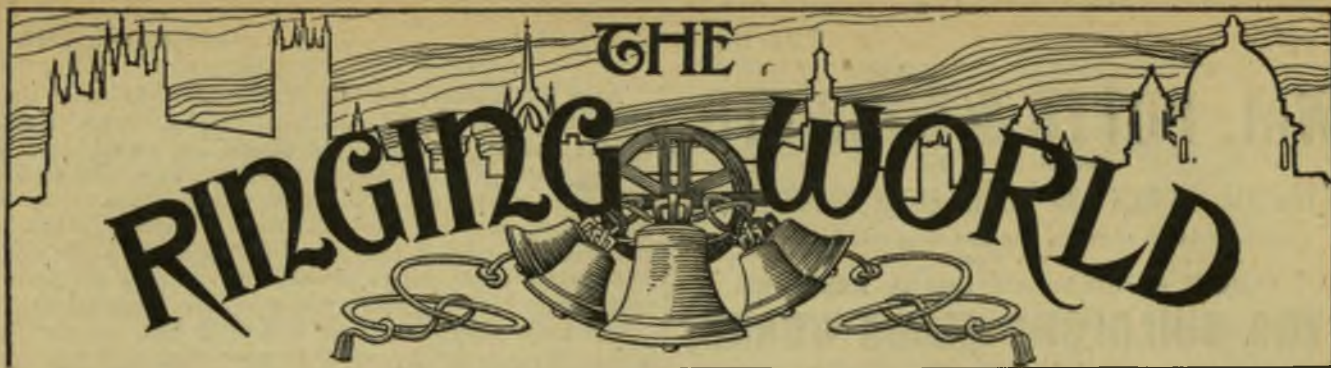




No. 1,648. Vol. XXXVII.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2nd, 1942.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for
transmission as a newspaper.]

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INSTRUCTORS.

Three weeks ago, when we were discussing the question of teaching recruits, we pointed out that there is one 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 it, but he himself must thoroughly and completely understand what he has to do.

We believe this is a very important point, and it leads us to the conclusion that the problem of finding and training recruits cannot be solved without facing the problems of instruction and the instructor.

To many men the task of filling the vacancies which will certainly occur in many bands after the war would seem to be mainly the task of attracting sufficient young people to the belfries. That may not prove so very difficult in many cases, but when it is done the real job of rehabilitating the art of change ringing will only have begun. Equally with the right sort of recruit we need the right sort of instructor. There are very many men who are quite willing and anxious to do all they can to teach and help beginners. They give their time freely and ungrudgingly, and the Exercise should be proud of them. But that is not enough.

The instructor may have enthusiasm, sympathy and patience; he must, indeed, have all of them if he is to be a success, but by themselves they are largely ineffectual unless he uses the right methods of instruction. It is necessary, in fact, for the instructor to be himself instructed in the art of instruction.

This is a point which is far too often overlooked, and it is one to which those on whom the task of rehabilitation will be laid would do well to give their attention.

Instructors vary greatly in their capabilities just as men vary in every other thing. There are some who are naturally good instructors, but they are comparatively rare. It does not follow because a man knows a subject well that he can teach it to others. Very often the extent of his knowledge is a hindrance, for he has a tendency to assume, without thinking, that his pupil knows more, or should know more, than he actually does.

Probably the great majority of the men who are called upon to instruct beginners would make no claims to be brilliant teachers. They do the task that lies to their hand to the best of their abilities, and they are entitled to full praise. But they would be more successful and suffer fewer disappointments if they thought the matter out and had clear ideas in their minds as to what they intended to teach, and how.

(Continued on page 442.)

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As a preliminary, the instructor cannot do better than study the 'Hints for Instructors and Beginners' issued by the Central Council. He should not merely read it through and give it his general assent; he should take it sentence by sentence and realise why certain advice is given, and what are the faults to be avoided. When he is himself convinced that certain things should be done and certain other things avoided, he can pass the knowledge on to his pupil and see that he, too, understands.

The main thing is to have a definite plan and definite ideas. Unless they are clear in your own mind you cannot make them clear in the minds of your pupils. When you are teaching a beginner to handle a bell, have a definite list of things to be aimed at and things to be avoided. See that your pupil understands each one of them separately and by itself, and watch for and check each fault at the beginning.

Take one thing at a time. Do not try and push a pupil on faster than he can go. It only muddles him. What the authors of the 'Clavis' wrote one hundred and fifty years ago is as true (perhaps even more so) than it was then. "It has frequently been observed that learners oftentimes attempt to ring rounds and sometimes changes before they are capable of managing a bell itself properly, which is the reason we have so many awkward practitioners in this art. For the attention being divided betwixt the management of the bell and the method of the changes, the former, which ought to claim the first attention, is frequently neglected, which brings on a train of ill habits that soon become familiar, become natural by constant practising, and are at last incorrigible."

HANDBELL PEALS.

WEST BRIDGFORD, NOTTS.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, September 23, 1942, in One Hour and Thirty-Six Minutes,

At 9, PATRICK ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two extents.

MISS EVA WEBB 1-2 | RALPH NARBOROUGH 3-4

MISS W. MARY HICKLING 5-6

Conducted by RALPH NARBOROUGH.

Rung as a birthday compliment to Miss Hickling.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

(WIMBORNE BRANCH.)

On Saturday, September 26, 1942, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

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

JESSIE M. CHICK 1-2 | ARTHUR V. DAVIS 5-6

MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 3-4 | FRANCIS S. WILSON 7-8

Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

Mr. F. S. Wilson's 60th peal.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, September 27, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

At THE WAYSIDE, NARBOROUGH ROAD SOUTH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

DEXTER'S VARIATION.

Tenor size 12 in F.

*MISS JILL POOLE 1-2 | ALFRED H. PULLING 5-6

HAROLD J. POOLE 3-4 | MRS. H. J. POOLE 7-8

Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

Witnesses—Mr. and Mrs. A. Hare, grandparents.

* First peal. This is believed to be the first peal of Stedman rung in hand by father, mother and daughter.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS. NEWS OF A VERY OLD MEMBER.

At the meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths on Saturday, the Master, Mr. E. G. Penn, was in the chair, and was supported by the secretary, treasurer and the two trustees, Mr. H. R. Newton and Mr. H. G. Miles, and Messrs. J. Bullock, T. H. Bullock, L. W. Bullock, J. Chapman, R. F. Deal, J. E. Lewis-Cockey, H. Hoskins, J. M. Kilby, W. Madgwick, W. H. Pasmore, C. W. Roberts, R. Stannard, J. Strickland, J. A. Trollope and L.-Corpl. Len Fox.

The Master congratulated Mr. J. Bullock and his two sons on ringing the non-conducted peal of Bob Minor.

Mr. Caleb Fenn had received a letter from Harold Warboys in the Far East. Mr. Warboys is well and sends best wishes to the members.

Mr. B. V. Collison wrote reporting the death of Mr. G. Thompson, of Tunbridge Wells, who joined the society in 1897. Mr. Thompson always spoke of the society in glowing terms and often recalled memories of happy hours spent at meetings and in the company of other members. He took the keenest interest in the meetings, reports of which were published in 'The Ringing World.'

His end came suddenly but peacefully after an illness of nearly two years, and he was interred in the Tunbridge Wells Cemetery on September 22nd.

Writing from Venezuela, Mr. B. H. Swinson gave an account of a meeting he had had with Mr. J. B. Cherry. 'When I was in Vancouver, British Columbia, a year ago,' said Mr. Swinson, 'I was ringing at the Cathedral of the Holy Rosary when the ringing chamber was visited for the first time in many years by Mr. J. B. Cherry, brother of the late Lord Chief Justice of Ireland. Mr. Cherry made an attempt to ring the tenor behind to Grandsire Triples, but was, unfortunately, soon forced to give up as the task proved too much for him. The tenor, although only weighing about 17 cwt., is a continental cast bell, very long in the waist and as awkward to handle as many bells of twice the weight.'

'Mr. Cherry told me that he was 87 years of age and had been elected a member of the society in 1873, being described as of Waterford, Ireland, and proposed by one C. Lee.

'It thus seems that Mr. Cherry is not only the oldest member of the society in point of years, but also in years of membership. He could not remember the exact date of his election, but you could doubtless trace it in the record of members.'

The oldest member of the society in years is Mr. Martin Routh, but as he joined in the same year as Mr. Cherry, which is actually the senior in membership is a little doubtful.

During the handbell ringing which concluded the meeting an excellent non-conducted touch of Bob Minor was rung by the Bullock family.

THE SOCIETY OF CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I saw in last week's 'Ringing World' that someone in the name of 'X' is very concerned over the Cumberland Society using the name of Royal. I should have thought at times like those we are now living in, when unity is so much needed, not discord, he could have found better use for his pen than to do a bit of stabbing in the back behind that letter 'X'.

If he has a look round I wonder how many things he could find that have the word 'Royal' in front of them. I suppose from his point of view it's all snobbery. I know a pub named the Royal Oak. Snobbery or not, if I was near it at the present time my bearings would soon get lubricated, so I take it that the Cumberlands have the same right to use this word Royal as the pub and dozens of other concerns.

He tells us it was added 50 years ago. Well, if this is so, I sincerely hope that all those members that follow after us older ones have gone will see that it still has Royal to its name another 50 years with ever growing prosperity.

If I am not mistaken, when one sends a letter to the Press there seems to me to be a little leaning towards snobbery when one hides behind such things as a letter 'X'.

If the Cumberlands still keep this word Royal to their name (which I hope they will), will Mr. 'X' be any better for it being removed? I say no. If it still exists the same thing applies. He will be no worse off. Then why worry?

G. RADLEY.

Broxbourne
[We ought to say that 'X' is a gentleman well known and respected in the Exercise. He explained that he did not sign his name because he wished to avoid any personal questions, and he left it to our judgment whether his letter should appear anonymously.—Editor, 'The Ringing World'.]

CHIMES AND CHIME TUNES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The articles 'Chime and Chime Tunes' by Mr. Ernest Morris make very interesting reading, but in his reference to the Doncaster Chimes he has not made it clear that the quarters are not chimed at the hour. The reasons Lord Grimthorpe gave for this omission are:—

(1) It was assumed that the hour bell must be an octave below the third quarter and that the Cambridge Chimes were, therefore, impossible with a peal of only eight bells if the quarters were to be struck at the hour.

(2) Playing ten chimes in every hour requires nearly twice as much power in the clock as playing six, which is sometimes a consideration when there is not much fall for the weights.

(3) In the Cambridge Chimes the blow on the lowest quarter bell is repeated too quickly in one place for a heavy hammer to be re-lifted immediately, and in all large clocks it is desirable to have two of these hammers lifted alternately.

In only a few clocks made before 1860 was this plan adopted, and Lord Grimthorpe then realised that the hour chime is the best of them all.

The Doncaster Chimes are: 1st, 2347; 2nd, 4327—4324; 3rd, 3724—7324—2437.

The chimes at St. Mary's, Scarborough, are similar to the Doncaster Chimes.

H. WALKER.

1, Flavian Grove, Walton Way, Clifton, York.

DEATH OF MR. W. J. BATTLE.

The death is announced of Mr. Walter J. Battle, who passed away rather suddenly at Bebington on September 8th.

He was a member of the Chester Diocesan Guild and the committee of the Wirral Branch, and joined the Bebington band about four years ago. Previously he had rung at Oxtun, Port Sunlight and Birkenhead St. Mary's.

The funeral service at St. Andrew's was taken by the Rev. — Turnbull, who gave an address. The ringers were represented by Mr. Jack Cooke, Ringing Master, Mr. H. Brocklebank, hon. secretary, and Mr. J. Evans, of the Wirral Branch.

RECRUITS AND CHOIRBOYS.

To the Editor.

Dear Zur,—I just wants to say a word or two about they letters from Muster Pitman and 'Churchman' about choirboys and recruits. Afore I moved, I were in the choir, Seketerry of the Church Council, and used to larn they ole choirboys a-singing, so I knows a bit about wot I be a-going to tell 'ee. Muster Pitman says catch 'em fer ringers when their voices break; 'Churchman' says that won't do, go fer the young men in the choir. Well, I reckon it's a darn sight harder to git young men fer a choir than it is recruits fer a beltry—in peacetime, I'm talking about, let alone now.

I'd go one better ner Muster Pitman. I caught my ole boys long afore their voices broke, and out o' eight choirboys and perhaps 4 young boy-chaps in the men's stalls I'll back there weren't more ner 3 as couldn't handle a bell. One on 'em, a real little chap he were, 'ould climb on an owd box and turn that 17 cwt. tenor over like she were a toy; two on 'em 'ad got to calling Grandsire when the war come and there weren't a Sunday fer years as they bells didn't ring.

You don't need me to tell 'ee that most young ringers starts orf keen as mustard, then they comes to a dull patch and wants to sleer orf rabbiting, or courting, or summat. Well, if you 'as 'em real young they be still sceered on 'ee when they gits to that bit, and they knows they got to turn up. You keeps 'em at it and they gits over it all right. Lor bless 'ee, us used to have no end of a time, lapping Grandsire Caters and Bob Royal—just village lads about 12 year old. Course, I used to keep 'em interested; us 'd pack into my ole motor and go orf to another tower 'or two, and they all 'ad notebooks wot they used to keep for dates, towers and sichlike. You can lay a good foundation afore they gits to the gawky stage, and one as'll help 'em through it, maybe—summat to 'old on to, like.

Mind, I'm telling 'ee about a village; it may be different in towns. Us be slower altogether in the country, which reminds me o' two old folks I heerd on as 'd bin walking out for, nigh on 45 year. Jane reckoned it were time to give old Dan a hint, so she says outright, 'We be gitting on in years, Dan. Don't 'ee reckon it were time us got wed?' Old Dan thinks a bit and then he says, 'Ah, praps you're right, but I don't know as anyone 'll have us now.'

Well, this'll 'a to do fer now. I agrees with Muster Pitman except, as I says, get 'em full young, about 9 or 10, and keep 'em at it if they be any good at all. Good-day to 'ee, zur.

'YOKEL.'

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THE RINGING EXERCISE IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

(Continued from page 435.)

Besides the annual outing, the more active ringers made frequent visits to outlying towns and villages round London in the counties of Middlesex, Surrey, Kent, and Essex, to ring touches and peals. Sunday was a favourite day for these expeditions, for they had no obligations at home and no service ringing to attend to. The sabbatarian opinions which had been so strong in earlier years entirely disappeared among the masses, though there were still many people who would strongly disapprove of this or any other form of what they considered sabbath breaking. Laughton, when he was giving an account of one such outing on a Sunday, asked rather defiantly what did it signify 'so long as 'twas one day'? and boasts that he and his friends were not tied to any particular day. And, of course, there could not have been any peals or other ringing on a Sunday at the village steeples without the consent of the local church authorities, or, at any rate, without the absence of any active opposition from them.

It is not likely that the clergy were asked for their permission. It was usually a question of getting the key from the sexton or perhaps the churchwardens. Sabbatarian opinions revived during the second half of the century, but they were not shared by the ringers.

The social side of the old societies represents a phase in the life of the Exercise which has now almost entirely disappeared. Founded on the inherited traditions of the old guilds, it was immensely strengthened and influenced by the customs of the time. In the eighteenth century social clubs were very numerous and existed in all classes of society. A small and limited number of men of similar interests and tastes joined themselves together. They might consist of eight, ten or a dozen tradesmen in a particular locality, or a number of lawyers, or of people interested in art or literature, or of a few personal friends—in short, wherever there was a number of men who for one reason or another desired each other's society there was the material for a club. They agreed to meet at stated intervals, usually once a week at a tavern or coffee house. They appointed a chairman, drew up a code of rules to regulate their proceedings, and a scale of fines for faults and omissions. The rules related chiefly to the times and place of meeting, and to the money that was to be spent in drink. The fines were for absence, being late, and suchlike things. The money each paid was pooled and spent in drink. No strangers were ever admitted. The evening was spent in talking, drinking, smoking, and sometimes singing.

There were clubs in the early seventeenth century, though not known by that name, including the famous one held at the Mermaid, to which belonged Ben Jonson and William Shakespeare.

Souls of Poets dead and gone
What Elysium have ye known—
Happy field or mossy cavern—
Choicer than the Mermaid Tavern?

During the reign of Queen Anne clubs reached their full popularity and there were many associated with such distinguished men as Dr. Samuel Johnson, Sir Joshua Reynolds, Edmund Burke, Oliver Goldsmith and others.

At the other end of the social scale were what were called mug-houses. They were not exactly clubs, for they were not exclusive and did not require their mem-

bers to go through any form of being elected. Each man brought his own mug and paid a certain sum of money which was pooled and spent in beer which was consumed by the assembly. What was perhaps the most famous of these mug-houses was held at the Barley Mow in Salisbury Court under the shadow of St. Bride's steeple, the house which for many years was the headquarters of the Society of College Youths.

Ringing societies were clubs in the strictest sense of the word; the social life was of as great importance as the actual ringing in the belfry, and consequently a proportion of the rules dealt with the conduct of members in the meeting room.

The Union Scholars fixed the amount each man was to pay for drinks at sixpence, and provided penalties for gaming and profanity. The College Youths' rules forbade quarrelling and ordered that any member who offended in that way should be suspended for the night. The Cumberlands forbade any member to go out of the belfry to drink before the rest of the company; and another rule was intended to stop the practice of some members having drink at the tavern where the society met, and charging it up to the general fund. The reckoning at the meetings was done by counters, and one of them, a small oblong copper plate, with the name of the Society of College Youths engraved on it, is now in the British Museum.

The eighteenth century saw the rise or the expansion of modern Freemasonry, and one of the London ringing companies for a time organised itself as a sort of parody of the craft.

The tendency of all this was to harden and standardise the characteristics the Exercise had gained in earlier years—its exclusiveness, its independence, its tenacity of tradition. Since each society admitted none but its own members, it cared for no interests but its own, and recognised no duties or obligations to others; it made its own rules and tolerated no interference from without. And since the punctilious observance of a particular ritual was of the essence of a club, it clung to its old forms and ceremonies.

Much of this spirit survived till the end of the nineteenth century among London ringers. In small things there was the custom of excluding visitors from business meetings even when the business was merely formal and routine. More important was the hostile spirit shown towards the movement for the federation of the Exercise, first as a national association, and later under the Central Council. It was due to this spirit that the London Exercise took no part in the reform movement of sixty or seventy years ago, and that the metropolitan societies had such difficulty in coming into line with the diocesan and county territorial associations, which indeed were a challenge to the traditions of the older bodies. On the other hand, the tenacity of tradition had a very great value in preserving the unity and continuity of the art at a very critical period in the history of the Exercise.

The annual feast was the central event in the social life. In the wealthier societies it was a very elaborate affair, and even when members were less well off it was as sumptuous as their means permitted.

The rules of the Union Scholars provided that the feast should be held on the first Monday in May at some convenient place within the City of London. It was the duty

(Continued on next page.)

THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

(Continued from previous page.)

of the stewards to arrange for the dinner, and towards its cost they were to collect two shillings and sixpence from each member, and the year's forfeits and fines were allotted to the same purpose. Five weeks before the day of the feast the College Youths held a general meeting to decide whether the stewards and the master were willing and able to bear the cost. If any of them could not, or would not, undertake the responsibility, other means were adopted; but the general funds of the society were not to be used for the purpose. The guarantors recouped themselves by selling tickets, not only to the members but to others whose presence was welcome. The dinner tickets were very elaborate affairs artistically designed and engraved from copper plates. In the British Museum are copies of three of these tickets issued by the Cumberlands, two belonging to the London Youths, and two belonging to the College Youths. There are also one or two issued by provincial societies.

The earlier of the two College Youths' tickets was designed by Thomas Kitchen, of Holborn, an English engraver, who flourished about the year 1750. The other was the familiar engraving by Francesco Bartolozzi, which is now used as a certificate of membership. Bartolozzi was a very famous engraver, who did an enormous amount of work during the last thirty years of the eighteenth century. The number of his engravings runs to over two thousand, and many of them were really done by his assistants, he only putting in the finishing touches, but it is said that he usually did the dinner tickets with his own hand, and so possibly the College Youths' certificate is the master's work throughout.

I do not know how early the custom arose of issuing a certificate to new members, but probably it was not until fairly late in the nineteenth century. The earliest I have been able to trace belonged to Robert Haworth and was dated August 13th, 1839, but it evidently was not given to him until long after that. The secretary's name on it was John Cooper, but Cooper was not secretary, but held the old office of beadle.

When the dinner ticket was changed into the membership certificate the annual feast in its original form had become a thing of the past. There was still an annual dinner and, so far as we have any evidence, the continuity has never really been broken, but for some half a century or so it took the form of a summer outing and a meal in some suburban town or village. It was the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary that revived the dignity and importance of the annual feast.

At one time in their history the College Youths attended divine service in church on the morning of their feast. This service was not the counterpart of the services which nowadays are usually held as a part of ringing meetings. It was rather the parallel of similar services attended by the City Companies. The College Youths paid a clergyman a guinea to read the service just as it is customary in present times for the City Companies to pay a clergyman two or three guineas for saying grace at their dinners.

(To be continued.)

HARWICH, ESSEX.—On Sunday, September 6th, at St. Nicholas' Church, for the harvest festival evening service, on handbells, four courses of Grandsire Triples and Queens and rounds: S. Jennings 1-2, C. J. Ellis 3-4, G. Thompson 5-6, A. Alderton 7-8.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

On September 19th, the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards officiated at the marriage of his nephew, Mr. P. J. Ethelstan Hills, to Miss Audrey Banfield in Kingston Magna Church, where Mr. Edwards' parents were married 70 years before. In the enforced silence of the tower bells, handbells were rung by four boys in the church porch. A peal of three small bells hung for ringing in the Rectory grounds were also rung for a short time, the bride herself taking a hand.

Mr. Alfred Pulling, who rang 5-6 last Sunday to Miss Jill Poole's first peal, recalls with pleasure that he called her mother's first peal 22 years ago, the only one she rang until last August.

Mr. G. Stacey, of Minehead, celebrated his 80th birthday on September 13th. He has been hon. secretary of the Dunster Deanery Branch of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association for many years, and during his whole term of office only missed one meeting.

William Shipway, the author of one of the best known books on change ringing, was born in the city of Bath on September 29th, 1760.

On October 1st, 1793, the Aston ringers rang 15,360 changes of Bob Major in 9 hours and 31 minutes. Fifteen thousand one hundred and twenty changes had been rung at West Ham in 1737, and 14,480 at Oldham in Lancashire in 1784.

The first peal of Single Norwich Court Bob Major was rung on handbells at Cambridge on October 1st, 1922, by the Cambridge University Guild, conducted by Capt. W. H. J. Hooton.

On October 1st, 1907, a band consisting of the three brothers Pye, William, Ernest and George R., with Mr. William Keeble, rang 5,088 changes of Bristol Surprise Major on handbells at Romford.

Henry Bagley, the first in a long line of bellfounders, was baptised at Chacombe in Northamptonshire on October 2nd, 1608. He was the son of a blacksmith and began casting bells about the year 1632.

The first peal of Spliced Plain and Little Bob Major was rung at Long Eaton by the Midland Counties Association on October 2nd, 1926.

On the same date in 1928 a band of the Middlesex County Association rang at St. Mary's, Willesden, a peal of Lincolnshire Surprise Major. This was part of an attempt by the same band to ring a peal of Surprise Major in each number of methods from one to twelve. The peal in two methods was the only one not rung.

The first peal by eight parsons, one of Stedman Triples, was rung at Drayton in Berkshire on October 2nd, 1884. F. E. Robinson conducted, C. D. P. Davies rang the 6th and J. H. Fish, the Vicar of St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, the tenor. Canon G. F. Coleridge rang the treble.

Mr. Rupert Richardson rang 34 and called a peal of Bob Major on the Arabian Sea on October 3rd, 1934. Mr. J. S. Goldsmith rang the trebles.

TROOPER JOSEPH JONES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Talking to my old friend F. E. Dawe recently, we happened to advert to St. Paul's tenor. He recalled the practice night (October 6th, 1885) when Trooper Joseph Jones, of the R.H. Guards (blue), raised the 62 cwt. bell single-handed in just over three minutes. One of the ringers, however, had ascended unobserved to the frame, and, when possible, given a tug at the wheel. A dark and dangerous job. Jones was so pleasing and genial that no one told him of it.

Another tale I had from old Ted Horrex. Jones, who, by the way, was over 6ft. in height and long of limb, was helping to muffle Cornhill bells when Ted dropped that of the tenor into its crown. Without hesitation, Jones, with one long stride, was over and into the bell, and as nimbly out again. Horrex said, 'My heart was in my mouth,' but Jones recovered the muffle all right. Another dark and dangerous job!

Trooper Jones, who was a 'tenor-man,' disappeared from ringing circles a year or two afterwards. Being the time of the Boer War, he may have met his death in South Africa.

Bromley, Kent.

E. ALEXR. YOUNG.

STEDMAN CINQUES AT LIVERPOOL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was very interested in Mr. G. R. Newton's letter about the peals of Stedman Cinques at Liverpool quoted in your issue of September 18th, and noted the quick time. But this does not make them false.

On two occasions I have taken part in peals of Grandshire Cinques at Christchurch Priory, Hants, the first peal on the 12 bells, on November 22nd, 1933. 5,038 changes, tenor 28 cwt., time taken 3 hours and 11 minutes. The second peal was about a year after, November 29th, 1934, same number of changes, rung in 3 hours and 12 minutes.

Both peals were the same composition by Mr. G. R. Newton in six parts, and conducted by my old friend, Mr. George Preston.

If my memory serves me correctly, I think the second peal, besides being rung to celebrate the wedding of the late H.R.H. the Duke of Kent and Princess Marina of Greece, served to disprove any idea that the first peal was false, and, with one exception, was rung by the same band.

I hope these few remarks may help to clarify Mr. Newton's statement about the Liverpool peals, as quick peals do not necessarily mean false peals.

F. E. PITMAN.

40, Tweedy Road, Bromley.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

GENERAL MEETING AT BARNSELEY.

The September general meeting of the Yorkshire Association was held at the Royal Hotel, Barnsley, on Saturday, September 19th, and was presided over by Canon C. C. Marshall, president, supported by the general secretary (Mr. L. W. G. Morris), the hon. treasurer (Mr. S. F. Palmer), the peal secretary (Mr. W. Barton) and the vice-president of the Southern District (Mr. George Lewis). Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. F. W. Dale, W. H. Senior, H. S. Morley, F. Cryer, R. B. Smith, P. J. Johnson, E. Bradley, M. E. Wilson, L. K. Bowling, E. Hudson and R. Duffield.

A vote of thanks to the local company was proposed by Mr. G. Lewis, seconded by Mr. S. Briggs and carried with acclamation. Mr. D. Smith, who replied, said it had been a very great pleasure to make the arrangements. His task was by no means as difficult as it might have been but for the influence of their late colleague, Charles Dallion Potter. The Rector of Barnsley, Canon Wilkinson, had hoped to be with them that afternoon, but regretted that unforeseen circumstances prevented him from doing so.

THE ASSOCIATION'S YEAR.

The General Secretary, Mr. L. W. G. Morris, said the present financial year commenced on October 1st of one year and terminated on September 30th of the year following, which had the effect of causing the annual meeting of the General Committee to take place in December and the annual general meeting in January. It was undesirable to hold the two most important meetings of the year at such times. In addition, the work of compiling the annual report took place when the principal officers had other pressing business. It would be much more appropriate for the association's year to coincide with the calendar year. The present period of comparative inactivity was the most opportune time to make such a change, for two very good reasons; firstly, that to do so during normal times would considerably increase the size of the first report following the change-over by the incorporation of the additional three months' performances with the attendant additional cost, and, secondly, that much more work would be involved in compiling it. Certain amendments to rules became necessary. The motion was in the following terms:—

'That the official association year shall commence on January 1st and terminate on December 31st of each year, and that the necessary amendment to rules consequent thereon be made.'

Mr. W. Barton, who seconded, said there may be a tendency on the part of some of the older members to resent such changes, but such resentment was unfounded, as no fewer than three changes had already been made since the inception of the association in 1875. The proposed change was long overdue, as, apart from working to the calendar year, the most important meeting would take place in late April or early May when normally the weather and daylight would be far more favourable.

The Treasurer, Mr. S. F. Palmer, said he fully supported the proposed change and nothing but good could emanate from it. It was most desirable the annual general meeting should be well attended, as they looked to it for collecting as many subscriptions as possible and disposing of as many reports as possible.

The General Secretary said that in the letters of apology from members unable to attend most had expressed their support for the motion and not one had dissented.

The motion was then put to the vote and carried nem con.

DISABLED MEMBERS.

The President said the committee felt that there would be no point in holding another general meeting until the annual general meeting which, owing to the lateness of Easter, should take place on the first Saturday in May, 1943.

Mr. L. W. G. Morris moved that the next meeting be the annual general meeting and that it be held on the first Saturday in May, 1943. Mr. George Lewis seconded and this was carried. As no invitations had been received, it was left to the principal officers to arrange the place.

Mr. W. Barton moved that 'The General Committee shall have power to consider any application from any member who is permanently disabled, and unable to take any further part in practical ringing, to be transferred to the list of honorary members. Such application, if approved by the General Committee, shall then be put to the members at a general meeting for their consideration.'

Mr. Barton said that although he sincerely hoped it would not be the case, there was the possibility of members becoming totally disabled as a result of the war. He felt it only right that the association should make some provision to meet such contingencies. They had already a case brought to their notice of a member who had been stricken with blindness, but, as matters stood, had been unable to do anything. Mr. J. F. Harvey, who seconded, said that he felt it was the least thing they could do, and could not see any logical argument that could be brought to bear against. The motion was carried unanimously.

The President announced that the committee had again reviewed the circular letter received some time ago from the secretary of the Central Council relative to 'The Ringing World.' It was decided at the last general meeting to empower a sub-committee, consisting of

(Continued in next column.)

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.

MEETING AT EAST GRINSTEAD.

On Saturday, September 26th, the East Grinstead and District Guild paid its first visit to headquarters since the ban on ringing. The meeting proved very successful. Twenty ringers, representing nine towers, were present, and the visitors included Mr. C. Tyler, Henfield, and Mr. E. Treagus, R.A.F., Arundel. It had not been possible to silence the tower bells, so the handbells were well used in various methods from Doubles to Caters. One touch of Stedman Triples persisted in breaking down until five ringers had a go at it.

Tea, which was partaken in a nearby cafe, was generously provided and presided over by the Guild's president, the Rev. G. Golding-Bird.

On the way back to the tower the company ran into Mr. Oliver Sippets, who, despite his protests that he was not going to ring till after the war, was dragged back to the tower and persuaded to ring 5-6 to a course of Grandsire Triples. During the evening the Rev. — Kelly (curate) conducted the company round the very interesting museum in the church tower. The exhibits give one a good idea of life in East Grinstead hundreds of years ago.

A vote of thanks was accorded to Miss K. Shepherd for arranging a very enjoyable meeting.

YORKSHIRE RINGER WINS THE M.M.



Sergt. Clement R. Robinson, R.G.A., who has been serving for over a year in Malta, has been awarded the Military Medal. He is a member of the band at St. James', Sutton-on-Hull, where there was a good six-bell band a few years ago. He joined the Yorkshire Association in 1935 and attended regularly the district meetings up to the outbreak of war.

The photograph is reproduced by courtesy of 'The Hull Daily Mail.'

UMPIRES FOR HANDBELL PEALS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I fail to see that Mr. Shepherd has answered my query re the necessity for, and the authority of, umpires for handbell peals.

He surprises me rather, introducing 'unseen' umpires and broadcasting that he has 'unpired dozens of tower bell peals.'

His last paragraph seems to suggest that only conductors are capable of errors and only in the calling.

W. J. G. BROWN.

40, Fuchsia Lane, Ipswich.

DRIVER C. HETHERINGTON.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—A few months ago, Driver Chris. Hetherington, of Newcastle Cathedral Guild, was reported missing in Egypt. His many friends will now be glad to hear that, in a letter home, he says he is fit and well and a prisoner of war in Italy.

ERNEST WALLACE.

88, Grainger Street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne 1.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(Continued from previous column.)

the president, general secretary and treasurer, to make a grant of not exceeding £10 from association funds if an urgent appeal was received. Mr. W. Barton moved that the matter be again raised at the next meeting and that powers given to the sub-committee be extended until that time. This was seconded by Mr. T. C. Ryder and carried.

One new member, Mr. H. Nutt, of Friezland, was elected on the motion of Mr. D. Smith, seconded by Mr. G. Lewis.

An adjournment was then made to the hotel dining room, where an excellent repast was thoroughly enjoyed. The parting of the ways came for those who had to leave early, but those who were able to stay spent a most enjoyable evening, handbells being brought into use. A most welcome visitor was Corp. C. W. Woolley, of the famous Bushey band. Among the methods rung were Bob Royal, Grandsire Caters and Cinques, Kent Treble Bob Royal and Double Norwich Major.

LORD GRIMTHORPE.

A REMARKABLE VICTORIAN.

'Remarkable' is probably the best word to apply to Sir Edmund Beckett, Lord Grimthorpe, who has a special interest for ringers not only because he designed Big Ben and the clock at Westminster, but also because for many years he influenced English bell founding, and was one of the causes (though not in the way he intended) which have made English bells the best modern bells in the world.

He was born on May 12th, 1816, the eldest son of Sir Edmund Beckett, fourth baronet. His mother was the widow of Sir Thomas Denison, and he himself bore that surname until he succeeded his father as fifth baronet in 1874.

By profession he was a lawyer, and his success at the bar was great and rapid. He became the recognised leader of the Parliamentary Bar, the most lucrative position a counsel can hold, and as he kept a keen eye on his fees, he accumulated a large fortune. When he died his personal estate was valued at £1,562,500.

MANY INTERESTS.

The law was his profession, but during his long and busy life he found time for many other interests. The catalogue of the British Museum library contains the titles of 37 of his publications and they deal with such varied subjects as architecture, ecclesiastical fees, the lessons in church services, astronomy, church restoration, ecclesiastical courts, clocks and locks, bells, miracles, the deceased wife's sister, London water supply, revision of the New Testament, prophecies, the origin of the laws of nature, trades unionism, as well as a life of Bishop Lonsdale, his wife's father.

On all these matters he posed as an authority and was mercilessly critical and sarcastic at the expense of those who differed from him. It was hardly possible that anyone could have been so omniscient as he professed to be, and those who differed from him were not all the fools and incompetents he tried to make them appear. Yet he had real cleverness and knowledge in some of these matters, especially in clock making. He designed the great clock at Westminster and invented for it a new gravity escapement which gave it an accuracy far surpassing anything that had hitherto been thought possible. He claimed that he had directly or indirectly designed over forty public clocks, including St. Paul's and other cathedrals.

Architecture was another matter which engaged his attention and on which he had very decided views that brought him into conflict and controversy with the leading architects of the time. St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, and St. Chad's, Headingley, Leeds, are two churches which he designed, but his main work as an architect was at St. Albans Abbey, where his restorations and reconstructions caused fierce controversies. From first to last he spent over £130,000 of his own money on the work, and though he did some things, such as the windows in the transepts, that are dreadful, he saved the church from ruin.

DISPUTES AND CONTROVERSIES.

Almost all Beckett's undertakings involved him in fierce disputes with other people, and this was notably the case with the clock and bells at Westminster, where he quarrelled with the Office of Public Works, Sir Charles Barry, the architect, Sir George Airy, the Astronomer Royal, and others. His criticism of the bell led to two actions for libel, one by William Mears, in which Beckett found it advisable to withdraw his plea of justification and pay costs without a verdict being given; and the other 20 years later by Robert Stainbank, who obtained a verdict and £200 damages against him.

Grimthorpe's greatest defects were his arrogant and pugnacious temper, and a singular lack of that elusive quality called good taste. As a result of the first, when he was elected president of the Horological Institute, a stipulation was made that he should not attend the dinners. The other is shown clearly enough in the churches and bells he designed, the English he wrote and the tone and temper he displayed in the numerous controversies in which he engaged.

With all his faults he had many and great good qualities. Bitter controversialist though he was, he made many friends, outside the law all he did was done freely and without any fee, and he would always readily give advice on the subject of bells and clocks to any clergyman who approached him with due deference.

Sir Edmund Beckett was created Baron Grimthorpe in 1886 and died on April 29th, 1905, in his 89th year. He was buried in the churchyard at St. Albans Abbey.

BELLS.

On the subject of bells he held views just as pronounced and just as dogmatic as on the other matters. Here he was fortunate because the architects and other authorities with whom he had to deal knew less than he did, and did not profess to know; while the bellfounders, as Mr. Albert A. Hughes told us in his article, worked by the rules which had come down to them as the result of experience and by means of the traditional 'strickles,' and so were quite at a loss when it came to arguing points of theory.

Beckett's main idea was that bells should be very much heavier for a given note than had been the custom. He was largely responsible for several important rings cast at Loughborough, and they all showed his influence, though we may suspect that in some instances the founder modified his designs. St. Paul's Cathedral, Manchester Town

Hall and Worcester Cathedral were the most important of these. At Worcester, and more especially at St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, where Michael Thomas Bass, the donor of the church, gave him a free hand, his designs were fully carried out. Burton bells were a ring of eight with a tenor of 26 cwt. in the key of F. Worcester were a ring of twelve in the key of D flat. The usual weight of an F bell is 15 cwt. and of a D flat bell 30 cwt. Both these rings, which to ordinary ears were very poor, have been recast.

It is possible to see Beckett's influence in other Loughborough peals such as the ten at the Imperial Institute and the eight at the Roman Catholic Church at Cambridge, though actually we believe he had nothing to do with either and they depart considerably from his ideals. They form a preliminary to the magnificent series of splendid bells cast by Taylors during the last fifty years, and which probably were only made possible by the break with, or modification of, the traditional designs.

Here are some extracts from Beckett's writings giving his opinions on bells. They were published in the eighties of the last century and refer to bells as they existed then.

'Until about 14 years ago the largest ringing peal in England and therefore in the world was at Exeter Cathedral, which is the largest still, and those of York Minster, Bow Church and St. Saviour's, Southwark, otherwise called St. Mary Overy, which are all practically of the same size. The Bow peal is the best of the three, the new York one, which was cast by Mears after the fire of 1840 caused by a clock maker leaving a candle burning, being very inferior to the old ones from the same foundry and patterns. The Southwark peal is half a note lower, being a little thinner, and for that reason worse.'

ST. PAUL'S AND WORCESTER.

'The two largest modern ringing peals are those of St. Paul's and Worcester Cathedrals, both by Taylor, of the patterns and composition which I arrived at after the experiments made for the Westminster Bells, modified a little by some later ones. The St. Paul's peal is, on the whole, better than Exeter, of which some of the bells are bad; and the Worcester peal is quite equal, if not superior, to that of Bow.'

'The two trebles there (Worcester) are simply a mistake, and the peal of 10 sounds a vast deal better than the peal of 12, as is always the case. It is not so bad at St. Paul's because the notes are lower and the bells heavier and slower. But even there the 12 sound confused and inferior to 10.'

'The largest modern peals, all by Taylor, are those of Manchester and Bradford Town Halls and of St. Paul's Cathedral, but the Manchester peal cannot be rung, only chimed by machinery. The St. Paul's peal is really a more powerful and better one than Exeter, though that is rather larger; but some of the bells are too thin and otherwise inferior. Sir Christopher Wren, very unlike most modern architects who will not condescend to learn anything of such matters, but consider themselves qualified to give orders for anything that is wanted, whether architectural or not, had prepared a tower capable of bearing such a peal in full swing with perfect safety. It does not shake sensibly under the ringing, which is the case nowhere else that I know of with a moderately heavy peal. The next largest modern ringing peal is that of Worcester Cathedral, especially without the two trebles. The St. Paul's peal, being heavier and slower, bears them better; but even there—and everywhere—it is impossible to hear the 12 as distinctly and as pleasantly as 10.'

'No peal of eight with a tenor less than 4 feet diameter and 21 cwt. is worth having.'

'There are plenty of peals of eight with E tenors weighing 17 cwt. and even less, made for foolish people who insist on having bells of the deepest possible note and for the smallest possible price, and lazy ringers like them better than the good old-fashioned heavy bells, but they are miserable things.'

WEIGHTS OF TENORS.

'The smallest tenor suitable for 10 bells is D flat of 5 feet diameter and 42 cwt., or D at the very highest, for the same reason that F, 48in. of 21 cwt., is the lightest tenor for a good peal of eight; viz., that if you go much higher you run into a G sharp treble which for some reason that neither I nor the bellfounders have discovered, though the fact is certain, never sounds well together with large bells. At that point some change takes place in the character of the sound, and bells above and below it do not sound homogeneous. Peals of 12 I have already said I disapprove of altogether; and it is nothing but the vanity of having them which induces ringers to cry out for them, and subscribers to find money for them. It is almost impossible with the very best ringing to distinguish the bells in them, and the best ringing is very difficult to get. If you will have 12 bells, the tenor should not be higher than C, for the same reason as I gave just now, and even that makes the treble G thought that is not quite so hopeless as G sharp.'

'A B bell would probably be the best for such a peal, and anything below that, if of proper strength, roars over the others in a way which does not produce a good effect. The tenors of Exeter and St. Paul's are B flat; but both would be on a better scale of thickness if they had been B with the same weight or more like the B bell at Manchester. The Southwark B tenor is decidedly too thin.'

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THE USE OF SINGLES.

IN SEVEN-BELL METHODS.

(Continued from page 429.)

In peals of Grandsire Triples the use of in-course singles is to join together two independent round blocks. Common singles have three distinct uses. The first is to join together two independent round blocks each composed of one or more B Blocks. The second is to help to arrange the paths of the hunts in the Bob-and-single peals, and the third (also in the Bob-and-single peals) is to change the nature of the rows so that some can be produced which, on the plan, would not otherwise be attainable. We will next consider the uses of singles in other seven-bell methods.

For our present purposes Triples methods divide into three classes. First there are those with a treble and a bell-in-the-hunt; then there are those with a treble and six working bells; and lastly there is Stedman.

In the first class the lead of the method is symmetrical about both the treble and the bell-in-the-hunt, and the handstrokes are all odd and the backstrokes are all even. The P Block cannot be reversed, neither can the B Block (except in the case of Grandsire and its variation, Union). Common singles, therefore, must not be used, and in-course singles have to be employed in order to produce true peals. There are eleven regular methods in this class — Grandsire, Reverse Grandsire, Double Grandsire, Court, Oxford Bob, Double Court, Double Oxford Bob, Hereward Bob, London Bob, St. Clement's Bob and College.

The methods in the second class have a plain hunting treble and six working bells. Those in this group which rank as regular methods number seventeen, excluding the ones which have adjacent places. (In a seven-bell method if you have adjacent places there must be at least three places in a change, an excessive number.) The typical method for composition in this class is Bob Triples. It does not rank as a regular method, because at the lead end one bell strikes four consecutive blows in the same position, but so far as peal composition is concerned what is true of it is true of all the methods in the class. There are two other methods which are regular, and which with Bob Triples will serve as examples of the whole group.

New Bob.	Waterloo Reverse Bob.
1234567	1234567
2135476	2135476
2314567	2314567
3241657	3241576
2346175	2345167
3264715	3254617
2367451	2345671
3276541	2436571
2375614	4263517
3257164	2436157
2351746	4231675
3215476	2413657
3124567	2146375
1325476	1243657
1352746	1426375

The methods in this class differ from those in the first class in one important respect. In the first class the changes are triple changes throughout and until a common single is made the rows are of alternate nature, all

the handstrokes being odd and all the backstrokes even. But in the second class every fourteenth change in each method is a double change, and the nature of the rows is reversed. In Bob Triples and New Bob the double change is made when the treble is leading and, consequently, while in the first lead of the plain course all the handstrokes are odd and all the backstrokes even, in the second lead all the handstrokes are even and all the backstrokes odd. In each successive lead the nature of the rows is similarly reversed.

In Waterloo Reverse Bob the double change is made when the treble is lying its whole pull behind, and the succession of the nature of the rows is reversed from that point.

The first thought that naturally strikes us is, why have these double changes? Why not have triple changes throughout just as we have in Grandsire or Oxford Bob? The answer is that unless we have a double change we cannot produce a lead-end which will give us the six-lead course we need with six working bells. In Bob Major there are seven lead-ends in the plain course, and in any other plain Major method no matter which of these lead-ends comes first, the others will follow automatically.

In plain seven-bell methods with six working bells it is not so. There the lead-ends of the plain course are—

352746
573624
765432
647253
426375

They are the exact equivalent of the leads of the plain course of Bob Major, and indeed we call them Bob Major Lead Ends, but we can easily see by experiment that there are only two orders in which they can come in the plain course of a method. They can come as we have given them above, which is the order of Bob Triples and New Bob; or they can come in reverse order with 426375 as the first lead-end, which is the order of Waterloo Reverse Bob.

If 573624 or 647253 came as the first lead-end we should have a course of three leads only. And if 765432 came as the first lead-end we should have a course of two leads only.

Custom, which is based on something more than habit and tradition, has ordained that in the plain course of any method there shall be as many leads as there are working bells; yet a Triples method with six working bells and a 3-lead course is neither an impossibility nor a freak, and one or two such methods were actually rung in early days. Indeed Grandsire Triples, when the B Block is the basis of the peal, is really such a method. When the B Block is reversed it is seen to be the lead of a symmetrical method with regular lead-ends and a 3-lead course.

We have put it alongside another and kindred method, and its nature can clearly be seen. These two methods should be compared with Crayford College Major (No. 37) and Spalding College Major (No. 41) in the Collection of Plain Major Methods.

One point must be made clear. The first of these two leads is the reverse of the B Block of Grandsire Triples, but it is not the same as the reverse we talked about in the earlier articles of this series. In composition, there

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THE USE OF SINGLES

(Continued from page 449.)

are two kinds of reversals, as there in most other things. There is a vertical reversal and there is a horizontal reversal. We can turn a book upside down or we can turn it over sideways. We can reverse a block by beginning with the last row and ending with the first row; and that is how we reverse B Blocks in the composition of peals of Grandsire Triples. When we reverse a method we reverse in the other direction so that work done and places made from the front in the original become work done and places made from the back in the variation. That is how this block is the reverse of the B Block of Grandsire Triples.

1234567	1234567
2143657	2143657
2416375	2416375
4261735	4261735
4627153	2467153
6472513	4276513
4627531	2475631
6472351	4257361
4627315	2453716
6472135	4235176
6741253	2431567
7614523	4213657
7165432	4126375
1756342	1462735
1573624	1647253

(To be continued.)

LORD GRIMTHORPE.

(Continued from page 448.)

TUCKING-UP OF BELLS.

'Opinions differ whether large bells should be what is called "tucked up in the stock" or the top of the bell made higher than the pivots or gudgeons. The advantage of it evidently is that it diminishes the centrifugal force or sideways strain of the bell on the frame; and if friction were out of the way it would, of course, make the bell easier to raise and ring. But friction is not out of the question, and as a bell in swing is in effect a pendulum, and not (as I have heard even bellfounders represent it) a body lifted by a steady pull like a lever, it may very easily happen that a certain amount of friction on the pivots may make it impossible to make the bell pendulum swing through 360 degrees by any practicable force that can be applied to it at the beginning of its motion which is the only time when the rope acts upon it. The Rev. Mr. Taylor told me that a bell of about 52 cwt. at Hereford which he and some other boys used to raise and set was made unraisable by them by being rehung and at the same time tucked up; and so confident was he of the mistake of this mode of hanging that he offered to fill Mearns' great bad bell at York with beer if any number of men could set it and they never could.'

'Ringing the tenor behind, i.e., ringing the changes only on the other bells, always sounds better than ringing the tenor in the changes, though ringers think more of it as a feat. One man can ring a very heavy bell behind which would require two to ring in, as its time has then to be altered continually. Also when two men are required, it tries their wind less and it requires only one rope, for one to take the fore-stroke only and the other back-stroke only, though it is hardly ever done.'

BELL CHAMBER WINDOWS.

'The bell chamber windows should be as large as possible and as open as possible. Not long ago I was consulted about some bells and a clock at Leeds; they got a bell of 16 cwt. and a clock to strike on it, and yet when it was done they could hardly hear it close to the church; and no wonder, for they put it about ten feet below four narrow windows, which were also filled up with those sloping boards or thin stones called louvres to keep the rain out.

'The proper filling up for bell chamber windows is strong wire netting close enough to keep the birds out, and the floor should be covered with lead or zinc laid so as to carry off the wet, which will do the bells no harm even if a little does blow in on them. Snow is not kept out even by louvres, and it ought to be swept off the bells before they are rung.

'At Scarborough they have put up shutters, which are opened only when the bells are rung.'

SINGLES IN BOB ROYAL.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I fancy the point of my letter on this subject seems to have been overlooked. I did not mean to do away with singles, but rather to put in as many as possible, while at the same time giving the 6th her full extent 'Home' and the 5th in regular sequence in alternate courses. The late Mr. Arthur Knights had a number of compositions with a multiplicity of singles—I myself called one of them at his own special request at Chesterfield many years ago. I aimed at symmetry in design in two halves, giving 5th in alternate places regularly, and sent two compositions with my first letter. If you could find space for the second one, I think your correspondent will see what I meant. Everyone knows that the extent with 6th home can be got in Bob Royal with two singles, but to keep 5th in two alternate places in one half, and in the other two places in the second half, four singles is the minimum.

ERNEST MORRIS.

Coventry Street, Leicester.

5,040 BOB ROYAL (Ernest Morris).			
23456	W	M	H
43625	S	—	—
65324	S	—	—
43526	S	S	—
25436	—	S	—
24536	—	S	—
35246	—	S	—
32546	—	S	—
45236	S	S	—
42536	—	S	—
35426	—	S	—
34526	—	S	—
25346	—	S	—
23546	—	S	—
45326	S	S	—

Continued W M H			
23456	S	M	H
36524	—	—	S
23564	—	—	S
53426	S	—	—
42356	S	—	—
52346	S	—	—
34256	S	—	—
54236	S	—	—
32456	S	—	S
52436	S	—	S
43256	S	—	—
53246	S	—	—
24356	S	—	—
54326	S	—	S

ESSEX RINGER A PRISONER OF WAR.

News has just been received through the War Office that R. W. Pye, R.Q.M.S., 2/5th Essex Regiment, of Kelvedon, missing since July 1st, is now a prisoner of war.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT COALBROOKDALE.

The meeting of the Shropshire Association at Coalbrookdale on September 19th proved a great success, over twenty ringers attending, including four in H.M. services. The ten bells had been silenced and were soon set going in standard methods. Handbells were also used.

A short service in church was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. T. Eland, who gave the ringers a hearty welcome. One of the visitors played the organ.

Tea was at 5 p.m., and a short business meeting followed, with the Vicar in the chair. A collection for the J. S. Goldsmith fund realised over £1. The meeting was unanimous that 'The Ringing World' should be carried on as a memorial to the late editor.

Mr. William Chester, of Market Drayton, tapped an excellent course of Bob Royal on handbells, a much better one than he and nine others afterwards rang on the tower bells.

The 'go' of the bells was much admired by the visitors, and is a proof that everything is ready and in good order for the time when peace comes. It was hoped that more meetings of the kind will be held, all being convinced that it is a good way of keeping the Exercise going and interest in the art alive.

WHEN PEACE COMES.

FROM 'THE WALTHAMSTOW GUARDIAN.'

I had a very interesting and instructive talk the other day with a member of a firm of bell-founders. He explained to me that when 'the joy-bells ring out again' some of the timbre and tone of the bells will have temporarily deteriorated through non-usage. Also there will obviously be a serious shortage of experienced bellringers, as many of them will have grown too old, and the younger men have been scattered to the four corners of the earth. In any case, those remaining will sadly need practice, and, let me add, bellringing is no easy job for the tyro.

I remember visiting a belfry in my youth and attempting to ring a bigish bell: the result was that through hanging on to the rope instead of letting it pass through my hands when I had got some momentum on the bell, I hit the roof of the belfry and landed on the floor—'experientia docet stultos!' So when the St. Mary's of Wanstead and Woodford burst forth once again in would-be joyous carillons, don't be surprised or critical at the clang.

PULBOROUGH.—On Sunday, September 20th, on the front six (minus clappers), 720 Bob Minor: A. V. Corden 1, Pte. F. G. Sparks, R.A.M.C. 2, L. Stilwell (conductor) 3, L.A.C. E. Treagus, R.A.F. 4, W. Curtis 5, C. Longhurst 6. And 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: W. Curtis 1, Pte. F. G. Sparks 2, A. V. Corden 3, E. Treagus 4, C. Longhurst 5, L. Stilwell (conductor) 6. First 720's by W. Curtis.

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).

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.

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

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. 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.

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.—H. S. Brocklebank, 30, Southhill Road, Birkenhead, and G. R. Newton, 57, Amphill Road, Liverpool 17.

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.—A. E. Rowley and J. W. Cotton, Hon. Secs.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Oct. 10th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

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.

BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be at Cawthorne on Saturday, October 10th. Handbells available in Parish Room 2.30 p.m. Business meeting 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. for those who notify me not later than Wednesday, October 7th. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Taunton Deanery.—Annual meeting at St. James', Taunton, Saturday, October 10th. Tower bells (silent) at 3 p.m., also handbells. Business meeting in tower 6 p.m. Own arrangements for tea.—W. H. Lloyd, Act. Sec., 46, East Street, Taunton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. Francis Xavier's, Salisbury Street, on Saturday, Oct. 10th. Meet at the tower 3 p.m. It is hoped that tower bells and handbells will be available. The Rector has promised to provide tea for those who send in their names to me not later than Wednesday, Oct. 7th.—G. R. Newton, 57, Amphill Road, Liverpool 17.

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.

RETURN THANKS.

THE LATE MR. W. J. NEVARD.—The family of the late Mr. W. J. Nevard wish to thank all friends for kind expressions of sympathy shown in their sad bereavement and for the beautiful floral tributes and many letters of sympathy. Please accept this as their grateful acknowledgment.

BIRTH.

CHADDOCK.—On August 29th, to the wife of Sergt. N. Chaddock, R.A.O.C., a daughter. Sergt. Chaddock and his wife were both members of the band at Whiston, near Rotherham, and Sergt. Chaddock was Ringing Master of the Sheffield and District Society.

THE BELLS OF OXFORD.

So have I stood at eve on Isis' banks,
To hear the merry Christ Church bells rejoice.
So have I sat too in thy honoured shades,
Distinguished Magdalen, on Cherwell's brink,
To hear thy silver Wolsey tones so sweet.
And so too have I paused and held my oar
And suffer'd the slow stream to bear me home
While Wykeham's peal along the meadow ran.—

James Hurdis.

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