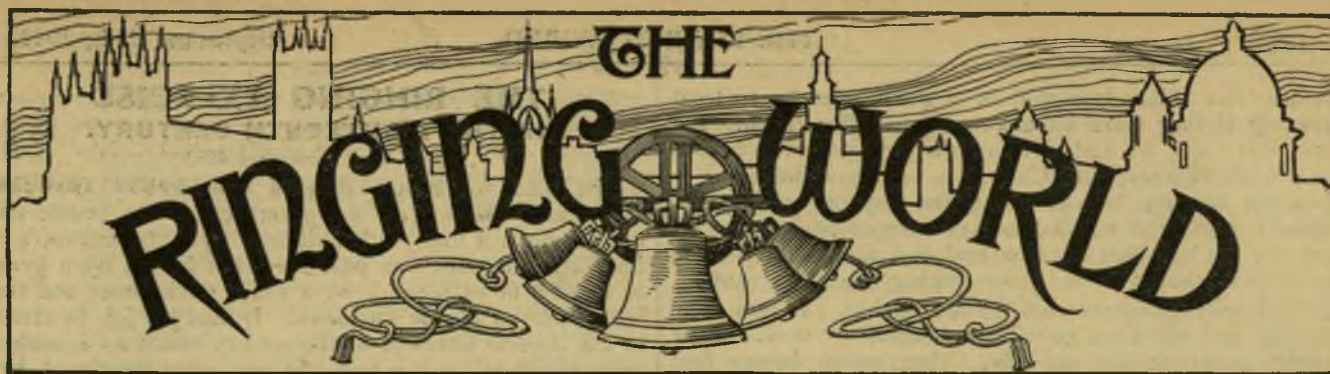




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PRINCIPAL BELLFOUNDERS

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These famous bell-founding firms have kindly consented to this adaptation of their advertisements to meet the pressure on our space, due to the compulsory reduction in the number of our pages this week.

SPORT AND CHURCH WORK.

'Does the ringing Exercise look upon their calling as a sport or as work for the Church?' This was the question asked by Mr. E. W. Marsh in our columns last week, and it is a very important question. It is one which we are sure has been asked many times before, consciously or unconsciously, by ringers, especially when at the services in church at meetings they have been praised for the work they were told they were doing for the Church. It is nice to be praised and the speakers mean what they say, but is the praise really deserved? Do we, the average ringers, look upon change ringing as a sport or as work done for the Church?

When we study the history of the art of change ringing there cannot be the slightest doubt that it began as a purely secular sport, and remained for centuries as a secular sport. Nor is there any question that it can be, and is, a first-class and most fascinating sport. We should be very much surprised indeed to hear of a man who was even a moderately competent ringer who had not felt and been influenced by the attraction of ringing as a sport, and this will hardly be denied by anyone, though some may shy at the use of the actual word 'sport.'

When we turn to those men who form the body of the Exercise, who, in fact, are the Exercise, we shall find that they look upon change ringing just in the same way that a golfer looks upon golf or a cricketer looks upon cricket. Ringers practise in a church steeple, but that makes little or no difference to the sport. A peal rung at Quex Park, or at the Loughborough bell foundry, is in no wise different from a peal rung in a parish church, nor is a handbell peal rung in a tavern different in character from a peal rung on bells that have been dedicated to the service of religion. Thus the answer to half of Mr. Marsh's question is that the Exercise does and always has looked on ringing as a sport.

But that only touches the fringe of the problem. By his use of the word 'or,' Mr. Marsh seems to suggest that if ringing is a sport it cannot be work for the Church. It must be one or the other, and we must make up our minds which it is to be. Perhaps we can make what was in his mind clearer if we put his question in another way. Which should be the dominating motive in a ringer—love of ringing as a sport, or the desire to serve the Church? Which should come first, sport or church work?

When we put the question like this it raises issues which most profoundly affect a man's life and character, and which are far too complex to be dealt with in a short

(Continued on page 434.)

article like this. It would be a great mistake to treat men as if they were all alike. They differ enormously, and there are, we feel certain, many ringers who find in the wish to serve the Church a sufficient incentive to practise the art, but of the great majority we say definitely, and with a full sense of responsibility for what we are saying, that it is natural and right that ringing as a sport should come before ringing as church work.

This may to some seem a hard saying. It is a hard saying and we have no time to explain it now. One thing, however, we can say. That which comes first and is most in evidence it not necessarily that which in the long run is the most important.

Between change ringing as a sport and change ringing as church work there is no antagonism, and the man who follows it mainly for the sake of the one can quite easily better serve the other.

HANDBELL PEALS.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, September 13, 1942, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE WAYSIDE, 150, NARBOROUGH ROAD SOUTH,
A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

ALFRED BALLARD	...	...	1-2	ERNEST MORRIS	...	...	3-6
HAROLD J. POOLE	...	...	3-4	FRANK K. MEASURES	...	...	7-8
FREDERICK E. WILSON	...	...	9-10				

Composed by ERNEST MORRIS. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

Witness—Mrs. H. J. Poole.

First peal of Bob Royal in hand by all the band.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, September 20, 1942, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5050 CHANGES;

WILLIAM L. B. LEESE	...	...	1-2	*ALBERT DISERENS	...	...	5-6
JOHN E. SPICE	...	...	3-4	†THOMAS N. LANAGHAN	...	...	7-8

Composed by J. E. BURTON. Conducted by WILLIAM L. B. LEESE.

* First attempt for Bob Major 'in hand.' † First attempt for a peal of Major.

DEATH OF MR. JOSEPH DRAKE.

The death is announced of Mr. Joseph Drake, who for many years was an enthusiastic member of the band at St. John's, Goole, Yorkshire, and of the Yorkshire Association. Although not a change ringer he was a good tenor man and did a lot of work in building up the Goole band after the last war. His son and daughter-in-law are members of the band, and another son, Mr. Leonard Drake, is a prominent member of the Leeds and District Society. Mr. Joseph Drake was 78 years of age.

STEDMAN CINQUES AT LIVERPOOL.

The St. Martin's Guild of Birmingham possess a book of newspaper cuttings made about one hundred years ago by John Hopkins, a leading ringer of the time. Among the extracts is the following: 'On Monday, the 25th ult., was rung by the Society of St. Nicholas, Liverpool, a true and complete peal of 5,016 in the intricate method of Stedman's Principal in three hours and twenty-five minutes. Composed and conducted by William Thistlewood. Weight of tenor 41½ cwt.'

Alongside Hopkins has written the date of the peal, March 25th, 1828; the date of the newspaper, March 30th, 1828; and the note 'This was a false peal.'

No reason is given for saying the peal is false. It was a very early performance, only eight years after the first in the method outside London, and the problems of the composition were as yet little understood. There is nothing we know of Thistlewood to lead us to suppose that he had mastered Stedman, and the presumption is that the peal was false in the composition. This would not be very surprising, since false peals of Stedman Caters by Noonan, Shipway and Escourt were rung about the same time.

THE RINGING EXERCISE IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

(Continued from page 425.)

The office of beadle differed considerably from the others and was more or less permanent. The beadle was not so much a man with authority over the members as their servant, and was paid for what he did by a grant of money, or by fees, or by a share in the fines and forfeits incurred by the members. It was his job to attend to the routine business of the society much as a modern secretary does, and indeed the one office developed into the other. Since an important part of the beadle's work was to let members know when and where meetings were to be held, he was sometimes called the warner. The office of beadle gave a man a large amount of influence in a company, but did not carry much dignity, and those men who were considered socially rather above the average never sought it.

When we consider the objects of these societies and the conditions under which they existed, we cannot but admit that their constitution and rules could hardly be bettered. They were based on the broad principle of the equality of all the members. Everyone had an equal chance of filling the offices in his turn, and his turn was decided by seniority. So long as a member was in office he had ample authority to fulfil his duties, but directly his term of office was up, he stepped back again into the ranks and was expected to obey the orders of his successors as they had been expected to obey his, just as the consuls of ancient Rome exercised supreme authority for one year and one year only, and that year ended, became once more ordinary private citizens.

But admirable as these regulations were in theory, there was one stubborn fact that they left out of account. They assumed that all men are equal, and that is just what never happens, either in a ringing society or in any other body of men. Some are more talented than others. Some have more ambition. Some have a genius for leadership. It might well happen that the mastership was filled by a man who was quite willing to follow others, but neither by inclination nor qualification was fitted to lead. A young, talented, and ambitious man who joined a society was faced with the prospect of having to wait ten, fifteen, or twenty years before he reached the position of undisputed leadership; and all the while he would have to pay deference to men he would consider (and rightly) far inferior to himself.

The natural thing happened. Side by side with the official master, there were men who strove for and gained the real control without any official status. In a general way, no doubt, it worked in practice very well, but at times there was sure to be friction. Sometimes there were two men each striving for the mastery. Sometimes the attempt of one man to establish a virtual dictatorship led to disputes and quarrels. For many years Benjamin Annable was the real leader (at least in the belfry) of the College Youths, though he had to wait twenty-five years before he was elected master. He only maintained his ascendancy by dint of a continual struggle which got fiercer as time went on, and ended after his death by splitting the society from top to bottom. George Partrick, the virtual founder of the Society of Cumberland Youths, after having for many years called almost all their peals, quarrelled with them and for a time left them; and

George Gross, at the very zenith of his career, was driven out of the same society to form a new and rival band.

The same thing happened with lesser men, and the constant migrations of ringers from one society to another are proof of the very frequent quarrels and clash of personal interest and ambition that occurred.

To these changes the peculiar circumstances of the London Exercise lent themselves readily enough. In the country towns and villages where there was but one tower and one band, a ringer who quarrelled with and left his fellows would have to give up ringing altogether; but in London there were other bands who were ready and anxious to welcome a competent recruit. In those towns where there were more than one tower and one band, similar things happened; and the history of the Norwich Scholars is full of disputes, secessions, and rival companies.

Though it may be using rather too strong language to say that the attitude of one society towards another was one of veiled or open hostility, it is quite true that there was no feeling of co-operation or of mutual interest between them. The Exercise, as a whole, in its modern sense of fellowship and brotherhood did not as yet exist. Each society looked for loyalty from its own members, and that loyalty included having nothing to do with any other society. To belong to two societies at the same time was an impossibility. The leading companies, of course, had country members who also belonged to their local bands, but that was a different matter altogether. So far as rules could keep members from joining or even ringing with other societies it was done. The Esquire Youths were required to give a pledge 'to have not now or ever hereafter any interest in any company but this.' The College Youths had a rule that if any member met another society with the intention of joining them and was not accepted, he should be suspended until he had made due submission and humbly acknowledged his fault, when a ballot was taken as to whether he should be reinstated or not. And 'if any member should revolt and set his name down in any other society whereby he became a member and in process of time should have an inclination to come back again,' he should not be readmitted until he had been balloted for, and, if accepted, paid double entrance fees. Any member of the Cumberland Society who rang with another band on the same day as any of the society's meetings was fined half-a-crown, a sum equal to the entrance fee and far greater than the forfeits for other offences, which ranged from twopence to sixpence.

This mutually exclusive spirit was no doubt necessary to the continued existence of the societies, but it prevented anything like combined practice, and it is certain that progress in method ringing would have been much more rapid had it been possible to pick the best bands from the combined societies. An attempt to do anything of the sort usually meant the break-up of one of the societies as in 1787, when the desire to ring the first peal of Stedman Cinques led to the dissolution of the ancient Society of College Youths. There were, however, cases where the wishes and interests of ringers did override the rule, and peals rung by men from two or more societies were not unknown. They were said to be 'friendly' peals, and the use of the term is an indication that the normal feeling between companies was that of hostility, or, at any rate, of rivalry. Such peals were

for the most part unrecorded in peal books or on peal boards, and so have been forgotten, but the accounts of some of them have been preserved.

A survival of this spirit of mutual exclusiveness has come down to modern times in the rules which forbid a member of the present Ancient Society of College Youths to be a Cumberland Youth, and a member of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths to be a College Youth. The rules are said to be for the purpose of keeping up a friendly rivalry and thus promoting the art of change ringing, but we may well doubt their efficacy in attaining those ends. Rather they are an anachronism, a relic of times and conditions which have long since passed away.

And if the societies tried to prevent their members ringing with other companies they did not encourage the visits of strangers to their own meetings, unless, of course, it was someone whom they desired as a recruit. There was nothing like the present day custom and etiquette by which a man, so long as he is a ringer, can enter practically any belfry in the country and expect and receive a welcome and the offer of a rope. 'If any member of this Society,' said the Cumberlands, 'shall give his bell out of his hand to any ringer of another society without he ask leave of the master or by consent of the company when ringing, he shall forfeit 6d.'

The two most important events in the lives of these societies were the annual outing and the annual feast. Both were established in the seventeenth century. The report of the visit of the College Youths to Cambridge in 1657, though not accurate as given by Shipway, is probably based on fact, and no doubt is a recollection of more than one visit. All through the eighteenth century the College Youths rarely omitted their annual journey, and, as a rule, they went a very considerable distance. It is difficult to realise nowadays what a journey to Oxford, or Cambridge, or Birmingham, meant then. The roads were bad and infested with highwaymen and footpads. Until towards the end of the century public conveyances did not exist. Noblemen and great persons travelled in their coaches with retinues of armed servants. Others who could afford it rode on horseback. But ordinary people walked on their feet, and that is how our ringers travelled. Their custom was to take one day on the outward journey, ringing perhaps at some of the towns and villages they passed through. After they had reached their destination, if it were a long distance, they rested for a day, and the next day or two they spent in peal ringing; and then came the long tramp home again.

Although the other societies do not appear to have travelled so far as the College Youths, they, too, had their outings. The Cumberlands' rule was 'that the master once a year shall have power to command the society ten miles out of London, and he that refuses to go shall pay 2s. 6d.'

(To be continued.)

THE SOCIETY OF CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was much impressed by your leading article this week and cannot help thinking that the society would profit in more ways than one if your advice is taken and the truth of their origin investigated. The statement which you make so definitely that they were founded on September 6th, 1747, cannot be disregarded.

They would also do well to consider reverting to their original title by dropping the word 'Royal,' which was added some 50 or so years ago and has always savoured of snobbery.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

Ernest Pye was born on September 20th, 1876. Matthew A. Wood, for many years a leading member of the London Exercise, was born on September 22nd, 1826.

The first peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Caters was rung by the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association at St. Stephen's, Bristol, on September 22nd, 1894. The composition was by Mr. Banks James and Mr. John Austin conducted. The method, which is probably the very best nine-bell method possible, was first produced by Shipway and printed in his 'Campanologia,' but had not been previously practised. A few peals have since been rung, but the merits of the method have never been recognised by the Exercise in general.

The first peal of Erin Cinques was rung at Christ Church, West Bromwich, by the Birmingham men on September 22nd, 1911. James E. Groves conducted and the band included Messrs. Thomas H. Reeves, William Short, Herbert Knight, A. Paddon Smith, John Carter and James H. Shepherd.

Mr. A. R. Pink called the first peal of Pyrford Surprise Major at Egham on September 24th, 1926, and on September 24th, 1937, Mr. E. A. Barnett called the first peal of Pulford Bob Major at Crayford.

John Cox composed a peal of Stedman Caters, 6,701 changes, with the sixty in-course titlum course ends, and called it at St. James', Bermondsey, on September 25th, 1845.

The first peal of Dublin Complex Major was rung at Gosforth on September 27th, 1913. The method is given in the Central Council Collection as Dublin Court.

Sixty years ago to-day two peals, both Grandsire Triples, were rung. One was Holt's Original by the Cumberlands at St. Giles'-in-the-Fields, the other Holt's Ten-part by the College Youths at Putney. In the latter the sixth was rung by Richard Kilby, the father of Messrs. Harry and George Kilby, the well-known members of the Willesden band.

Fifty years ago yesterday three peals were rung, one was Grandsire Triples, one Stedman Triples and one Kent Treble Bob Major.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

At the meeting of the College Youths on September 13th the Master, Mr. E. G. Fenn, was in the chair and there was a good sprinkling of country members, including Warrant Mechanician C. L. Guy, R.N., of Ventnor, I.O.W.; Mr. R. G. Bryant, Bristol; Mr. J. W. Jones, Newport; Mr. S. Russell, Rotherfield; Mr. J. H. Shepherd, Swindon. Others present were the secretary, and Messrs. E. Barnett, F. Collins, R. F. Deal, H. Hoskins, C. C. Mayne, F. C. Newman, E. Pothcary, G. N. Price, C. W. Roberts, E. A. Young, J. E. Davis and C. H. Kippin, Corp'l. K. Arthur, R.A.F., and Gunner Tom Fox. Lady visitors were Mrs. F. Collins, Mrs. C. L. Guy, Mrs. Russell, Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Kippin.

A gift of two valuable books, 'Church Bells of Lincolnshire' and 'Church Bells of Suffolk,' was received from Mr. E. H. Lewis and was gratefully accepted.

The treasurer reported that he had booked a room at Slater's Restaurant for the annual luncheon on November 7th.

Greetings were sent by Messrs. E. P. Duffield, Colchester, and Rowland Fenn, Cheltenham.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT SOUTH KIRKBY.

At the October meeting of the Barnsley and District Society, held at South Kirkby, near Pontefract, on September 12th, members were present from Bushey, Eastwood, Felkirk and the local company.

Handbells were made good use of until 5 p.m., when tea was served in the Church Hall.

At the business meeting the Vicar (the Rev. L. Sibellas) presided, and two honorary members were elected, the Vicar and the curate, the Rev. I. McCarthy. Both are very interested in ringing and had learnt to handle a bell before the ban was imposed.

The Vicar expressed his wish to have two more bells added as soon as it was possible to complete the octave, and the ringers wished him luck in this venture.

Handbells were again brought into use, and Mr. McCarthy showed great interest in the ringing and took part. Ringing continued until 8 p.m., ranging from Doubles to Bob Royal.

It was agreed to hold the next meeting at Cawthorne on Saturday, October 10th.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT WADHURST.

A meeting of the Eastern Division of the Sussex County Association and the East Grinstead and District Guild was held at Wadhurst on September 5th. The six bells had been silenced by Mr. C. A. Bassett and were rung to Stedman Doubles and Cambridge Surprise Minor, the latter conducted by Mr. A. Relfe, from Lamberhurst.

Tea was at the Queen's Head Hotel, and handbell ringing concluded a very pleasant meeting. Although numbers were not large, six towers were represented. The visitors included Mr. C. A. Levett, from Taplow, Bucks.

JOINT MEETING AT BOURNEMOUTH.

On Saturday, September 12th, by the kind invitation of the Rev. C. A. Phillips and his brother, a joint meeting of the Salisbury Diocesan and the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guilds was held in the beautiful garden at 26, Dean Park Road, Bournemouth. The following towers were represented: Christchurch, Ringwood, Eastleigh, Poole (St. John's, Surrey Road) and St. Peter's Church, Bournemouth, and among the visitors were Mr. George Williams, Mr. Townsend, Mr. Preston, Mr. John Austin, of Gloucester and Mr. Martin Stewart.

During the afternoon touches were rung on handbells, and refreshments and cigarettes were provided by the Rev. C. A. Phillips. After a delightful afternoon the ringers adjourned to Parsons' Restaurant for tea.

Apologies for absence were received from the Rev. Canon Burrows and Mr. A. V. Davis, who were very much missed. A letter was read from Mr. F. W. Rogers congratulating the Bournemouth handbell ringers on their recent peals and wishing them continued success. This was greatly appreciated. Mr. George Williams proposed a vote of thanks to the Rev. C. A. Phillips for so kindly placing his garden at the disposal of the ringers.

In honour of the visit of Mr. John Austin, a handbell peal was arranged for Sunday afternoon, but it came to grief after an hour's good ringing. However, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was scored in 44 minutes: John Austin 1-2, Mrs. F. John Marshall 3-4, A. V. Davis (conductor) 6-7, F. S. Wilson 7-8.

RECRUITS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I think Mr. Cartmel's letter is one of the best of the several that have appeared, but it seems that it is a matter of chance, in getting the personal touch, that one desires to make a start.

It would be good if all ringers were members of the Church of England, but in the days of my youth I knew several that were not, but they were not denied the privilege of being church bell ringers. Looking back some sixty odd years, I have in mind one in particular who was considered a very able instructor and mentioned sometimes in 'The Bell News' for his good work. Although I could not then manage a bell, I had opportunities to attend and pick up the several hints given as to how best to get control of the bell and to become a good striker. He often said he would rather ring three hours of well-struck rounds than badly struck changes. But he didn't hide the fact that he was an atheist.

Owing to the infirmities of age and varying health I cannot do much now, but the good Lord seems to have helped me and I can manage silent practice on the ropes where possible, so hope to be of some little service yet.

C. TYLER.

Hensfield, Sussex.

CHIMES AND CHIME TUNES.

To the Editor.

Sir,—As a correspondent lately asked about the chimes of Oxford, and all have now been given except those of New College, perhaps you may like to give them. As in the case of Magdalen, only the back eight are used for the clock, and though the tone of the Magdalen bells is better, I prefer the New College chimes.

I., 37; II., 8734; III., 357468; hour, 867453241—8.

W. C. B.

BOB ROYAL COMPOSITIONS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Ernest Morris' peal is not new, and we were ringing this kind of peal on handbells in 1912.

We seldom used more than two singles, seeing how many musical course ends can be produced in 28 courses.

W. SHEPHERD.

22, Chapel Grove, Addlestone.

BOASTING AND CHALLENGES.

'Samuel Goodyear of Kirkheaton states that as Charles Hall of Wakefield has boasted of his powers in the sleuple, and that he can ring a tenor bell better than he (Goodyear) the latter challenges him to ring for £50 any or all of the following peals: Oxford, Violet, New London Pleasure, Duke of York, College Treble, College Pleasure, or new Treble Bob 720 changes each, or 15,168 changes Treble Bob Major, 5,000 changes Treble Bob Royal, or 5,000 or upwards of Treble Bob Maximus.'—'Bell's Life,' December 24th, 1848.

'If Charles Hall of Wakefield declines the challenge of S. Goodger, James Taylor of Rotherham, will ring him (Goodger) a peal of Kent or Oxford treble royal on any peal of ten bells in Yorkshire for any sum each man to find his own company. The money is ready at the White Hart, Rotherham.'

'Thomas Chadderton of Oldham, will ring S. Goodger a peal of Kent or Oxford treble bob royal, on any peal of ten bells, each man to find his own company. The money will be ready at John Ward's George Inn, Oldham, any night next week.'—'Bell's Life,' January 7th, 1849.

CHIMES AND CHIME TUNES.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 428.)

Chimes called the 'Abbey Chimes' were erected in 1880 at Fort Augustus, N.B., and arranged from the Short Responsory in Eastertide, used at Lauds and Vespers in the Monastic Rite. They are as follows:—

- (1) CBDC. (2) CBDC—CBDE.
- (3) CBDC—CBDE—ECDC.
- (4) CBDC 'Sancte Pater' CBDE 'Benedicite' ECDC 'Intercede' ACDC 'Pro Nobis' (hour) G.

The fine ring of bells at Cambridge R.C. Church by J. Taylor and Co. (1896) has chime mechanism by Messrs. Wm. Potts and Sons, Ltd., of Leeds. The quarter chimes were arranged by the Rev. Canon Scott, D.D., from 'Alleluia' sung on Holy Saturday, and have been copied at the Redemptorist Church of St. Joseph, Dundalk, where the bells are also by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. (1921).

- (1) DGABGAG. (2) DGABGAG—ABAGED.
- (3) DGABGAG—ABAGED—DGABGAG.
- (4) DGABGAG — ABAGED — DGABGAG—CABGAG.

The 'Gonville and Caius' chimes of Cambridge were composed by Dr. Charles Wood and run:—

- (1) DC. (2) CDGF.
- (3) GAGFCD.
- (4) CEGAFCD. (hour) low F.

At Canterbury Cathedral there were formerly ting-tang quarters, but in 1897 quarter chimes for five bells were put in. They were arranged by the late Rev. Frederick J. C. Helmore, Precentor of the Cathedral, to commemorate the thirteenth centenary of the Cathedral, landing of St. Augustine, etc. They are based on the notes of the Eighth Gregorian tone—a particularly appropriate melody, as St. Augustine was made Archbishop of Canterbury under Pope Gregory I. My version runs:

GAC—DCBC—CBG—ACDC (hour) low C sharp. Dunstan.

For first quarter the first three notes, second seven notes, third ten notes, and at hour all notes. This varies slightly from that given by a correspondent on p. 374, and I should appreciate being corrected if wrong.

Beverley Minster chimes are based on the fine ring of ten bells erected here by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. in 1901. The clock and chime machinery are by Messrs. J. Smith and Sons, of Derby, in 1902. The quarter-chimes were arranged by the Rev. Canon Nolloth in such a way that a different length and ending of each strain should make it easy to tell what quarter it denotes, that the full compass and range of the whole ten bells would be brought out, and that anything like a tune is avoided. Thus the first quarter is based on the fourth quarter at Magdalen College, Oxford:—

5478594306—21.

Second quarter founded on the third quarter at All Saints', Derby:—

86579213059368—56124—3.

Third quarter motive from the 'Laudes Domini':—

8765349758—12346856345678—67954368—9—0.

Fourth quarter; 'Echo de Malines.' A reminiscence of the hour carillon of the Cathedral of St. Rombauld.

7306—12345690783106—780594213579468095643—

—2—1.

Hour strikes on Great John, 7½ tons, in the other tower.

Another chime suitable for ten bells, and worked by the 'double-revolution an hour' system—as previously mentioned—is the following erected by Messrs. J. Smith and Sons at Derby Cathedral and called 'Derby Chimes.'

- (1) 65839470.
- (2) { 35794680.
34567890.
- (3) { 37485960.
86574213.
65839470.
- (4) { 35794680.
34567890.
37485960.
86574213.

The same is at St. Giles', Northampton, and elsewhere. At St. Mary the Virgin, Oxford, is a ring of six bells, and the quarter chimes in this curious strain is quoted in the history of that church by T. G. Jackson, R.A., 1897, p. 176:—

- (1) 1; (2) 12; (3) 123; (4) 12344321 (hour) 6.

The chimes of the R.C. Church at St. Helens, Lanes, are based on 'Salve Regina' (Hail, Queen of Heaven), and run, if noted, as an octave:—

8643—4; 312343—5;
1435—7; 6546—678:

Each quarter starts at beginning, one stanza for first; two for second; three for third; and all at fourth quarters. The hour is struck on the A flat tenor of the carillon, 84 cwt. These bells are by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co., and the clock and chimes by Messrs. William Potts and Sons, Ltd.

There are many other types of quarter-chime tunes, but I will not weary readers with more, but close this section of the subject by quoting an apt illustration by what Big Ben chimes say to a reader of the *Morning Post* (June 4th, 1930):—

'I never hear them without thinking of the scene in the ambulatory of the cathedral of Rheims in Shaw's play "St. Joan" (Scene V.), when Joan says to Dunois:

'It is in the bells I hear my voices . . . here in this corner, where the bells come down from heaven, and the echoes linger. . . . Hark! Do you hear? "Dear-child-of-God." . . . At the half-hour they will say "Be-brave-go-on." At the three-quarters they will say "I am-thy-help." But it is at the hour, when the great bell goes after "God-will-save-France": it is then that St. Margaret and St. Catherine, and sometimes even the blessed Michael, will say things that I cannot tell beforehand. Then, oh then —

'Here Dunois interrupts her, saying: "Then, Joan, we shall hear whatever we fancy in the booming of the bell."'

The chimes of Big Ben—according to the note in my book, *Legends o' the Bells*, say:—

'Lord through this hour,
Be Thou our guide,
And by Thy power,
No foot shall slide.'

BEACONSFIELD.—On Wednesday, September 16th, in the belfry of St. Mary and All Saints' Church, a quarter-peal of Plain Bob Major 1,260 changes, in 47 mins.: H. Wingrove (conductor) 1-2, Rev. R. F. R. Routh (first quarter-peal on handbells) 3-4, D. R. Fletcher 5-6, K. I. Fletcher 7-8. First quarter-peal on handbells by a local band.

COWFOLD MONASTERY BELLS.*To the Editor*

Dear Sir,—Mr. Smale's letter and Mr. Dove's reply with regard to the bells cast by Messrs. Blews, of Birmingham, for the Carthusian Monastery at Cowfold, Sussex, are very interesting to me, as I have had occasion to visit there for several years, and the particulars given by Mr. Dove, with a few exceptions, are the same as I have known.

The original idea was for the five bells to be hung for ringing, and also to strike the quarters and hour, but before the job got that far the firm went into liquidation, and the monks were given the option to accept what was possible to be had, with the hope of finishing it themselves as time permitted. They also hoped to improve the notes, as it did not give them much pleasure to hear them, but it remained unfinished until it became possible to have them recast.

The bell that was not recast, and hangs in the turret on the north side of the entrance to the church, is known as the 'Brothers' morning bell,' as a signal to commence their daily duties. The lettering on it is 'Blews and Son, Birmingham, 1881.'

The large bell, 21-22 cwt., E flat, which is rung for the Angelus and tapped with chiming hammer for Sanctus and Consecration, to some of us, is a great improvement, and seems to instil in one's mind that 'His real presence' is near. The Blews bell gave one the impression that it was cast for noise, but the Taylor bell gives out a very impressive note, more in sympathy with the ritual of the Order. I know several people in this neighbourhood who listen for it, and it seems to help them in their particular devotions. They are hoping soon to hear it again. The distance is three to four miles north of us. I mention this because I think it supports the views of many as to the uses of bells.

I had occasion to become interested in this bell, because they could not manage to regulate the number of strokes they were accustomed to for the Sanctus and Consecration, and I received a letter from the Prior asking me to go up to see if I could help them in the matter. When I saw the trouble I told them I didn't think they had given clear instructions as to what they desired. Sometimes they would raise it and allow it to go over. I don't think it was expected to do this, and it made it very difficult to get the rope back in position. The arrangement for the chime hammer did not give the sacristan much chance to act in sympathy with the celebrant.

I did the best I could by showing how to adjust it temporarily and advised them how I thought they could make it possible to comply with what they required, which they undertook to do themselves. I have been told they have done this, and it seems satisfactory.

They also tried to get me interested in the clock chimes, but I was not capable to express any opinion on such a matter. They were endeavouring to have something different to others, and could not decide which. They had several on paper, and invited four well-known musicians to come and try to select which they considered the best. The Prior was quite amused about it, because not one of them could agree as to which they considered the best. I have been told they now have something arranged by one of the novices.

C. TYLER.

High Street, Henfield, Sussex.

THE LATE FREDERICK J. SMITH.

Mr. J. E. Bailey has kindly sent us the following particulars of the ringing career of the late Mr. F. J. Smith, whose death was announced in our last issue:—

F. J. Smith began his ringing at Leiston during the time the Bailey brothers were building up their all-brothers band. He was, in fact, a cousin of the brothers and rang in several peals in which six or seven of them took part.

His first peal was on September 28th, 1907, Kent Treble Bob Major at Leiston, conducted by C. F. Bailey. In 1908 he rang in two peals of particular interest. On June 8th a 7,008 Kent Treble Bob, and on November 9th a peal of Cambridge, which was the first in the method by all and on Leiston bells. In 1909 he rang in the 11,040 Double Norwich at Leiston, which probably still stands as the longest peal by a local band.

He rang many peals with the Leiston band until just before the last war, when he joined the band at the neighbouring town of Aldeburgh. In 1925 he was again back in the Leiston band and took part in many peals of Surprise Major, including London, Bristol, Rochester, Suffolk, Guildford, Dublin, Surrey, Premier and the first in the methods of Camdon, Essex and Waveney. He moved to Ipswich about eight or nine years ago and was soon at home on the twelve at St. Mary-le-Tower and rang peals in a variety of methods.

Altogether he rang 96 peals at Leiston and 20 at the neighbouring tower of Kelsale.

UMPIRES FOR HANDBELL PEALS.**THEIR DUTIES AND AUTHORITY***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I have always disliked the word umpire in connection with handbell peals equally with the word spliced when introduced into ringing. Many years ago the Central Council decided the policy governing handbell peals, and I still think they are right in their requirements.

When a tower peal is being attempted ringers can avail themselves of a very useful branch, that of listening and obtaining various results, such as the standard of striking, class of composition, rate per minute, etc.; but how often are these available when the ringing is taking place at a residence or such places when handbell peals are rung? Tower bell peals have many umpires who are often unseen, and as long as bells are heard outside a tower you never know who are your umpires.

Mr. Brown asks what authority umpires have. It is for the conductor to supply the figures of the peal to the umpire, and even if only the bobs and singles are checked it is an assurance that the calling is correct. If incorrect he should draw the conductor's attention to the fact and await results. If in the end he is satisfied he should sign the figures are correct and return to the conductor. I would point out to Mr. Brown that I have umpired dozens of tower bell peals with and without figures being supplied, and this portion of the art is one which I hope will prevail widely in the future.

W. SHEPHERD.

22, Chapel Grove, Addlestone.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL'S RULE.

Dear Sir,—I do not quite agree with Mr. Barton that there is no difference between umpires for handbell peals and umpires for tower bell peals. Nobody, so far as I know, has ever suggested that umpires are necessary for ordinary tower bell peals, but many people have always insisted that they are necessary for ordinary handbell peals. The College Youths will not book a handbell peal rung without an umpire. The Central Council rule is that 'where practicable there should be an umpire to every handbell peal.' This was passed in 1895 and I suppose all the men who were members are dead now. I do not know what the present members would do, but the rule has never been rescinded, and is still binding on the Exercise.

It is quite obvious that a dishonest conductor would have greater temptations to fake a handbell peal than a tower bell peal, for he could never know who was outside listening. But you have told us, sir, that for all practical purposes the dishonest conductor does not exist. So I suppose that settles that point.

'A COLLEGE YOUTH.'**THE LATE MR. W. J. NEVARD.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I should like to make a few comments on Mr. W. J. Nevard, having been a firm friend of his for a great number of years. I have met him on numerous occasions and ridden some hundreds of miles with him in his car. I owe much to his generosity, which he always gave with a great goodwill. He was thorough in all he undertook, an excellent striker, and could always be relied on. He learnt to drive a car when he was 68 years of age and travelled some hundreds of miles in pursuit of his hobby. He will always be remembered for his cheerfulness and quiet disposition. He lived to see great strides made in ringing since he first learnt to pull a bell at the age of twelve, and played his part nobly and well.

WILLIAM KEEBLE.

Colchester.

LITTLE BOB ROYAL*To the Editor.*

Sir,—Your statement that the first peal of Little Bob Royal was rung at Exeter on September 16th, 1912, is not correct. This may have been the first peal on tower bells: a handbell peal was rung by members of the Cambridge University Guild on June 11th of that year at Trinity College, Cambridge.

R. O. STREET.

Glasgow.

ONE CAUSE OF BAD STRIKING.—Bad and slovenly ringing results when the ringers are unable to hear distinctly the clear tap of the clappers of all the bells, owing either to too much noise in the ringing chamber, or to the sound of any of the bells being too much subdued.—The Central Council.

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NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Sept. 26th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, Saturday, Sept. 26th. Handbells 3.30. Tea 5.30. — H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Dorchester Branch.—A practice on the silent apparatus of the bells of St. Peter's, Dorchester, will be held on Saturday, Sept. 26th, commencing at 6 p.m. All welcome. Suitable local train service.—C. H. Jennings, Hon. Sec., 59, Portland Road, Wyke Regis, Weymouth.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF 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.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Wigan on Saturday, Sept. 26th. Clapperless bells at Poolstock. Handbells at the Parish Church. Service 4 p.m. Tea in Winnard's Cafe, Market Place, at 5 p.m. 6 p.m., meeting at National and Blue Coat Schools.—W. H. Shuker, 36, Colwyn Avenue, Fallowfield, Manchester 14; T. Wilson, 118, Langham Road, Blackburn, Hon. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—A meeting will be held at Hitchin on Saturday, Sept. 26th. Tower bells (silent, 8) available from 3 p.m., also handbells.—A. E. Symonds, Dis. Sec., The Cottage, Windmill Hill, Hitchin.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—A meeting will be held at Cannock on Saturday, Oct. 3rd. It is hoped to have the use of the bells (silent) from 3 o'clock. Short service, with an address by the Rev. J. F. Foster, Vicar, at 4.45. Cups of tea will be provided; please bring your own food. — H. Knight, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

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.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting will be at Tunstall on Saturday, Oct. 3rd, at 3 p.m. Handbells available. Meeting in the Vestry. Will those requiring tea notify the Rev. S. F. Linsley, The Vicarage, Stanley Street, Tunstall, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, not later than Oct. 1st?

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD (Wirral Branch) and **LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION** (Liverpool Branch).—A joint meeting will be held at St. Nicholas' Church, Wallasey, on Saturday, Oct. 3rd. Tower bells (6, without clappers) and handbells available from 3 p.m. A service at 5 p.m., followed by tea. Those requiring tea please notify Mr. F. Varty, 22, Mostyn Street, Wallasey, Cheshire, not later than Sept. 30th.—H. S. Brocklebank, 30, Southhill Road, Birkenhead, and G. R. Newton, 57, Amphill Road, Liverpool 17.

BOWDON, CHESHIRE, MEETING, Oct. 3rd. — Tower bells only 2.30-4.30, service 4.45, tea in Schools 5.15 (handbells after) free. Only buses passing church leave Altrincham bus station (opposite railway station) 2.7 and every hour, for others near inquire. Please notify me by Tuesday, Sept. 29th.—D. Vincent, 6, Stanway Drive, Hale. Day Alt. 2314, evening 2333.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Loughborough and Burton Districts.—A joint meeting will be held at the Parish Church, Ashby, on Saturday, Oct. 3rd. Handbells available at 3.30. Tea at Ladford's Cafe 4.30, followed by short meeting. Names for tea to E. W. Beadsmoore, Packington Road, Ashby, by Thursday, Oct. 1st. No name, no tea.—A. E. Rowley and J. W. Cotton, Hon. Secs.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Goole on Saturday, Oct. 10th. Short service in church at 4 o'clock. Tea, at 5 o'clock, for all who send their names to Mr. C. Hill, 120, Weatherill Street, Goole, by Wednesday, Oct. 7th. Business meeting after tea. Handbells available. — H. S. Morley, Hon. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—The annual district meeting at Tonbridge on Saturday, Oct. 10th. Service 4 p.m. Tea, free, at the Carlton Cafe, 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. All requiring tea must let Mr. J. Medhurst, 251, Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge, know by Wednesday, Oct. 7th. — T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec., East Peckham, Tonbridge.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Next meeting will be held at St. James' Church, Milnrow, on Saturday, Oct. 10th. Tower bells (silent) available from 3.30 p.m., also handbells. Make use of this opportunity to practise our art. Everybody welcome.—J. Kay, Hon. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—A luncheon to commemorate the 305th anniversary will be held at Slater's Restaurant, Basinghall Street, E.C., on Saturday, Nov. 7th, at 1 p.m. Tickets 6s. 6d. each.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—The address of T. F. King is now 20, Foxcombe Road, Weston, Bath.

DEATHS.

MELVILLE.—On Saturday, Sept. 19th, at The Knowle, Lichfield, Daisy May Melville, the mother of the Rev. Malcolm and Lieut. Gordon Melville. Aged 57 years.

SALLEY.—James J. Salley ('Jimmy'), late of 54, Rangoon Road, Sheldon, Birmingham 26, and Institution House, Coalbrookdale, Shropshire. Drowned, serving in the Merchant Navy, South America. We shall miss him.—W. S.

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