

THE RINGING WORLD

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

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A FOOTNOTE.

•In a letter which appears on another page, Mr. Frank E. Haynes, after a full and just acknowledgment of the skill, concentration and patience shown by Mr. John Thomas and his handbell band, takes exception to the footnote which said that one of their performances was 'the first peal rung on fourteen bells.' That distinction, says Mr. Haynes, belongs to the peal of Stedman rung at Birmingham in 1922.

Now, whether it be so or not, Mr. Thomas and his band are blameless in the matter; for the footnote was not his, but ours; and was adopted after consideration as the best way of conveying the necessary information in the minimum number of words. Economy of wording is always essential in footnotes and was especially so in this particular instance if all the peal reports were to be published.

We were not unaware of the point raised by Mr. Haynes, but judged it was fully met by the paragraph on another page which was really a developed footnote to the peal, and which specially mentioned the Birmingham performance.

We have here, raised once more, a question which ringers have always debated and will, we do not doubt, continue to debate. Is a peal of Stedman Caters a ten-bell peal? or a peal of Stedman Cinques a twelve-bell peal? Readers will remember the controversy which arose when the Painswick men claimed that their seventeen thousand of Grandsire Cinques was the longest twelve-bell peal, supplanting the fifteen-thousand of Cambridge Maximus at Ashton-under-Lyne. Mr. Haynes maintains that a peal of Cinques is a twelve-bell peal, and he cites the practice of this journal in support of his views. It is, and has been from the beginning, the custom of 'The Ringing World' to publish reports of peals of Triples and Major together under the heading 'eight bell peals,' and similarly with Caters and Royal, and Cinques and Maximus. But that is merely for convenience of arrangement and must not be taken as evidence in this controversy. Mr. Haynes goes on to speak of London Surprise. 'We are all aware,' he says, 'that a man can ring the treble to London Surprise and be entirely ignorant of the method itself. Yet, if a peal is achieved, he may obviously claim to have taken part in a peal of London.' Why cannot the tenor man in a peal of Stedman Triples or Cinques do the same? The analogy is a false one.

(Continued on page 390.)

The work of the treble is an integral part of London Surprise and is just as much a part of the method as the work of the tenor. The bell which covers Triples, or Caters, or Cinques takes no part in the method at all. This view is supported by the only formal and official pronouncement which has any bearing on the matter. The Central Council's rule is that a peal of Triples must be rung on seven bells 'with or without a covering tenor,' and peals of Caters and Cinques are to be rung on nine and eleven bells 'with the addition of a covering bell.'

In ordinary circumstances a certain amount of flexibility of expression is allowable and necessary. If we were to ring the tenor to a peal of Stedman Caters we should naturally include the performance among our other peals in that method, and so would Mr. Haynes and Mr. Thomas and any other ringer. But not one of us would go on to argue that therefore Stedman was a method rung on ten bells. Or does Mr. Haynes think it wrong to say that the St. Martin's Youths of Birmingham are the only society which has rung peals of Stedman on eight and ten bells?

The commonsense view of the whole question seems to be that in ordinary circumstances a good deal of latitude may be allowed, but when a method or a record is mentioned a more precise and rigid use is required. We shall be following the general custom of the Exercise and leaving no room for ambiguity if we say that the first peal on thirteen bells was rung by the Birmingham men and the first peal on fourteen bells by the Edmonton band.

TEN BELL PEAL.

APPLETON, BERKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., September 16, 1944, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5067 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt.

JOHN E. SPICE Treble	WILLIAM JUDGE 6
ALBERT E. LOCK 2	WALTER F. JUDGE 7
MRS. A. E. LOCK 3	GEORGE HOLIFIELD 8
MISS MARIE R. CROSS ... 4	RICHARD WHITE 9
*WILLIAM C. PORTER ... 5	†CECIL G. CALCUTT ... Tenor

Composed by C. H. HATTERSLEY. Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.
* First peal of Stedman Caters. † First peal on ten bells. First peal of Stedman Caters as conductor.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

OLDHAM, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Mon., Sept. 4, 1944, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS, MOORSIDE,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION.

JOHN MEADOWCROFT ... Treble	ISAAC GARSIDE 5
FRED DUNKERLEY 2	CHARLES HAYNES 6
FRANK LAWTON 3	IVAN KAY 7
*VERNON SYKES 4	*HERBERT BARLOW ... Tenor

Conducted by I. KAY.

* 25th peal together.

NORWICH.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Sept. 9, 1944, in Three Hours and Nineteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 13½ cwt.

R. W. BARBER Treble	HENRY TOOKE 5
GEORGE SAYERS 2	REV. A. G. THURLOW ... 6
MISS P. GRAPES 3	GEORGE BAILEY 7
ERNEST SHORTING 4	A. G. BASON Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by A. G. BASON.

ENDERBY, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Fri., Sept. 15, 1944, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5624 CHANGES;

Tenor 11½ cwt.

HARRY WAYNE Treble	SHIRLEY BURTON 5
*JILL POOLE 2	WILLIAM J. ROOT 6
*JOHN R. SMITH 3	EDWARD R. WHITEHEAD ... 7
ERNEST MORRIS 4	HAROLD J. POOLE Tenor

Composed by F. BENNETT. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

* First peal in the method.

BALCOMBE, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Sept. 16, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF OAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

MIDDLETON'S COMPOSITION.

Tenor 9 cwt.

HORACE E. LILLEY ... Treble	ALBERT F. LAKER 5
PHILLIP A. CORBY 2	HARRY W. SIMMONS 6
REGINALD V. JOHNSON ... 3	FREDERICK E. COLLINS ... 7
ALBERT J. STEELE 4	CHARLES H. KIPPIN ... Tenor

Conducted by C. H. KIPPIN.

The first peal in the method on the bells.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Sept. 16, 1944, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 24 cwt. in D.

FREDERICK OLDROYD ... Treble	NORMAN HARDING 5
GEORGE L. GROVER 2	FRANK H. HICKS 6
CLARENCE H. DOBBIE ... 3	WILLIAM T. BEESON 7
ALFRED H. PULLING 4	CHARLES F. ANDREWS ... Tenor

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

ST. ALBANS, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Sept. 16, 1944, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 23 cwt.

JOHN E. ROOTES Treble	EDWIN JENNINGS 5
*RALPH BIRD 2	HAROLD G. CASHMORE ... 6
RICHARD G. BELL 3	CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 7
FRANCIS KIRK 4	MAURICE F. R. HIBBERT ... Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by H. G. CASHMORE.
* First peal in the method. Rung for the golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Cartmel.

ALVERSTOKE, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Sept. 16, 1944, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 13½ cwt.

JOSIAH D. HARRIS ... Treble	*PATRICK PAGE 5
FREDERICK A. BURNETT ... 2	HAROLD NOBES 6
*THOMAS PAGE 3	ERNEST J. MUNDAY 7
*JOHN H. HUNT 4	FREDERICK W. BURNETT ... Tenor

Composed by GEO. WILLIAMS. Conducted by F. W. BURNETT.

* First peal.

LEISTON, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Sat., Sept. 16, 1944, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor 20½ cwt in E.

CHARLES WHITING ... Treble	JAMES M. BAILEY 5
*MRS. J. E. BAILEY 2	*ALAN G. HALL 6
JAMES G. RUMSEY 3	GEORGE GREENACRE 7
ERNEST S. BAILEY 4	JAMES E. BAILEY Tenor

Composed by J. REEVES. Conducted by J. E. BAILEY.

* First peal in the method. First peal of Treble Bob as conductor

HANBURY, WORCESTERSHIRE. THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Sept. 16, 1944, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,

A PEAL OF OXFORD BOB TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HARVEY REEVES' SIX-PART (C.C.C., No. 22). Tenor 12 cwt.

WILLIAM RANFORD	Treble	ALLEN MORGAN	5
CHARLES R. SMITH	2	RALPH W. SAYERS	6
WALTER H. RAXTER	3	REGINALD WOODVATT	7
GEORGE E. LARGE	4	CHRIS. F. BLISSETT	Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE E. LARGE.

STOKE-ON-TRENT, STAFFORDSHIRE. THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Sept. 16, 1944, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER AD VINCLIA,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor 20½ cwt.

EDWARD STEELE	Treble	WILLIAM CARNWELL	5
*GEORGE JONES	2	†ARTHUR W. HALL	6
ANDREW SHUFFLEBOTHAM	3	ANDREW THOMPSON	7
EDWIN W. CARTLIDGE	4	CHARLES H. PAGE	Tenor

Composed by J. THORP. Conducted by CHARLES H. PAGE.

* First peal in the method. † 60th peal.

LINTON, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Sept. 16, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 15 cwt.

HARRY BAKER	Treble	WILLIAM A. OLDFIELD	5
*MRS. T. CULLINGWORTH	2	THOMAS E. SONE	6
TOM SAUNDERS	3	PERCY PAGE	7
FREDERICK S. MACEY	4	WILLIAM GORRINGE	Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by THOMAS E. SONE.

* First peal in the method. Rung for the golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Sone.

SIX BELL PEALS.

SOMERSHAM, HUNTS.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Tues., Sept. 12, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-One Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST.

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven extents. Tenor 14 cwt.

*ERNEST WAKELING	Treble	*GEOFFREY DODDS	4
MICHAEL R. D. HARFORD	2	†ERIC NOMES	5
REV. B. F. SHEPARD	3	FRANK WARRINGTON	Tenor

Conducted by F. WARRINGTON.

* First peal. † First peal of Minor.

WILLESBOROUGH, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Sept. 16, 1944, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven extents. Tenor 12 cwt.

*RONALD F. BOOTH	Treble	†MARK LANCEFIELD	4
*JOHN W. IRELAND	2	WILLIAM J. LANCEFIELD	5
*RICHARD NEWTON	3	EDWARD S. RUCK	Tenor

Conducted by EDWARD S. RUCK.

* First peal. † First peal inside.

HORTON, BUCKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Sept. 16, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of London and Cambridge Surprise, Oxford Treble Bob, Double Court, Double Oxford, St. Clement's and Plain Bob.

Tenor 12 cwt. in F sharp.

WILLIAM WELLING	Treble	*WALTER SPARROW	4
*GEORGE C. GOODMAN	2	*G. WILLIAM MORRIS	5
RICHARD E. PRICE	3	TONY PRICE	Tenor

Conducted by TONY PRICE.

* First peal in seven methods.

FLAMSTEAD, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Sept. 16, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LEONARD,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one extent each of Double Bob, St. Clement's, Double Oxford, Oxford Bob, Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob.

Tenor 13 cwt.

*WILLIAM A. BEDDARD	Treble	*WILLIAM C. HUGHES	4
JOE HEBBS	2	HERBERT GATES	5
AUGUSTINE V. GOOD	3	WALTER AYRE	Tenor

Conducted by WALTER AYRE.

* First peal in seven methods. Rung for the golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Cartmel.

HANDBELL PEALS.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Wed., Sept. 6, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-One Minutes,

IN THE CATHEDRAL BELFRY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERPILLARS, 5079 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

G. STEDMAN MORRIS	1-2	PERCY L. HARRISON	5-6
HAROLD S. POOLE	3-4	ERNEST MORRIS	7-8
PHILIP A. CORRY	9-10		

Composed by G. LINDOFF. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE, BOURNEMOUTH.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sun., Sept. 10, 1944, in Two Hours and Nineteen Minutes,

AT ST. PETER'S HALL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor size 15 in C.

MISS JESSIE C. CHICK	1-2	ARTHUR V. DAVIS	5-6
MRS. F. J. MARSHALLSAY	3-4	FRANCIS S. WILSON	7-8

Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

FELKIRK, YORKS.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Mon., Sept. 11, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Three Minutes,

AT NO. 3, FELKIRK, SOUTH HIENDLEY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14 in D.

DANIEL SMITH	1-2	CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY	5-6
HAROLD CHANT	3-4	RAYMOND FORD	7-8

Composed by GEORGE LEWIS. Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY. Rung in memory of Mr. J. T. White, 45 years a ringer at St. Peter's, Felkirk.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sun., Sept. 17, 1944, in Two Hours and Twenty-Seven Minutes,

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

MRS. J. THOMAS	1-2	ALBERT J. WALLMAN	5-6
JOHN THOMAS	3-4	CHARLES W. ROBERTS	7-8

Composed by J. PLATT. Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.

First in the method in hand by all.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

MEETING AT WHIMPLE.

A meeting of the Aylesbeare Branch of the Guild of Devon Ringers, held at Whimple on September 9th, was attended by members from Buckfastleigh, East Budleigh, Collaton Raleigh, Dawlish, Heavitree, St. David's and St. Thomas' (Exeter), Honiton Clyst, Kenn, Otterton, Ottery St. Mary, Sowton, Topsham, Withycombe Raleigh and the local tower.

After the service conducted by the Rector, the Rev. E. A. Jullian, assisted by Prebendary E. V. Cox, tea, provided by ladies connected with the local band, was served, and some 60 members and friends were present. Prebendary Cox presided, and in appreciation of the work of Mr. Brooks, late secretary, he proposed that 'he was leaving the branch in a flourishing condition and had earned the gratitude of all the members' be recorded in the minutes. Nine new members were elected. The next meeting was fixed for January 13th at Withycombe Raleigh. The methods rung were Grandsire and Stedman Doubles and Kent and Oxford Treble Bob Minor.

CURIOUS TOWERS AND BELFRIES.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

The Editor in his leader of August 4th quite rightly laid stress upon the truth that in the past architects very often ignored the fact that the towers they planned and built would carry swinging rings of bells, and even where they did make provision, often forgot to place therein adequate means of reaching them. How many towers are there without proper access to their upper storeys except by awkward—and often dangerous—ladders? We have noted in the series on central towers many examples where—to get to the ringing chamber and bells—one has a roundabout journey often over or under roofs, or along exposed galleries of some height, very trying to the nerves of the visitor. Again, many belfries are made awkward for the ringers by ill-conceived clock cases or other obstruction. Often where they happen to be at the west end on the ground floor the sexton invariably uses this for his cleaning utensils, buckets, mops, ladders, etc., and perhaps to house the bier and other paraphernalia. It is not only such things as these that make ringers and ringing uncomfortable, but many other difficulties have to be surmounted, such as where the base of a tower forms a porch and the congregation pass through the circle of ropes. These are but a few of the awkward things that ringers find, and there are many curious and even quaint belfries scattered over the countryside.

In this series I hope to give examples of the more notable of these, of course only mentioning such places where there are five bells and over. These are primarily of interest to change ringers, but there are hundreds of others with less numbers of bells.

Everyone is familiar with the famous tower of St. Botolph's, Boston, Lincs, often called 'Boston Stump.' The tower, built in the Perpendicular style, rises in stately grandeur to a height of 272½ft., and is divided into four storeys, the bells hanging in the third, with the ringing chamber immediately beneath and over the groined ceiling which is 156ft. above the floor. Before the great restoration in 1932 there was an old and mixed ring of eight bells with four extra clock bells, cast in 1896 from the small bells which formed the carillon which used to hang in the tower. Ringing was carried on under difficult conditions, and it was not altogether a pleasant task. After climbing 185 steps and opening the belfry door, one was confronted with a very dark cavernous-looking room, 34ft. square by a little over 7ft. high. When one got accustomed to the gloom, one could see a high dome rising up from the centre of the room to within 2ft. 7in. of the ceiling. Round the bottom of this dome, which was actually the vaulted roof inside the tower, the ringers stood to ring, two on each side, quite close to the wall. The ropes were local made and had no proper sallies, merely a bit of wool woven in, and as one could only see the head and shoulders of the ringers opposite it was difficult to see if they were at hand or back stroke. The 'so-called sallies' went round the wheels, and it was impossible to manipulate the ropes and keep them on the bell wheels unless they were slipped through the hand at every stroke. The bells were hung immediately above, and a tall ringer could almost touch them. The ceiling was formed of huge oak beams on which the bells were hung, the spaces between the beams had at one time been covered with boards, but most of

these had rotted away, leaving great holes through which the bells could be seen swinging. The noise was terrific, and it was only by using his full lung powers that the conductor could make himself heard. As there were no windows in the place, artificial light had to be used even in daytime. This was provided by candles stuck in brackets round the walls, which when lit produced a very ghostly scene. In spite of these difficulties, a band of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild rang a peal of 5,040 Stedman Triples on October 11th, 1913, in 3 hours 21 minutes, conducted by the late Rev. H. Law Jamies.



BOSTON STUMP.

In 1932 a great restoration scheme was carried out, and the bells all recast and rehung in a new iron and steel frame on specially constructed concrete bases, some 10 to 12ft. higher in the tower. The floor of the ringers' room was also raised, which, although still leaving the central dome protruding, does not now interfere with the ringers' view. There is now a well-lighted and airy belfry of about 10½ft. high, and it is a pleasure to ring the ten bells hung for ringing in full swing. There are also four clock bells hung 'dead.' Since restoration, a number of peals of Caters and Royal have been rung by both local and visiting ringers. The weight of the new tenor is 21 cwt. 1 qr. 10 lb., and this—a descendant of one cast in 1657, bears an inscription on one side surmounted by a Union Jack and the Stars and Stripes, cast on shields, indicating the part played in the restoration by the Bostonians of Massachusetts. The connection between the two towns is not in name only: they are linked up through the Pilgrim Fathers.

(To be continued.)

DEATH OF MR. R. N. RUNHAM.

The death is announced of Mr. Richard N. Runham, Reading, who passed away on September 9th at the age of 52 years.

The funeral at St. Michael's, Tilehurst, was attended by many ringers. Before the service the bells were rung half-muffled, and over the grave a course of Grandsire Triples was rung by Messrs. Goodger, Lewington, A. Osborne and R. T. Hibbert. Touches of Stedman and Grandsire Triples were rung on the church bells in the evening.

Mr. Runham learned to ring in 1906 at St. Laurence's, Reading, and rang his first peal there in 1910. In 1912 he was employed at Warner's bell foundry at Spitalfields and during that time he rang several peals with the Society of Cumberland Youths. He served in the last war and in 1918 returned to Reading, where he joined the band at St. Giles' and afterwards at Tilehurst. He was elected captain of the last-mentioned belfry in 1939. He had rung 63 peals, which included Stedman Triples and Caters, Grandsire Triples, Caters and Cinques, Bob Major and Minor, Kent Treble Bob Major, Double Norwich, Cambridge Surprise Major, Superlative and Bristol Surprise Major, and Kent Treble Bob Maximus.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT BEVERLEY.**

A meeting of the Eastern District of the Yorkshire Association, held at Beverley on September 2nd, was attended by about 60 members from Barnby Don, Beverley (Minster and St. Mary's), Cottingham, Hessle, Hull (Holy Trinity and St. Mary's), Howden, Headingley (St. Michael's), Kirk Ella, Market Weighton, Nunburnholme, Patrington, Selby Abbey and York Minster, and visitors from Scunthorpe, Ulceby, Lincolnshire, and London.

Service in St. Mary's was conducted by the Vicar, and the address was given by the Vicar of the Minster, the Rev. D. T. Dick.

Tea was served in the Mayor's Parlour in the Guildhall, and the company were received by the Mayor of Beverley, Alderman W. Hutchinson.

The business meeting was presided over by Mr. A. H. Fox, the vice-president, supported by the Mayor, the Vicars of the Minster and St. Mary's and the district officers.

Mr. William Jobson, of St. Mary's, Beverley, was elected a member, and Mr. Nolan Golden, of Norwich, a life member.

Market Weighton was selected as the next place of meeting, to be held this year if possible.

The methods rung included Stedman and Grandsire Caters and Triples, and Plain and Kent Treble Bob Royal, Major and Minor.

A collection for the Association's Bell Repair Fund realised £1 10s. 10d.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**MEETING AT FARNHAM ROYAL.**

Members from Amersham, Boyne Hill, Beaconsfield, Braywood, Burnham, Cookham, Fulmer, Old Windsor, Penn, Slough, Stoke Poges and Wendover, and visitors from Rochester Row, Feltham, Bushey and St. Albans attended a meeting of the East Berks and South Bucks District of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, held at Farnham Royal on August 26th. Service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. C. W. Warner, who welcomed the Guild. Mr. Fowler proposed a vote of thanks and said he was glad to see so many young ringers present.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Mr. H. J. Poole's letter leaves us exactly where we were. He contributes nothing for us to consider in the way of advantages for diocesan guilds as opposed to the Midland Counties Association.

If he would indicate where the association has failed to cater for ringers (after all, the noted band at Burton in the past was a product of the association and the present prominence of the Leicester district has been developed within it), then we could begin to consider where diocesan guilds could be an improvement.

As the proposer of the scheme, surely Mr. Poole has something better to put before the members than merely suggesting how the guilds should be constituted and how the finances should be allocated.

We in Derby consider we have an association which caters for our requirements, and the visitors we get at our meetings indicates that others think as we do.

W. LANCASTER.

83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

TECHNICAL TERMS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Though the use of the terms 'up' and 'down' by ringers seems puzzling to musicians and beginners there is logic in the convention. We invariably write 123456 or 213546 when we put changes on paper, and it is the almost universal practice to hang rings in the same direction, left to right. As one correspondent said, 2 or 12 is a higher place than 1. Hence the treble moves 'up' to a higher place. The terms 'up' and 'down' are used commonly for direction to a place. The 'up' line to London wherever we may be in England runs from left to right, if we face London, and traffic to a place is on the 'near' side and runs from left to right in that direction. It is interesting to note that the movement 'up' the scale on a piano is left to right. Hence it would appear that since the treble moves from its position left to right it must go 'up.'

Okehampton.

FREDK. C. SMALE.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

.....

THE

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THE WHITECHAPEL BELL FOUNDRY

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MEARS & STAINBANK

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MUFFLES,
Etc,

'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The official Journal of the Central Council or
Church Bell Ringers.

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.

Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.

The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk.

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All communications for this journal should be addressed
to:—

The Editor,

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PLAIN BOB FOURTEEN-IN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In common, no doubt, with many others of your readers,
I have noted with interest the progress made by Mr. John Thomas
and his band of handbell ringers in recent months at Enfield, and I
should appreciate the opportunity of congratulating them, especially,
of course, upon the peal of Plain Bob on 14 bells which they accom-
plished on August 27th. Such a performance calls for a degree of
skill, concentration and patience, of which the Enfield band may
justly feel proud.

But mingled with my pleasure and interest there is now a certain
disappointment and feeling of regret—a feeling which I venture to
suggest is by no means confined to myself—that is occasioned by the
footnote to the peal, which states that it is 'the first peal rung on
14 bells.' Indeed, I am surprised, not only that Mr. Thomas should
make such a claim, but also that you, who as Editor have shown such
discrimination in the publication of footnotes, should countenance it.

You yourself, Mr. Editor, are obviously aware that the claim is
untenable because on the previous page of the same number of 'The
Ringing World' you publish particulars of two peals of Stedman
Cinques, one at Leicester and the other at Cheltenham, under the
heading 'Twelve-Bell Peals.' Among the eight-bell peals also you
record two peals of Triples, both, curiously enough, rung at Bir-
mingham.

Most ringers will agree with you that the peals at Leicester and
Cheltenham were, in actual fact, rung on twelve bells and the two at
Birmingham on eight bells; it follows then that the first peal on
fourteen bells was rung at Birmingham in 1922, conducted by Mr.
Albert Walker.

May I hasten to add that it is not primarily because it is a peal
at Birmingham with which the present performance is bound to be
compared that I write to you? I am writing because I feel that as a
result of this obviously false footnote there is a likelihood of the old
controversies being reopened regarding the part played by the ringer:
(a) of the treble in all methods where that bell is merely hunting up
and down, and (b) of the tenor behind. We all know that a man can
ring the treble to London Surprise and be entirely ignorant of the
method itself, and that if a peal is achieved under such conditions he
may obviously claim to have taken part in a peal of London Surprise,
if he desires to do so. Such claims, of course, used frequently to be
made, and it is one of the virtues of your present policy regarding
footnotes that they no longer appear, even though quite justifiable
logically. Everyone, too, would agree, I suppose, that Mr. Ernest
Morris took part in a peal of Stedman Cinques at Leicester on August
26th, but if the footnote to the Enfield peal is correct, then Mr.
Morris was not present at all.

Arguments of this nature, however, will get us nowhere. As has
been pointed out on many occasions, there are certain conventions in
connection with change ringing, and especially with its terminology,
that must be accepted if we are to understand one another at all;
certainly they must be accepted if your peal columns are to remain
intelligible to the majority. And a spirit of healthy rivalry in the
Exercise can undoubtedly be a spur to progress. But surely I detract
nothing from the merit of the peal of Plain Bob at Enfield when I
congratulate the band on having rung the first peal of Fourteen-in
and the second peal on fourteen bells?

102, Vicarage Road, Smethwick, 41.

FRANK E. HAYNES.

[Reference to this letter is made in the leading article.]

THE BELLS OF ST. MARY'S.

An address delivered on September 16th, in Acton Parish Church, by the Editor of 'The Ringing World.'

We are here this afternoon as part of the celebrations to mark the seven-hundredth anniversary of the foundation of this church, and my job is to say something about the bells which hang in the steeple. There is a lot to be said about church bells. They have borne a long and intimate part in the common life of the people, and books can be written, and have been written about them, their history, their archaeology, and their uses.

But when we come to speak about any particular peal of bells the case is different. History only concerns itself with individual things when they are outstanding and unusual. There are hundreds of peals throughout the country, and we shall best understand the history of any one of them, not so much in the rather scanty details we can gather from old churchwardens' accounts and parish records, as in the general story of the church bells of England.

That is true of the bells here in Acton. They are an average peal typical of hundreds of peals throughout the country. They are not remarkable in any particular way for their beauty of tone, or weight, or age, or inscriptions. They have played no great part in the art of change ringing. They are an average peal, which, with their predecessors, have served the interests of the church and people of Acton for many generations.

The oldest bell now hanging in the steeple was cast in the year 1637 during the reign of King Charles the First. That is not very old as church bells go. There are hundreds throughout the country just as old and many much older. Acton had bells long before that. In fact, we may be quite sure that when the first church was built on this site 700 years ago a bell was hung in it. It was quite a small bell, much smaller than any in the tower now, and it probably hung in a wooden structure above the roof.

BEGINNINGS OF RINGING.

That bell no doubt served the church for many years by itself. But as the years went on and the church was rebuilt and provided with a tower, one or two heavier and more powerful bells were provided. Then came the time, somewhere about the year 1400, say rather more than five hundred years ago, when Englishmen began to ring their bells in peal, which was really the beginnings of our present-day ringing.

For the benefit of those present who are not ringers, I should explain the difference between tolling and chiming, and ringing. When a bell is tolled or chimed it is swung only just enough to make the clapper strike it on one side, and that need be no more than a few inches. But in ringing the bell is swung high enough for the clapper to strike fully on both sides, and to allow the rate of striking to be controlled and varied. Actually we ringers to-day swing our bells a full circle at every blow, from mouth upwards round to mouth upwards again. Five hundred years ago the bells were not swung quite so high as that, but they were swung high enough to make ringing a distinctive and new thing in the use of bells.

This ringing became very popular with the people, and in order to carry it out they added to the number of bells in their towers and cast and tuned them to a musical scale. It was a distinctively English invention, for though there are many bells in Christendom and indeed all over the world, nowhere else except in this country, and the countries where Englishmen have settled, are bells cast and tuned to be rung together. Belgium and the Low Countries have many bells tuned to a musical scale, but they are used for tune playing, and are not, and cannot be, swung.

For the purposes of this early ringing three, four or five bells were necessary, and during the fifteenth century parishes all over the country, in town and village alike, were increasing their bells to those numbers. More were not needed, and another century went by before there were rings of six anywhere except in a few special instances.

SAUNCE BELLS.

About what happened at Acton we have no definite information, but we may conclude that the parish followed the fashion and added to the number of bells. Perhaps there were three shortly before the year 1400. Probably there were four before the year 1500. We do know that there were four ringing bells in the reign of King Edward the Sixth, for in the year 1552 a general survey was made of all the goods and ornaments in all the parish churches throughout the country, and most of the inventories then sent in by the churchwardens, including that for Acton, still exist, and are preserved at the Public Record Office.

Meanwhile, what had happened to the humble little bell which hung in the first church? Probably it had been broken through usage once or twice and had been recast. But it may not have been. One thing we may be certain of. It was not discarded and thrown out of use. It continued to hang among its younger and bigger sisters, and, because of its handy size, was used for several purposes connected with the ritual of the services. It is mentioned in the 1552 inventory and is called there a saunce bell. Saunce bells were common everywhere. Whether, as I am inclined to suspect, they were the original bells which survived when the larger ringing peal was supplied, or whether they were later introduced to meet a fairly obvious need, cannot be known, but they continued in regular use down to quite recent times, and there are still scores of them in the country, mostly,

of course, recast in later years. Ealing Parish Church has one still, and there is the equivalent of them in all the London city churches.

It became the fashion in some places to hang the old saunce bell in a turret on the top of the tower for the clock to strike on. The idea was that the bell could be heard further, if it were more or less in the open, than when it was in the bell chamber among the other bells. This is what happened at Acton. Acton had a clock in 1552, and some time (in the early seventeenth century, I imagine) the old saunce bell, which had been recast during the previous century, was hung on the top of the steeple for the clock to strike on. And there it served the parish for another two hundred or two hundred and fifty years.

When the present lofty tower was erected seventy years ago and the bells restored and put into their present form, the new clock was made to strike and chime on the new bells. The work of the old saunce bell was finished. It ought to have been pensioned off and hung either among the other bells or down inside the church as a most interesting and valuable link with the past. But unfortunately the then churchwardens and the men who were engaged on the rebuilding of the church had not enough imagination. Bell metal was wanted for the new tenor, and so they broke up the old saunce bell to help to supply it. It was a great pity, but there is at least this thought—that it is quite possible that the metal of the bell which was rung seven hundred years ago from the first church on this site is still included in the bells we have just been ringing, and it is certain that the tenor is in some rather small degree composed of metal which was in use here four hundred years ago.

What became of the four bells which hung in the steeple in 1552? As individual bells they have gone. Probably they suffered the fate of so many other bells and were broken in the course of their service. Or it may be that one or more of them was recast to adapt them to new conditions when the number of the ring was increased to meet the expanding needs of ringing. First, and probably in 1637, the number was increased to five. That was the year when Ellis Knight, of Reading, a noted bell founder of the time, cast the present seventh which then became the tenor of the ring. Perhaps he recast some or all of the others. Later on, the ring was further augmented to six, and in 1712 the present sixth, the second oldest bell in the tower, was recast by James Bagley.

The last alteration of the bells was in the year 1877, when the present lofty steeple was built. John Warner and Sons, of Cripple-gate, who made the familiar chime bells in the clock tower at Westminster, added a treble and tenor and recast some of the others, thus completing the octave.

The bells have had a chequered career; all of the old ones have been recast, some more than once, but it is quite reasonable to think that at least a substantial part of the metal of the bells which were in use here before the Reformation is still doing duty in the present bells in the steeple.

ANCIENT MIDDLESEX BELLS.

I have said that the oldest bell now in the steeple was cast in 1637. That is three hundred years ago, not a long time as the ages of bells go, but it is a long time in the history of the modern world.

All through those years and all through the many changes which took place, the bell was serving exactly the same purpose as it does to-day and in the same way. Church bells are one of the strongest links we have with the Church and people of bygone ages.

Here in Middlesex we have not many really old bells. Not far away in the old church at Kingsbury there hangs a bell which was cast about the year 1350 in the reign of King Edward the Third, when Englishmen were fighting in France where they are fighting to-day, and had just fought the battle of Crecy, a victory as hardly won and as complete as that lately achieved by our armies. Another bell of much the same date is at Greenford. These are small humble bells which have survived because they were in tiny obscure villages, where the people were not numerous enough or wealthy enough to build a church tower big enough to hold a full ringing peal. At Brentford there is a bell cast about the year 1510, just after Henry the Eighth came to the throne; and another at Twickenham of about the same date. These two bells take their places among the other and later bells. I have rung each of them to a peal and there are many here to-day who have rung them to touches and never known that they were in any way older or different from the bells cast in recent years.

I do not think there are any other things in the country which have been in so long and constant use as some of our church bells. Of course, we have many churches which date from a much earlier time and all along have been used for the service of religion. But though the main fabrics may be substantially the same as when the buildings were erected, they have in all cases been altered and restored and added to. The bells are the same in every way, for once a bell is cast—apart perhaps for a little tuning—it cannot be altered. A recast bell is a new bell.

The most remarkable thing about church bells is the extraordinary hold they have had through many centuries on the affections of the people of this country and the wonderful power they have of stirring the emotions and appealing to the feelings of persons of every sort. Poets have been strongly influenced by them. Not merely poets of the weaker and more sentimental type, but the greatest of all poets, like Shakespeare, and Milton, and Tennyson, and Keats. That per-

(Continued on next page.)

THE BELLS OF ST. MARY'S.

(Continued from previous page.)

haps we might have expected. But bells have also the power to stir the deepest emotions in ordinary commonplace men and women in the street. Not, of course, everyone and but seldom anyone, but the appeal does exist.

We had a most striking example of the hold bells have on the affections of the people nearly two years ago, when, after a long silence, they rang for the victory of El Alamein. I believe that Sunday when the bells rang will go down to history as the great dividing point of this war, the time when England felt, rather than knew, that the supreme crisis had been met and passed. Church bells spoke for the whole nation then and they have done so many times throughout the centuries.

Those were exceptional occasions, and the appeal of the bells is usually to the individual on some occasion which specially concerns him alone. It is extraordinary how deep and lasting has been the love of ordinary average Englishmen for the bells of their parish churches. To-day to the Englishman abroad nothing seems so typical of home and its blessings as the sound of the bells. This age-long affection is shown by the care the laity have always taken of the bells. The bells were the one thing in the church that the laity valued more than anything else. They provided for them, kept them in order, and controlled their use. Until quite recent times the clergy appear to have had little or no say in the matter.

Anyone who has studied the churchwardens' accounts which still exist and which go back in some cases for five hundred years cannot fail to be struck with the important part the bells played in parish affairs. Far more money was spent on the bells than on any other thing connected with the church.

A VOICE.

It seems a great mystery that bells should have this great and lasting appeal to ordinary people. I think it is really due to the fact that a bell is essentially not a musical instrument, but a voice. It is one of the two supreme instruments man has invented to extend and increase the range and power of his own voice. The other is the trumpet. These two have made a longer and wider appeal to humanity than any other sound producing instrument.

A man uses his voice for two purposes. One is to convey messages and the other is to express emotions and feelings. And that was what bells were cast for. In the early ages their primary use was to convey definite messages. Some of them concerned the services of the church and some of them the secular, social life of the people. Bells were sounded to mark the beginning and ending of the day's labour, to regulate the opening and closing of markets and taverns, the outbreak of fire, or to call the people together for some civil purpose; as well as to indicate the hours of divine service or the death of some person.

BELLS AND THE POWERS OF EVIL.

For these purposes single bells were generally used, but when emotion was expressed all the bells were rung together and swung as high as they could be, to get the greatest volume of sound out of them. This ringing, too, was as much for secular as for religious purposes.

Ringling for religious purposes in the Middle Ages seems to have been almost confined to ringing at the processions during High Mass on Sundays and festivals and as a defence against evil spirits.

In early mediæval times men did really believe in the existence of wicked spirits. They were called upon to fight, not merely with abstract evil, but with evil personalities—a host of beings that existed in time and space, and were like men except that they were enormously more powerful and were invisible. It was an evil spirit that rode in the tempest to destroy the works of men, that scattered the pestilence to ruin their bodies, and that hung over their death beds, waiting to catch the soul as soon as it should be released from the body to bear it to everlasting damnation.

But if these men believed in evil spirits, they also believed in good. They believed in angels and in the great company of the Saints of God. They felt that if like Elisha's servant their eyes could be opened, they would see the whole mountain full of chariots and horsemen round about them. The fight with the evil spirits was a terrible one, but here was help for the asking. And there are other ways of asking besides the spoken word. Hence those symbolical acts and ritual which mean so much at their highest and so little at their lowest. The man who made the sign of the cross was invoking the whole tremendous power of the Incarnation; the priest who sprinkled holy water was appealing to the cleansing power of goodness, and the voice of the rung bell was a defiance flung in the face of principalities and powers, and the rulers of the darkness of the world; and an appeal to angels and archangels, and to the spirits of just men made perfect.

That was the ideal. That was exorcism at its best. But we do not need much knowledge of human nature to realise that the time was bound to come when the spirit and the reality were lost sight of in the sign; and the bells themselves were supposed to possess magical powers. That point had long since been reached in the sixteenth century and when men who shared either the scientific and sceptical spirit of the Renaissance, or the religious spirit of the Reformation, looked at all this ringing of bells to allay tempests or keep away the devil, it was no more than a sham and a lie.

One of the chief notes of the prayer book is sincerity. Nothing of the old service books was retained that could not stand the most rigorous tests of utility and truth, and inevitably all this sacramental and semi-liturgical ringing of bells had to go. One of the things the bishops and rulers of the Church set themselves to stamp out was what was called 'superstitious' ringing.

It was a necessary reform; but unfortunately the result was that ringing (as distinct from tolling and chiming) became almost entirely secular. This tendency was increased by two things. One was the strong Sabbatarian opinions held by the puritan party in the Church. They maintained that any ringing on Sundays, other than the tolling of one bell to call the people together, was Sabbath breaking and a sin. The other was the spread of bellringing as an athletic sport. This began long before the Reformation and increased during the reign of Queen Elizabeth when it was very popular among all classes of people. Our art of change ringing came a little later, but I have no time to speak about that.

For three centuries ringing remained chiefly secular, but during the last sixty years or so it has been recovered for the service of the Church, and nowadays wherever it is possible the bells are rung for the Sunday services. It has been the work of the great associations like our Middlesex Association to bring about this reform.

And though ringing was for so long mainly secular, it was little the worse for that, for it was always associated in the minds of hearers with the Church and the highest things in life. As a poet has said, it was always England's 'best music—a music hallowed by all circumstances—which, though it falls on many an unheeding ear, never fails to find some hearts which it exhilarates and some which it softens.'

FUNERAL OF MR. MAURICE SWINFELD.

The funeral of Mr. Maurice Swinfeld, whose death we announced last week, was at St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, on September 11th. Before the service a guard of honour was formed by Messrs. A. G. Foster, G. Roden, A. Wright, W. Leech, G. Harris, S. Ainger, of St. Paul's, J. H. Brittan, of St. Modwen's, R. H. Dove, of Leeds, T. W. Chapman, of Worcester, E. Beadmoore, of Ashby, J. Paget,

of Derby, and J. W. Cotton and W. H. Curson, of Overseale. Afterwards a course of Grandsire Triples was rung on the bells half-muffled. Over the grave in Burton Cemetery a course of Grandsire Triples on handbells was rung by J. W. Cotton 1-2, J. Paget 3-4, E. W. Beadmoore 5-6, W. H. Curson 7-8. In the evening St. Paul's bells were rung half-muffled.

Maurice Swinfeld, who was the son of John H. Swinfeld, a ringer well known in the Midland Counties, was born at Earl Shilton in Leicestershire on February 14th, 1898, and therefore was in his forty-seventh year when he died. He learnt to ring at St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, where his father was leader of the band, and there he rang his first peal, one of Stedman Triples, on December 27th, 1920. Two years later, on December 26th, 1922, at Overseale, he called his first peal, Mr. John O. Lancashire's variation of Washbrook's four-part composition of Stedman Triples.

Mr. Swinfeld specialised as a conductor of Stedman Triples, and the great majority of his peals, which numbered nearly 250, were in that method. He called most of them and almost always a different composition. In that respect he set up a standard for the method far higher than any other conductor has reached. His other peals as conductor included Duffield, Forward and Little Bob Major, Grandsire Triples and Caters, and Stedman Caters.



MR. MAURICE SWINFELD.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.

MEETING AT NEW ALRESFORD.

A practice meeting, held at New Alresford on September 2nd, was attended by visitors from various towers in the Winchester and Southampton districts, and from Croydon and Bedford. Ringing ranged from Grandsire and Oxford Bob Triples to the Surprise methods.

SEVEN BELL METHODS.

(Continued from page 383.)

College Double Triples. Clements Triples

1234567	1234567
2143576	2143657
2415367	2416375
4251376	4261357
2453167	2463175
4235617	4236715
2436571	2463751
4263751	4236571
2467315	2463517
4276135	4236157
2471653	2431675
4217635	4213657
4126753	4126375
1462735	1462735
1647253	1647253
6174235	6174523
6712453	6715432
7621435	7651423

About twenty pure Triples methods with six working bells and 3-lead plain courses have come down to us from the early eighteenth century. Some are duplicates except for the bob making; some are unsymmetrical; and some have irregular lead ends. The first of these last two defects is not so important as it is in the Triples methods with 6-lead plain courses; and the second defect is not so important as it is in Major and Royal methods. Still they are serious enough to make the methods not worth ringing, and should at any time a band desire to attempt a peal in a method belonging to this class, their choice ought to be confined to four—the two we gave last week and the two we give this week. The original College Triples we described in our last article, and College Double Triples is the same method, but with 4-pull dodging in front as well as behind. Each bell does a 4-pull dodge in 1-2, makes Fifths and Thirds, does a 4-pull in 6-7, and makes Thirds and Fifths. In the plain course the second, fifth and sixth do the 4-pull dodges in 1-2 up and 6-7 down after they have turned the treble; and the third, fourth and seventh do the 4-pull dodges in 1-2 down and 6-7 up after the treble has turned them.

In Twickenham Triples the second, fifth and sixth in the plain course do a single dodge in 1-2 up, a double dodge in 6-7 down, and a single dodge in 1-2 up, make Fifths and Thirds places, and hunt up behind and down again to the lead.

The third, fourth and seventh do the same work in reverse order. Each in turn makes Thirds and Fifths, dodges in 1-2 down, double dodges in 6-7 up, dodges in 1-2 down, and hunts up behind and down again.

In the plain course of Clements Triples the second, fifth and sixth in turn do a 4-pull dodge in 1-2 up and

a single dodge in 6-7 up, make Fifths, do a single dodge in 6-7 up, make Thirds do a double dodge in 3-4 and make Fifths. The third, fourth and seventh do the same work in reverse order—a 4-pull dodge in 1-2 down, Fifths, a double dodge in 3-4, Thirds, a single dodge in 6-7 down, Fifths, and another single dodge in 6-7 down.

A method like this, with its two distinct courses and variety of work, should prove quite interesting enough for any band, even the most skilful.

In all these methods the place making and dodging above the treble are at handstroke and all below the treble at backstroke. There are two obvious ways of making the bob. One is to move the Fifths place when the treble is leading at hand to Sevenths—

4126753 instead of 4126753

1462573 1462735

and the other is to move it to Thirds—

4126753 instead of 4126753

1427635 1462735

The single (which is a necessary call) can be made by the bells in 1-2 lying still when the treble is leading full.

There remain to be considered the seven bell methods which have no hunts and in which all the bells work alike. Of these Stedman is the outstanding example, and Stedman has proved such a useful and popular method that the natural hope is that there are other and somewhat similar methods almost as good. Unfortunately that hope has been and always will be disappointed. Stedman stands by itself, and there is none other of the same class worth troubling about. There is Erin, which is the Slow Sixes of Stedman and which in practice is about as unsatisfactory as its name; and there is the miscalled Original. Both of these are show pieces for conductors, but of very little interest to the average ringer. The other methods of the group are generally incapable for producing true peals.

The number of good seven bell methods is much smaller than that of the six and eight bell methods, but our survey has shown that in peals of Triples there are still unexplained fields which await skilful and enterprising bands.

(Concluded.)

THE BISHOP OF LIVERPOOL.*To the Editor*

Dear Sir,—An item of interest in connection with the Rev. Clifford A. Martin, the new Bishop of Liverpool, is that he was a practising member of the St. Andrew's, Plymouth, band, and has been awarded the certificate of proficiency of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers.

FREDK. C. SMALE.

Oakfield, Station Road, Okehampton.

ACTON.—On Sunday, September 17th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Jeffrey Birt (first quarter) 1, A. Jones 2, J. A. Trollope 3, J. E. L. Cockey 4, F. A. Finch 5, H. Kilby 6, A. Harding 7, E. C. S. Turner (conductor) 8.

COOKHAM, BERKS.—On Sunday, September 3rd, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Miss C. Tuck 1, Miss J. Tubb 2, T. Burton 3, Miss J. Caught 4, Sergt. P. Toccock (conductor) 5, Pte. K. Tuck 6.

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MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

HATFIELD, HERTS.—On Saturday, September 2nd, 1,263 Stedman Caters: A. Lawrence 1, W. Nash 2, C. F. Sayer 3, A. S. Carter 4, A. W. Coles (conductor) 5, A. Day 6, S. W. Cull 7, H. L. Nobbs 8, A. R. Lawrence 9, H. J. Hazell 10.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—On Thanksgiving Day, September 3rd, at the Cathedral, 420 Stedman Triples and three courses of Stedman Caters, and at St. John's, two courses of Stedman Triples and three courses Double Norwich Court Bob Major: Miss Sheila Mackay, W. H. Barber (conductor), J. Anderson, A. W. Greenwood, W. Story, C. L. Routledge, G. Pickering, H. Cliff, J. E. Gofton, J. E. R. Keen, L. Ingledew and Corpl. Ellis.

TROWBRIDGE.—On Sunday, September 3rd, 1,259 Grandsire Caters: J. Francis 1, W. Loud 2, *Mrs. Penn 3, C. Butcher 4, W. Baxter 5, R. Amor 6, *F. Penn 7, E. Parker 8, G. H. Harding (conductor) 9, S. Francis 10. *First quarter of Caters.

PIDDINGTON, NORTHANTS.—On Sunday, September 3rd, 720 Bob Minor: Miss H. Arnold (first 720) 1, W. Hammons 2, J. Linnitt 3, G. Care 4, J. Fitzhugh 5, R. Noon (conductor) 6.

PORTISHEAD, SOMERSET.—On Sunday, September 3rd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: F. Hancock 1, Mrs. B. Jelley 2, A. Lane 3, G. Talbot 4, R. G. Williams 5, Lieut. C. Glenn (conductor) 6, N. Coombs 7, A. Colbourn 8.

BATH.—At the Abbey, on Sunday, September 3rd, 720 Grandsire Caters: Mrs. G. Savill 1, Mrs. A. Evans 2, W. J. Prescott 3, G. Hawkins 4, F. W. Alleyway 5, M. Smart 6, F. Merrett 7, T. F. King (conductor) 8, J. Hallett 9, S. Woodburn 10.

HINCKLEY.—On Sunday, September 3rd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss Madge Grewcock (first quarter-peal of Grandsire) 1, John Ison 2, George Thompson 3, Frank Trotman (conductor) 4, George Charlton 5, Bert Ridgway 6, William Aldridge 7, Cyril Ison 8.

SOLIHULL.—On Sunday, September 3rd, 1,259 Grandsire Caters: W. Leeson 1, V. W. Rigg 2, J. N. Jukes 3, C. W. Bragg 4, E. C. Shepherd (conductor) 5, H. Shepherd 6, H. Bragg 7, S. Bragg 8, J. Bragg 9, A. Bragg 10.

FINCHLEY, MIDDLESEX.—On September 3rd, 720 Grandsire Doubles: G. Barand (first 720) 1, J. Whiting 2, F. Barker 3, T. Bevan 4, F. Prachett (conductor) 5, A. Richardson (first 720) 6.

ST. ALBANS, HERTS.—On September 3rd, at St. Peter's, 1,320 Kent Treble Bob Royal: R. Darvill 1, H. E. C. Goodenough 2, A. V. Good 3, C. F. Sayer 4, W. J. Arnold 5, G. Blake 6, W. Hughes 7, *W. A. Beddard 8, *R. Ewer 9, W. Ayre (conductor) 10. *First quarter-peal of Kent Royal.

NORTH STONEHAM.—On Sunday, September 3rd, 1,025 Grandsire Caters: Roy Linter 1, J. W. Faithfull 2, E. Dumper 3, C. J. Fray 4, *N. Hayes 5, M. Crawley 6, G. Williams (conductor) 7, R. Brown 8, W. T. Tucker 9, *C. Taylor 10. *Longest length.

CLAVERLEY, SHROPSHIRE.—On Sunday, September 3rd, 720 Bob Minor (with 7 and 8 covering): L. W. Francis 1, E. Drew (conductor) 2, J. Marsh 3, G. Goodson 4, C. Jones 5, F. Hinton 6, T. Davies 7, W. H. Francis 8.—Also on Friday, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles (10 callings), half-muffled: L. W. Francis 1, E. Drew (conductor) 2, G. Goodson 3, C. Jones 4, F. Hinton 5, T. Davies 6.

MAISEY HAMPTON, GLOS.—On Sunday, September 3rd, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: W. C. Cuss 1, G. H. Pearce 2, W. A. Godwin (conductor) 3, H. Prophet 4, E. Cooper 5, L. W. Cuss 6.

BISHOP AUCKLAND.—On Sunday, September 3rd, 720 Oxford Treble Bob, 720 Kent Treble Bob, 360 St. Clement's Bob, 144 Bob Minor: J. Smith 1, G. W. Peverell 2, S. Bryant 3, J. West 4, G. Hutchinson 5, R. B. Robinson (conductor) 6, H. Sanderson tenor.

BRISTOL.—On Sunday, September 3rd, at St. Luke's, Brislington, 1,020 Grandsire Doubles: Frederick Brine 1, William Stowell (conductor) 2, Ronald Porter 3, John Stallard 4, Donald Marsh 5, Edward Humphries 6.

HINCKLEY, LEICS.—On Sunday, September 3rd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss Madge Grewcock 1, J. Ison 2, G. Thompson 3, F. Trotman (conductor) 4, G. Charlton 5, B. Ridgway 6, W. Aldridge 7, C. Ison 8.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT USK.

A meeting of the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association was held at Usk on September 9th. Service was conducted by the Vicar, who presided over the business meeting which followed the tea. Reference was made to the deaths of Messrs. John Austin and W. H. Fussell, and Bridgend was selected as the place of the next meeting.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT OCKBROOK.

A meeting of the Derby District of the Midland Counties Association, held at Ockbrook on August 26th, was attended by about thirty ringers from Radford, Aston, Shardlow, Ilkeston, Sawley, Hinckley, Derby (St. Peter's and St. Luke's), Alveston and Spondon.

The methods rung included Grandsire, Stedman and Bob Doubles. Bob Minor, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, Double Court and Cambridge Surprise Minor. Three new members were elected, Mr. James Rook, Mr. Walter Shaw and Mr. James Boylin, and it was decided to hold the next meeting at Duffield on September 23rd.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

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ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

Meeting at Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, Saturday, Sept. 23rd, 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate.

—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.

—Meeting at Heptonstall, Saturday, Sept. 23rd, 2 p.m.

—Wm. Ambler, Hon. Dis. Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.

—Meeting at Handsworth, Sept. 23rd. Bells (8) 3 p.m.

—Sidney F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and

South Bucks Branch.—Meeting at Braywood (5 bells), Saturday, Sept. 23rd, 3 p.m. — A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough, Bucks.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans

District.—Meeting at Harpenden, Sept. 23rd. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea at Swallow Cafe 5 p.m. Names for tea to R. Darvill, 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Meeting at

Bridgnorth (St. Mary's and St. Leonard's), Sept. 23rd, 1 p.m.—F. Colclough, 20, West Castle Street, Bridgnorth.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby

District.—Meeting at Duffield, Saturday, Sept. 23rd, 2.30 p.m. Cups of tea provided. Bring food and sugar. —Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec., 83, Albert Road, Chad-desden, Derby.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Axbridge

Deanery.—Meeting at Wedmore, Saturday, Sept. 23rd. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business 5 p.m., in Church Schoolrooms.—E. J. Avery, Hon. Local Sec., Sandford, Bristol.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chester Branch.—

Practice at St. Mary-within-the-Walls, Chester (8 bells), Saturday, Sept. 23rd, 5.45 p.m.—J. W. Clarke, Hon. Sec.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAF-

FORD.—Meeting at Tettenhall, Saturday, Sept. 30th, 3 p.m. Service 4.45. Cups of tea in Parish Hall 5.30. Bring food. Frequent buses from G.P.O., Wolverhampton.—H. Knight, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at

Manchester, Saturday, September 30th, 2 p.m. Service 3.30. Meeting 4.15. Tea 6. Particulars by circular.—W. H. Shuker, 36, Colwyn Avenue, Fallowfield, Manchester 14, and T. Wilson, 118, Langham Road, Blackburn, Hon. Secs.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Southern Divi-

sion.—Meeting Shoreham, Saturday, Sept. 30th, 2.45 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea and meeting 5.30 p.m. Names for tea by Wednesday, Sept. 27th, to Mrs. E. L. Hairs, Hon. Sec., The Oaks, Theobalds Road, Burgess Hill.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Coalbrookdale (10 bells), Saturday, Sept. 30th, 3 p.m. Service 4. Cups of tea and cakes provided. Bring sandwiches. Buses from Wellington.—E. D. Poole, Hon. Sec.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Special branch meeting and presentation to Mr. F. W. Romaine, St. Martin's, Salisbury, Saturday, Sept. 30th, 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea (1s. 6d.) 4.30 p.m., followed by presentation. Names for tea before Monday, Sept. 25th. Subscription list closed on Sept. 25th.—E. G. Caple, Branch Chairman, Wilton, Salisbury.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Hethersett on Saturday, Sept. 30th, 2 p.m. Service 4.45. Tea at King's Head 5.30. Names for tea to Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.—Meeting at Great Barr, Birmingham, Saturday, Sept. 30th, 3.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., business meeting to follow. Names before Sept. 27th to J. R. Terry, 49, Peak House Road, Great Barr, Birmingham, 22.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Reading Branch. —Meeting at Caversham, Saturday, Sept. 30th, 2.30 p.m. Service 5.30 p.m. Own arrangements for tea.—E. G. Foster, Hon. Sec., 401, London Road, Reading.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Kington District.—Meeting at Staunton-on-Arrow, Saturday, Sept. 30th. Bells (6) 5.30. Tea 6.30. Names by Thursday, 28th. — Jabez Preece, Lea Lodge, Staunton-on-Arrow.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District. — Meeting at Thurlaston, Saturday, Sept. 30th, 4 p.m. Business 6 p.m. No tea.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Biggleswade District. — Meeting at Pottton, Saturday, Sept. 30th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

DEVON GUILD.—N.E. Branch.—Meeting at Silverton (8 bells), on Saturday, Sept. 30th, 2.30. Service 4.30. Names for tea to C. G. Dymond, Hon. Sec., Silverton.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Towcester Branch. — Meeting at Brackley, Saturday, Sept. 30th. Service 3.30. Picnic tea (bring food and sugar) 4.15. — Rev. E. V. Fenn, Hon. Sec., Lois Weedon Vicarage, Towcester.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION. — Cirencester Branch. — Meeting at Watermoor, Cirencester, on Sept. 30th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Names for tea by Sept. 26th. Business to follow.—W. H. Hayward, 1, Bowling Green Road, Cirencester, Glos.

SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at St. John's, Alloa, on Saturday Sept. 30th, 2 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea in Townhead Tea Rooms 5 p.m. Names by Sept. 28th to E. A. Stafford, 16, Tabard Road, Glasgow, W.3.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. — Annual meeting in library, Newcastle Cathedral, on Saturday, Sept. 30th, at 2.30 p.m. St. Mary, Gateshead, bells available. Bring food, cups of tea provided at the Anchorage, Gateshead, at 4.15. Names by Sept. 27th.—Roland Park, Hon. Sec., 23, Oaklands Terrace, Darlington.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northampton Branch. — Meeting at Harlestone, Saturday, Sept. 30th. Service 4.15 p.m. Bring food. — R. S. Cowley, 83, Beech Avenue, Northampton.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY. — Meeting at Arksey, Saturday, Sept. 30th, 3 p.m. Names for tea before Sept. 28th. Buses every ten minutes. — W. E. Lloyd, 3, Cranbrook Road, Doncaster.

BOURNEMOUTH.—A combined practice, Sept. 30th, St. John's, Surrey Road (8), 2.30 p.m. Tea, St. Peter's Hall, 5.30. St. Peter's bells 6.30-8. — Rev. C. A. Phillips and E. G. Preston, Hon. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—Meeting at Boreham, Saturday, Sept. 30th, 2.30 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea and business meeting to follow. Numbers for tea by Sept. 27th.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY. — Meeting at Woodlesford, near Rothwell, Saturday, Sept. 30th, 3 p.m. Names for tea (1s. each) to Mr. A. Marsh, 9, Aberford Road, Woodlesford, near Leeds, by Sept. 27th. Royston bus from Leeds 30 minutes past each hour.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Loughborough District. — Meeting at Kegworth, Saturday, Sept. 30th, 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided. Bring food. Buses from Coalville every hour; half hour from Nottingham, 20 minutes Loughborough.—A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION and the **OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD** (East Berks and South Bucks Branch).—Joint meeting at St. John's, Hillingdon, Saturday, October 7th. Details later.—J. E. L. Cockey and A. D. Barker, Hon. Secs.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Oxford City and North Berks Branches. — Joint meeting at Cumnor, Saturday, Oct. 7th, 2.30 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m. Ringing, Appleton, 6 p.m. Names for tea to Miss M. R. Cross, The School House, Radley, Abingdon, by Oct. 4th.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Lincoln District.—Meeting at Blankney (6 bells), Saturday, Oct. 7th, 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea, 1s. each, at 5 p.m. Names before Oct. 4th.—K. W. Mayer, Hon. Dis. Sec., 4, Carline Road, Lincoln.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District. — Annual meeting at Tonbridge, Saturday, Oct. 7th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea at Carlton Cafe 5 p.m. Names to Mr. J. Medhurst, 251, Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec.

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