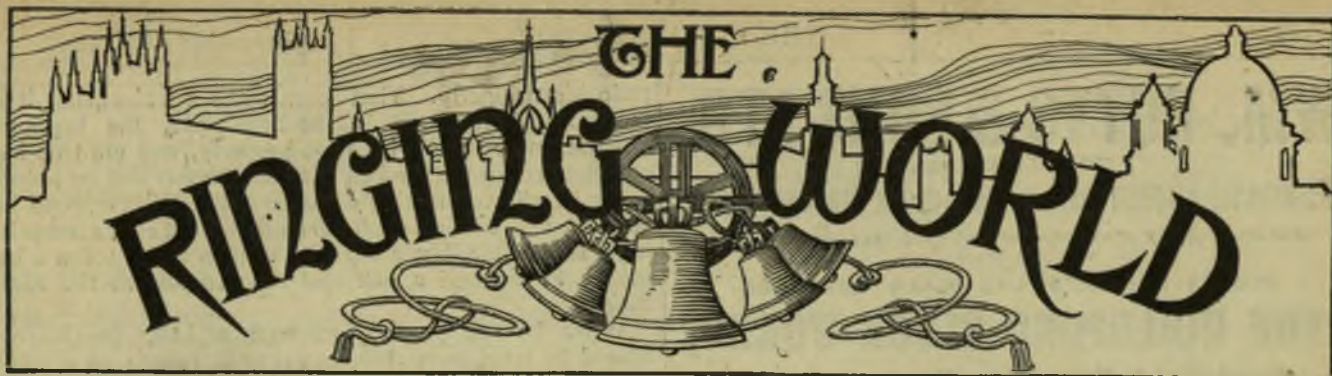




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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11th, 1942.

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RECRUITS.

It is a good thing that ringers should interest themselves now in the problems of reconstruction and should talk about what they hope to do when peace comes. It is a good thing that they should discuss, for instance, the best way to secure recruits and how they intend to try to fill the vacancies in the belfry. When the time comes they probably will have to do what they can and what they must, rather than what they would, but that is no reason why they should not make plans and do their best to carry them out.

The future will have to find the solutions of its problems, but in the meanwhile it may be well to consider the question generally, and in the light of past experience.

In themselves, recruits are not desirable. They are only desirable so far as they give promise of becoming sound ringers. As long as they remain recruits they are not only a big tax on the time and the patience of the older men (which is no very great matter), but they usually are the cause of bad ringing, which is a nuisance to the neighbourhood. This is a very important matter. If we could take our learners into some secluded spot and away from the hearing of outsiders as a choirmaster can train his choir in an empty church, all would be well enough. But that we cannot do. The whole parish must hear, though ringers, shut up as they are in a remote belfry, seldom realise it.

There are many churches where it would be better that the bells were not rung at all than that they should be rung badly, and this will be particularly so after the long silence imposed by the ban.

Yet we must have recruits and they must be trained. What we have to consider is how it can be done with the best results, and with the minimum of annoyance, both to the outside public and the skilled ringers.

The first thing to do is to try to get the right sort of recruit. That, of course, is easier said than done, but the idea, which is rather prevalent, that any and everybody should be welcome on the chance that some may turn out all right, is not a sound one. It does not and cannot work. Whatever is done, a certain proportion of those who attempt to learn will never make good. The proportion, indeed, is a high one, but it can be lessened if obviously unsuitable persons are discouraged from the outset. There need be no fear that any possibly good ringer will be lost. The person who has the real aptitude for the art will find his way to the belfry whatever obstacles and discouragements he may meet.

Having got the right sort of recruit, the next step is to

(Continued on page 410.)

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train him properly. That sounds like a truism, but it is far too seldom done. In the first place, the beginner must learn to handle his rope properly, and until he has complete control of his bell with the clapper tied he should never be allowed to ring an open bell. With a good instructor and an apt pupil this can be done in a surprisingly short time, but quite a lot of men try to teach a beginner to manage a bell and ring rounds at the same time.

When he can properly manage a bell, the learner should be tried in rounds, but only in rounds on a small number of bells. Five is better than six, and eight should never be used. Here again, with the right sort of teacher and the right sort of pupil, few lessons are required. A dose of call changes will then fit him for change ringing.

In all this there is one important essential if progress is to be rapid and effective. The learner must not only be told thoroughly and completely what he has to do before he attempts to do it, but he himself must thoroughly and completely understand what he has to do. The reason why so many learners are slow and incompetent is because they do not understand what they are expected to do, and it only comes to them, if at all, mechanically.

It is even more important that the beginner should know what change ringing is before he attempts to ring changes. Much he cannot be expected to know, but he should at least know what hunting is, and until he does know he should never be allowed to try to hunt the treble. Yet many instructors think to teach a beginner by standing behind him and telling him which bells to strike over. A thoroughly bad plan. The learner should be told as little as possible when he is actually ringing, and then where he should be, not which bells he should strike over.

It would not be a bad thing if a learner was told he would not be allowed to attempt changes until he had studied the elementary part of some such text book as Snowdon's 'Ropesight.'

If the beginner has been correctly trained so far, and if he is the right sort, as soon as he can hunt the treble properly he can be called a ringer. Henceforward he will be able to find his own way with help and occasional advice.

This is the problem of the single recruit. The problem is different altogether when there are many recruits, and a depleted band has to be largely reconstructed.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT STRATTON.

The Rev. A. F. and Mrs. Godley gave a hearty welcome to the 18 members, representing nine parishes, who attended a very happy gathering of the Dorchester Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild at Stratton Rectory on August 29th.

At the service in church the Rector gave a suitable address on Psalm 150, emphasising the importance of praise.

A very excellent tea was provided by the host and hostess and the business meeting was held afterwards. Canon Markby, the chairman, expressed the sympathy of all those present with Mr. C. H. Jennings, the hon. secretary, in his illness, and hoped he would have a speedy recovery. Apologies for absence were received from Canon Slembeck and Miss Clapcott.

It was requested that the annual meeting should be held at St. Peter's, Dorchester, some time in January, 1943, the date to be decided by the chairman and secretary. Three new honorary members were elected.

A very hearty vote of thanks was expressed by the chairman to the Rev. A. F. and Mrs. Godley for their excellent tea and warm hospitality, and it was carried with acclamation. Ringing on handbells was then engaged in by different groups. It was arranged to have a practice on the silent apparatus at St. Peter's, Dorchester, on Saturday, September 26th, at 6 p.m., when all ringers will be welcomed.

HANDBELL PEALS.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.*On Wednesday, September 2, 1942, in One Hour and Fifty Minutes,***AT HERTFORD COLLEGE,****A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**Being one extent each of Double and Reverse Bob and five of Plain Bob.
Tenor size 15 in C.**PETER C. GIBBS** (Hertford) 1-2 | **WM. L. B. LEESE** (St. John's) 3-4
***ROSALIND M. WRONG** (Lady Margaret Hall) ... 5-6Conducted by **WILLIAM L. B. LEESE.**

* First peal in more than one method. First peal in more than one method as conductor.

SITTINGBOURNE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.*On Thursday, September 3, 1942, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes,***AT 35, WOODSTOCK ROAD,****A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 17 in A.

***BETTY SPICE** ... 1-2 | **JOHN E. SPICE** ... 5-6
DOROTHY T. RICHARDSON ... 3-4 | **MONICA J. F. RICHARDSON** ... 7-8
WALTER H. DOBBIE ... 9-10Composed by **GEORGE H. CROSS.** Conducted by **JOHN E. SPICE.**

* First attempt for a peal on ten bells. † First attempt for a peal of Royal on an inside pair.

SITTINGBOURNE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.*On Friday, September 4, 1942, in Two Hours and Eight Minutes,***AT 35, WOODSTOCK ROAD,****A PEAL OF DOUBLE BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 16 in B.

MONICA J. F. RICHARDSON ... 1-2 | **JOHN E. SPICE** ... 5-6
BETTY SPICE ... 3-4 | **DOROTHY T. RICHARDSON** ... 7-8Composed and Conducted by **JOHN E. SPICE.**

The first peal in the method by all the band, and the first in the method on handbells by the association.

SITTINGBOURNE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.*On Saturday, September 5, 1942, in Two Hours and Seven Minutes,***AT 35, WOODSTOCK ROAD,****A PEAL OF SPICED WELLINGTON LITTLE COURT, REVERSE, DOUBLE, CAINSBOROUGH, LITTLE, AND PLAIN BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 16 in B.

MONICA J. F. RICHARDSON ... 1-2 | **JOHN E. SPICE** ... 5-6
BETTY SPICE ... 3-4 | **DOROTHY T. RICHARDSON** ... 7-8Composed and Conducted by **JOHN E. SPICE.**The arrangement of the methods by **George E. Feirn.**

In this peal there are 377 changes of method. The first peal in six Major methods by all the band (average age, 18 years and two months) and for the association. Also the conductor's 50th peal on handbells

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD**MEETING AT GOSBERTON.**

A quarterly meeting of the Elloe Deaneries Branch of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild was held at Gosberton on September 5th, and was attended by ringers from Spalding, Pinchbeck, Surfleet, Gosberton, Donington, Deeping St. Nicholas, Algarkirk, Guildford and Leicester.

The meeting was held on a sheltered lawn in Mr. Welby-Everard's extensive gardens. Members brought their own food, and, thanks to Mr. Horace Bennett and lady members of the Church Council, were provided with seating accommodation and an excellent cup of tea.

During the business meeting under the chairmanship of the Rev. E. C. Gee, two new ringing members were elected, Messrs. Harold Fisher and Norman Hutchesson, both of Gosberton. November 14th was the date fixed for the next meeting, to be held at Pinchbeck.

After the meeting handbells were rung on the lawn until 6 o'clock, when most of the company went to the church to attend evensong, conducted by the Rev. I. S. Bennett, Vicar of Gosberton, who gave the address. The lesson was read by the Rev. J. W. Parker, of Gosberton Clough.

The remainder of the evening was spent in the tower, where silent ringing and handbell ringing were indulged in until the company gradually dwindled away.

A VISIT TO ROSS BELFRY.

A very well known and popular writer in the middle of the last century was Frank Buckland. He was a naturalist and a great authority on birds and fishes. In December, 1874, he was engaged on behalf of the Government in a long enquiry into the by-laws for the Wye fishery, and during his stay at Ross he paid a visit to the belfry. His account of it will be read with interest and some amusement.

"One evening during the progress of the inquiry, when inspecting the shops, a magnificent peal of bells began to ring. Having but once before seen a church belfry, when they were ringing a peal, I determined, if possible, to get up into the belfry. With some difficulty, having no light, we found the little door at the base of the tower, and, after shouting awhile, a man came down with a candle in an ancient horn lantern. I then went up and up and up some very narrow and much worn stairs, till I arrived at the belfry. Imagine a largish room quite square, four bits of candle burning a dim light, from the ends of a very primitive chandelier made up of laths, a creaky floor, a roof of antiquated timbers, an old man and a charity boy on a form in the middle, the solemn tick, tick, tick of the church clock, and eight men, each standing by a rope, and you will have some idea of the scene which presented itself to my view. The chief of the ringers gave me a very kind welcome; and after giving some mysterious orders to the ringers, who went each to his rope, at a given signal off went the merry bells, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, again and again for about five times. The leader then cried loudly, "Bob"! and the bells instantly altered to (as I understood afterwards) 2, 1, 3, 5, 4, 7, 6, 8; then to 3, 2, 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8; and so on for a considerable time, interspersed with the orders loudly given every now and then "Single"! "Bob"! till at last the poor bells seemed suddenly to recover their senses, and away they went loudly 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8; and then "Halt!" This peal-ringing was evidently hard work, but the music was beautiful. It was a peal of "Grandsire Triplets," whatever that may mean. Grandsire, I believe, is the name of a man who was a great authority on bellringing. An inscription on the wall was pointed out to me with evident pride, which reads as follows: "February 11th, 1851, was rung in this tower a true and complete peal of Grandsire Triplets, containing 5,040 changes, in three hours and two minutes, being the first true peal ever rung in this country." Then came the names of the ringers.

"I was then permitted to ring a bell, and was surprised to find the tremendous velocity and power with which the rope, at a certain stage of the pull, rushes upwards. This is very dangerous to novices, who might get entangled in the rope, and smashed by it against the roof above. It requires great knack to pull the rope at a certain instant so as to make the bell speak. How the men manage, under these circumstances, to ring a peal, especially with changes, I cannot understand. I was told that the bells were then "raised," that is they were standing with their mouths uppermost, and, as time was getting on, the ringers must "fall" them, i.e., bring them very gradually back to their original position, with the mouths downwards. This "falling the bells" took some time, during which many musical combinations took place most enchanting to the ear; they ended, as usual, with a half-faint 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.

"I spread the news of my discovery of the bellringers at Ross Church among those present at the Inquiry, and the ringers promised to ring us another peal the following evening. We had to wait till the evening church service was over, when a goodly company of strangers visited the belfry. The ringers then took extra pains with their complicated change ringing, which is far beyond my comprehension, and even, I have reason to know, past the understanding of the learned lawyers assembled. They cross-examined the ringers again and again, but could make nothing of it. I never saw lawyers so completely stumped before, and this by eight honest hard-working men, a mason, a wheelwright, a tailor, a tallow-chandler, a shoemaker, a ploughman, etc. *Trahit sua quemque voluntas* was here well exemplified. The lawyers knew their business, the ringers knew theirs. When the men had rung a beautiful peal, they offered to muffle the bells in our honour. The bells are generally only muffled at Christmas. Muffling the bells, I was told, means tying a bit of leather on to the clappers, so that the sound is subdued. While two men went up to muffle the bells, the ringers sat down in a row on a form, each with a handbell in his hand. By interchanging these bells they rang a very pretty peal, and then standing up, played several good tunes on these handbells.

"The bells being now muffled, the men rang another peal, the effect of which was exceedingly beautiful. I then with my colleague, Mr. Walpole, went right up into the steeple, and stood upon the beam, close over the eight great bells, as they were giving out their iron voices. The noise here was tremendous. By signs alone could we speak, but it was a grand sight to see the bells swinging in great circles, with tremendous power and swiftness, and then to see them instantly stopped in their wild career, and made to speak by the comparatively feeble hand of the man at the rope below. The sight of these eight bells all swinging, apparently madly, and without order, and yet giving out a most musical peal, which (when the bells are not muffled) can be heard eight miles off, was grand in the extreme. After looking well at the bells, I sent down word to ask the ringers to "fall" them; and it was very interesting to see, how neatly and gently the bells began to lessen their speed, then seem

(Continued on page 417.)

THE RINGING EXERCISE IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

(Continued from page 401.)

All through the eighteenth century, as in the seventeenth, the College Youths were superior in class to the average ringers. Many of the latter belonged to the lowest orders of society, and their general condition was not high. In fact at no time was the state of the town population worse than in the first half of the eighteenth century. 'The religious and social condition of the masses under the two Georges is the severest condemnation of the religious life of the period. The masses were ignorant and brutalised, and their numbers and demoralisation rapidly increased. The Government panicked to mob passion by public executions and insulted humanity by the brutal ferocity of its criminal code.' 'In habits of providence and of economy he (the English workman) ranked extremely low in the industrial scale, his relaxations usually took the form of drunkenness or brutal sports, and he was peculiarly addicted to riot and violence.' On the other hand, 'probably no workman in Europe could equal the Englishman in physical strength, in sustained power and energy of work, and few, if any, could surpass him in thoroughness and fidelity in the performance of his task, and in general rectitude and honesty of character.'

Bull-baiting and cock fighting and other cruel sports were popular throughout the century, and the church bells are said to have been sometimes rung in honour of the victor in the 'Welsh main,' the most sanguinary form of cock-fighting. The contrast of bell-ringing as a sport with such things as these is striking, and no doubt shows that the ringers as a body were superior to their class in humanity and intelligence.

One of the worst vices of the time was drunkenness. Excessive drinking had been common among all classes since at least the sixteenth century, but the evil increased at the time of the Restoration, and was prevalent among statesmen, judges, lawyers, at the two universities, and in the homes of the country gentlemen. Among the masses beer was the usual drink until about the year 1724, when a change took place which had deplorable results. This was a passion for gin drinking, which spread over the country with the rapidity and violence of an epidemic.

In 1684, 527,000 gallons of the spirit were distilled in England. In 1724 the number was 3,601,000, and in 1735 5,394,000. Gin sellers used to hang out notices that their customers could get drunk for a penny and dead drunk for twopence, and no extra charge for straw. The general consequences were disastrous. Owing to some Acts of Parliament, and to the Wesleyan and Evangelical religious movements, the evil was somewhat abated, but its effects were felt far down into the following century.

It is necessary to remember these facts when we consider the second of the two serious charges which were brought against ringers during so long a period in the history of the Exercise. The first—that they neglected their duties towards the Church, and, though they called others to divine service, were never seen there themselves—was not, in the circumstances, a fair one. The other—that of drunkenness—is harder to dispose of.

From at least the closing years of the seventeenth century until the closing years of the nineteenth century, it

was commonly said that ringers as a class were drunkards. The authors of the J.D. and C.M. 'Campanalogia,' though they do not admit the justice of the charge, bear witness that it was made before 1702. The book was republished four times at different dates between 1705 and 1766, and, though they were reprints and hardly new editions, the fact that the references to these charges against ringers were not out of date, is shown by the authors of the 'Clavis Campanalogia' reproducing them in their book.

Still later, in 1816, William Shipway recurred to the same theme. 'The practice of the art,' he says, 'has been objected to from its tendency to alienate the minds of men from their business by leading them into idleness, and as being too frequently productive of habitual drunkenness. In reply, I observe that there is no exercise or diversion which, if unduly followed, will not reduce a man to poverty, and alas! if a man be addicted to drink, he will obtain it, let his amusements be what they may. But far from inducing a practice so ruinous and detestable, ringing can afford no entertainment to individuals of this character; it is generally performed in a place where liquor cannot be readily procured; and the intellect of the performer must be perfectly unclouded to enable him to practise with any degree of credit.'

We have thus clear evidence extending over the whole century that the charge was made. True, all the authors mention it in order to rebut it; but we may be quite sure that it would not have been made, and still more that it would not have been noticed, if there had not been some foundation for it. No writer would think it worth while to defend present-day ringers against the charge of drunkenness, and it rather significant that the line of defence was not a flat denial that the vice existed, but that, if it did, it was not ringing which was responsible. Which, of course, was true enough.

William Laughton wrote a lively and detailed account of the doings of some men who called themselves the Rambling Ringers' Club, and in it the references to eating and drinking are nearly as prominent as the references to ringing.

The club always met at a tavern and nearly always adjourned to a tavern after they had finished ringing. That by no means shows that they were drunkards or anything like it, but it is clear that they drank quite a lot. 'Tho' I cannot say but now and then,' says Laughton, 'ringers tinkle as much as other men,' yet he goes on to claim that, owing to their exercise, they are able to throw off the effects much quicker than other people who simply 'sit in a House and Drink and Call.'

Towards the end of the century we have a glimpse of another society whose reputation in this matter was very bad. George Gross in 1784 quarrelled with the Cumberland and started a new company which called itself the Junior Society of Cumberland Youths. Only his son and one or two others followed him from the old society, and the band was made up from lower-class men from the East End of London. After a while Gross and the more reputable members returned to the senior society. Of the remainder, 'the less that is said of them the better,' says Osborn. They moved their meeting place from tavern to tavern in the East End, stopping as long as the landlord would encourage or trust them, getting into debt, and when they had outstayed their welcome, moving

(Continued on next page.)

THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

(Continued from previous page.)

on to the next public-house. There were excellent ringers among them.

In 1804 a little book was published by S. Beaufoy, late minister of Lady Huntingdon's Chapel at Town Sutton. The writer belonged to one of the straiter religious sects, and no doubt saw his subject with a somewhat distorted vision, but his object was a thoroughly Christianlike one, and he was animated by a sincere desire for the good of ringers. He painted a very dark picture of their general condition, which, however, referred chiefly to country towns and villages and decidedly was not true of the better-class London ringers. 'Are they not in the belfry employed at these and other seasons in lying and swearing, in idle and filthy conversation, in despising real religion and the truly religious, and in almost every species of vice and abomination? They generally go to the ale house and spend the money they receive in waste. At such times filthy conversation and swearing, lying and quarrelling, frequently abound among them. Intoxication often ensues, and each man's share of liquor in a night is very often as much as would refresh a man and his whole family a whole week, yea, more than many get in a month.'

There is much exaggeration in this passage, and one would hesitate to reproduce it had not Henry Thomas Ellacombe, who had exceptional opportunities for knowing the truth of these matters, thought it worth while to republish the book forty years later.

One of the reasons given for pulling down the detached bell tower of Salisbury Cathedral in 1790 was that the ringers were wont to make the belfry a scene of carousal

and disorder. It was a paltry excuse for that act of vandalism, but it is further evidence that among some ringers at any rate there was excessive drinking.

All along, the Exercise contained a proportion of men of lower class than the members of the great London societies—the College Youths, the Eastern Scholars, the London Youths and the rest—and their chief interest in ringing was what they could get out of it. They stood no chance of being admitted to the leading companies during the eighteenth century, but it was on them that George Gross fell back when he founded the Junior Society of Cumberland Youths, and from them, or their like, the London ringers were recruited when, during the early years of the nineteenth century, the supply of better-class men failed.

The ordinary outside opinion of ringers and ringing was expressed by Sir John Hawkins when he wrote in 1776 that 'the ringing of bells is a curious exertion of the invention and memory, and though a recreation chiefly of the lower sort of people is worthy of notice'; and by Thomas Faulkner, the antiquary, when he wrote that 'bellringing, though a recreation chiefly of the lower class, is not in itself incurious or unworthy of notice,' but 'it was very seldom well performed except by the Society of College Youths, the parish ringers being ignorant of the musical changes practised by the former.'

(To be continued.)

ITALIAN BELLS.

From the following quotation from the 'Popolo d'Italia' it would appear that either bells in Italy have been confiscated for war purposes, or the authorities are considering the possibility of doing so:—

'The collection of the bells has not only a material significance, but moral as well. It is a sacrifice to be counted as highly as the decision to renounce all nuptial festivities for the duration.'

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

According to 'The Star,' Mr. Robert Symonds Clifton, of Chelsfield, Kent, who died recently, was the heir of the baronetcy conferred in 1611 on Gervase Clifton, of Clifton Hall, Nottinghamshire, though he did not use the title. If so, he was the lineal descendant of Sir Clifford Clifton, Kt., F.R.S., second master of the Society of College Youths, who held that office in 1638 and died in 1669. There seems, however, to be some doubt about the matter, for though 'The Star' says that the last person to use the title was Robert Clifton, who died in 1892, 'Burke,' the great authority on these matters, says that the baronetcy became dormant in 1869.

The first peal of Little Bob Major was rung at Brading, Isle of Wight, by the Cambridge University Guild on September 8th, 1911.

William Eversfield, in his time a notable ringer and composer of Treble Bob, died on September 9th, 1847, at the age of 79.

The first peal of Surfleet Treble Bob Caters was rung at Surfleet on September 9th, 1911. The method was an attempt to adapt the Treble Bob Principle to an odd number of bells without having one bell strike four consecutive blows in one position.

The first peal of Canterbury Pleasure Royal ('Plain Bob spoilt') was rung at Bromsgrove on September 10th, 1898. We do not know if any other has been rung, but we hope not.

In the middle of the last century there was a good band of ringers at Christleton in Cheshire. On September 11th, 1844, they rang 5,376 changes of Double Norwich Court Bob Major. The composition, which was by Lates, had the sixth 24 times right and wrong and obviously must have had singles in which the bells in 5-6 lay still.

Charles Henry Hattersley was born on September 12th, 1844, and Charles D. P. Davies on September 12th, 1856.

The first peal of Cambridge Court Major was rung on handbells at Surfleet by the Cambridge University Guild on September 12th, 1922. Capt. W. H. J. Hooton conducted.

The late George Dent called the first peal of Kent Surprise Major at Harlow Common, where he was churchwarden, on September 12th, 1928.

Bertram Prewett called the first peal of Superlative in Wales at Llengollen on September 13th, 1907.

In the year 1905 a ringing tour was held in Lancashire between September 9th and September 15th. Several interesting peals were scored, including the first peal of Stedman Caters at Manchester Town Hall, and what was claimed as the first true peal of Stedman Cinques in Lancashire. This was at Ashton-under-Lyne. In Mr. Morris' 'History' a peal of Stedman Cinques is said to have been rung at Liverpool in 1863. Presumably the suggestion was that it was false. An earlier peal in 1825 given in John Hopkins' book is marked 'false' by him.

The touring party contained several of the most prominent ringers of the time. Nearly all have now passed away. Among them were William and Ernest Pye, Isaac G. Shade, Charles Jackson, Bertram Prewett, George Dent, Gabriel Lindoff, Samuel Wood and A. T. Beeston.

Fifty years ago yesterday seven peals were rung. They were Grand-sire Triples 4, Double Norwich Court Bob Major 1, Stedman Caters 1, and Minor 1.

GOOD NEWS OF MR. L. E. HOPGOOD.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am very glad to inform you that my son, Leonard Frank Hopgood, who was reported missing in the Middle East on June 20th, is quite safe and is now prisoner of war in Italy. I feel sure his ringing friends will be glad to know.

FRANK HOPGOOD.

79, Engadine Street, Southfields, S.W.18.

MR. DENNIS BROCK.

REPORTED MISSING.

We are informed by Mr. Frank B. Lufkin that Dennis Brock, a member of the Sunbury-on-Thames band, has been reported missing as from June 21st. In reporting this, the Major of his unit said he was a fine soldier and an exceptionally keen and cheerful man. 'If,' writes Mr. Lufkin, 'the worst has befallen him, we have lost a very keen churchman and bellringer, as well as a friend and companion, whose company was always so cheerful. We can only hope and pray that he may still be alive and well somewhere.'

HANDBELL RINGING AT BRENTFORD.

On October 13th 1850 was rung a true and Complete peal of grandsire trebles at Mr. Boxall's New Brentford, consisting of 5040 changes with 88 bobs and 2 singles, in 2 hours and 15 minutes by the following viz H. A. Dyer first and second, H. Ambrose third and fourth, T. Barrett fifth and sixth, T. Harden seventh and eighth; conducted by Mr. H. Ambrose.—'Bell's Life,' October 20th, 1850.

This was 'lepped' ringing, but the band must have been very expert to accomplish the peal in so short a time as two hours and a quarter.

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

ANNUAL MEETING AT ST. MARTIN'S.

The Society of Royal Cumberland Youths held their annual general meeting on Saturday, August 29th, at St. Martin-in-the-Fields. The attendance was not so large as in previous years, due, no doubt, to the many calls on members' time by the war effort. The Master, Mr. G. H. Cross, presided, and was supported by his officers, viz., Mr. T. Bevan, senior steward; Mr. R. C. Heazel, junior steward; Messrs. C. J. Matthews and A. Hardy, trustees; and Mr. G. W. Steere, joint treasurer and secretary. Among other members and friends present were Messrs. I. Attwater, H. E. Audsley, J. E. Bailey, E. Barnett, W. H. Fussell, G. Dawson, E. Smith, E. Furbank, E. W. Pye, G. and A. Radley and Mesdames Cross and Matthews.

Apologies for absence were read from Messrs. W. J. Nudds and W. G. Symonds, while others from J. Bennett and A. H. Pulling reached the secretary too late to be announced at the meeting.

At the commencement of the proceedings the Master called those present to stand for a few moments to the memory of the late J. S. Goldsmith, Bryan O'Neill and other ringers who had died during the year.

The secretary read a letter of greetings and good wishes for a happy meeting from the Master and members of the Ancient Society of College Youths via their hon. secretary, Mr. A. B. Peck. This letter was received with great enthusiasm. Mr. W. Keeble also sent greetings and good wishes for a successful meeting.

A letter from Mr. C. C. Mayne announcing his resignation from the society was received with regret.

The secretary, in his report, referred to the great loss the Exercise in general and the Cumberlands in particular had suffered through the death of Mr. J. S. Goldsmith. Also in regard to Bryan O'Neill, a young ringer of great promise who had passed away at the early age of 21 years, the society extended their heartfelt sympathy to Mr. G. Gilbert in what must have been to him a grievous personal loss, as he had been responsible for bringing O'Neill into the field of bellringing. The lad had rung about 20 peals, most of which were for the society, and the last he rang, Bob Major at the age of 19, he conducted himself.

A discussion on the recent correspondence in 'The Ringing World' about umpires for handbell peals showed that the general opinion was that a feeling of resentment would be created by the implied slur on ringers' integrity if such a rule were brought into force making umpires compulsory. One of the arguments was that very few so-called umpires were really competent to do the job properly. It was agreed, however, that where a band set out to attempt anything of outstanding importance they would see that qualified umpires to check the performance were in attendance. Further, it was resolved that where a society had a long standing rule that an umpire should be present at every attempt for a handbell peal, it was the business of that society alone to see that their regulations were complied with, but this policy should not be regarded as one to be applied to the whole Exercise.

The treasurer stated that the decrease in the financial balance was due in part to the curtailment of activities and consequent loss of revenue, and also to the payment of certain commitments which had been authorised at or since the last annual general meeting.

The balance sheet was accepted as presented, but regret was expressed that the auditors had been unable to check it.

All the officers were re-elected.

The secretary urged tower representatives at churches where possible damage had been sustained by enemy action to ask the authorities concerned to have their towers surveyed as soon as possible, and ascertain whether the bells could be rung or not when occasion offered. This would obviate any undue delay when ringing was allowed to start again.

The meeting was reminded that the society was rapidly approaching its 200th anniversary, that is, in 1945, and the time was coming when ways and means would have to be considered to celebrate so important an event in a way that befitted the occasion. It was decided, however, that the time was not yet ripe for any plans to be made, and the matter was put back to the next annual general meeting, when members were asked to bring forward any suitable ideas which might occur to them.

A proposal was made that, if possible, another joint meeting with the Middlesex Association be arranged at Shoreditch next spring on the lines of that held at St. John's, Waterloo Road, in April last.

A hearty vote of thanks to all concerned for the privilege of once again allowing the Vestry Hall to be used for the meeting brought the proceedings to an end.

Tea was partaken of in the canteen, after which handbells were brought into use. Bob Maximus, Stedman and Grandsire Caters were some of the methods rung.

BEACONSFIELD.—On Friday, August 28th, in the belfry, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles (10 callings) in 33 minutes: Miss D. R. Fletcher (first quarter-peal as conductor) 1-2, Miss K. E. Fletcher 3-4, H. Wingrove 5-6. First quarter-peal of Doubles by all the band. Also a quarter-peal of Bob Major in 40 minutes: H. Wingrove (conductor) 1-2, R. Lee 3-4, Miss D. R. Fletcher 5-6, Miss K. E. Fletcher 7-8. Rung to celebrate the 49th anniversary of the wedding of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Fletcher.

THE LATE MR. W. J. NEVARD.

FUNERAL AT GREAT BENTLEY.

Essex has lost the oldest and one of the most popular of its ringers by the passing of William James Nevard, of Great Bentley, whose death we briefly reported last week.

Mr. Nevard had been ill for only a fortnight, and a month earlier had been present at a district meeting of the Essex Association at Lawford. He then took part in handbell ringing, and it probably was his last outing. He passed away peacefully on Saturday, August 29th.

The funeral was at the Parish Church, Great Bentley, on September 3rd, and was conducted by the Rev. G. Colley. The hymn, 'Lead, kindly light,' was sung, Mrs. Munson being at the organ.

The principal mourners were Mrs. Evans (daughter), Messrs. William, Walter, Frank, Sidney, Harry and Gerald (sons), and Muriel and Philip Nevard (grandchildren).

The Essex Association was represented by many past and present officers and other members, including Messrs. G. Waterman (Harwich), R. W. Stannard (Barking), H. T. Pye, C. Marven, F. J. Bumpshead, G. M. Rashbrook, E. P. Duffield, W. Chalk, E. J. Butler (Romford), G. Dawson (Leytonstone), D. Elliott, J. Arnott, E. E. Davies (Clacton), J. Mills, V. Gardiner, E. M. Blyth (St. Osyth), H. A. Wright (Clacton), G. Andrews, Mr. and Mrs. L. Wright (Dedham), and Miss Hilda Snowden (Halstead).

Floral tributes included emblems from members of the North-Eastern Division, Essex Association; the Essex Association; Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Wright, of Clacton; the Thorington band of ringers; St. Peter's, Colchester; and St. Osyth ringers.

Mr. Nevard, who was 86 years of age, had travelled extensively throughout the country, and was proud of the fact that he had rung in every cathedral where there is a ringing peal.

TIVERTON CHIMES.

FROM THE REV. J. H. B. ANDREWS, R.N.V.R.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Several numbers of 'The Ringing World' have just reached me, sent on by the kindness of a Yorkshire friend, and I have been reading them with much interest.

I am delighted to see, in the correspondence about quarter chimes, that Mr. A. J. Hughes remembers the Tiverton quarters. I spent my schooldays at Tiverton, and later on another five happy years there within sound of the bells. It is difficult to say in such cases just how much is due to association, but I have always thought the Tiverton chimes the most beautiful of any, and have often wondered why they are not found elsewhere. No one seems to have mentioned the chimes of Oxford, of which I know little in general, but from long hours spent in the reading room of the Radcliffe Camera I came to love the simple chimes of the University Church of St. Mary. As I remember them they went: 1; 1 2; 1 2 3; 1 2 3 4 3 2 1.

It may interest some readers to know, with reference to letters about gramophone records of bells, that we play the Columbia record of the old Bow Bells over the ship's loud-speaker system before service on Sunday mornings. It seems to be highly popular, and some men, I fancy, are of the opinion that it's the best part of the service. When our record was broken in a storm, and in the long interval before another could be got, we used the record, also by Columbia, of Stedman Cinques on St. Paul's bells. Strangely enough, I am not aware that anyone noticed that the bells are half-muffled. I got the idea from the Orient liner 'Otranto,' in which the St. Paul's record was regularly used a year ago.

In conclusion, may I say how good it is to know, through the medium of your pages, that interest in bells and in ringing is being so well maintained in these very difficult days.

J. H. B. ANDREWS.

H.M.S. —

A BIRMINGHAM BELL FOUNDER.

ST. CHAD'S BELLS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Mr. Paddon Smith's information re our bells at St. Chad's is incorrect.

The three treble bells added in 1877 to augment the ring from five to eight were the only ones by Blews. The old five were cast in 1849 by C. and G. Mears, Whitechapel. Furthermore, this ring was removed from the south-west tower to the north-west tower and rehung there in 1851.

The bells, as a ring of eight, were opened on April 1st, 1877, and in 1939 were recast into a superb peal by Taylor.

As anyone may imagine, it was a bitter pill for us when the ban was imposed only three months after the new bells were opened.

With all good wishes for the continuance of 'The Ringing World.'

WILFRED E. BOX.

140, Wentworth Road, Harborne, Birmingham 17.

P.S.—There is a ring of eight by Blews, dated 1877, at the R.C. Abbey Church, Erdington, tenor 14 cwt. 3 qr. 14 lb. (these bells are inscribed with the Eight Beatitudes). Also at Cradley, Worcestershire, an eight dated 1873, and at Bengeworth, Worcestershire, a ring of six with the date 1872.

CHIMES AND CHIME TUNES.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 404.)

Many churches still possess special bells for the clock to strike on, though usually the tenor is used for the hour, and others for the quarters. They are mostly to be found in London and the Eastern Counties, and some dozen or more are of mediæval date, but many have been, originally Sanctus bells. One at Sonning, Berks, goes back to about 1300, and those at Hadleigh and Stowmarket, in Suffolk, are of the 14th century. Others again belong to the period just before the Reformation, and are probably genuine clock bells, as at Bocking, Great Chesterford and Littlebury, Essex; Linton, Cambs; Stoke-by-Clare, Suffolk. They are usually fixed 'dead' in a frame, as they only require to be struck by a hammer, not swung by a rope. In the Eastern Counties they are sometimes hung outside on the spire, as at Hadleigh and Stowmarket, Suffolk; Braintree, Essex; Histon, Cambs; and formerly at Glaston, Rutland. Two bells are thus hung outside on the spire at Barnstaple, Devonshire.

St. Paul's Cathedral and Worcester Cathedral not only possess special hour bells, but also quarter-bells, as does Kidderminster Parish Church, and there are many examples of secular edifices, of which the best known is the Palace of Westminster.

The most ancient of all quarter-chimes are the 'ding-dong' or 'ting-tang' chimes, and are played on two bells, which are at the interval of a major or minor second, major or minor third, perfect fourth, or a perfect fifth. In every instance the bells are played once for the first quarter, twice for the second, thrice for the third, and four times at the fourth or hour. They are not of much musical interest, but possess the merit of being much less expensive than any other chimes on more notes. Of the 'Whittington Chimes' there is no doubt that this was in its oldest form arranged for six bells. In the story of Dick Whittington they are supposed to have been ringing at St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, London, in the following order when he heard them and returned to London!—531246='Turn-a-gain-Whit-ting-ton.' This 'change' is still known to this day among change ringers as the 'Whittington change,' and on higher or greater numbers adapted to this 'tune.' Thus one of the best-known rows on twelve bells is 531246E9780T.

The earliest reference to the Whittington tune or change is in Shirley's 'Constant Maid,' Act II., Sc. II., where the following is to be found:—

'Six bells in every steeple, and let them all go to the city tune, "Turn again Whittington."' (1640.)

Whittington, by the way, was Lord Mayor of London in 1354, and both the Bow steeple and above-mentioned bells perished in the Great Fire of 1666. The tune is also to be found in D'Urfey's (1653-1723) 'Wit and Mirth, or Pills to Purge Melancholy.' It consists of two phases which particularly lend themselves for use as quarter-chimes:—

GDCBDAGDCB—A.

EDCBDAGDCB—A.

In 1905 Sir Charles Villiers Stanford wrote a new set of quarter chimes for the ring of twelve then in the tower, based on the ancient six-bell tune. These are excellent, and bring into use eleven of the twelve bells, but the fact that they require a diatonic sequence of twelve notes

will only permit of their being used in a few churches. These chimes are:—

1st quarter,	5123.	
2nd quarter,	512314.	
3rd quarter,	789084534.	
4th quarter,	51231457908E.	Hour T.

What are commonly called 'Whittington' chimes are to be found almost exclusively on domestic clocks, and vary considerably as to notes played and the number of bells employed. They are merely ringers' changes on a specified number of bells. The following are two different forms of these from a large number which could be given (on a set of eight, or natural octave):—

1st quarter,	12345678
2nd quarter,	{ 15234768 52617348
3rd quarter,	{ 37524618 13572468 12345678
4th quarter,	{ 13572468 52617348 37524618 15234768
1st quarter,	12345678
2nd quarter,	{ 15263748 34567218
3rd quarter,	{ 13572468 75312468 12345678
4th quarter,	{ 15263748 34567218 13572468 75312468

The Cambridge quarters—sometimes called Westminster quarters—were first erected in St. Mary-the-Great Church, Cambridge, in 1793-4. In their proper form they require a ring of ten bells, the hour bell being thus the octave of the third of the quarter-chimes. They are, however, frequently played on six and eight-bell peals, but musically these are not so satisfactory, leaving an incomplete effect on the ear as the hour bell strikes on No. 6 or 8. At Great St. Mary's Church, Cambridge, the chimes, for which £69 19s. 1d. had been collected in 1673, became discontinued when Phelps cast the eight middle bells of the present twelve in 1722. In March, 1793, the University agreed to put up a new clock, and arrangements were made for quarter chimes. The whole work was completed in about eleven months. Dr. Raven says he derived the above quarter chimes from Mr. Amps, then organist of Christ's College, to whom it came from Mr. Pratt, formerly organist of King's. At this time Dr. Jowett was Regius Professor of Laws, and Dr. Randall Regius Professor of Music, Crotch and Pratt being among his pupils. Jowett was an expert mechanic, and took the warmest interest in the new clock. The University authorities largely trusted to him, and he is credited with having taken young Crotch into his counsels. This prodigy, only eighteen, but in his fifteenth year of instrumental performance, was said to have taken in the fifth bar of the opening symphony of Handel's sublime air, 'I know that my Redeemer liveth,' and expanded it into the system of chimes to which few who

(Continued on next page.)

THE CAMBRIDGE QUARTERS.

(Continued from previous page.)

travel are strangers. It was said by Dr. Pratt that when the chimes were first heard they were thought so strange that they were nicknamed 'Jowett's Hornpipe.' Very few, except those who had known Crotch, were aware that he had anything to do with their composition, and till they were copied for the Royal Exchange their merits were but little appreciated. The arrangement is such that the chime-barrel revolves twice in an hour. The first revolution takes five movements—one from the first quarter, two from the second, and the two former out of the three of the third; the second revolution these same movements again and in the same order—the last of the third quarter and the four for the hour.

It is curious that these melodious chimes were in use at Cambridge for over half a century before they attracted any attention. Those copied for the Royal Exchange in 1845 were no improvement on the original. The groups of four notes were not changed, but the sequence altered to:—

(1) CEDG. (2) CDEG—GDEC. (3) GDEC—ECDG—CDEC. (4) CEDG—GDEC—ECDG—CDEC (hour) lower C.

In 1859-60 the Cambridge chimes were copied for the quarter-chimes at the Houses of Parliament, since which time they have become popular, so much so that out of the whole chiming clocks erected in churches and on other public buildings, over sixty per cent. have been made with Cambridge chimes.

The Leicester Municipal Buildings clock is fitted with Cambridge quarter-chimes, and so also was the nearby St. Martin's Church, now the Cathedral. Both struck on bells exactly akin in tone and tune, therefore to avoid confusion the late organist of St. Martin's—Dr. Hancock—devised for the chimes there the following variation:—

(1) ECDG. (2) CEDG—DGE. (3) EDCG—CDGE—DECG. (4) GCDE—DCEG—CGED—GDEC (hour) lower C.

Another somewhat similar arrangement of these quarters was made—purely for mechanical reasons—by the late Lord Grimthorpe for Doncaster Parish Church—these now being known as 'Doncaster chimes.'

The following are the chimes at Tideswell, adapted for a ring of six bells.

1. 1234
2. 3214
3. 1324
4. 2134

1 is played at first quarter, 1 and 2 at second, 1, 2 and 3 at third, and all at fourth, with No. 6 as hour bell.

(To be continued.)

RUISLIP.—On Monday, August 31st, at Bell Haven, Acacia Avenue, a quarter-peal of Doubles, consisting of 240 Stedman, 480 Plain Bob and 540 Grandsire: George M. Kilby 1-2, Corpl. K. Arthur, R.A.F. 3-4, Corpl. E. Coward, R.A.F. (conductor) 5-6. Believed to be the first quarter-peal on handbells rung in Ruislip.

THE SILENCE OF THE BELLS.

WOODFORD RECTOR'S PLEA.

Writing in the magazine of St. Mary's Parish Church, Woodford, the Rev. T. F. Ison, the Rector, says:—

'In company with many of you I continue to be puzzled about the ban on bellringing at our churches. I feel that it was a hasty bit of legislation and it ought to be repealed. The decision to give warning of an invasion through church bells commends itself to few people. The traffic often makes the bells inaudible at any distance, whereas there are the sirens, which can be heard far away. Moreover, it is a hazardous business for an unskilled person to attempt to ring heavy bells. Hear what a famous campanologist, Troyte, says about it: "The coil of rope which it is necessary to hold in the hand, before and whilst raising a bell, always puzzles a learner; it gets into his face and perhaps round his neck, in which case he may be hanged."

'I believe influences are at work from time to time to move the authorities to allow bellringing again. I, for one, shall be glad if they succeed. The bells are greatly missed.'

CHOIRBOYS AS RECRUITS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—If you don't mind my writing again so soon I should like to add a little to my last week's letter.

I disagree with Mr. F. E. Pitman. It is quite true that the problem of what to do to keep choirboys when their voices break is a real and important one, but it has nothing to do with us as ringers, and we do not want the belfry used as an experiment and a dumping ground for used up choirboys. Now and again a good recruit may be had from the choirboys, but they are just as rare as anywhere else and want just as much finding. I would welcome any choirboy who wished on his own accord to become a ringer, but I would not do any pressing. They are too young to be much permanent good. They might come out of curiosity; and perhaps stay for a while, long enough to give a lot of trouble in teaching, and then as other interests come along they fade away and are seen no more.

I would try and interest the young men in the choir. If one of them was induced to learn ringing and had any aptitude for the art there would be a good chance of keeping him. A CHURCHMAN.

A MESSAGE FROM MR. C. K. LEWIS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I, through the medium of your columns, express my good wishes to all those ringing friends whom I found it impossible to see personally before I left England, and to ask them to spare no effort to keep the flag flying until we return?

I would, also, like to say that I consider that the securing of the future of 'The Ringing World' would be the best memorial which its founder and late editor could have and would what he himself would have wished.

I shall look forward to receiving my copies of 'The Ringing World,' long delayed, no doubt, but very welcome, when I reach my destination, and I hope, from time to time, that I may be able to send you items of interest.

This letter is being written in mid-Atlantic, and by the time it reaches your hands I may have been able to hear the sound of church bells once again at one of our ports of call. With every good wish for continued success of our journal. C. KENNETH LEWIS.

A DRASTIC COMMENT.

'The peal of Stedman Catons rung by the Painswick Society conducted by Mr. Estcourt on the 18th inst. at St. Mary's Church, Cheltenham, was we are assured one of the worst struck peals ever rung, there not being 500 good changes in the whole 5,081 represented to have been accomplished.'—'Bell's Life,' February 29th, 1852.

A VISIT TO ROSS—Continued from page 411.

to despair of their work, then labour heavily at it, then begin to slumber, and at last fall into the deep heavy sleep, which they have enjoyed more or less for one hundred and eighty years. Only fancy one hundred and eighty Christmas days! Taking a generation at thirty years, these bells must have rung their Christmas peal to no less than six generations of the inhabitants of Ross since the reign of King William III., A.D. 1695, when the "Man of Ross," John Kyrle, gave the big bell. It is said that the Man of Ross was present at the casting of the tenor or great bell, and that he took with him an old silver tankard, which, after drinking claret and sherry, he threw in and had cast with the bell. By a curious coincidence this bell unexpectedly fell off the wheel soon after John Kyrle's funeral.'

TOWER CLOCKS

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GRANDSIRE TRIPLES.

THE NEED AND USE OF SINGLES.

(Continued from page 406.)

We have now established a most important fact in the composition of Grandsire Triples. At the start we must set the 5,040 rows down either as 72 P Blocks or as 120 B Blocks. But, while each P Block can exist in one form only in which all the handstrokes are odd and all the backstrokes are even, any B Block can exist in two alternative forms, one of which is the reverse of the other.

In Bob Major, Double Norwich and similar methods, we divide the natural courses into odd and even, and those in one group are quite distinct from those in the other group; and there can never be rows which are common to both groups. The same thing happens in Grandsire Doubles and Grandsire Caters, but in Grandsire Triples every block is both even and odd.

We could set the 5,040 rows down in 72 P Blocks in which all the handstrokes are even and all the backstrokes are odd, but that would be of no use to us, for rounds would have to be a handstroke row which, of course, never happens in a peal. If we try to set down the 5,040 rows in 72 P Blocks, some of which have even backstrokes and some odd backstrokes, we shall find that it cannot be done. And since directly we use common singles we turn the even backstrokes into odd backstrokes, we cannot use common singles as links in a peal of Grandsire Triples if we take P Blocks as the basis of the composition.

Fortunately, it is otherwise when we start with 120 B blocks. We can set the 5,040 rows down either in 120 B Blocks, in which all the handstrokes are odd and all the backstrokes are even; or in 120 B Blocks, in which all the handstrokes are even and all the backstrokes are odd. And when we compare the two groups we find that every block in the first group has a complementary block in the second group in which the rows are exactly the same, but come in the reverse order. For instance in the B Block whose lead-ends are:—

1752634

1467352

1234567

the rows are exactly the same as those in the B Block whose lead-ends are:—

1576243

1643725

1325476

The first three lead-ends are even, the second three are odd, and in each pair of complementary B Blocks the relationship of the lead-ends is the same.

We can now see broadly what happens when we use common singles as links in constructing a peal. We start with 120 B Blocks and by means of bobs used in Q Sets we can join them together until we have two round blocks. They may be of varying sizes and one may contain the total number of rows except for one B Block. We cannot add that by bobs, and must use singles.

Now suppose the missing block has the lead-ends 642735, 576342, 235476. We cannot join this block to the large one by means of common singles and have these rows at the backstroke, for the single will change the nature, and these are even. So we must reverse the block and have as the backstrokes 467253, 753624, 324567. We then look through the large block and see if either

647253, 573624, or 234567 comes up at a bob. One or two of them may, three of them cannot. But wherever one of them does come up bobbed, we can substitute a single, add the missing block, and then by a second single get back again into the large block at the point we left it.

The block given above is actually the block which is added to Holt's Original by singles. As usually rung it is added by calling the first single instead of the bob, which would have brought up rounds, but it could have been added much earlier in the peal instead of the 88th bob, 573624, and this, it will be remembered, was done not long ago, when the composition was called on handbells by Mr. Ernest Turner.

When blocks are added by means of common singles it always has to be done at bobbed leads, never at plain leads.

That common singles can be used in Grandsire Triples is due to the fact that the B Block is symmetrical about the path of the treble. This is more or less of an accident. It occurs in Union Triples, for there the B Block is identical with the B Block of Grandsire; but it occurs in none other of the seven-bell methods with a bell-in-the-hunt. With them a single which alters the succession of the nature of the rows cannot be used, and in-course or Holt's singles must be employed.

Custom has allowed these to be made either at plain leads or at bobbed leads, but the number must not exceed two; and they are not easily tolerated elsewhere than at the half-way and end of the peal.

It was some time before the limitations we have explained, in the use of the common single, were generally understood in all their implications. The first edition of Snowdon's 'Grandsire' contains a peal which is false because the wrong kind of single was used, and even so clever and so accomplished a composer as William Henry Thompson published peals which were false for the same reason.

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL.

THE PEAL BOARDS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—When on a visit to Coventry a few days ago I took the opportunity of again visiting the ruins of the Cathedral.

As you are doubtless aware, the tower and spire of the Cathedral escaped destruction. When first visiting the scene shortly after the blitz of November, 1940, I was relieved to observe that the collection of peal boards affixed to the lower walls of the tower were undamaged. They were, as a matter of fact, included in a booklet issued by the Provost of the Cathedral among the list of treasures and properties saved from the fire and intact.

Since that time no steps whatsoever have apparently been taken to protect or preserve the boards, and I was appalled to observe the deterioration which has taken place in their condition since 1940, due to exposure to the elements, neglect and ill-usage. One further winter under the present conditions and the boards will be irretrievably ruined.

The base of the tower is now occupied as a builder's store, and against one of the peal records, which appears to be merely a framed canvas, a quantity of bags of cement have been stacked.

If the Cathedral authorities do not value the peal records, which are of unique interest, some dating back 150 years, could not the Diocesan Ringers' Association or other similar body be allowed to undertake their removal and preservation until such times as suitable accommodation and care can be provided? OSWALD J. HUNT.

146, Burnage Lane, Manchester 19.

NOISY BELLS.—A common cause of complaint, where there is much change ringing and many houses lie near the church tower, is the noisiness of bells. Such complaints are sometimes well founded, but there would be less occasion for them if available means for diminishing and controlling the sounds of bells were understood and adopted.—The Guardian.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

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

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Sept. 12th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Sept. 12th, at the Town Hall. Ringing (handbells only) from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. No arrangements can be made for tea. No admission without identity cards. — Frank Reynolds, Branch Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

North Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Old Bradwell on Saturday, Sept. 12th. Handbells 3 p.m. Service 3.30, followed by tea and meeting. A good attendance desired. All welcome.—R. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION (North-Eastern Division)

and the **SUFFOLK GUILD.** — A joint meeting will be held at Stratford St. Mary's on Saturday, Sept. 12th. Handbells 2.30 p.m. Service in church 4 p.m. Tea and business meeting in the Parish Room 5 p.m. Please bring own eatables, but cups of tea will be found. — Leslie Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., N.E. Division, Essex Association, Lower Barn Farm, Dedham.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

Central Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Dinton on Saturday, September 12th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. All welcome.—F. Gibbard, Hon. Sec., 30, Horn Street, Winslow, Bucks.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

Northern Branch.—The half-yearly meeting will be held at Brigg on Saturday, September 19th. Business meeting in the Church House at 4 p.m. Will members please make own arrangements for tea. Handbells in the ringing chamber during afternoon and evening.—J. Bray, Hon. Sec.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

Meeting at Coalbrookdale, Saturday, September 19th, 3.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tower bells (10) for 'silent' practice, also handbells. Please bring sandwiches.—E. D. Poole, 20, Wrekin View, Madeley, Shropshire.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

Northern Branch.—Annual meeting at Clent (D.V.), Saturday, September 19th, 3 p.m. Bells (8) available 'silent.' Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., and business meeting for election of officers, etc. Handbells and social evening to follow. Outstanding subscriptions should be paid at this meeting, please.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

OXFORD DIOCESAN BUILD.

Reading Branch.—A meeting will be held at Tilehurst on Saturday, September 19th. Handbells in tower at 3 p.m. Service in church at 5 p.m. Tea in Old National Schools at 6 p.m., 1s. per head. Please let me know by Wednesday, the 16th, how many for tea.—E. G. Foster, Hon. Sec., 401, London Road, Reading.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

A general meeting will be held at the Royal Hotel, Barnsley, on Saturday, September 19th. A reserved room available from 2 p.m. General committee meet at 3 p.m. General meeting at 4 p.m. Tea at 5.15 p.m. A plain tea will be available at 1s. 6d., also a high tea at 3s. 6d. Applicants for tea should specify the tea they require, and must notify Mr. D. Smith, 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley, not later than Wednesday, September 16th.—L. W. G. Morris, Hon. Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

Chew Deanery.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Yatton on Saturday, Sept. 19th. Bells (with silent apparatus) available 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.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

The next meeting will be held in the school at Wolvey, near Hinckley, on Saturday, September 19th. Cups of tea provided, but please bring own eatables. Good bus service from Coventry and Leicester.—Mrs. D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

The next meeting will be held at Uttoxeter on Saturday, September 19th. Handbells available from 3 p.m. Will those requiring tea kindly notify Mr. E. Roberts, 46, Ashbourne Road, Uttoxeter, Staffs, not later than September 15th. All ringers welcome.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.

A meeting will be held at East Grinstead on Saturday, September 26th. Handbells and, we hope, silent tower bells. The Vicar has offered to provide tea, so please send a p.c. to Miss K. Shepherd, 34, Cantelupe Road, East Grinstead. No names, no tea.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

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BIRMINGHAM (Est. 1755).—Quarterly meeting will be held at the Parish Church, Erdington, on Saturday, September 26th. Handbells in the Church House 3.30 p.m. Short business meeting 4.15. Guild service in church 5 p.m.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

A meeting will be held at Acle on Saturday, October 3rd. Bells (6, silent) available 2.15 p.m. Service 4. Tea and business meeting 4.30. Please let me know names for tea by September 28th, and bring sugar, etc. Trains leave Norwich 1.30 and 3.23. Leave Acle 5.8 and 6.39.—A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

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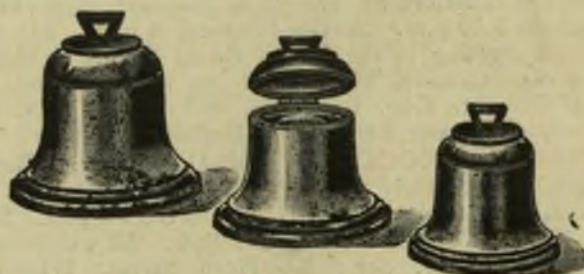
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