Lancefield 4, W. J. Lancefield 5, E. S. Ruck (conductor) 6.

WILLENHALL.—On Sunday, April 8th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: A. Davies (first quarter-peal) 1, I. Evans 2, W. T. Edge 3, C. Wallater 4, J. Luck 5, J. T. Davies 6, J. Goodman (conductor) 7, A. E. Reed 8.

APPLETON, BERKS.—On Sunday, April 8th, 1,259 Grandsire Caters: W. F. Judge (conductor) 1, Miss Valhalla Hill 2, A. R. Cornish 3, W. Judge 4, F. Messenger 5, W. C. Porter 6, H. W. White 7, J. H. R. Freeborn 8, G. Holifield 9, E. Drewett 10.

HASLEMERE.—On Sunday, April 8th, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: F. Avery (first 720 Treble Bob) 1, Mrs. F. Bowden 2, F. Bowden (conductor) 3, F. White 4, H. Smithers 5, R. Hayes 6.

STONEHOUSE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.—On Sunday, April 8th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: *G. Townsend 1, E. Preedy 2, *R. Thain 3, *S. Thain 4, T. Price (conductor) 5, T. Witts 6. * First quarter-peal.

FAKENHAM, NORFOLK.—On Sunday, April 8th, 720 Bob Major: W. G. Cooke 1, J. Williamson 2, Miss J. R. Cooke 3, E. C. Cooke 4, G. Dye 5, R. Lingwood 6, Flight-Sgt. R. Cadamy 7, G. A. Cooke (conductor) 8.

ALLSLEY, COVENTRY.—On Sunday, April 8th, 720 London Surprise Minor: C. H. Aylett 1, H. G. Summers 2, J. W. T. Taylor 3, E. Stone 4, J. W. Taylor 5, W. A. Stote (conductor) 6.

HEMINGFORD ABBOTS, HUNTS.—On Sunday, April 8th, 720 Kent Treble Bob: P. H. Skipworth 1, L. W. Fisher 2, F. Warrington (conductor) 3, A. E. Flatters 4, G. L. Perkins 5, J. Perkins 6.

EDENHAM.—On Sunday, April 8th, 720 Spliced Oxford and Kent Treble Bob: Miss B. Stainsby 1, D. Stainsby 2, A. Holmes 3, Miss M. Gann 4, R. Stainsby 5, W. A. Holmes (conductor) 6.

SKETTY.—On Sunday, April 8th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: *F. Thorne 1, *J. Eadey 2, *L. Knight 3, *A. Edwards 4, J. T. Williams (conductor) 5, J. A. Hoare 6, *L. Hughes 7, *G. Rees 8. Treble and 2nd leading. * First quarter-peal.

NEW BUCKENHAM, NORFOLK.—On Sunday, April 8th, 720 Bob Minor: *B. Robinson 1, R. Grant 2, *F. Waldron 3, J. R. Smith 4, S. Holman 5, W. G. Saunders (conductor) 6. * First 720 of Minor.

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.

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

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Bishops Waltham, Saturday, April 21st, 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea 5.—R. J. Stone, 16, Penhale Road, Fratton, Portsmouth.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—Quarterly, Christ Church, Erith, Saturday, April 21st, 3 p.m. Service 4.30.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Hengist Road, Erith, Kent.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSN.—West Hartlepool, St. Oswald's (8), Saturday, April 21st, 2.30 p.m.—Frank Ainsley, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSN.—Rothley (6), April 21st, 3 p.m. Service 4.45 p.m. Tea and meeting, Village Hall.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSN.—Ripley Parish Church (8), April 21st, 2.30 p.m. Important business.—Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec., Chaddesden.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, E.1, Saturday, April 21st, 3 p.m. Ringing, St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate.—A. B. Peck.

BATH AND WELLS ASSN.—Fivehead (6), Saturday, April 21st, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Good bus service.

LINCOLN GUILD.—Long Sutton, April 21st, 1.30. Service 3.30. Tea and business 4. Names to W. A. Richardson, Glenside, Pinchbeck, Spalding.

BATH AND WELLS ASSN.—Pilton, Saturday, April 21st, 3. Service 4 p.m. Usual arrangements. Names to W. H. Marsh, 4, Dovecotes, Street, Somerset.

HERTFORD ASSN.—Oxhey, Saturday, April 21st, 3. Tea 5.30.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—Annual, Rugby, April 21st (light five 3-4.30, heavy eight 6.30-8). Service 4.30. Tea 5, followed by business in Church Hall.—D. E. Beamish, 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

OXFORD GUILD.—Sonning Deanery Branch.—Annual, Wokingham, Saturday, April 21st. Service 4 p.m. at All Saints', followed by tea and meeting at Rectory. All Saints' bells 3 p.m. and after meeting.—B. C. Castle, Hon. Sec., The Briars, Westfield Road, Winnersh, Wokingham.

SUSSEX ASSN.—Practice, Warnham (8), April 21st, 3 p.m.

CHESTER GUILD.—Chester Branch.—Waverton (6), Saturday, April 21st, 3. Service 4.30.—J. W. Clarke, Hon. Sec., Mollington.

BATH AND WELLS ASSN.—North Cadbury (6), Saturday, April 28th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business to follow. South Cadbury after meeting.—H. C. Lintern, Hon. Sec., Alhampton, Ditchat.

OXFORD GUILD.—Great Tew (8), Saturday, April 28th, 3 p.m. Tea.—E. Pearson, Adderbury West.

ESSEX ASSN.—Halstead, Saturday, April 28th, 2 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m. Choral evensong 6 p.m.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec., 3, Belle Vue, Heddingham Road, Halstead, Essex.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Kingsclere (6), Sat., April 28th. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Names to Mr. H. Corneby, Mill House, Kingsclere.—J. Chesterman, Hon. Sec.

SOCIETY OF CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, Saturday, April 28th, 3.30 to 5 and 6 to 7.30 p.m.—G. W. Steere, Hon. Sec., 46, Milton Avenue, Sutton, Surrey.

OXFORD GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—Annual, Windsor Parish Church, Saturday, April 28th, 3.30 p.m. Bells, service, tea and meeting. Names for tea (1s. 3d.) to A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough. Phone, Slough 23260.

KENT ASSN.—Bethersden, April 28th, 2.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names to P. Page, Dis. Sec., Kennington, Ashford, Kent.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSN.—Greasley, Saturday, April 28th, 2.30 p.m. Tea 4.30. Important business. Names to Mr. W. Ratcliffe, Post Office, Giltbrook.—T. Groombridge, jun., Dis. Sec.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSN.—Turvey (8), Saturday, April 28th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Names to Mr. J. Hilson, High Street, Turvey, Beds.—L. H. Bowler, Hon. Sec.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual, Lincoln, Saturday, April 28th. Cathedral bells (12), 2 to 3 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m.; St. Peter-at-Gowts (6), from 2 p.m. Business 3 p.m. in Chapter House. Evensong at Cathedral, 4 p.m. Own tea arrangements.—F. W. Stokes, Hon. Sec., Blankney, Lincoln.

BATH AND WELLS ASSN.—Chilcompton (6), Saturday, April 28th. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. Names by the 25th to E. H. Nash, The Talbot, Wells.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSN.—Hinckley District.—Desford (6), April 28th, 3.30 p.m. Cups of tea 5 p.m.; bring food.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

ELY ASSN.—Annual, Cambridge, April 28th. Service 4; preacher, the Lord Bishop of Ely. Tea at Dorothy Cafe, 2s. Ringing, Great St. Mary's 2-4, St. Benet's 2.15-3.45, Great St. Andrew's 6.30-7.30, R.C. 7.30-8.30.—K. Willers, Trumpington, Cambridge.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wirral Branch.—Heswall Parish Church, Saturday, April 28th, 3 p.m. Service at 6 p.m. Cup of tea; bring own food.—Harry S. Brocklebank, 30, South Hill Road, Birkenhead.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guilborough Branch.—West Haddon (5), Saturday, April 28th. Tea provided.—C. Green, Sec., Murcott, Long Buckby, Rugby.

SUSSEX ASSN.—Western Division.—Practice, Wisborough Green, Saturday, April 28th, 5 p.m.—L. Stilwell.

KENT COUNTY ASSN.—Rochester District.—Quarterly, Northfleet, Saturday, April 28th, 2.45. Service 4.30, followed by tea and meeting in Infants' Schools (next churchyard). Swanscombe bells available 3 o'clock. Names for tea by 25th to G. H. Spice, Hon. Sec., 35, Woodstock Road, Sittingbourne.

DONCASTER SOCIETY.—Barnby Don, Saturday, April 28th, 3 p.m. Own food; tea provided.—W. E. Lloyd, 3, Cranbrook Road, Doncaster.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSN.—Bristol Rural Branch.—Westerleigh (6), April 28th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow.—D. W. Gardner, 9, Cozsham Street, Mangotsfield, Bristol.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Annual, Leeds Parish Church, Saturday, April 28th. Tea can be obtained in town. Business 7 p.m., in tower.—H. Loft-house, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

PETERBOROUGH GUILD.—Aldwincle (5), Saturday, April 28th. Service 4.30. Usual arrangements. Wadenhoe (6) after meeting.—W. R. Butcher, Hon. Sec.

LINCOLN GUILD.—Annual, Lincoln, Saturday, April 28th. Cathedral bells, 2 to 3 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m.; St. Peter-at-Gowt's (6), from 2 p.m. Business in Chapter House 3 p.m. Evensong at Cathedral 4 p.m. Tea, St. Giles' Parish Hall. Names to Mr. H. Marcon, 269, Wragby Road, Lincoln.—F. W. Stokes, Hon. Sec., Blankney, Lincoln.

LANCASHIRE ASSN.—Westhoughton, Saturday, April 28th, 2.30. Business 6.30 p.m. Cups of tea provided.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec.

BATH AND WELLS ASSN.—Worle (6), April 28th, 6.30 to 9.—E. J. Avery, Local Sec., Sandford, Bristol.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSN.—Emmanuel Church, Clifton (6), Saturday, April 28th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Meeting and tea following.—W. S. Emery, Hon. Sec., 34, Waverley Road, Bristol, 6.

SUSSEX ASSN.—Annual, Brighton, Saturday, May 5th. Ringing, St. Peter's, afternoon and evening, St. Nicholas', evening. Service, St. Peter's, 4.15. Allowances, tea 1s. 3d., max. rail fare 2s. 6d. Names for tea by April 28th.—S. E. Armstrong, Hon. Gen. Sec., 21, Kenmure Avenue, Brighton 6.

KENT ASSN.—Walmer, May 5th, 2.30. Service 4. Tea (1s. 6d.) 4.30. Notify Mrs. F. A. Rye, 6, Castle Road, Walmer, Deal, by May 2nd.—B. J. Luck, Hon. Dis. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH GUILD.—Wellingborough Branch.—Stanwick (5), Saturday, May 5th. Service 4.30. Tea 1s. 6d.; names early.—A. Bigley, 30, Allen Road, Irthlingborough.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSN.—East Norfolk Branch.—Gorleston-on-Sea (8), May 5th, 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea in St. Andrew's Hall, 5.15. Please send names or numbers for tea by May 1st.—J. Harwood, Branch Sec., 189, Palgrave Road, Great Yarmouth.

YORKSHIRE ASSN.—Annual, Leeds Parish Church, Saturday, May 5th, 2 p.m. Service 3 p.m. Tea (1s. 3d.) in St. Peter's Hall, 4 p.m. Names to G. Robinson, 32, Heathfield, Adel, Leeds, by May 2nd. Business in St. Peter's Schools immediately afterwards.—L. W. G. Morris, Hon. Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Annual, Clerkenwell, May 12th. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. at 1s. 3d. Names for certain by May 7th. Ringing arrangements will be announced later.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Sec., 21, Vincent Road, E.4.

PULBOROUGH.—On April 2nd, 1,260 Stedman Triples: J. H. Hunt 1, P. R. Blackman (first quarter-peal in the method) 2, S. E. Cook 3, F. Bennett 4, L. Stilwell 5, E. J. Munday 6, F. W. Burnett (conductor) 7, C. Ayliffe 8.

STANFORD-LE-HOPE, ESSEX.—On Saturday, April 14th, 720 Bob Minor: A. Howell 1, Miss B. Wiltshire 2, Miss C. Chinnery 3, A. Reeve 4, S. M. Bailey (conductor) 5, H. Chinnery 6, G. Saunders 7, R. Blackmore 8 (7-8 covering).

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