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THE BEST AGE FOR RECRUITS.

What is the best age at which young people should be attracted to the belfry? This is a question which has often been asked, and in the coming times of reconstruction when some bands will have to be built up anew almost from the foundation, the answer to it will be of more than merely academic interest. There are people who say that if we can get recruits at all, it does not matter what age they are, provided they are of the right quality. None is too young though he be but a child, and none is too old though he hath reached middle age. And to do those people justice who talk like this, they are usually just as ready and willing to teach the one as the other. Certainly the problem which has always faced many leaders of bands is to get recruits at all, and they are almost compelled to take anything they can get and to try to make the best of it.

There is one kind of recruit which every band hopes for, but which is as rare as it is valuable. By some mysterious biological law every now and then a child is born into this country of England who seems destined from his cradle to be a ringer. He may have come of a family of ringers and so have the love of the art in his very blood, or he may come from some entirely outside source. But when the proper time comes he appears in the belfry and from then onwards his course is fixed. He needs little teaching, for he learns more by himself than his instructors can give him. Of him and his like are the leaders of the Exercise made.

But such men necessarily are rare. In the ordinary way when a man is attracted to a belfry the chances are not very great that he will make a good, sound ringer. Of the many that are called few are fit to be chosen. Where there is already a well established band the problem of the recruits is not often a pressing one. There is room for but few, and only those who can show the necessary qualities can be entertained. But it is otherwise when a band has to be built up from the foundations, or when for some reason or another it has become depleted and has to be reconstructed. Then there is not much chance of choosing between recruits that offer themselves, and all must be given some chance. And not only so, but the leaders must go outside and seek for recruits.

This will happen inevitably in many towers when peace comes; and here the question arises—What sort of recruits is it best to look for? There are among us some, perhaps in increasing numbers, who think that the earlier we get hold of young people the better. The young boy or the young girl is often more ready to adventure on

(Continued on page 178.)

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something new, and is more teachable than when he or she becomes older.

There is a good deal to be said for this, but we think, on the whole, that when the time of reconstruction comes, the responsible people would do well to fix a definite age limit, below which they will not accept recruits except under very exceptional circumstances, and we should be inclined to fix the age limit at sixteen.

The reason is this. Though young boys and girls are teachable and often can learn the rudiments of change ringing very quickly, yet they are at that stage when life is beginning to open before them and when they naturally and necessarily are seeking new things and are not yet ready to adopt a lifelong interest, as ringing must be if they are to do any real good in it. It is no doubt true that the child is father to the man, yet the man does not usually retain the thoughts and interests of the child. 'When I was a child,' said St. Paul, 'I spake as a child; I thought as a child, I understood as a child; but when I became a man I put away childish things.' Even so the boy who is taught ringing as a child is likely when he becomes a man to put it away among childish things, and for all his early promise, his instructor's labour is wasted. By the time he reaches sixteen a youth begins to know his own mind and if he is of the right stuff he may permanently make a ringer.

BOB MAXIMUS ON HANDBELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to the peal at Eckington and the footnote thereto, and also to Mr. Barnett's subsequent letter last week, I do not gather whether 'an entirely local band' refers to the particular band at Eckington or any local band in the country, but I would like to call attention to the following, which was published in 'The Ringing World' at the time of the performance: At 20, Bedford Street, Woburn, Beds, on March 30th, 1903, a peal of Bob Maximus (in hand), 5,016 changes, in 3 hours 20 minutes, by M. J. Matthews 1-2, H. D. Harris 3-4, W. E. Herbert 5-6, Cyril Herbert (conductor) 7-8, S. A. Avis 9-10, Charles Herbert 11-12. Composed by H. Tucker. Umpire, the Rev. W. W. C. Baker. This is the first (and only) peal of Maximus for the Bedfordshire Association, in the county and by all the band, which was an entirely local one. The peal previous to the above was rung (also on handbells) by the first four named and was, and still is as far as I can ascertain, a minor 'record' in its way, namely, Holt's six-part peal of Plain Bob Triples, non-conducted, and now Bob Triples is no longer recognised as a legitimate method the 'record' looks like remaining.

H. DOUGLAS HARRIS.

37, Leighton Street, Woburn.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION OFFICERS RE-ELECTED.

The annual meeting of the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association was held at the Church Hall, St. Woolos', Newport, Mon., on Easter Monday.

The chair was taken by the Dean of Monmouth (the Very Rev. J. L. Phillips), who was supported by the Master (Mr. F. Hannington) and the hon. secretary (Mr. J. W. Jones). A fair number of members from different parts of the diocese put in an attendance. No doubt a large number would have attended had the bells been available, but the pleasure of a ring on the twelve bells is for a future day when hostilities are over.

The passing of Mr. Evan Coles, of Whitchurch, Mr. J. Wethersby, of Aberavon, and of Mr. H. Russell, of St. Woolos', one of the original members of the association, was reported by the hon. secretary, and as the last tribute of respect all stood for a few moments in silence.

The balance sheet for the past year was distributed and various items discussed.

The serious illness of Mr. Goldsmith, the Editor of 'The Ringing World,' was reported, and the greatest sympathy was expressed coupled with good wishes for a speedy recovery.

The whole of the officers and representatives were re-elected, and it was decided to hold the next annual meeting at Cardiff.

One new member was elected.

HANDBELL PEALS.

SITTINGBOURNE, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 4, 1942, in One Hour and Fifty-Three Minutes,

At 35, WOODSTOCK ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different callings.

Tenor size 15 in C.

*MABEL E. GREGORY ... 1-2 | JOHN E. SPICE ... 3-4

†DENNIS H. PARHAM ... 5-6

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First attempt for a peal. † First attempt for a peal of Minor. The ringer of 1-2 was elected a member of the association before starting.

SUNDRIDGE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, April 10, 1942, in Two Hours and Eighteen Minutes,

At BRECHCROFT,

A PEAL OF SPLICED PLAIN AND GAINSBOROUGH LITTLE BOB MAJOR, 5016 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in A.

*MONICA J. F. RICHARDSON 1-2 | JOHN E. SPICE ... 5-6

WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 3-4 | *DOROTHY T. RICHARDSON... 7-8

Composed and Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal in more than one method. The first spliced peal on handbells for the association. A birthday compliment to Mrs. Richardson and to Miss Brenda M. Richardson.

BARNEHURST, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, April 10, 1942, in Three Hours and Nineteen Minutes,

At 9, BEVERLEY ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAXIMUS, 5016 CHANGES;

HARRY HOVERD ... 1-2 | *WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 7-8

*JOHN E. SPICE ... 3-4 | HERBERT E. AUDSLEY ... 9-10

GEORGE H. CROSS ... 5-6 | †EDWIN BARNETT ... 11-12

Composed and Conducted by GEORGE H. CROSS.

* First peal on twelve bells. † First peal on twelve 'in hand.' Rung as a birthday compliment to Geoffrey V. Murphy, now serving in the R.A. in the Near East.

LONDON.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 11, 1942, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes,

At 24, ROLLS COURT AVENUE, HERNE HILL,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in A.

*MONICA J. F. RICHARDSON 1-2 | JOHN E. SPICE ... 5-6

WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 3-4 | PATRICIA A. SCADDAN... 7-8

*DOROTHY T. RICHARDSON 9-10

Composed by H. J. TUCKER. Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal on ten bells. First peal on ten bells as conductor. The average age of this band is 19 years and one month. The ringer of 7-8 was elected a member of the association before starting.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, April 11, 1942, in Two Hours and Nine Minutes.

At 18, WESTBERRY ROAD, HAMPSTEAD,

A PEAL OF LITTLE BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 8 in C.

ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 1-2 | *JOHN E. SPICE ... 5-6

E. MAURICE ATKINS ... 3-4 | *WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 7-8

Composed by B. ANNABLE. Conducted by E. C. S. TURNER.

* First peal in the method.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.

QUARTERLY MEETING AT ASTON.

It has been the custom of the St. Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham to hold the first quarterly meeting of the year at Aston Parish Church ever since the bells have been restored, and, through the good offices and enterprise of the local ringers, their wives and lady friends, to be entertained to a most sumptuous tea. Although there were some doubts and misgivings as to whether this could be kept up, the sight of the tables put them all at rest, for in addition to floral decorations there were all kinds of sandwiches and home-made cakes.

As there could be no ringing on the tower bells, the first business was to attend church, where those present sat in the choir. The Guild service was conducted by the Vicar, the Ven. H. McGowan, who gave a very helpful address, taking for his subject the kind of England that is wanted after the war. Some customs of the past would have to be changed, whilst others it would be well to retain.

Welcoming the members, the speaker remarked that it was all to the good that in spite of the ban on ringing ringers should continue to meet together and keep their organisations and activities alive. When the ban is removed and they can again perform their office in the belfries, the sound of the bells will be one of the things everyone will look forward to, whether they attended church or not. In his opinion, the observance of Sunday as a day of rest and recreation, irrespective of whether people attended a place of worship, was another institution we should retain. It was good for the nation and the individual. After the war every man should have a fairer chance in life without the fear of unemployment, and more of the spirit of 'Do unto others as you would they should do unto you.' These principles would be the cement which would bind the nation and empire together and make for that better order of things which we all hoped would emerge after the war. After the service the Vicar described some of the interesting features of the church, some of which had been protected, whilst others were left open to view.

After tea the Vicar presided at the meeting, and before the ordinary business a very hearty vote of thanks was proposed by the Master, Councillor A. Paddon Smith, J.P., to the ringers of Aston and their ladies for the excellent tea. It was wonderful what could be done by co-operative action, and he congratulated the ladies on the wonderful success of their efforts.

Mrs. W. Davies responded and said everything had been done straight and above board, and she would not be afraid if the Minister of Food had been present. She had a loyal band of helpers and they were very happy to be able to do it.

Apologies were received from the Ringing Master, Mr. F. E. Haynes, Messrs. James George, G. F. Swann, S. Grove, W. Short and John Jagger, the last named being prevented from attending through illness.

The Chairman welcomed the visitors, and amongst the old members present referred to Mr. Tom Miller, the oldest member of the Guild, who they were pleased to see looking so well.

Mr. Miller responded, and amongst his reminiscences remarked that he rang a peal at Aston 63 years ago.

An invitation to hold the next quarterly meeting jointly with the Worcestershire Association at Clent or Hagley was accepted, and, owing to possible transport difficulties, it was decided to hold it on Saturday, June 27th, a week earlier than usual.

Mr. Albert Walker proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman for his excellent address in church and for presiding at the meeting. As he had often pointed out, Aston was the Guild's other home and they were always happy to visit it. The Vicar, responding, stressed the importance of keeping their organisations alive and ready for when better times arrive.

Handbells were then brought out and several good touches were rung, in which Tom Miller took part, and, in spite of his age and lack of practice, rang his pair in excellent style. With the assistance of Messrs. Webb and Stone from Coventry, he also rang four bells in tunes accompanied by Mr. Albert Walker at the organ, all of which was thoroughly enjoyed, and so another happy meeting at Aston terminated.

BUSHEY.—On Thursday, April 9th, at 50, Rudolph Road, 1,280 Cambridge Surprise Major: E. Jennings 1-2, Ernest C. S. Turner 3-4, H. G. Cashmore (conductor) 5-6, F. W. Brinklow 7-8. First quarter-peal in the method on handbells by all except the conductor.

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LONDON BELL TOWERS.

THE WREN CHURCHES.

(Continued from page 169.)

It was fortunate that when the time came to rebuild, there was at hand an architect of genius, and fortunate that he was entrusted with the task of designing every one of the new buildings. The result was that in its church steeples London possessed an architectural feature of the utmost value and one that could not be paralleled elsewhere.

Of St. Paul's Cathedral, Sir Christopher Wren's most important work, it is not necessary to say anything now, nor of the bodies of his churches. If he had built nothing more than the steeples, they alone would have given him a place among the very greatest of English architects. Though there is an artistic unity about the group, they are all different, and almost every one is original in design. But (and this is a mark of the really great architect) appearance is always subordinated to utility. The towers were intended to be bell-towers, and they were built to carry bells. Only when that condition was satisfied was outward appearance considered. Wren himself laid down the rule that in a city there should be a few towers large enough and strong enough to carry the heaviest bells and the rest should be suitable for carrying fewer and comparatively light bells.

Most church architects, perhaps all, in more recent years, have reversed the process. They look upon the tower and spire as the principal exterior ornament of the building, and only after they have settled its general design and appearance, do they consider its use as the habitation of bells. And often enough not at all. There are cases where architects refused to put louvres to bell chamber windows, preferring to let the weather damage the bells, and the bells annoy the populace, rather than spoil what they considered the good effect of the open spaces.

The medieval towers built of rubble and faced with stone or flint were intended primarily to carry bells. They are well buttressed and stand on strong piers at the four corners. In many built during the Perpendicular period there are wide and lofty openings towards the church and large west windows, but such strength as is lost by these is always made up in the corner piers where the real strength of the structure lies. Modern towers of brick, sometimes faced with stone, are, as a rule, better built; but too often they are unsuitable for carrying a ringing peal of bells, because, in order to get the maximum amount of appearance from the minimum amount of expense, the architect has made his walls too thin, his buttresses too slight, and perhaps his spire too tall.

Brick towers are far stronger than rubble towers, but they are far more elastic; and that, in excess, is a very bad quality in a bell tower. And when a modern tower is placed at the east end of the church we usually find that its strength as a bell tower is sacrificed to the necessity of having a wide arch and slender piers in the interior of the building. St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, is an example of this defect.

Wren's towers reproduce all the good qualities of the Gothic towers except one. He never used extended buttresses. His style demands straight and severe per-

pendicular lines to his towers. But he found compensation in the extra thickness of his walls and in the absence of any large openings, either as arches towards the church or as windows. The walls of the tower of St. Mary-le-Bow are seven feet thick up to the bell chamber. At St. Andrew's, Holborn, Wren left the Gothic tower standing with its tower arch, but removed the corner buttresses and refaced the exterior with stone; and here the reconstructed tower is not sufficiently rigid to carry comfortably the heavy ring of eight bells.

All Wren's towers spring straight from the ground. The tower itself is quite simple and plain in design, depending for its effect on its proportions. All the ornament is put into the spire, or cupola, or lantern, or when there is none of these, into the pinnacles and battlements.

Wren uses the portico in none of his churches. That possibly was due to the fact that his sites were restricted and that he was building on old foundations. He showed at St. Paul's that he knew how to design a portico, but we feel certain that, even if he had not been fettered by other considerations, he would never have employed the combination of portico and tower and spire which was introduced by James Gibbs and adopted by architects throughout the eighteenth century. St. Martin's-in-the-Fields is such a fine church, and so familiar a feature of Trafalgar Square, that we fail to realise the weakness and indeed the incongruity of the combination. Perhaps the church is successful only because there is really no combination at all. The portico is a fine portico, and the tower and spire are a fine tower and spire; and the eye accepts them as it does two separate and adjacent buildings. The church would have been complete and probably would have looked better without the tower and spire. This may seem a hard saying; but reverse the process and try to imagine a tower and spire above the portico of the British Museum.

It is not thus with a Gothic church. To pull down the spire of Salisbury Cathedral would be like beheading a beautiful woman. As we stand on the green lawn and take in the view of that building, every line seems to direct the eye towards the spire, and the spire itself to carry the mind and the thoughts above the earth, upwards, heavenwards. It is a superb sursum corda writ in stone.

And not only Salisbury and great spires like Norwich and Coventry can do this. It is true of simple village spires too. But you do not get that effect out of Wren's spires. Bow Church is a magnificent design which gave distinction to a street of commonplace architecture, and even to-day remains a thing of beauty among the ruined houses. St. Bride's spire and Christ Church, Newgate, and St. Vedast, Foster Lane, are very striking and still stand above the burnt out churches. But they have not that quality of uplift. Something no doubt is due to the setting among the houses of a busy city, but much more to the principles underlying the designs. The Gothic spire is based on two straight converging lines without detail or ornament to arrest the eye in its upward movement. Wren's spires are a combination of vertical and horizontal lines, producing a number of stories of diminishing diameter with rich details, the whole forming an ornament upon which the eye can linger.

(To be continued.)

DEATH OF MR. SIDNEY HILLIER,

LOSS TO SALISBURY GUILD.

The Salisbury Diocesan Guild has just suffered a severe loss by the death of Mr. Sidney Hillier, of Devizes. Mr. Hillier, who was 68 years of age, had been under the doctor for about a month, and on March 19th he went to the Bristol General Hospital for special treatment. He, however, became rapidly worse and passed away on March 31st. The news came as a great shock to his many friends, several of whom had seen him so recently.

Mr. Hillier came from Bishop's Cannings to work in Devizes in 1890, and shortly after joined the ringing band at St. John's, where he was later made conductor, a position he held until the ban on ringing was enforced. During that period he had done as much for the advancement of the art as any Wiltshireman, being always ready and willing to help beginners, and it may truly be said of him that for 50 years he gave of his very best to anything connected with bell-ringing.

He rang his first peal in 1899 and his 100th peal in 1931, both at Melksham.

Mr. Hillier was a tower of strength to the Salisbury Guild, being one of the representatives on the Central Council. He was also a Ringing Master and advisory expert for the Devizes Branch and at one time chairman of the branch. He was a member of the College Youths, the Bath and Wells and the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Associations.

The funeral service was held at St. John's Church on April 4th. In spite of transport difficulties, about 30 ringers gathered from different parts of the county and also from neighbouring dioceses to pay their last tribute to a real friend. The Salisbury Guild was represented by Mr. C. D. Heginbotham, vice-president, and Mr. F. Green, assistant general secretary; the Devizes Branch by Mr. E. F. White, chairman, and Mr. W. C. West, hon. secretary; the Salisbury Branch by Mr. F. Romaine, C.O. and branch secretary, and ringers from all parts of the Devizes Branch area. Also present were Mr. T. F. King and Mr. W. Prescott, of Bath, Mr. C. Gardiner, of Swindon, etc.

The service was conducted by the acting rector (the Rev. W. Woods), and the organist, Mr. H. H. Baker, accompanied the singing of the 23rd Psalm, the hymns, 'Abide with me' and 'The day Thou gavest,' and as the cortege was leaving the church the Nunc Dimittis. It was a very impressive and beautiful service. The floral tributes were very numerous, and the grave was lined with evergreens, a final tribute to a great ringer.

DEATH OF MR. FREDK. W. WATLING.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Frederick W. Watling, for many years the captain of the band at Saxmundham, Suffolk, which took place suddenly in his 74th year. He began to ring at the age of 14 and had taken part in many peals, ranging from Doubles to Maximus. He was a bricklayer by trade and had worked for the Great Eastern Railway for nearly fifty years. He was a member of the Parochial Church Council and had been associated with seven rectors of the parish. He was an extremely genial man and will be missed.

Mr. Watling's outstanding performances were a peal of Oxford Maximus at Great Yarmouth, and Kent Maximus at St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich. He rang 87 peals for the Norwich Diocesan Association and three for the Suffolk Guild, 87 in all.

The funeral was at Saxmundham on April 2nd. On the following Sunday 360 Bob Minor was rung on handbells as a mark of respect by W. Smith, O. Newson, H. Puttick, J. Avis, A. E. Smith and A. King.

AN APPRECIATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—While in Ipswich last week I heard of the death of Mr. Fred Watling, of Saxmundham, Suffolk, at the age of 74 years.

We both started ringing about the same time in 1885, and as a member of the old Kelsale company he was a very keen ringer and good striker.

He succeeded his father as Master of the Saxmundham company in the early nineties and remained in office until his death. One of his sons still carries on the family ringing tradition, being a member of the Harwich (Essex) company.

R. W. STANNARD.

ST. MARY-LE-TOWER SOCIETY.

The quarterly meeting of St. Mary-le-Tower Society, Ipswich, was held in the belfry on Sunday, April 12th. Before the business the Master (Mr. C. J. Sedgley) asked the members present to stand for one minute to the memories of the late Rev. W. C. Pearson, Mr. Charles Mee and Mr. Frederick Watling.

The Master mentioned the wonderful and lavish gift of 58 handbells to the Suffolk Guild from the executors of the late Rev. W. C. Pearson, the disposal of which will be discussed at the annual meeting on the 18th inst.

Mr. R. W. Stannard conveyed a message of friendship and congratulations from the College Youths with a request which the members hoped would soon be fulfilled.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

There is some young and enthusiastic material in the Kent County Association, which augurs well for the future. Some of it is to be found at Sundridge, where the Misses Richardson, daughters of the late Rev. H. S. T. Richardson (whose great services to ringing were not solely confined to the belfry), are the mainspring of a promising band.

Then there are the young folk at Sittingbourne, with an able leader in John Spice, who is a Kent product, although most of his time is now spent at Oxford University. His enthusiasm is being manifested in the number of handbell peals he is conducting and in which someone, almost invariably, succeeds in doing something new.

Now he has called a peal of Bob Minor for two young Isle of Sheppey ringers. It was Miss Mabel Gregory's first attempt for a peal and Dennis Parham's first for a peal of Minor. Both these ringers had done a little tower bell ringing before the war, but since church bells have been stopped they have turned to handbells.

Living ten miles from the nearest handbell ringers, they set about forming their own company, by interesting one or two others, and have kept weekly practices going. Progress has necessarily been slow, but these two members have now reached peal ringing standard.

Unfortunately, D. H. Parham is shortly leaving the country so that the future of the practices is uncertain. He has now two peals to his credit, but we hope he will ring many more after the war.

The engagement is announced between Mr. Reg. Darvill and Miss Kathleen West. Mr. Darvill went to St. Albans about 18 months ago and joined the St. Peter's band. Miss West was one of a band of ladies who on the outbreak of hostilities volunteered to keep the bells of St. Peter's ringing. They are the mainstay of the present band, and everyone who knows their enthusiasm for the Exercise will rejoice in their combination.

William T. Cockerill, for more than forty years hon. secretary of the Ancient Society of College Youths, was born on April 15th, 1859. He died on March 30th, 1938.

On April 14th, 1928, an attempt for 22,096 Double Norwich Major at Heptonstall was lost after ringing 18,360 changes in 1½ hours.

The Society of Royal Cumberland Youths rang 13,440 changes of Bob Major at Romford on April 18th, 1894. They had previously lost the peal at Brentwood through a rope breaking, after ringing 13,072 changes.

On the same date in 1927 the Lancashire Association rang 17,824 Kent Treble Bob Major at Hepstonstall.

Sunday next is the tenth anniversary of the first peal in seven Spliced Surprise Major methods. It was rung at Willesden and conducted by William Pye. The methods were London, Cambridge, Rutland, Norfolk, New Gloucester, Bristol and Yorkshire.

Samuel Wood, of Ashton-under-Lyne, who was for many years one of the most prominent ringers in the North of England and the conductor of many long peals, died on April 16th, 1932. Among his performances were the 16,608 Kent Treble Bob Major in 1883, 12,240 Kent Treble Bob Maximus in 1911, and 14,000 Kent Treble Bob Royal in 1914.

Next Sunday is the fiftieth anniversary of the second meeting of the Central Council, which was held at the Colonnade Hotel, Birmingham, on April 19th, 1892. The president, Mr. A. P. Heywood, was in the chair and 45 members were present out of a total of 84. Among those who fortunately are still with us were Messrs. Joseph Griffin, George Williams and C. Tyler and Canon Coleridge.

Fifty years ago three peals were rung. They were Bob Triples 1, Grandsire Triples 1, and Minor 1.

Fifty years ago to-morrow (which was Easter Monday) 22 peals were rung. They were: Grandsire Triples 7, Caters 2, Stedman Triples 1, Bob Triples 1, Major 3, Kent Treble Bob Major 3, Maximus 1, Oxford Treble Bob Major 2, Double Norwich Court Bob Major 1, Minor 1. The Bob Triples was rung at Caversham 'after an attempt at 13,440 Double Norwich, which came to grief after 2 hours' excellent ringing owing to a shift on the lead by R. T. Hibbert and the Rev. G. F. Coleridge.'

ACTIVITIES IN GLASGOW.

During the past months, St. Mary's Cathedral Society, Glasgow, have, owing to the black-out, held their practices twice monthly, on Saturday afternoons, and found the arrangement quite suitable. They have been glad to welcome several ringers serving with H.M. Forces, including Mr. E. W. Pye, who was a regular attendant. With the coming of the longer hours of daylight practice will now be held weekly on Thursday at 7.30 p.m.

On Easter Day a touch of Stedman Caters was rung before evening-song by E. Bounphrey 1-2, H. Sargent 3-4, W. H. Pickett (conductor) 5-6, R. J. Townsend 7-8, E. A. Stafford 9-10. It was intended to ring from the west end of the Cathedral, but the Provost insisted on the ringing taking place in the side chapel. This proved very effective and was much appreciated by the congregation.

All communications in connection with the Scottish Association should for the present be addressed to the Acting Hon. Secretary, Mr. E. A. Stafford, 16, Tabard Road, Glasgow, W.3.

THE RINGERS' CONFERENCE.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION PROPOSAL.

In continuation of the discussion on Mr. Price's motion, the CHAIRMAN said: I do not want to burke any discussion on any matter that comes within the provisions laid down in the rules of this Conference, but in view of the protest of Mr. Coles, the chairman of the committee, and of the importance of the question whether or not a National Association should be formed, and also of the widespread interest it is now creating, I suggest to Mr. Kippin and Mr. Housden that they should open up the whole subject by submitting a concrete motion instead of by amendment to another motion. They may not have contemplated this amendment as one which introduces the question by a side wind, but I think that many members of the Conference feel that that is what it would amount to. I feel also that to throw the burden of recommending the formation of a National Association, or otherwise, upon this committee before the Conference has had the opportunity of discussing the pros and cons of the subject is not the best way to approach it, and it is one which the committee might reasonably object to undertake. I hope, therefore, Mr. Kippin will accept the suggestion, withdraw his amendment to the motion now before us, and submit for discussion a direct proposal, which will enable everyone who desires to do so to express an opinion on the general principles. It is obvious that the only practical way of discussing these opposing plans, which are necessarily closely interlocked in argument, is by debating them together and later submitting them to vote as alternative propositions. If a National Association finds favour, then, perhaps, a committee could be appointed to consider and make recommendations as to the best way to carry it into effect.

RINGERS SHOULD BE GOOD CHURCHMEN.

Mr. V. A. JARRETT (Halifax, late of Chatham): With regard to the rehabilitation of ringing after the war, I do not think we should have to appeal to the public for their interest and support. Whilst it is quite evident we shall find many of our belfries unmanned when we are able to ring again, I consider it a falsehood to suggest that the war, coupled with the ban on ringing, is the cause for our dilemma. The difficulty of getting new blood into our art was already facing us acutely long before the war started—let alone the ban on ringing. Mr. Cullen comments on the lack of ringers in a number of towers in the district of Cheshire. That was evidently a pre-war circumstance. I feel pretty certain that if we look into the matter closely we shall find the root of the trouble rests with ourselves—that is ringers as a body.

As ringers we are automatically church officials, and it is our duty to be good churchmen and as such to take an active interest in church work generally. Besides our own little effort in the belfry we should attend as often as possible the services for which we ring. I venture to suggest that if we all adopted this attitude we should find our clergy and congregations far more sympathetic towards us in our anticipated difficulties, and we should then find recruits less difficult to obtain. If we need a new churchwarden or a sidesman to officiate in the services of our church we don't advertise the fact in the public Press, but choose him (or her) from the members of the congregation, and that is where our ringers should come from. So long as we keep ourselves aloof from the rest of the congregation we can't expect them to have any interest in us.

In the past I have had the opportunity of being a visitor in many belfries—particularly on Sundays—and I have most frequently found myself to be the only ringer attending the service for which we have just rung.

I think the following three true stories show quite clearly the accepted idea of a ringer as a churchman. At a church on the South Coast, after ringing was over on a Sunday evening, I was chatting with one of the ringers whilst a friend of mine (a non-ringer) was chatting to another. The one said to my friend, 'Are you chaps coming along to the club with us? They'll be open by the time we get there.' My friend replied, 'I don't suppose so, as Vic always likes to attend a service for which he has rung,' to which the resident ringer replied, 'What! Go to church! I've been a ringer here for 30 years and ain't been to a service yet.' The second story relates to a town in the centre of England. I was enquiring of the people with whom I was staying if they knew if there were any bells at the church and if they were rung. They satisfied me on this point and I further enquired as to the usual length of the service in order to decide whether I should have to leave before or after the sermon in order to attend an evening professional engagement, whereupon one of the daughters of the house informed me that if I rang the bells I should not be able to go to the service, 'because the ringers always came out when the people went in.' Then at a church in the North I met the ringers outside the church and introduced myself. They immediately invited me to have a pull with them. Ringing finished, the conductor came to me with outstretched hand and this remark, 'Well, Mr. Jarrett. We'll have to say good-bye now, as we are going in to the service.' With regard to this last episode, it must be quite clear that ringers as a whole are not real churchmen or my friends would surely have taken it for granted that I, too, would be going into the service.

There are plenty of eligible people in our choirs and congregations to fill the gaps in our belfries, and if they saw all the ringers attend-

ing church services frequently they would get to know us and probably feel that they would like to join us, whereas now they look upon the ringers as something apart from the other organisations, and I, for one, don't wonder at it. Let us make the following resolve: Firstly, to be good churchmen; secondly, to be good ringers; thirdly, to be change ringers; lastly, to be peal ringers.

One last remark. I have heard it said by some ringers that they shouldn't be expected to stay to services, as they have already been at church an hour before anyone else arrives. My answer to that is this. If a person can stay inside the church for a period of three to four hours for a peal on Saturday afternoon or evening for his or her own pleasure and satisfaction, that same person should find no difficulty in staying there for two hours in the service of Him to Whom we owe so much thanks, for if it were not for the churches there would be no bells, and our art and the social benefits which accrue from it and which we so much appreciate would not exist at all.

Sapper V. S. TAYLOR, R.E.: I regret the amendment moved by Messrs. Kippin and Housden. Why do they seek to set a sapling where already we have a matured tree, for the two cannot remain whole?

A National Association will bear no seasoned fruit, but only that flush of blossom born of a new enthusiasm, which, too, too soon, will satiate and wither away in ignominy. Ringing never could, aye, and never will, be perpetuated by opinions emotional stimuli which are but vain phases of mental activity. Rather must it be carried forward by something lasting in constancy, by a true love of the art. If this exist, then will there be no wearying, no forgetting.

DRASTIC REMEDIES.

Mr. J. C. MELLOR (Potter's Bar): In supporting Mr. Price's motion, I feel that Miss Richardson has done that almost impossible feat for a woman, hit the nail smack on the head. Let all ringers put their own house in order and ringing will rehabilitate itself. It is possible for any ringer with a sense of humour and a young outlook in a parish of 10,000 souls to train a band of eight youths capable of ringing for service in eight months. I've done it. But there must be less belittling of effort, making the learner look and feel an idiot in front of others, and the selfish habit of making him stand out for the sake of having a good ring.

Ringling is like the tobacco habit, once acquired it takes some shaking off. Ask any ringer's wife. Associations as conducted at present are in my opinion a discouragement and a disappointment to a beginner unless he is a genius or has a skin as thick as an elephant. After the war I would, for at least two years, refuse recognition of any peal that hadn't a band made up of at least 25 per cent. new talent. Abolish the 'clique' habit, clear out all ringing masters who allow monopolists to run the meeting for them, talented ringers at meetings should refrain from standing in with a crack band for the first touch after tea and then discover they've just time to catch a train (handbells in the 'pub'), and leave the rabbits to lower the bells. Let us have less futile arguments about 'rows v. changes' and more action. In short, if we *deserve* the survival of ringing we shall get it.

The CHAIRMAN: If anyone else has any remarks to make on Motion (a) now before us, their contributions must be received by Monday next; if not, I shall ask Mr. Price to reply to the discussion.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

NOTABLE VISITORS.

Although little business was transacted at the meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths held on Saturday last, the attendance was quite up to the average. The members who supported the Master (Mr. E. G. Fenn) were the Treasurer (Mr. A. A. Hughes) and secretary (Mr. A. B. Peck), Canon G. F. Coleridge (Master of the Oxford Diocesan Guild), Mr. E. H. Lewis (president of the Central Council), the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards (hon. secretary, Salisbury Diocesan Guild), Mr. F. E. Haynes (Master of St. Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham) and Messrs. E. Barnett, G. Boomsma, J. Chapman, F. Collins, R. Deal, H. Hoskins, C. Kippin, H. G. Miles, G. N. Price, J. G. A. Prior, C. W. Roberts and R. Spears. In addition all three branches of H.M. Forces were represented, the Army by Ptes. Fox and Munday, the Navy by W/Tel. A. Purdon, R.N., and the Air Force by Corpl. K. Arthur. The visitors were Mr. and Mrs. J. Botham from Willesden, Mr. E. A. Young, who is recovering from an attack of laryngitis was unable to be present, his doctor having advised him to stay at home. Pte. Len Fox brought news of Messrs. C. W. Cecil and H. Thompson and Sergt. J. Boomsma from the Middle East.

Mr. C. W. Roberts proposed that congratulations be sent to the band who rang a non-conducted peal of Stedman Cinques at Birmingham. Mr. F. E. Haynes thanked the members and said he brought greetings from the secretary of St. Martin's Guild.

Mr. E. Barnett asked for news of Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, and the treasurer stated that the Editor was a little better.

The Master thanked the members, especially those from the provinces, for their company.

The next meeting will be held at 3 p.m. on April 25th at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel.

ELEMENTARY COMPOSITION.

FOR THE AVERAGE READER.

In the olden times one of the matters most debated among those ringers who were supposed to know things was the question: Is it possible to produce a peal of Grandsire Triples by means of common bobs only? They knew by experience that the full extent of Grandsire Doubles cannot be had without at least two singles, and they could see pretty clearly the reason why. But Triples was different, and it seemed that there those reasons did not apply. On five bells all the changes are doubles, and will only produce the even rows (or, as they called them, the in-course rows). But on seven bells the changes are continuous triples, and all the handstrokes are odd and all the backstrokes are even. There is no one row that cannot be produced in a touch either at handstroke or at backstroke. Then why cannot all the rows be produced in a peal?

John Holt as far back as 1750 got the full extent into one block except for three leads, but there he stuck and no one else was able to go any further. So that men came to the conclusion that the extent could not be had, but they could not see why; and some still clung to the hope that someone, sometime, somewhere, would solve the riddle. Dr. Arthur B. Carpenter worked out the number of combinations of bobbed and plained leads possible in a block of 5,040 changes. It was a figure such as we only come across in astronomical calculations or in war finance, and he said, Surely among such a stupendous number one, or perhaps several, will give us the peal we seek.

Mr. William H. Thompson gave the answer. He proved mathematically that a peal of Grandsire Triples with common bobs only cannot be had. The Exercise accepted his proof and that settled the matter. But though the fact is not disputed, the reason why is still for most ringers something of a mystery.

A man turns to Thompson's pamphlet or to the paraphrase of it given in C. D. P. Davies' 'Grandsire,' and he finds a very abstruse and complicated proof. Not unnaturally he usually thinks it is too deep for him, and he troubles no more about it. But while the proof is a difficult one to follow, the reason why is simplicity itself.

It must be so, because when a man is setting out to prove that something cannot be done, he has to provide against every possible contingency, and that Thompson did. But the real reason why a peal of Grandsire Triples cannot be had by common bobs only is simply this—if we begin with any one thing and keep on adding to it an even number of things, we shall always have an odd number of things, never an even number.

Let us see how all this works out in the case of Bob Major. There the conditions are as simple as they can be, and when we understand them we shall much more easily understand the more complicated case of Grandsire Triples.

In Bob Major, as we have seen, we have sixty Natural Courses as the material from which to produce peals, and if we want the full in-course extent with the tenors together we must join all the sixty into one round block. Our only means of doing so are bobs at the Wrong, or the Middle, or Home. And these bobs must be in Q Sets.

We begin with the plain course, and the first Q Set we bob will add to it two other Natural Courses.

So will the second Q Set, and the third, and any other we may bob. Just as we saw in the examples given last week. Every operation we make adds two Natural Courses to our round block, but as we began with one (the plain course) our touch can never consist of anything but an odd number. The full extent is sixty Natural Courses, but sixty is an even number and clearly cannot be had.

We have a stock of sixty bricks to build a wall with. We put one down to mark the beginning and we add the others to it, two at a time. It must happen that in the end we are left with one over.

Here we have in its simplest form a great all-pervading law of composition, the law which we call the Law of the Q Sets. In some respects it is the most important law there is in composition. It applies to every possible method, and it can never be shirked, but in its operation it is very varied and sometimes very complicated.

But an intelligent student may answer us something like this. I fully agree with all you say and I can quite see why we cannot build up an in-course extent of Bob Major by joining together Natural Courses by means of Q Sets. Is that, however, the only thing we can do? Must we start with the Sixty Natural Courses? You have told us that each course can be cut up into three pieces and the pieces can come in different places of the composition. Why cannot we arrange the full extent of the material in some other way which will enable us to join it all together?

Well, we can arrange the material in different ways. Instead of our sixty Natural Courses we could start with twelve five-course blocks, each course called W, M, or W, M, R; or with thirty two-course blocks, each course called W, R, or M, R; or we could arrange the material in blocks which are not all called alike. We can do these things, and that makes it very difficult to give a really sound mathematical, watertight proof. That is why Thompson's proof seems so complicated. But when all is said and done, we cannot get away from the fact that in the complete peal the bobs and omits must be in Q Sets; and however we may try to dodge it, we are always faced in one form or another with the general law we have spoken of.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

The annual general meeting was held at the Church of St. Mary the Great, Cambridge, on Easter Monday. There was a small attendance, and welcome visitors were Miss H. Snowden, Mr. Chapman and Mr. F. E. Haynes. Mr. Chapman, who is blind, very kindly presided at the organ for service and his music was greatly appreciated. The Vicar gave an inspiring address. He spoke of joy being a deep well, whereas happiness depended on the happenings of the day.

Before the business meeting started members remembered a greatly respected and highly valued brother ringer, Mr. T. R. Dennis, in his sorrow at the death of his sister, Miss Dennis.

The Rev. E. C. Essex took the chair. The officers and committee were re-elected. The hope was expressed that members will pay their subscriptions although the ban on ringing and extra work make meetings impossible for a time.

* Miss Snowden and Mr. Haynes made helpful contributions to the discussion on the proposed National Association.

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STEDMAN TRIPLES.

A FINE NEW COMPOSITION.

There is nothing in the history of change ringing more instructive and interesting than the story of the development of the composition of peals of Stedman Triples. It begins more than two hundred years ago when three men, Thomas Melchior and Edward Crane in Norwich and Benjamin Annable in London, tried to produce a true extent. They did not succeed. They thought they had, and they did not get so far as to know why they failed, or even that they had failed. The story then skips over half a century to the time of John Reeves and the publication of the 'Clavis.' Reeves was a far cleverer composer than the others, but he, too, did not succeed, for he was engaged on the formidable task of reducing to order the whole of composition as then understood, and had not much time to spare for what was, comparatively speaking, only a secondary problem. But he did reach two conclusions, which served as the basis on which later men worked. The first was that the style of composition used in most methods with P Blocks and single bobs will not produce a true peal of Stedman Triples. The second was that success could probably be had by using B Blocks, but that the excessive number of bobs would be objectionable and make very disagreeable music.

John Noonan composed what we generally consider to be the first true peal in the method. It was a triumph of long and patient work, of much experiment and many failures; it brought fame to its composer, and the title among ringers of 'celebrated,' but it had little or no permanent influence on the development of composition.

EARLY COMPOSITIONS.

Thomas Edwards, of Stourbridge, was the first man to compose a really good peal, and from it all the rest ultimately descended. 'Good' is a relative adjective. This peal was good when it appeared, and good in what it foreshadowed, but it would be anything but good for modern practical purposes. It was in ten equal and regular parts and, apart from the special singles at half-way and end, there were only two ways in which any course was called. But it had 722 calls, which means an intolerable amount of continuous dodging in 6-7.

The aim of composers then was to reduce the number of calls. We need not now follow the improvements successively made, but two peals stand out as landmarks. The first by Joseph Tebbis, of Leeds, was rung in 1828 by the Junior Society of College Youths at Newington. It followed the same general plan as Edwards' peal, but the number of calls was reduced to 622, of which 22 were in-course singles. The peal is in ten equal and regular parts, and, except for the singles, every course is called alike.

Thomas Hudson composed the other outstanding peal. We know little about him and his intellectual capacity. We know he was a prominent ringer and a leading man in a skilful band, but there is nothing to make us suppose he had any claims to be ranked among the great composers along with Holt, and Reeves, and Henry Johnson. Stedman Triples composition was interesting to the men of his day, and probably he wondered why the plan which had been so successful in other methods and had produced peals like Annable's Bob Major and Triples should not work in Stedman. At any rate, it was worth trying, and it so happened that he did hit upon the one form of that plan which would not only join together 60 courses, but would dodge the difficulties men like Reeves had recognised, but had not been able to surmount. What he had done was to discover the twelve 5-course blocks (each course called 3, 4, 5, 6), which are the ultimate material from which all twin-bob peals are formed. He evidently did not know a great deal about what he had done, for his next peal was false.

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Hudson's peal was put together by in-course singles and so is now obsolete; but later men, and notably John Lates and Thomas Thurstans, gradually improved it by altering the positions of some of the bobs, and by getting rid of the irregular singles by means of extras and omits, a device which Shipway had introduced some years before. The culmination of this work was reached when Thurstans produced his famous Four-Part, and Henry Johnson called it in 1846.

The Exercise has always given Thurstans the credit for composing the peal and rightly so; yet he did no more than put the finishing touches to the work many men had done during many years. It was otherwise with John Holt. His Ten-Part peal of Grandsire was his own work, built on his own foundations, and, so far as we can judge, he owed nothing to anyone else. Perhaps that is the reason why his secrets died with him and Grandsire Triples composition remained a sealed book even to the best of composers until modern times.

When Thurstans' Four-Part had appeared the Exercise possessed the best peal that is possible in the method, taking everything into consideration. After that, interest died down, but was revived some 50 years ago by Sir Arthur Heywood, who, with the help of Henry Earle Bulwer, made a thorough investigation into the principles of the twin-bob peals and laid bare their secrets.

The result was that a large number of good compositions were published, not only by these two men, but by Joseph J. Parker, James W. Washbrook and others. None was quite as good as Thurstans', though Heywood's transposition of it is the best composition possible for a conductor's purposes, and Washbrook's modified four-part (his No. 1) deserves more attention than for some reason or other it has received.

The twin-bob plan having been thoroughly explored, men began to turn their attention to other plans. Mr. John O. Lancashire produced

an original composition, and Henry Law James and Mr. J. W. Parker peals in seven parts. All these have many singles and are of no great practical value.

CARTER'S ODD-BOB PEAL

When John Carter published his odd-bob peal some 30 years ago it was welcomed as an original composition on an entirely new plan, and so, to a large extent, it was. But we shall not, we believe, be wrong in thinking that it descends from Edwards' and Tebbis' peals much in the same way that Thurstans' does from Hudson's. Mr. J. W. Parker and Mr. A. J. Pitman have produced compositions that show the odd-bob plan is capable of great development, and Mr. B. H. Swinson in our issue of January 31st, 1941, showed that twin-bob and odd-bob peals are not as independent of each other as probably most people thought. We have now received from Mr. Swinson a peal which seems to show that the odd-bob plan can rival the twin-bob plan as a means of producing compositions suitable in every way for ordinary use. Here is what Mr. Swinson says:—

Dear Sir,—In your issue of January 31st, 1941, I called attention to the basic relationship between Thurstans' Four-Part and Carter's Odd-Bob peals of Stedman Triples. I fully expected that some correspondence would result from the statement, but instead I have received several appreciative letters from readers.

Upon examining the breakdown of Carter's Odd-Bob into four separate quarters, I find that it is possible to link up the four quarters by the use of one Q set and two singles, the latter being 30 courses apart. The resulting peal is shown below, and I feel sure that all readers will recognise the relationship with Thurstans' 'masterpiece.'

Seeing that only 60 six-sevens come up at back stroke (the same as in Carter's Odd-Bob), the Odd-Bob variation cannot be considered as good as the 'Four-Part,' but as compensation there is only one four call set and, as shown, this occurs in the first course. There are nine other possible positions for the first single, but most ringers will agree that it is preferable to get the awkward nine call course over as soon as possible.

Although claiming no originality for the peal, I feel that it may serve as a stepping stone to young conductors in bridging the gap between twin-bob peals and odd-bob peals as hitherto understood.

Bella Vista Club, Macacaibo, Venezuela.

B. H. SWINSON.

MR. SWINSON'S PEAL.

Mr. Swinson does not claim any originality for the peal, and his modesty does him credit; but we can say that he is as much entitled to put his name to it as Thomas Thurstans was to put his to the Four-Part: and, taking everything into consideration, it is the most useful peal in the method that has been given to the Exercise since Thurstans' time.

As Mr. Swinson says, it is an attempt to apply the construction of Thurstans' peal to the odd-bob plan, and the later composition should be studied in the light of the earlier. When that is done it will be found to be very simple and quite easy to call.

Like Thurstans' peal, Mr. Swinson's is in four equal parts, and each part consists of five equal 3-course blocks. The four quarter-peals are joined together by extras and omits and two singles. It differs from Thurstans' in one important point. In the older composition the standard calling of all four quarters is alike, but in the later composition the standard calling of the last two quarters differs from that of the first two.

In the first half of the peal the Standard Calling (A) of the 3-course blocks is as follows: In all three courses there are bobs at 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 11; and in the first two courses there are additional bobs at 12 and 13. The observation bell (the 7th) is bobbed once in 6-7 up and once in 6-7 down. There is a bob as it goes into the Slow, and at every six it is in the Slow except at First Whole Turn. Out Slow is plain, but at the next Six the observation bell makes the bob. The two extra bobs in the first two courses of the block are In and Out Quick.

In the second half of the peal the Standard Calling (B) of the 3-course blocks is as follows. In all three courses there are bobs at 2, 6, 10, 12 and 14; and in the second course there are extra bobs at 8 and 9. The observation bell is bobbed in 6-7 down and makes the bob after Quick. There are bobs at Last Half Turn and Out Slow, and the observation bell is bobbed in 6-7 up. The two extra bobs in the second course of the block are at First Whole Turn and First Half Turn.

The two singles are in the first course of each half-peal, and that necessarily has the effect of making the first 3-course block in each part appear somewhat irregular. Something very similar appears in Thurstans' composition, and in both cases the irregularity is more apparent than real.

Mr. Swinson's peal starts with the Standard Calling B. The seventh is bobbed in 6-7 down and makes the bob after Quick. There is a bob at First Whole Turn and a single at First Half Turn. The calling now switches into Standard Calling A. Bobs are made at Last Half Turn and Last Whole Turn. The bob after Slow is made and In and Out Quick. This course contains sixteen sixes with the observation twice a Quick Bell.

The two remaining courses of the 3-course block are called 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 11. This is Standard Calling A, except that in the second course of the block there are no bobs at 12 and 13. We have here the two omits which are necessary (as in Thurstans' composition) to join together the two quarter-peals which make up the first half of the

(Continued on next page.)

STEDMAN TRIPLES.

(Continued from previous page.)

composition. The other omits occur in the second course of the sixth 3-course block.

In the first 3-course block of the second half-peal, the calling begins with Standard A. The 7th is bobbed in 6-7 up, 6-7 down and In Slow. At First Half Turn a single is made and the calling switches into Standard B. Bobs are made at Last Half Turn, Out Slow, and in 6-7 up. In this course, which consists of twelve sizes, the observation bell does not go Quick.

The other two courses of the 3-course block follow the Standard Calling B, viz., 2, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14; and 2, 6, 10, 12, 14.

The extras in the second half-peal are called in the first course of the sixth 3-course block, at First Whole Turn and First Half Turn. The complementary pair of extras is in the first course of the peal.

THE PEAL.

213456		362145	
581243	W	213546	Y
364521	A	152436	B
162354	A	541326	B
465132	A	435216	B
263415	A	324156	B
564312	X	342516	Z
261534	A	453126	B
463251	A	514236	B
165423	A	125346	B
362145	A	231456	B

B. H. SWINSON.

A = First Standard Calling.

B = Second Standard Calling.

X = A with 12, 13 omitted in 2nd Course.

Z = B with extra 8-9 in First Course.

W

231456

452361 Bobs at 2, 6, 8, Single 9. Bobs at 10, 11, 13, 14, 15.
643152 Bobs at 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11.
561243 Bobs at 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11.

Y

362145

614325 Bobs at 1, 3, 5, Single 7. Bobs 8, 10, 12.
543162 Bobs at 2, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14.
213546 Bobs at 2, 6, 10, 12, 14.

Carter's Odd-Bob peal is generally reckoned a difficult one to call, and it certainly is not an easy one. But a lot of the difficulty is due to the way in which peals of Stedman Triples are written out. If we tell a man to call a course of Superlative or London, Middle, Wrong, and Home, the statement conveys to his mind a definite picture of definite work done by definite bells, with definite results in the coursing order and course end.

THE NOTATION OF STEDMAN PEALS.

But when we tell a man to call bobs in Stedman Triples at 2, 6, 10, 12 and 14, no definite picture is at once created. The man has to prick down the six ends either on paper or mentally before he realises anything definite; and when he does prick down the six ends on paper he has to go through a further transposition before he can see what happens at the bobs. For he does not prick the actual bob changes, but the rows five changes further on. We strongly advise those who are studying a peal like this of Mr. Swinson's to prick both hand and back rows. It may take a little more time, but as it gives the actual bob making changes it is worth the trouble. The notation introduced by Sir Arthur Heywood 50 years ago gets over the trouble we mentioned just now so far as twin-bob peals are concerned. Something of the sort is badly wanted for odd-bob composition, but the difficulties in the way of finding a scheme and standardising it are many. Those who have experience of Stedman Triples composition and calling should give this matter their consideration.

We hope that conductors will study this peal of Mr. Swinson's, for we feel sure that here is a composition which is worthy of taking a place alongside the Four-Part as a stock peal for ringing purposes. It is not the equal of the Four-Part, that probably will never appear, but it is the best alternative we think we have ever seen.

JAMES W. WASHBROOK.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The letters about the late J. W. Washbrook are very interesting. May I be permitted to make a correction and to give some more details which may be of interest to readers regarding his tenure at Arklow.

The number of peals rung by the Washbrook family is as follows: J. W. Washbrook, sen., 42, of which he conducted 33 and 12 were rung double-handed. J. W. Washbrook, jun., 22. First peal June 17th, 1903. Conducted one at the age of 12 years. W. Washbrook, 9. First peal January 21st, 1906, at the age of 10½ years. H. Washbrook, one peal on September 11th, 1909. The ages and dates given are taken from the Irish Association's peal book. F. E. DUKES.

Dublin

NOTICES.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—The district annual meeting will be held at Southgate on Saturday, April 18th, at 3.30 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Handbells available for ringing.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec., 57, Holloways Lane, North Mimms, Herts.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—A meeting of this division will be held at Earl's Colne on Saturday, April 18th. Handbells from 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. An opportunity to meet old friends come and make this a real success.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meetings at Guildford on Saturday, April 18th. Executive Committee meet at S. Nicolas' Vestry at 3 p.m. Service at S. Nicolas' 4 p.m. Tea at Ayers' Cafe (next S. Nicolas' Church) 5 p.m., followed by the annual general meetings of both the Guildford District and the Guild.—G. L. Grover, Hon. Sec., East Clandon, near Guildford.

In view of the rising costs of production we regret that, as from and including our issue of May 1st, it will be necessary to make an increase in the charge for NOTICES.

A notice of six lines or less will be 2s. per insertion, with an addition of 4d. per line after (a line averages eight words).

Notices other than of meetings will be charged at 6d. per line (minimum 2s. 8d.).

Correspondents are reminded that Notices should be received at 'The Ringing World' Office by Monday.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Yatton on Saturday, April 18th. Bells available (with silent apparatus) 3 o'clock. Divine service 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5 o'clock, with business meeting to follow.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Sec., Long Ashton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—East Lancs District.—A rally and meeting of ringers will be held at St. James' Church, Accrington, on Saturday, April 18th, from 3 p.m. Tower bell ringing on the six silent bells, Grandsire Doubles to London Surprise; handbells, Minor to Royal. Come and have a lesson in double-handed ringing. Help your brother ringers, help yourself and help 'The Ringing World' by coming to the rally.—C. Blakey, R. Leigh, J. Woods, R. Blakey, C. Sharples.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—A meeting will be held at Walsall on Saturday, April 18th. St. Matthew's belfry will be open from 3 p.m. for handbell ringing. Service in church at 4.45, with an address by the Vicar. Cups of tea will be provided in the Institute at 5.30. Please bring your own eatables.—H. Knight, Hon. Sec., 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—A special general meeting will be held at Barnsley Royal Hotel on Saturday, April 18th. Handbells ready 2.30 p.m. Tea will be provided at 5 p.m. for all who arrive not later than 4.30 p.m. All are welcome.—D. Smith, 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley Yorks.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD. — The annual meeting will be held at the Griff Colliery Institute, Heath End Road, Nuneaton (adjoining Cricket Ground) on Saturday, April 18th. Tea will be provided at a moderate charge at 5 o'clock. Business meeting to follow. It is hoped that there will be a good attendance.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Burton and Derby Districts.—A joint meeting of the above districts will be held at Ticknall on Saturday, April 18th. Handbells available at 3 p.m. Tea and business meeting in Welfare Hall at 4.45. Cups of tea will only be provided. Members must take their own sugar and eatables. Silent tower bell ringing afterwards. Will members please give the meeting every support.—Wm. Lancaster and J. W. Cotton, Hon. Secs.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, on Saturday, April 18th, at 3 p.m.—H. G. Herbert, Hon. Sec., 61, Acton Lane, Sudbury.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — The next meeting will be held on Saturday, April 25th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

SURREY ASSOCIATION. — The annual general meeting will be held at Croydon on April 25th. Bells of St. John's available for dumb ringing from 3 p.m., also handbells. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea at Parish Hall, Silverdale Road, followed by meeting. Please notify Mr. D. Cooper, 5, Harrison's Rise, Croydon, for tea by Tuesday, 21st inst.—E. C. Talbot, Hon. Sec., 53, Birchwood Avenue, Wallington, Surrey.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD. — The annual meeting will be held in the Rectory, Hartfield, on Saturday, April 25th. Handbells and six silent tower bells from 2.30 p.m. Please notify Mr. A. Ryman, Perry Hill Cottages, Hartfield, Tunbridge Wells, by Wednesday, April 22nd, for tea. Please try and support this meeting with your personal appearance. Failing that, don't forget to send along that subscription.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held at Lincoln on Saturday, April 25th. The Cathedral bells will be available for 'silent' ringing from 2 p.m. Handbell ringing in the Ringers' Chapel. Business meeting in the Chapter House at 3 p.m. Cathedral evensong at 4 p.m. Will members and visitors kindly make their own arrangements for tea?—F. W. Stokes, Hon. Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Cranford (Church of St. John) on Saturday, April 25th. The Memorial Hall will be available for handbell ringing and social intercourse from 3 to 7 p.m. Committee meeting 3.45 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., followed by tea (1s.) and meeting. Names must be sent to Mr. W. H. Coles, 61, Hayes End Drive, Hayes End, Middlesex, not later than April 22nd. Church about 15 minutes walk from Berkley Hotel, Bath Road, Hounslow. Hall three minutes' walk. Bus services, 81, 91, 98 and 222. Stations Hounslow East and Central. An urgent appeal is made for subscriptions, many of which are badly in arrear.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 1, Listoke, Edgehill Road, Ealing, W.13. Phone Perivale 5320.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch. — Meeting, Kidderminster (D.v.), Saturday, April 25th, 3 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m. Ten bells (silent). Usual evening arrangements. — B. C. Ashford, Sec., Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — E. Berks and S. Bucks Branch. — The annual meeting will be held at Cookham on Saturday, April 25th. Tower bells (silent) and handbells at 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. at the King's Head (1s. 6d.). Names MUST be sent. — A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Eastern Division.—A district meeting will be held at Great Tey on Saturday, April 25th. Handbells and 6 silent tower bells available at 2.30 p.m. Service in church 4 p.m., tea and business meeting in Village Hall at 5 p.m. As this village is somewhat isolated I appeal to everyone who can to come along and try and make this a great success. We only need 23 to beat 1939 attendance. This can easily be done if you all play your part.—L. Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District. — A meeting will be held at Great Baddow on Saturday, April 25th. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. Handbells available before and after. Will all those who require tea please notify Mr. G. Green, 3, Bell Street, Great Baddow, Chelmsford, by Wednesday, April 22nd, so that arrangements can be made accordingly. It is hoped that all members will endeavour to support this meeting. There is a good bus service to and from Great Baddow.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Meeting at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushev, Saturday, April 25th. Handbells 3 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m. All welcome.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The annual general meeting will be held at Leeds Parish Church on Saturday, April 25th. Handbells in the belfry from 3 p.m. Business meeting 4.30 p.m. A good attendance is requested.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

KINGSBURY, MIDDLESEX.—The usual fortnightly practice cancelled on Thursday, April 30th, and resumed on May 14th.—Russell Spears.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — Sonning Deanery Branch.—Annual meeting Wokingham, Saturday, May 2nd. Service, St. Paul's Church, 5 p.m., followed by tea and meeting in Parish Room. Handbell ringing in tower 4 p.m. All welcome. Notice for tea not later than April 28th to Mr. B. C. Castle, The Briars, Westfields Road, Winnersh, Wokingham.

SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION. — Owing to the pending 'call-up' of Mr. Chas. Raine, all communications should be addressed to the acting hon. secretary, E. A. Stafford, 16, Tabard Road, Glasgow, W.3.

ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL (GLASGOW) SOCIETY.—Usual weekly practice will now be held on Thursdays at 7.30 p.m.—E. A. Stafford, Hon. Sec.

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