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FRIDAY, AUGUST 9th, 1940.

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UNCERTAINTY STILL PREVAILS.

More and more the clergy, as well as ringers, are becoming perturbed at the silence of the bells without any adequate arrangements having been made for their use for the purpose for which they are now reserved. The Archdeacon of Chester and the Rev. E. C. Courtman, hon. secretary of the National Clergy Association, representing thousands of incumbents, have now taken up the subject in the Press in the hope that instructions may be forthcoming from the Ministry of Home Security. Archdeacon Burne has put some pointed questions, and Mr. Courtman calls attention to the fact that, in this question, the clergy who might have been helpful have been ignored. All these things we have persistently pointed out since the Order was made in June. Ringers have no desire other than to be helpful; they are the people who best know how to ring the bells without danger to life or limb; and, if the sounding of church bells is the most effective method of alarm, they would everywhere be only too happy to collaborate. But even organisation among ringers is useless, unless the public know what is expected of them when the warning is given. The unsatisfactory state of affairs at the moment is beyond understanding. The state of uncertainty has existed for seven weeks, and the only thing that anyone knows is that the bells may not be sounded except at the command of a commissioned officer of H.M. Forces or the Chief of Police. While the uncertainty exists, there is always the risk of chaos. The sounding of hammer against steel in a local gasworks fetched many members of the public into the streets at one place in south-east London. The noise was mistaken for a church bell, and the first instinct appears to have been to rush out of doors to see what was happening. Is that what the authorities want? We think not, but they have not told us. The church bell can hardly be for the purpose of calling assistance—if it is, whose assistance is required? When the army or police have been informed of the air invasion, so that they may order the bells to be rung, they have far greater facilities for gathering defensive and armed forces by other means, and the church bells would not be necessary, even if the authorities bothered to give instructions for them to be sounded.

Some of our readers may think we are unduly labouring this matter, but it is only by stressing the futility of the scheme as it at present exists that any useful amendment of it is likely to be secured; and in a useful amendment it would be possible, without any risk to national security or thwarting the idea behind the plan, to permit, at least, the ringing of bells for services. But even if

(Continued on page 374.)

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this latter desire cannot at the moment be acceded to, for invasion is still, in the words of the Prime Minister, a possibility that has not passed away, it is important that the object of the bell warning should be known and understood, and that the services of those who know how to use the bells should be enlisted. If this were done, the restoration of the bells for service ringing could, we feel sure, be made with safety. We have the evidence of the National Clergy Association that the silence of the bells has a depressing effect; and those who know our country life in particular will fully endorse this view. At a time when everything should be done to avoid such an effect, it is not too much to press for a modification of this particular ban. There is always something cheering in the sound of church bells, and their restoration now would more than likely be doubly cheering and reassuring after their enforced silence. But what is most necessary at the moment is the clearing up of the present uncertainty and some definite arrangements about the warning, for which the services of ringers ought to be secured. In the meantime, ringing organisations might turn their attention to making representations in the proper quarter for a modification of the ban. If the Central Council would give a lead, there is no question that the associations would follow.

HANDBELL PEAL.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, July 31, 1940, in Two Hours and Twenty-Eight Minutes,

At the RECTORY,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANCES;
Tenor size 15.

WILFRED WILLIAMS	...	1-2	ERNEST C. S. TURNER	...	5-6
EDWIN A. BARNETT	...	3-4	EDWIN JENNINGS	...	7-8

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER

GETTING READY FOR VICTORY.

A SUSSEX PEAL TO BE RESTORED.

Shortly before the ban of silence was imposed upon all church bells, the belfry at Wadhurst, Sussex, was examined by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, after complaints had been made by the ringers about the increasing difficulty of ringing. It was reported that there was much movement in the bottom timbers of the bell frame, and that bolts are needed to secure the joints. The fitting of iron angle plates to the internal top corners of the bell frame pits was also advised. In addition the gudgeons and bearings of the four smaller bells are much worn, and they should be refitted in ball bearings and rehung. The tenor and fifth bell were recently refitted and rehung.

It would not be safe to ring the bells in their present state, so in view of the report, and as an act of faith in ultimate victory, the Parochial Church Council has decided to put these repairs in hand, in order that, when the bells can be rung again, there may be no question of danger arising from the state of the bell frame. The estimated cost is £66 19s. 8d., and there is a small reserve fund which can be drawn upon for this purpose, but any special contribution for the purpose would be most gratefully received by the Vicar.

MR. JAMES GEORGE.

CONTINUED PROGRESS.

Despite his 86 years, Mr. James George is reported to be making remarkable progress towards recovery, after the recent amputation of his left leg. He still suffers some pain, but is quite bright.

He asks us to thank the many ringers who have sent him kind letters of sympathy. He especially thanks the members of the College Youths, the Middlesex Association and the St. Martin's Guild, Birmingham, for their letters.

He is still in the Gribble Ward at Northampton General Hospital and is likely to be there for three weeks or more. When he is able to leave he proposes to make his home with friends at Wolverton, Bucks. In the meantime he will appreciate letters from any old friends who are able to write to him.

DEATH OF MR. JOHN BEAMS.

LOSS TO EWELL TOWER.

We much regret to record the death of Mr. John Beams, of Ewell, Surrey, who passed away in Epsom County Hospital on Saturday after only a short illness. He was taken ill on the preceding Sunday and underwent two operations on Thursday. He leaves a widow and son and daughter in bereavement.

Mr. Beams was one of the mainstays of ringing in his particular corner of Surrey for many years, and gave his services unsparingly in promoting the art. For over fifty years he was a member of the Surrey Association and was one of the foundation members of the Guildford Diocesan Guild. He was an unassuming man, but ever ready to lend a helping hand, whether in ringing or anything else. He will be much missed in Ewell belfry and among his many friends in the district. He had rung a great many peals and conducted several.

Among the peals in which he had taken part was one by which, in 1928, all the band celebrated their silver weddings, which occurred during the year, and five years after, another to commemorate the 30th anniversary of their respective weddings. Mr. Beams and his son also took part in a 'John' peal. All these peals were rung for the Guildford Diocesan Guild.

The news of Mr. Beams' death reached the joint meeting of the Surrey Association and Guildford Guild at Leatherhead on Saturday and suitable reference was made to the loss sustained, the members signifying their regret by standing in silence for a few moments.

The funeral took place at St. Mary's Church, Ewell, on Wednesday afternoon.

Only a few months ago, Mr. Beams' brother, Jesse, passed away, and last week also Ewell tower sustained further loss by the death of another old member in Mr. Worsfold.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.

WAR-TIME MEETING AT HARTFIELD.

Last Saturday the East Grinstead and District Guild held a successful meeting in the Church Room at Hartfield, when members met to discuss the future and to enjoy a social afternoon. The company, who were welcomed by the Vicar (the Rev. H. A. James) quickly settled down to handbell ringing, and though it was very obvious that most members were more proficient in the tower, some good practice was put in. To help younger members, single-handed ringing was the order of the day.

Over tea in the Anchor Hotel, the future was discussed. Mr. E. J. Ladd pointed out that the committee's decision to carry on, which was made at the October meeting, had been fully justified, for the monthly meetings had all been well attended, and the last meeting at Rotherfield on June 8th was a great success. On his proposition it was decided to hold meetings bi-monthly, and Mr. A. Ryman suggested East Grinstead as the next meeting place. This was agreed to and the date was fixed for October 12th.

After tea the company returned to the Church Room for more handbell practice, but transport problems caused an earlier break up than usual.

A REMARKABLE PEAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In your issue of June 28th you published an interesting article, 'A Remarkable Peal,' by X.Y.Z., describing a peal of fifteen thousand of Kent Treble Bob Major said to have been rung at Fenchurch St. Paul in Lincolnshire.

An account of this is also to be found in Dorothy Sayers' admirable book, 'The Nine Tailors,' but with this difference: Whereas X.Y.Z. writes of this peal as actually taking place on January 1st, 1929, and goes on to describe the ringers taking part, Miss Sayers, in the foreword to her book, craves the indulgence of any change ringer who may find any errors and states that all characters and place names are purely fictitious.

Both accounts are exactly alike apart from this, which I'm sure you will agree is very inconsistent.

I wonder if you or X.Y.Z. can explain this for me.

S. BIRCH.

Dawley, Salop.

For the benefit of our correspondent, we would point out that 'X.Y.Z.' had really been doing a bit of detective work, like the chief character in Miss Sayers' novel. He delved into the pages of 'The Nine Tailors,' picked up the clues, and, piecing them together, presented a picture of the ringers and an account of their great performance for the interest of our readers. Did X.Y.Z. pull our correspondent's leg, or is Mr. Birch pulling ours?—Editor, 'Ringing World.'

HANDBELL RINGING FOR SERVICE.

At Halesworth Parish Church on Sunday, July 28th, handbells were rung for morning service. The following ringers took part in courses of Grandsire Triples: A. H. Took 1-2, Miss O. L. Ashbrook 3-4, F. C. Lambert 5-6, S. Sgt. H. W. Rogers, R.A.O.C., 7-8. Other members of the local band took part in rounds and call changes.

RINGING IN SHREWSBURY.

MORE DETAILS OF PEALS.

Mr. C. R. Lilley, who was one time Master at St. Chad's, Shrewsbury, has amplified the material given in the recent articles by Mr. J. A. Trollope on ringing in Shrewsbury. Mr. Lilley says that the first of the peals was rung at the Abbey in 1735, a 5,040 Grandsire Triples. A board in the tower records that the performance was repeated in the following year. At old St. Chad's Church, peals were rung in 1762, 1769 and 1770. These were two peals of Grandsire Triples and one of Caters. In 1772 'Mr. Holt's celebrated peal of Grandsire Triples was rung for the first time in the town,' at St. Mary's, where in 1783 and 1798 peals of Grandsire Triples were again rung. Earlier, in 1776, a peal of Treble Bob Major was rung at the Abbey and is recorded on a board in the ringing loft. The local society of change ringers were in good form at the end of the eighteenth century, and in the year 1799 completed a peal of Grandsire Cinques at St. Chad's, 'distinguished for its fine striking.' In the following year they surpassed themselves by completing the more difficult task of ringing a peal of Oxford Treble Bob Royal. Other peals were rung by the Union Society, whose conductor was R. Cross. They included Grandsire Caters and Cinques, Bob Royal and Maximus and Oxford Treble Bob Maximus.

Cross was a saddler by trade and his grave is close by the tower of St. Chad's. After these peals there came a long gap, but before the new bells were installed John Carter called Grandsire Cinques, Edgar Hancock called Stedman Cinques, J. E. Groves called Grandsire Caters and George Byolin called two peals of Grandsire Triples (one on the front eight and the other on the back eight).

St. Chad's Society was formed in 1912, after the bells had been recast, and between 1913 and 1926 the following peals were rung in the tower, conducted by C. R. Lilley: Bob Major, Bob Royal, Grandsire Triples, Caters and Cinques, Stedman Triples and Cinques, Double Norwich Major and Kent Treble Bob Maximus. Mr. Lilley also called a number of peals of Minor on St. Michael's and St. Julien's bells, and Mr. William Short also called one in each of those belfries.

The Abbey bells, Mr. Lilley says, were rung up to 1887, when the tower was restored and the ringing chamber, the floor of which was level with the west window, was done away with. The bells were then hung 'dead.'

GLOUCESTER & BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

OFFICIALS' APPEAL TO MEMBERS.

The difficulties of carrying on the work of associations now that a ban has descended upon the ringing of church bells is everywhere apparent. The Master, Secretary and Treasurer of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association have made a joint appeal to the members to carry on to the best of their ability. This appeal has been sent out with the copies of the annual report to the members. They say:—

'The authorities have silenced our bells! (Rightly or wrongly, it is not for us to say). We are, therefore, faced with a great difficulty in the fact that meetings without ringing will be unattractive.'

'We urge members to continue their branch and local Guild meetings. In one instance we have learned of a Guild, meeting on Sundays once a month, just as if they had turned up to ring. Instead, they have a chat.'

'Ringers have had meeting places other than their belfries, such as localities and inns, and to continue this is to ensure contact. Besides somebody is sure to bring handbells. In large cities social evenings could be arranged, reports of such activities could be made, and ideas interchanged.'

'We all must interest ourselves in our association, and not desert it, because of our enforced inactivity.—Noel E. Hope (Master), Edgar Guise (secretary), Percy C. Williams (hon. treasurer).'

TEN-PART PEALS OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES.

To the Editor.

Sir,—In reply to Mr. E. C. S. Turner's inquiry for a ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples with common singles at half-way and end, this one, by the late Rev. C. D. P. Davies, was rung on handbells in Romford tower, conducted by the late Ernest Pye, about the year 1912. I was one of the umpires. The first half has bobs at 15515415315 repeated four times with Single at last 5 in 5th part. The second half is called with bobs at 51351451551, four times repeated, with Single at last 1 in last part.

A. C. CHAPLIN.

25, Station Road, Dagenham, Essex.

AN IRREGULAR TEN-PART PEAL.

Dear Sir,—In answer to Mr. E. C. S. Turner's request for figures of a ten-part peal, I have not as yet seen a peal with ten equal parts, but am sending figures of an irregular ten-part by the Rev. E. B. James. Perhaps it will help Mr. Turner.

J. HUNT.

We hardly think these peals are what Mr. Turner asked for. He was enquiring for a peal said to exist in ten equal parts with common singles half-way and end. We think Mr. Chaplin must be mistaken, as Davies' peal requires Holt's singles. With ordinary singles the composition would be false.—Editor 'Ringing World.'

THE NORWICH SCHOLARS.

FIRST PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES.

Having got his true peal of Bob Triples, John Garthon next turned to Grandsire, and here he was faced with what appears to us as a totally different problem, but actually to him was very similar, although considerably more difficult. For he did not do as a modern composer would have done—take the plain course as the unit and compose the peal from that. What he did was to take the six-score he knew as Grandsire Doubles and extend it to seven bells much in the same way as he had extended the standard 720 of Bob Minor. He found that

bob which he called a 'Hic,' in which fifth's place is made when the treble is leading at handstroke.

With nine of these Hics used exactly in the same way as the bobs are used in the standard 720 of Bob Minor, and as he had used the omits in the Grandsire Bob Triples, he joined together six of the 5-course blocks. He had now the equivalent of the 360 of Minor and the half-peal of Bob Triples, but, as his course consisted of only three leads, the six blocks gave only a quarter-peal

234567	1	2	3
247563	—	H	—
273564	—	H	—
734265	—	—	—
345762	—	—	—
452367	—	—	—
427365	—	H	—



THE FAMOUS CHURCH OF ST. PETER MANCROFT, WHERE THE FIRST RECORDED PEAL WAS RUNG.

in the Doubles a bob is made at every lead except when the half-hunt (the fifth) is before. On seven bells that meant a 3-lead course in which the half-hunt (the sixth) double dodges in 4-5 up, makes thirds, and double dodges in 6-7 down. It also produced a five-course block, in which the quarter-hunt (the seventh) completes its revolution. Neither on five bells nor on seven does the half-hunt go into the hunt, but the conditions for composition by hunts are fulfilled, as they are not fulfilled in the plain course. So far all was plain sailing, but now Garthon had to fix the path of the half-quarter-hunt (the fifth). He must not interfere with the bobs when the half-hunt is dodging in 4-5 or 6-7, and he must not make a bob when that bell is before, for that would at once make the peal false; so he introduced a fresh sort of

with the half-quarter-hunt in half its full number of positions. A complementary quarter-peal was therefore necessary in which the half-quarter-hunt had to fall into the missing positions, and these two quarter-peals, with the corresponding two in which the rows are of opposite nature, gave him the extent of the changes.

To link up the four quarters he used a Q set consisting of two Hic's, and two Doubles made alternately at the end of the quarter-peals.

The peal has three sorts of calls, and after some years it was superseded and became obsolete. Men

275463	—	—	—
753264	—	—	—
534762	—	—	—
342567	—	—	—
543267	1	2	3
537264	—	H	—
574263	—	H	—
743562	—	—	—
432765	—	—	—
325467	—	—	—
257364	—	—	—

who knew nothing about it came to despise it and to question its truth; and even in modern times, after it has been rediscovered, it is usually looked upon as a crude and immature production. But it is anything but crude, and, provided we accept the premise from which Garthon started, it cannot be bettered. Originally Grandsire Doubles was not a method with a plain course in which bobs can be called, but the definite six-score, and it was this six-score that Garthon extended to Triples. The regular succession of two plain leads and one bobbed was the method and might not be altered. The Hic was the bob, and in a note concerning the peal copied by William Doubleday Crofts, evidently from Garthon's own manuscript, it is stated, 'We never call anything but the extrems in this peal, which are the leads marked with a dot or point,' i.e., the Hics.

Garthon's peal of Grandsire Triples was rung at St. Peter Mancroft on August 26th, 1718. Only two of the men who had rung in the earlier performance—John Brooke and John Briggs—stood in this. William Palmer rang the third, Robert Crane the fourth, Henry Howard the fifth, William Callow the sixth, Thomas Melchior the seventh, and Thomas Barrett the tenor. Garthon himself did not stand in.

Robert Crane was the oldest of a family of ringers who took a leading part in early Norwich ringing. We shall have a good deal to say about them later. William Callow was for forty-three years the landlord of the Labour-in-Vain inn, and when he died on July 13th, 1779, was

the oldest ringer in Norwich. Thomas Melchior was one of the most distinguished of the Norwich Scholars throughout their history. He had taken Garthon's place as leader, and, though it is not definitely so stated, he probably called the bobs.

Melchior was a member of a family well known at the time in the city of Norwich. A John Melchior died in 1657, and was buried in the church of St. John Maddermarket, where his memorial still is, or was. He was a prosperous tradesman and a coppersmith, as probably all the family were. His wife, Mary, and his son, John, were buried in 1668 in the north aisle of St. Peter Mancroft, and a third John was buried in St. John's Church in 1705. He seems to have been eighty-five years old, and was probably the man who in 1672 gave ten shillings towards the cost of increasing Mancroft bells to the full octave. Cornelius Melchior, who possibly was Thomas Melchior's father, was buried in St. John's in 1713.

I have said that the family were coppersmiths, and this gave rise to a strange legend which is repeated by Mr. Morris in his History. The legend is that there was a 'tradition' of 'copperfaced Melchior.' 'No doubt the name is derived from Melchior the Eastern King who brought gold while the other two brought frankincense and myrrh.'

On December 28th, 1719, rather more than a twelve month after the peal of Grandsire Triples, the Norwich Scholars repeated the performance at St. Peter's. Melchior again rang the seventh; Thomas Barrett, the tenor man in the first peal, rang the sixth; and the tenor was rung by John Webster, a young man who for many years was to be a leader of the Exercise in Norwich. Who rang the other bells we do not know, but Robert Crane was almost certainly one of them.

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■ ■ ■ ■ ■

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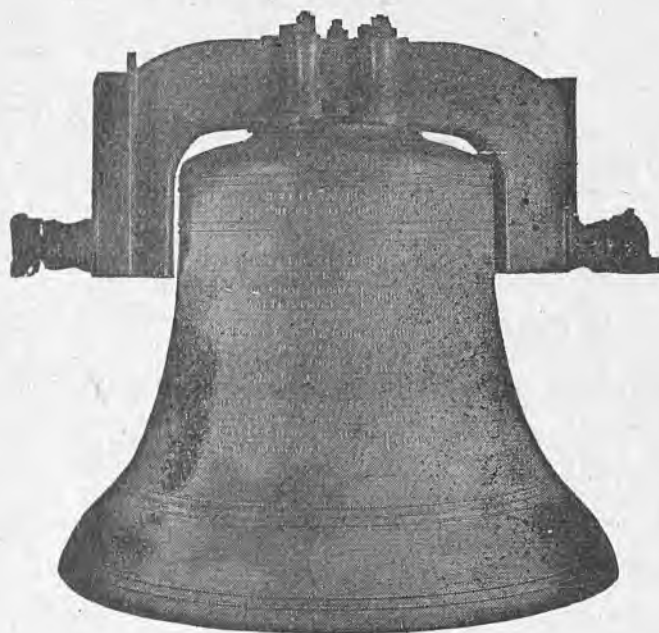
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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Mr. F. Sharpe informs us that he has been able to procure a limited number of copies of Part I. of the 'Church Bells of Berkshire.' These are reprints of the article which appeared in Volume 43 of 'The Journal of the Berkshire Archaeological Society,' and are reproduced by courtesy of the society. The price will be 1s. 3d., including postage, and copies can be obtained from Mr. Sharpe at Derwen, Launton, Bicester, Oxon.

Among those recently officially reported missing is Pte. David Sleet, of the 2/6th East Surrey Regt., a member of the band at Ottershaw Church, Surrey. No news has been received of him since June 10th. Pte. Sleet is married, with three young children.

The picture of the Waterloo Tower, Quex Park, which we published in our last issue, was from a photograph by Mr. F. E. Dawe.

'When we have won the war, and war-time restrictions are removed, I hope we shall have some jolly good peals of Bow Bells over the wireless again,' writes A. C. Powell, of Kingskerswell, South Devon, in this week's 'Radio Times.'

Hearty congratulations to Mr. William Willson, of Leicester, who next Monday attains his 72nd birthday.

Mr. H. Worboys, of Barking, was present at the College Youths' meeting at the Coffee Pot on Tuesday evening last week and was congratulated by the Master on his recent marriage. In the course of his remarks, Mr. Fenn said the event had come as a surprise. He did not know whether Mrs. Worboys was a lady ringer, but, judging from Mr. Worboys' recent letters in 'The Ringing World,' he felt fairly safe in assuming she was not.

On August 9th, 1751, the Union Scholars rang at St. John's, Hillingdon, 5,800 changes of Double Bob Major and followed it up apparently without setting the bells with a 5,040 of Bob Major. John Holt conducted.

August 12th is the anniversary of a peal of 6,012 Grandsire Caters rung at Leicester in 1776. The composition was by John Martin.

We are informed that the committee of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association has decided not to publish a report for 1939.

The Painswick Youths rang 5,099 changes of Grandsire Royal on August 6th, 1815. Giles Mansfield, who was referred to by Mr. William Hale in his recent letter, rang the second. Jasper Snowden gives this as the first true peal of Grandsire Royal, but the College Youths had rung one many years before at Fulham.

BELLS AND THE DEVIL.

WHISPERED CURSES WHEN HE APPEARED.

In your issue of last Friday week we were told that the Devil doesn't like the bells. It is equally true that the bells don't like the Devil. A few days ago 'somewhere in England' he paid us a hasty visit, complete in his new war dress, with black crosses on his wings and swastikas on his tail.

I was taking a short cut through the churchyard when I first saw him, a small dot in the sky, and his voice was a thin drone, as of a mosquito on a summer's evening. The A.A. guns started to bark, making harmless looking patches of white cotton-wool in the sky. Then a most peculiar phenomenon occurred; the bells began to hum and mutter amongst themselves, like eight old gentlemen who, having hung in their ancient places and shouted with their merry voices for centuries, are now silenced by this evil one, and whisper their curses at him when he appears.

Yes, the bells were definitely humming to themselves, and I thought someone in the bell chamber had caused the sound by tapping a bell. But no, the tower door was locked and the key was in its usual hiding place, and as long as our friend from the underworld was in the sky the sullen conversation continued.

'You wait,' they muttered, 'for the day when you are in the bottomless pit and the key is in England, we'll have no muffles on our clappers for your funeral. We rang out the good news when Napoleon failed, although there were only five of us here then, but you will have the honour of a full peal of Major.'

By this time Beelzebub had swung round and was legging it back to Hades, having decided that the temperature over there was cooler than it is here when our guns are in action, and our eight friends in the tower lapsed into silence once more.

Of course, anyone with a scientific mind will immediately say that the vibrations set up by our guns had a frequency that coincided with the frequency of one or more of our bells. But I don't know; perhaps, after all, they were airing their views on the matter and talking it over, as all free Englishmen can.

'ECHO.'

BIRTHDAY BELLS.

On Saturday, July 27th, several members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild met at Hughenden to convey their good wishes to Miss May Wingrove, a member of the Beaconsfield band, and daughter of the foreman, on the occasion of her 21st birthday. During the course of the evening, courses and touches of Grandsire Doubles and Triples, Stedman Triples, and Plain Bob Minor and Major were rung.

THE BELLS, THE BAN AND THE WARNING

ARCHDEACON OF CHESTER'S APPEAL.

The points we have so many times emphasised in the columns regarding the use of church bells as a warning in the event of enemy invasion by air are now being taken up in many quarters. Concern is being shown at the absence of any definite plan or, indeed, of any practical arrangements for the ringing of the bells, and the Archdeacon of Chester admirably summed up the situation in a letter to the 'Daily Telegraph,' which appeared on August 1st. He wrote:—

Sir,—I am glad that your reporter has called attention to the fact that no arrangements have been made for the ringing of church bells. But he understates the case.

We have never been officially told on what occasion the bells are to be rung, or (what is more important) what the public are to do when they hear them. Unless they are told, their instinct will be to come out of their houses to find out what is the matter, which is probably the opposite to what is desired.

This absence of information suggests that the authorities have not yet worked out a definite plan. This is not surprising in view of all they have to do in organising the defence of this island; but why silence the bells before the plan is ready?

It is no small thing to silence this witness to the Christian religion throughout the land, but it is a sacrifice which will gladly be made if it is going to help our country. At present there is no likelihood of that; and for some months now we have crept to church in gloomy silence, and all to no purpose.

Either let us have our bells back again, or let us know (1) when they are to be rung, (2) by whom, (3) what the ringing is meant to signify, and (4) what we are to do on hearing it.—Yours, etc.,

R. V. H. BURNE.

Chester. July 30th.

CLERGY NOT CONSULTED.

INCUMBENTS WITHOUT OFFICIAL ORDERS.

The hon. organising secretary of the National Clergy Association (the Rev. E. G. Courtman, of Mildenhall, Suffolk) has written to the Press as follows:—

'As hon. organising secretary to the National Clergy Association, I sent on July 18th a letter to Sir John Anderson pointing out the depressing effect of the silencing of the church bells. I pointed out that a louder and more distinct warning would be given by clanging the bells together, or by a quick and sharp sounding where one bell only existed.

The Archdeacon of Chester stated that no instruction has been issued as to ringers. A novice could do much harm both to bells and the structure. Further, the incumbent is the guardian of the church, and would be wise to withhold the key unless he is assured that proper ringers would be used. Incumbents up to now have had no official order on the matter.

As an association representing thousands of incumbents, we maintain that the clergy should have been consulted on this matter, as their experience would have produced a useful and acceptable scheme. Consultation could have been effected through each Diocesan Bishop and hence to the Rural Deans. It is erroneously supposed that the Archbishop of Canterbury has these executive powers.'

MISS DOROTHY SAYERS' COMMENT.

Miss Dorothy L. Sayers, author of 'The Nine Tailors,' has sent us a copy of a letter she addressed to 'The Daily Telegraph,' following the article in that newspaper which we quoted last week:—

Dear Sir,—I was very glad to see your reporter's column on the Church Bell Problem in to-day's issue (July 29th). I have been waiting, fascinated, for someone in authority to realise that to order a completely raw hand to run along and ring a church bell is rather like ordering him to run along and milk a savage and reluctant cow; the net result would be much the same, except that the bell can kick much harder than the cow. The ringers themselves have already made mild representations to this effect, but got little for their pains but jeers and cat-calls from the bright boys of the gossip columns—not, I hasten to say, in the 'Telegraph.'

The man power needed to ring all but the lightest peal of bells is one ringer to one bell, so that to man all the towers in a threatened district would be a complicated job of organisation, seeing that so many of the ringers will be distributed among (a) the Forces, (b) the Home Guard, and (c) the various A.R.P. services. This organisation could be best effected through the secretaries of the numerous ringers' guilds, who form a network over the whole country, and possess detailed information about every tower and every local band of ringers.—Yours faithfully,

DOROTHY L. SAYERS,

Hon. Member, Ladies' Guild of Ringers and
I.O.W. Guild of Ringers.

GO TO IT!

ASSOCIATIONS SHOULD ACT.

To the Editor.

Sir,—With reference to the official ban on the ringing of church bells and to the present position, which to say the least is extremely unsatisfactory, may I suggest that the Central Council and every association communicate immediately with the Government department concerned.

In order that the action may be universal, perhaps you would give some idea of the form the appeal should take by an insertion in the next issue of 'The Ringing World.'

If the application is unproductive, the associations could approach the Member of Parliament for their particular area. I think it would facilitate matters if the associations would communicate with you when they receive a reply. In any case, the motto certainly is 'Go to it.'

F. W. HOUSDEN.

Wanstead.

TECHNICAL OBJECTIONS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The ringing of a church bell as a warning when air-born invaders arrive seems all right at first sight, but as you have mentioned in 'The Ringing World,' there are a number of technical objections, to which may be added:—

(1) In many parishes the belfry windows have been so covered in that a bell would not be heard any distance from the church and in a strong wind hardly at all in half of the parish.

(2) I have had experience of the fire brigade being called out at the sound of a church bell when there was no fire, because the wrong bell was chimed for a service. In other cases the officers couldn't tell by sound if it was the regular fire bell ringing.

The Home Guard is filling the gap now and air raid warnings are not so frequent, because it has been found unnecessary to disturb the public *not* in the immediate locality of a raid.

Lord Mottistone was right—the nation wants cheering up at times. The War Office is setting an example by re-forming old and making up new brass bands to give us military music, etc. It wants something better than we get on the B.B.C. at present for the 'interval' signal.

W. H. FUSSELL.

Slough.

INQUIRIES UNANSWERED.

Sir,—The first part of Mr. E. C. Gobey's letter in your last issue speaks of a great misunderstanding and that bells are not to warn the public, but the military and police when something is seen falling from a 'plane.'

As I am the person in charge of our bells, I was instructed by our Vicar to make the necessary arrangements with the military, and I inquired of them what they wanted. I was told to get to know first how many of our ringers would undertake the ringing should the order be given.

I have informed them that all our ringers are willing to assist, and four weeks ago I asked for an interview to arrange for the duty and to know how the bells should be rung, but neither I nor the Vicar have received any reply.

It seems that Mr. E. C. Gobey has had more instructions on the matter than we and other bands of ringers in our area have had. Have we got to wait for orders until the invaders arrive?

W. E. LLOYD.

3, Cranbrook Road, Doncaster.

'MYSTERY' BELLS.

It is stated that many people ran into the street in the Lower Sydenham district of Greater London early on Thursday of last week when they heard what they believed to be the sound of bells rung as an invasion alarm.

Police investigated the matter. At first the noise was thought to have come from the direction of St. Michael's Church, but it was found that the building was locked and that the bells had been dismantled for many weeks.

Then it was believed that a handbell had been rung in the street. Eventually the police traced the noise to the Sydenham Gas Works. Employees there had been engaged on work with steel tubes, and the hammering of the pipes caused a sound similar to the ringing of church bells.

Here, then, is another 'snag' in the use of church bells as an invasion alarm. Other noises may be mistaken for the bells. Apart, however, from this, would it not help to increase rather than to allay panic, if the public are to run into the street when the warning is heard?

COLLEGE YOUTHS' SUCCESSFUL MEETING.

The meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths on Tuesday week was attended by about 35 members and friends. The handbells were kept well going and the methods rung included London Surprise Major, Stedman Caters and Triples, Bob Major, etc. Visitors were present from Crayford, Bushey, Ealing, etc., and an enjoyable evening was spent.

ASSOCIATION FUNDS FOR WAR NEEDS

SUGGESTION FOR POOLED INVESTMENT.

Surrey Association and Guildford Guild Meeting.

It has been the practice of the Surrey Association and the Guildford Diocesan Guild for several years to hold a joint meeting on the Saturday before August Bank Holiday at Ranmore Common, one of Surrey's beauty spots on the top of a hill overlooking Dorking. But under war-time conditions Ranmore Common has its drawbacks. There is not even a village near the church—at least not anything worth calling a village—and without the use of the attractive ring of eight bells the promoters of the meeting naturally became dubious of making it a success this year. In consequence it was decided to transfer the gathering to Leatherhead, which at any rate is more accessible and provides far greater facilities for an 'indoor' gathering than Ranmore can do. The move was more than justified.

The programme included some new departures, one of which was a walk from Box Hill to Leatherhead, and the whole proceedings, thanks to glorious weather and the enthusiasm of some 40 ringers, were marked with the greatest success. Nearly half of those who attended joined the strollers, and the saunter through beautiful Norbury Park proved most enjoyable. Indeed, the charm of the countryside caused them to dally on the road, and they arrived late for the service, which was held in Leatherhead Parish Church.

At the informal proceedings which followed tea, a suggestion was made that associations, instead of individually investing any surplus funds they may have, should pool them with the Central Council and invest them as one sum in War Loan, free of interest to the country. This matter will probably be heard more of in the near future, although perhaps it may be a little late in the day for those associations that have already decided on a line of action.

The Vicar of Leatherhead (the Rev. G. H. B. Coleridge) conducted the service and based his address upon Psalm 137, which he read as a preface. He commented upon the similarity of the circumstances prevailing at the time the psalm was written with those of to-day. In their captivity, the Jews hanged their harps upon the willows. Metaphorically the ringers had now had their harps silenced. Bells had taken the place of harps, but they could not now be used as they had always been used. If we were not actually in a strange land, there was the strangeness of this time of strife and warfare. It was worth remembering that the patriotism of God's people was bound up in their songs and in their music, and was there any sound more specifically and more generically English than the sound of the church bells? Now these bells had been silenced, as were the harps of old. They should thank God, however, that in that area those who used to give their time and their service to God could, despite the silence of the bells, continue to meet together and strengthen their resolve not to forget the cunning of their right hand, not to get out of touch with one another and to continue to be really a band of brothers, who were resolved not to forget their art so that when this tyranny is past and victory and peace come they would not only be willing but ready to play their part in sending out the joyous news with that most characteristic English instrument, the bells. Although they could not now call the people to come and worship and gather at the Lord's table, he hoped they would continue to use their influence by their example. There were those who had called others to worship who had not always themselves come to pray, but he hoped in the stress of these times they would renew their determination, not only outwardly but inwardly, to draw nearer to God.

AN ENCOURAGING MEETING.

Tea at the Duke's Head was a merry meal, although the lady responsible for the teapot did not appear to think so when some of the walkers really got down to serious tea drinking. However, all's well that ends well. The chair was taken by Mr. C. Kenneth Birt (Master of the Surrey Association), and he was supported by Mr. J. S. Goldsmith (vice-president of the Guildford Diocesan Guild), Mr. J. Corbett (hon. treasurer), Mrs. Corbett, Mr. G. L. Grover (hon. secretary), Mr. F. G. Talbot (hon. secretary, Surrey Association), Mr. W. Massey (district secretary), Mr. J. A. Trollope (vice-president of the Middlesex Association), ringers from Croydon (including a number of Mr. Wills' lady pupils from St. Peter's), Beddington, Banstead, Ealing, various London churches, Aldershot, Kingston, Epsom, as well as Leatherhead and other towers.

The Chairman said he was very gratified to see that members had turned up in such numbers in such difficult times. A gathering like that was most encouraging at a time when Hitler was trying to prevent them. It was well to realise how differently they did things in this country to the way in which things were permitted to be done in Germany. Although they had, at the moment, a ban on ringing, if it had been imposed in Germany Hitler would not have allowed the Editor of 'The Ringing World' to make comments on it as he had done. The Editor would have found himself in a concentration camp long ago for what he had said about the ban (laughter). He (the chairman) thought there was really a lesson in that for us. Hitler could not trust the people and held them down by frightfulness. In this country we were free to think as we liked and to express our thoughts. The criticism offered about the ban had been constructive, and while we might think that the people in Whitehall had not been fully alive to what the ban imposed, nevertheless we all realised that they were carrying out a most difficult job and, on the whole, they were not doing it badly. The Editor of 'The Ringing World' was not being kept in durance vile (laughter).

Continuing, the Chairman referred to the death of Mr. John Beams, of Ewell, which had taken place that morning. He had been a member of the Surrey Association for over fifty years and the association owed him a great deal. They had also lost during the past week another old member of the Ewell tower, Mr. Worsfold.

The Chairman went on to propose a vote of thanks to the Vicar of Leatherhead for holding the service and expressed pleasure at Mr. Coleridge's recovery from his recent illness. He also thanked Mr. George Marriner and Mr. Albert Harman for making the local arrangements for the meeting, and added that the committee of the Surrey Association had been discussing plans for keeping the flag flying. They had decided, provisionally, to hold another meeting on September 28th at Merstham. Any suggestions for making the meeting a success they would be pleased to have from the members.

MR. J. BEAMS' CONTRIBUTION TO FRIENDLY RELATIONS.

Mr. J. S. Goldsmith said he would like, on behalf of the Guildford Diocesan Guild, to join in the expression of sympathy and regret at the death of Mr. Beams. Mr. Beams was an original member of the Guild, having joined it at its foundation, and had contributed in no small way to its success in its early days in that part of the diocese. Many of those present would remember that when the Guildford Guild was formed the situation in the Leatherhead district was a somewhat delicate one, but by mutual goodwill and understanding difficulties had been overcome and the two organisations had worked hand in hand for their mutual advantage. They were now almost like one society in the area, in which there was at one time the possibility of friction, and in creating the spirit of friendliness Mr. Beams had played a valuable part. The Guildford Diocesan Guild would deeply regret his death. Mr. Goldsmith went on to express the pleasure of the members of the Guild at the success of that joint meeting and hoped that more such would follow. They might have to do without the church bells, but gatherings such as that enabled them to maintain touch with one another and to keep alive the friendly spirit which existed between them.

With regard to the ban of church bells, Mr. Goldsmith said that each week recently he had been expecting to be thrown into the deepest dungeon of the Tower, but happily he was still at large. He did feel, however, that the time had arrived when, without endangering the safety of the State, the ban might be modified, and he hoped some steps would be taken collectively to make representations in the proper quarter. It was for the Central Council to move in the matter and to organise whatever action was necessary (hear, hear).

A letter was read from Mr. A. R. Wilson, hon. secretary of the Holy Trinity Society, Hobart, Tasmania, saying that he had read with great interest in 'The Ringing World' the report of the Surrey Association's annual meeting, and asking for a copy of the association's service form, as he was hoping to compile a form of service for use in his own society.

The Hon. Secretary (Mr. E. G. Talbot), who read the letter, said it was posted in Hobart at the beginning of May and reached him about the middle of July. It was decided when replying to Mr. Wilson to send the Tasmanian ringers the fraternal greetings of the joint gathering.

FUNDS FOR INVESTMENT.

Mr. G. L. Grover (hon. secretary of the Guildford Guild) said he had been interested to hear that Mr. Talbot had safely received the letter from Tasmania, because a letter which he sent to him from Clandon some weeks ago had not yet reached Croydon (laughter). Mr. Grover went on to say that the various ringing organisations throughout the country had in hand considerable funds which were now lying idle. Probably some of them might be used for purchasing National Savings Certificates, but he thought a much better scheme would be for these funds to be lodged with the Central Council, who should invest them in one sum in War Loan free of interest (hear, hear). He thought some such scheme, if it could be organised, would be better than having separate societies investing small amounts. He did not suggest, of course, that such sums as were already invested in Government funds should be touched.

Mr. F. W. Housden thought they would be up against difficulties if they tried to organise such a scheme. He referred to one society with a very large balance which, if asked for a guinea for some cause in connection with bells, would spend a day over it in committee and finish up by giving half-a-crown (laughter).

The Chairman, in closing this part of the proceedings, reciprocated on behalf of the Surrey Association the good feeling expressed by Mr. Goldsmith. The Surrey Association had always had the warmest feeling for the Guildford Guild. He hoped the friendship between them would always continue and that they would work in close harmony. A committee was already considering a scheme for closer unity. They would be delighted to see any members of Guildford Guild who could get to Merstham when the meeting was held there in September.

Afterwards music and handbell ringing were enjoyed. Piano and violin duets were played by the Misses Harman and community singing was indulged in. There was no lack of handbell ringers and a number of touches were rung, including Stedman Triples and Caters, Grand-sire Triples and Caters and Double Norwich and Double Oxford Major. Even single-handed handbell ringing was tried. A party of eight rang three leads of Treble Bob, and added to the gaiety of the proceedings. The success of the gathering should encourage similar meetings in future.

HISTORICAL PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES

THE FOUNDATIONS OF THURSTANS' PEAL.

Yesterday was the ninety-eighth anniversary of the performance of a peal of Stedman Triples which marked a definite and important stage in the process by which the first true peal composed by ordinary bobs and singles was evolved. The broadsheet which was published to advertise the performance reads as follows: 'On Monday, August 8th, 1842, eight members of St. Martin's Society, Birmingham, ascended the tower of Saints Peter and Paul, Aston, and rung in a masterly style a true and complete peal of Stedman Triples, comprising 5,040 changes, in 3 hours and 10 minutes. Tenor 23 cwt. The band as stationed—Mr. James Jarvis, Treble; Mr. John Hopkins, Second; Mr. John James, Third; Mr. Joseph Deer, Fourth; Mr. Thomas Guy, Fifth; Mr. Thos. Thurstans, Sixth; Mr. Thomas Day, Seventh; Mr. Jesse Cutler, Tenor. The peal was ably conducted by Mr. Thomas Day.

'The above peal consists of 240 bobs and 2 singles only, which gives it a decided superiority over any peal yet produced, and is an improvement upon Mr. Hudson's peal of Sheffield, having twenty singles taken away which has been done by Mr. Thomas Thurstans to whom great credit is due.'

A hot controversy arose about this composition, both Thurstans and Lates claiming the credit for it. John Hopkins, who rang the second in the above performance, called Lates 'the robber author,' but Henry Johnson stated on the authority of Thomas Day that 'Lates was the real author of the peal, and although about the time Thurstans made some improvement on Hudson's peal by cutting some of the singles out, it was Lates who first reduced the number to two.'

The facts are as follows. When composers first tried to get a true peal of Stedman Triples they were faced with the fact that it is not possible to set the 5,040 changes down in 60 separate and independent courses without bobs or singles, as can be done with most methods; so they used a plan in which two bells were kept dodging for a long time behind while the front bells rang Stedman Doubles. The plan gave true peals, but the ringing and the music were altogether too monotonous, and so the aim of composers was to reduce the number of calls as much as possible. Generally they worked by experiment, and, by what seems to be a lucky chance, William Hudson, of Sheffield, hit upon the following peal:—

231456	1	3	4	5	6
356412	—	—	—	—	—
521643	D	—	—	—	—
234165	D	—	—	—	—
365142	—	—	—	—	—
642153	—	—	—	—	—
453126	—	—	—	—	—

Nine times repeated with a Double in the first six of the fifth course of the second and seventh parts. The Doubles are made thus:

3564127
5364127
356
365
635
653
5631472

This peal actually supplied the long sought for solution of the problem and is the basis on which every one of the twin-bob peals in the method is founded. But at the time it was produced there was nothing particularly original or brilliant about its composition. It was just the sort of peal that any other one of the leading composers of the time might have produced—only it happened to be true.

The plan of it is as old as change ringing. The idea is to use the seventh as the whole-hunt and let it be unaffected by bobs or singles. The sixth is the half-hunt, and it must be so arranged that it falls into every possible combination of positions relative to the whole hunt and to repeat this work regularly throughout the peal.

This was the plan on which Annable had constructed his peal of Bob Major, which was for the old composers the typical peal. It was the plan on which the Garthons and Vicars' peals of Grandsire were based. Earlier than them Fabian Stedman had explained it, and earlier still it was the plan of the Plain Changes, the very foundation of all change ringing. Annable's peal is based on the following five-course block:—

23456	W	M
42635	—	—
64523	—	—
56342	—	—
35264	—	—
23456	—	—

When we compare this with the first part of Hudson's peal we cannot fail to notice the similarity. But there was one important difference between the two methods. In the Bob Major, bobs at Wrong and Middle called in full will cause the sixth to fall successively into every one of the five possible positions and to come home

at the fifth course end. In the Stedman, bobs at 3, 4, 5, 6 or, as we now say, at S and H, will similarly cause the sixth to fall successively into five different positions and to come home at the fifth course end. But whereas in the Major there are only five possible positions, in the Stedman there are six positions, and the half-hunt (the sixth) does not fall into fourths at the course ends.

To get the bell into that position and out again so that the thread of the composition could be picked up, Hudson used two doubles, as we have shown above. This again was a device which was quite familiar to the composers of the time. It had the additional advantage that it brought up a part-end which would repeat four times and so almost automatically give the 60 courses in 10 regular parts.

That, there is not much doubt, is the problem which Hudson set himself to solve at the outset, and in doing so he solved the far more elusive problem of how to avoid the internal falseness of the method. We shall not, we think, do him an injustice when we say that this was a piece of luck.

Composers were not slow to recognise the great merits of Hudson's peal, but they thought naturally that it could be improved, and the obvious way of doing so was to reduce the number of the doubles.

Hudson himself tried to do it, and he conducted a peal at Sheffield in 1846, in which he had omitted 18 doubles and eight bobs; but it was false. For it is a fact (the reasons for which we will not now go into) that every peal of Stedman Triples on this plan must contain 240 bobs, no more and no less.

The only way Hudson's peal could be improved was by altering the position of certain of the pairs of bobs and so doing away with the necessity of some of the doubles. This was a device which Shipway had discovered and used in earlier compositions, but whether composers generally understood what he had done is very doubtful. It was the Birmingham men, and especially John Lates and Thomas Thurstans, who rediscovered the device.

The process consists of omitting a pair of bobs at 3-4 and calling another pair in another course at 7-8. Or omitting a pair of bobs at 5-6 and calling another pair in another course at 12-13.

If you omit any pair it is necessary to know which other pair you must call instead, but when you know that you can get rid of the necessity for using the Doubles as Hudson did.

Both Lates and Thurstans found out how to get rid of doubles. Which of them first discovered the trick, and whether he learnt it from Shipway, we do not know. Lates evidently made the final reduction to two, but the credit for the composition which was rung in 1842 can quite fairly be divided equally between the two men.

The matter did not rest there. Both men made further investigations, leading in the end to Thurstans' familiar four-part peal, which has two ordinary singles in place of Hudson's doubles.

One important and interesting thing about Hudson's peal we can point out.

231456	453126	125346
324156	541326	213546
342516	514236	312645
435216	152436	243615

Here are twelve course ends. If from each of these we prick a round block consisting of five courses each called 3, 4, 5, 6 (S H), we shall have the 5,040 true rows of Stedman Triples set down in twelve separate and independent five-course blocks. Composition in the method consists of breaking up these blocks and joining them together.

There is only one way of doing this apart from the use of Singles. We can omit a pair of bobs (either 3-4 or 5-6) in any one course. If we do so we must omit another pair at 3-4 or 5-6 in another course, and we must call two pairs (either 7-8 or 12-13) in two further courses. When once we omit any one pair we are strictly limited in the omission and calling of the other three pairs to certain definite courses. When we understand how and why these omissions and callings have to be done we have learned the essentials of the composition of peals of Stedman Triples on the twin-bob plan. The great majority of the peals which have been rung in the method are on this plan.

CALL CHANGES.

AN EXCELLENT WAY.

To the Editor.

'Dear Sir,—I should like very much to endorse 'Musician's' remarks in 'The Ringing World' about Mr. Drake's articles on call changes. Possibly one day Mr. Drake will read over all the letters which he has written to 'The Ringing World' on this subject, and will smile when he realises what a lot of tripe he has written. Personally I am of the opinion that call changes are an excellent way of helping a learner to listen for the sound of his own bell, which is essential for good striking when he commences change ringing.

I was one of several learners whom Mr. E. H. Lewis, then captain of the Brasted band, taught to ring about two years ago, and I should like to point out that as soon as we could ring rounds we were put to ringing call changes for some time before we began half-pull change ringing. When we did eventually begin change ringing for Sunday services, the striking was much better, I think, than it would have been had we gone straight from rounds to half-pull ringing.

P. N. BOND.

HINTS ON HANDBELL RINGING.

FIRST STEPS FOR THE BEGINNER.

We have now examined the work of three of the pairs of bells in a plain course of Grandsire Triples. The fourth pair, 5-6, presents to the beginner considerably more difficulties than the other three. With 1-2, the two bells quite obviously work together, the second following the treble in a parallel path and the two striking with the interval of one other bell.

With 3-4 the work is very similar except for one lead and for the dodging and place making.

With 7-8 the ringer is concerned only with one bell, so far as the method is concerned.

But when he comes to tackle 5-6, the beginner finds a great deal of difficulty in realising the connection between the work of the two bells. That connection, of course, does exist, and the ringer must find it out because it is an almost hopeless task to try to ring two handbells independently of each other, even in the simplest method; and, however clever a man is, he will not get very far in the more complex methods if he depends on that plan.

In the first place, the learner should realise that in every method, and especially in such methods as Grandsire and Plain Bob, the paths of all the bells are parallel to each other, though some pairs follow each other at a greater interval than others. That is why we advised learners to practise the hunting course of Major. We saw there that, however you may select pairs of bells from the eight, there are only four combinations of hunting, and when once these four combinations are mastered, plain hunting should present no further difficulties whatever bells are being rung.

On seven bells there are only three combinations of plain hunting. First when the bells are coursing next each other and pass in 1-2 and 6-7 as the trebles do in the plain course. The second combination is when the two are coursing with one bell between them as 1-4 do in the hunting course. They pass each other in 2-3 and 5-6, and hunt up and down with three other bells striking between them. Note how they pass each other, striking together in 3-4 first at handstroke and then at backstroke. But when they cross in 5-6 they strike together first at backstroke and then at handstroke. They come to the lead and to the back with one other bell between them.

The third combination is when the two bells are coursing with two other bells between, as 1-6 do in the hunting course. Their paths are really as much parallel as those of the other pairs, but since they are parted in rounds as widely as they can be, while one of them is hunting up the other is hunting down, and so the learner should study how they gradually come together, pass each other and separate again. They pass in 3-4 and 4-5, striking together in 3-4 first at backstroke and then at handstroke; but when they pass in 4-5 they strike together first at handstroke and then at backstroke.

Into whatever positions your pair of bells fall in Grandsire Triples, the plain hunting will always be one of these three combinations, therefore it is most advisable that you should thoroughly understand all you can about the three before you go further. And here, as we have all

along insisted, pricking changes and drawing diagrams will help you immensely.

Now let us turn to the work of 5-6 in the plain course of Grandsire Triples. And first there is one point which is worth stressing: The two bells 5 and 6, together with the 7th, supply almost all of the distinctive music of the course. The ringer is almost certain to be familiar with the music, and when he first attempts to ring the pair to the course he will find it a very great help to him in knowing where he should strike his bells. But, and this is the point, though he is helped perhaps more than he realises, to ring the plain course, he is not helped to ring any other pair which may fall into the same positions that 5-6 do in the plain course. In fact, he is hindered, for he is relying (again perhaps more than he realises) on what will fail him as soon as he comes to altered conditions, either a fresh pair of bells or the different music when bobs and singles are made.

It is probably due in large measure to this early and unconscious relying on the music when learning the plain course that quite a number of good ringers who can ring touches and peals are not nearly so comfortable on any other pair of bells as on the one they started with. The moral of it is, when learning vary the pair of bells you ring as much as possible, and when you practise the plain course vary the order of the bells in rounds. Ring the bells, for instance, in Queens or Tittums instead of in the natural scale.

When the course of Grandsire Triples begins 5-6 start with a dodge. Then they plain hunt with one bell between them. They cross in 2-3 and continue hunting until the treble has turned the fifth and led. The fifth now has to make third's place, and in the same change the sixth dodges in 6-7 up. This puts the treble and the bell-in-the-hunt in coursing order between 5 and 6, and therefore you take up the third combination of plain hunting, passing your bells in 3-4 and 4-5. When you are together in 4-5, a dodge is due, and that presents no difficulty. You continue plain hunting until the sixth comes before the treble and makes third's place, while the fifth dodges in 6-7 down. This puts you back into the second hunting combination.

At the next lead end you get what is called the 'scissor' dodge. Your bells have come together and passed in 5-6. One goes down to fourths and the other behind; but now at the dodge they come back together for one blow before they part again. This dodge should be carefully studied, for you will get it in various forms in different methods. In the plain course of Grandsire Triples you get another form in which the bells dodge before they pass instead of dodging after they pass. This is the dodge at the beginning of the course.

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NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

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

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

HERTS ASSOCIATION.—Watford District.—Meeting on Saturday, August 10th, at the Institute, Bushey, at 3, for social gossip and handbells. Open to all interested in ringing.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey. City 4270.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, August 10th, at St. James' Church, Milnrow, at 7 p.m. Members, please note date and place. Handbells will be available.—Ivan Kay, Hon. Sec.

BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Wath-on-Dearne on Saturday, August 10th. Handbells available in Church House at 3 p.m. Service in church 4.30 p.m. Tea at Binn's Cafe at 5 p.m., 1s. 6d. each, followed by business meeting and handbell practice.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., Rock Cottages, Shafton, near Barnsley.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—Sometimes known as the Model Village, correctly, Leigh, is to be the scene of the next meeting. The date, Saturday, August 10th. Tower open! Beg pardon, handbells available. Service 4.30, followed by tea at 1s. per head, and business meeting. One train only from Tonbridge, at 2.15 p.m. Bus leaves twenty minutes to the hour (No. 101). Come and enjoy a brief respite from the worries of the day.—Alec E. Richardson, 24, Norton Road, Southborough.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. Matthew's on Saturday, August 10th. Handbell ringing from 3.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., meeting to follow. Please make an effort to attend and ensure future contact with each other. Have you any ideas or suggestions? Come and talk them over.—A. Tyler, Branch Hon. Sec., 5, Addison Road, Bristol, 3.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—There will be a handbell practice at Hughenden belfry next Saturday, August 10th, at 5 p.m., and any ringers who care to attend will be very welcome. It is hoped to arrange weekly practices at Hughenden. There are also handbell practices at Beaconsfield belfry on Friday evenings from 7.30 to 9 p.m. Visitors, including ringing members of His Majesty's Forces, will be very welcome at these practices.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., on Tuesday, August 13th, at 8 p.m. Handbell ringing from 7 p.m. and after the meeting.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—The next meeting has been arranged to take place at St. Andrew's Church Hall, Rugby, at 6 p.m. on Saturday, August 17th.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

HERTS ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—Meeting on Saturday, August 17th, at St. Peter's, St. Albans, at 3 p.m. Handbells available, also 'silent' tower bells. Learners, here's a fine opportunity to learn ropesight! Tea can be arranged nearby.—Harold J. Hazell, Dis. Sec., 15, King's Hill Avenue, St. Albans.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Sonning Deanery Branch.—A meeting will be held at Wokingham on Saturday, August 17th. Service in All Saints' Church 4.15 p.m.; preacher, Canon Coleridge. Tea at Great Mead, near church, 5.45, followed by handbell ringing and a social hour. All welcome. Please let me know by August 13th how many for tea.—W. J. Paice, Hon. Sec., Merrel, California, Wokingham, Berks.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—The annual meeting will be held at Wolverhampton on Saturday, August 24th. General meeting at the George Hotel, Princes Square, at 6.30, to be followed by social evening, with handbell ringing, etc. A hearty welcome to all. Subscriptions are now due.—H. Knight, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—The address of Mr. F. E. Darby is now 15, Wilmot Road, Carshalton, Surrey.

APARTMENTS.

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BELLS HUNG IN BALL BEARINGS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—What authority has your correspondent for saying that 90 per cent. of ringers are against the hanging of bells in ball bearings? There are, I dare say, a good many people who don't know how to handle a bell, who put their failure down to the ball bearings. When they can't ring a bell in plain bearings they say it wants oiling or wants rehanging. Some bells hung in the old plain bearings go well enough, and then they are delightful to ring, but more often they don't go well. Of course, a good many of the old ringers who had learnt to handle heavy bells on plain bearings did not take kindly to bells rung on balls where the pull is entirely different, but when a man knows how to handle a bell hung in balls it is just as comfortable to ring as any on plain bearings. I wonder how many of the younger people of to-day who turn tenors in would have made any fist of the tenors of sixty or seventy years ago. Your correspondent can up and say what he likes and he can protest against ball bearings until he is blue in the face, but he had far better stay at home and smoke his pipe. In any case the bell hangers and the architects have all the say in the matter. The ringers don't count. They have to take what is given them, and in this case it so happens that it is better than what they used to have.

L. W. BUNCE.

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