



No. 322. Vol. XII.

FRIDAY, MAY 18th, 1917.

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

Price 2d.

# GILLETT & JOHNSTON

CROYDON, Surrey.  
BELLS, CLOCKS, CARILLONS.



St. Peter's Collegiate Church,  
Wolverhampton.  
Tenor (33 cwt.) of the New Ring of 12.

WULFRUN CHAMBERS, WOLVERHAMPTON,  
Messrs. GILLETT and JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 4th March, 1918.  
Gentlemen,

The re-casting of the peal of ten bells with the addition of two new ones in the tower of St. Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton, recently carried out by you has proved most successful, and given general satisfaction.

I am authorised by the Rector and Wardens to say how pleased they are with the result. In the opinion of those well qualified to judge, we have now, undoubtedly, one of the best peals in the Kingdom.

Yours faithfully, F. T. BECK,

Architect, Diocesan Surveyor.

## MODERN WORK.

### NO SLACKERS.

With the increasing strain of the war, in its demands for more men and upon the energies of those left at home, makes the carrying on of ringing a very difficult task, and there is growing evidence not only of the great trouble that exists in many parishes of keeping the bells going for Sunday services, but also of organising successful meetings. But it is characteristic of the British temperament to hang on doggedly in face of adversity and to meet obstacles only as something to be surmounted. As long as that spirit prevails in the ranks of ringers, the present drawbacks will only serve as an incentive to greater effort to maintain ringing at such a level that it will but need the stimulus that will come with the return of peace to send it forward with a bound.

In the meantime, however, there ought to be no slacking on the part of those left to the various belfries. Among the half-hearted ringers there is always a tendency to desert or, at least, to become very unreliable and irregular, as soon as their band suffer losses which temporarily set back progress. What little interest they have evaporates when circumstances ought to dictate increased energy in the direction of helping on others to fill gaps or maintaining efficiency. Such ringers, and they are numerous, unfortunately, are great stumbling-blocks at the best of times, and in these days are a serious handicap where men are struggling to keep things going till the brighter days dawn. It is always difficult to make men of this type realise the importance of individual effort, and in ordinary times a belfry is often better without them. But nowadays there ought to be no slackers, and even if meetings and practices are difficult to attend, the Sunday service ringing, which ought to hold as great a claim as ever upon their services, should be maintained as a duty.

The difficulties in regard to meetings are accentuated by the restricted travel facilities and the long hours which war work imposes, and there are districts where it has been found necessary to abandon association meetings to a large extent. It seems a great pity that this should be so, for even if the attendance be small these gatherings do, at any rate, help to maintain the standard of ringing and keep the ringers in close touch. But where even Saturday meetings are out of the question, the decision of the Stroud Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Association might well be followed. There it has been resolved to have friendly visits to different towers, especially where there is a shortage of ringers, on Sunday afternoons, and if these are arranged, as they could be, so that the ringing will terminate with a good touch for evening service, there is no doubt the visits would prove acceptable to the church folk as well as to the ringers.

# CHARLES CARR, LTD.



**OPINION OF OUR  
MODERN WORK.**

Broomfield Vicarage,  
Chelmsford

Dear Sirs,

I have great pleasure in stating that we are perfectly satisfied with the manner in which you have carried out the work entrusted to you of re-arranging and re-hanging the Broomfield Church Bells.

We consider that the work reflects great credit upon your firm, and believe that your system of hanging the bells reduces the vibration of the steel frame supplied by you to a minimum.

The CHURCHWARDENS unite with ME in this expression of opinion. The BELLRINGERS are also unanimous in their praise of the alterations effected by you.

Yours truly,

CHAS. EDMUNDS,

Vicar of Broomfield.

Messrs C. CARR, LTD.  
Smethwick.

Kindly ask us to inspect, Report and Tender before deciding your contract, — we may be able to assist you.

**SMETHWICK,  
BIRMINGHAM**

## BELLS

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SINGLY,  
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and Worcester Cathedrals etc. etc.

## HANDBELL PEAL.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND  
LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, May 9, 1917, in Two Hours and Twenty-five Minutes,  
IN THE BELFRY OF ST. LEONARD'S CHURCH, SHOREDITCH,  
**A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

GEORGE R. PYE ... 1-2 | JAMES HUNT ... 5-6  
WILLIAM PYE ... 3-4 | JOSEPH E. SYKES ... 7-8

Conducted by WILLIAM PYE.

Umpire: W. T. POWELL.

\* First peal of Stedman "in hand."

## MILITARY MEN AT MARLOW.

"Ah, music, sacred tongues of God,  
I hear them calling and I come!"

A friendly gathering of members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild took place at Marlow, on Saturday, when about 20 ringers took part in touches of Grandsire, Stedman, Treble Bob, Double Norwich, and Superlative, the conductors being Messrs. Henley, Evans, Truss and Martin. The Vicar (the Rev. O. F. Spearing) kindly gave consent for the use of the bells to enable ringing members of the Royal Engineers quartered in the town to have a "pull" upon this renowned river-side peal of eight before leaving for active service abroad, and they were kept going at intervals from 5 to 7.30 p.m., the steeplekeeper, Mr. H. Collins, having given due attention to the bearings, ropes, etc.

At the conclusion of the change ringing, the bells were lowered "in peal," the assembly joining in belfry prayers, the Rev. J. Frazer Amies officiating as the ringers' chaplain.

Those taking part in the afternoon's proceedings included Messrs. J. Evans, C.C., and P. Evans, W. Horne, J. Blackmore, J. L. Copey and Son, W. Henley, J. L. Kirk, T. S. Smith, J. C. Truss, H. and L. E. Collins, four R.E. khaki boys (Sappers W. Darlow, of Thurlough, Beds; W. D. Tanner, Wold, Northants; F. Duncombe, Luton; and G. Martin, Boyne Hill), also Pte A. Walker, 13th Durham L.I. (of Boyne Hill).

Afterwards, social harmony, with sundry flowing cups and humming handbells, was enjoyed in the long room at the local ringers' hotel, the Two Brewers' Inn, which many of the London ringers will readily recall with interesting recollections of pre-war times. Here Grandsire Caters, double-handed, by Messrs. Evans, Horne, Truss, Fussell, and Henley, was interspersed with the "Blue Bells of Scotland," and other familiar airs, quadrupled, by Messrs. Walker, Truss, and Martin, not forgetting a repeat, with variations per the Sheffield version. Marlow's dilution of bread, with war substitutes, has not at present been overdone, and the art of pickling onions "like mother does 'em" had been well instilled into her son, so that supper was thoroughly enjoyed, thanks to the kind invitation of the chairman (Mr. Amies). Good wishes for their health and luck were tendered to the late branch secretary (Mr. Martin) and his chums, to which suitable reply was made before the restricted hour for breaking up was called—"Nine," gentlemen, the ever fortunate number and the one that secured the Grimes' set of handbells.

Meetings for combined practice have been proposed as follows, members intending to be present will kindly notify the secretary at an early date: Slough, Saturday, May 26th, at 6.30 p.m.; High Wycombe, Whit-Monday, 28th May, 4 o'clock, peal board ceremony; Chalfont St. Peter, Saturday, June 2nd, at 4 p.m., Minor and Doubles; Amersham, Saturday, June 9th, at 4 p.m.

## COMPLIMENT TO Q.-M.-S. W. A. CAVE.

As a compliment to Q.-M.-S. W. A. Cave, of Bristol whose present habitat is a dug-out, somewhere in France, members of the St. Martin's Guild, Birmingham, arranged to meet on Saturday to ring his date touch of Stedman Caters, published in our issue of May 4th. The figures, on investigation, had, however, proved false, there being repetition in the courses 413562 and 413265. Both Messrs. Groves and Swann had corrected the figures to eliminate the falseness, and the band rang the date touch as adjusted by Mr. Swann, who was the conductor: A. Walker 1-2, W. Kent 3-4, G. F. Swan 5-6, J. E. Groves 7-8, J. George 9-10. Mr. Tom Russam was the referee. The composition as rung was as follows:—

231456	5	16
315462 *		
314265	2	
415263	3	
512463	2	
514263	2	
413265	3	
312465	2	
214365	2	

Round at hand by 1, 2, 4, 6, 9, 11, 13s

\* 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 17, 18.

## TOWER ACCIDENTS.

### CAUSES AND RESULTS.

By Dr. A. H. NICHOLS, M.D.

It is recognised that certain trades and professions may cause characteristic injuries to many who follow them, and among these the bell ringer is not exempt from danger. Accidents in towers, though infrequent, are, as a rule, serious in character, and, at times, fatal. They may result from various causes: of these the most frequent is entanglement in a coil of rope, or being drawn upward by breaking or slipping of a stay, thus resulting in the going over of the bell. While, to beginners, the above sources of danger are ever present, it has happened that even practised ringers have come to grief by losing control of their rope or bell. In this connection it is pertinent to suggest that bells should not be left mouth upward; for fatal accidents have occurred to visitors in towers who have inadvertently pulled upon the ropes, and thus been drawn upward. If in the design of the tower the architect has substituted for convenience in installing the ring a fragile hatch in place of a substantial floor, a bell which had become separated from headstock, gudgeons, crown, or canons, would be pretty sure to dash downward with increasing impetus to the discomfiture of the ringers. Clock weights also form a menace when their supporting ropes, or wires, are neglected.

At times when at work in the belfry an incautious victim has slipped by a single mis-step from frame to pit. Then the raised bell, if tipped upon him with overwhelming violence, may crush chest or abdomen, with fatal result. Obviously the introduction of the steel cage, whose narrow girders provide a less secure foothold than the former wooden framework, have increased this factor of danger. Nor does the exercise of care in his movements render the ringer immune, provided raised bells are not secured; for at any moment some thoughtless intruder may pull at a rope. We are warned, too, by architects that in certain towers, especially those ancient structures built with flint and rubble, that disintegrating mortar has impaired the binding force of walls to such an extent that the lateral thrust of swinging bells may cause a sudden collapse of the fabric; for the pressure thus exerted may exceed even that of the most violent gale of wind.

Finally, ringers advanced in years should realise that, owing to the probable condition of their heart, the strain of undue, or prolonged, exertion may be attended with fatal result. Nature lets us know in manifold ways when the time is approaching to "shut up shop." Impairment of vision and hearing, common to all, should be recognised as the prelude to other disorders incident to senility, among which is a weakened heart. Of the latter development, the frequent cause of syncope, or heart failure, in the event of certain acts of imprudence, we are warned by unequivocal, characteristic signs. The writer was told by that honoured veteran, Matthew Wood, months before his decease, and then in his 83rd year, that the condition of his heart precluded his ever again taking part in a complete peal.

The following illustrative instances collated from the columns of ringing journals will serve to show the reality of each form of accident above detailed.

### ACCIDENTS FROM ENTANGLEMENT.

T. Maclean, sexton of St. Nicholas', Whitehaven, while ringing for service, September, 1819, was caught around the thigh by a coil of the rope and dashed twice with terrific force to the ceiling. In addition to local injuries to neck and shoulder he suffered a profound nervous shock.

In March, 1905, Mr. Godden, secretary of the local Guild, while ringing the eleventh bell at St. Martin's, Birmingham, slipped from the block. Becoming entangled around the legs, he was drawn upward, and fell unconscious to the floor. He sustained a broken shoulder blade and severe shock.

The antics of an uncontrolled bell rope, as erratic as the performance of a pea upon a hot shovel, defy all calculation. It has formed a half-hitch around the thumb of an expert ringer and taken the end clean off. Clutching a gas bracket it has wrenched it from its support to be hurled dauntling around the room. Indeed, any part of the human frame may be seized by a dancing rope. A ringer, for example, has been caught by a coil beneath the foot to be lifted feet upward and thrown to the floor with grave results. It seems a marvel that such cases of extreme head violence have not been known to involve fracture of the skull.

### ACCIDENTS FROM BREAKING, OR SLIPPING, OF STAY.

While ringing in the tower of St. Edmund's, Southwold, August, 1831, a visitor, attempting to raise a bell, broke the stay. Drawn to the ceiling, he fell to the floor, a distance of fourteen feet, causing fracture of the wrist with severe injury to head and neck.

In July, 1902, J. Allen, having gone with the band of Norton, Derbyshire, to Scarborough, was ringing the sixth bell when the stay slipped over the block. Held by a knot at the rope's end, he was drawn upward to the floor above, a distance of eighteen feet striking the crown of his head and falling with a dreadful thud to the floor. Upon regaining consciousness, he was removed to the Royal Hospital.

### CRUSHED IN RINGING CHAMBER, OR BELFRY.

While ringing a bell in Swardston tower, 15th February, 1806, James Cloeman, a bricklayer, was suddenly killed. The bell, when raised about half-way, became detached from the crown and canons. Breaking through the hatchway, it crashed downward through two floors upon the unfortunate victim, whose death was instantaneous.

At Dandrum, County Down, September, 1805, a bell, weighing 25 cwt., fell from the belfry through two floors, in consequence of defective fittings. The sexton, who involuntarily accompanied the instrument from the ringing chamber to the ground, was badly injured.

Joseph McDermott, a contractor, while adjusting a bell in the tower of Derry Cathedral, 17th October, 1895, was crushed to death by a 17 cwt. bell, which, by mistake, was let down upon him.

Thomas Rose, steeplekeeper at Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, while oiling the bearings of the fourth bell, 14th January, 1905, slipped from the frame. To save himself he grabbed the rim of the bell, which, being mouth upward, crashed down upon him, causing instantaneous death. When discovered he was standing inside the pit with head and hands inside the mouth of the bell, and chest forced against the frame. Deceased was 44 years of age, and had been a ringer for twenty-two years, for fifteen of which he had served as steeplekeeper.

In December, 1911, at the Parish Church of Barnboro, near Doncaster, W. Staples, one of the ringers, mounted the tower to muffle the bells. While thus engaged, the bell upon which he was working, one-half ton in weight, fell over, pinning him by the chest to a beam. His companion seeing his predicament pulled the bell back, releasing him barely in time to save his life. When removed he was still unconscious.

### ACCIDENT FROM FALLING CLOCKWEIGHT.

While a band of the Middlesex Association were attempting a peal of Bristol Surprise, at Spitalfields, London, 19th September, 1913, a mass of mortar, rubbish and fragments of wood came down with a crash upon the ringers of the treble and second bells. It transpired that one of the clockweights, weighing about 4 cwt., had become detached and smashed through the floor and ceiling beneath. By a stroke of luck this mass of metal was arrested in its fall by a projection; otherwise it might have killed the ringer of the second, who was standing directly beneath.

### CATASTROPHE FROM COLLAPSE OF STEEPLE.

The most appalling accident in the history of the Exercise occurred at St. Nicholas', Liverpool, in February, 1810. Of the varying accounts the following seems the most authentic, though some details may be inaccurate. On a Sunday morning, while the local Guild were ringing for service, a stone fell upon the fifth bell, and stopped its course. The ringers, apprehending danger, made a hurried escape from the ringing chamber, which was on the ground floor. The next moment the entire steeple and the greater part of the tower came down with a crash, overwhelming a body of school children just entering the church. Twenty-three persons were killed outright, of whom sixteen were girls under twelve years of age, while a still larger number of parishioners were seriously injured.

### DEATH FROM SYNCOPE.

Mr. Sandover, of Heavitrees, 68 years old, while taking part in a peal at St. Charles', Plymouth, suddenly fell forward to the belfry floor, dying instantly.

Incidentally, it may be mentioned that in Boston, Mass. (U.S.A.), a belfry was the site of the shocking murder of a young girl by one Piper, a degenerate wretch, who took pleasure in witnessing the death agony of his several victims. Convicted, after two trials he was ultimately executed by hanging.

In the year 1893, a bell ringer, belonging to the Franciscan Order in Austria, committed suicide in a belfry under peculiar circumstances. While occupied in tolling for a funeral, he mounted a chair and made a slip knot in the end of the rope. Then placing his head in the noose he kicked the chair away, and later was found by the monks, suspended lifeless in the middle of the chamber.

A. H. NICHOLS, M.D.

55, Mount Vernon Street, Boston, U.S.A.

### WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

#### SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE MEETING AT NORTH STONEHAM.

A very successful meeting for combined practice was held at St. Nicholas' Church, North Stoneham, last Saturday, when in addition to Messrs. G. Williams, C. J. Tray, W. T. Tucker, E. Dumper, and W. H. George, of the local band, there were present the Rev. F. Banks James and three of his ringing pupils from Lee-on-the-Solent: Bomb. S. Hector, R.G.A. (Trowbridge), who had cycled down from Morn Hill Camp; Captain Bennett, C.A. (Stockport), and now stationed at Winchester; A. A. Jones, A.S.C. (Swynthing Remount), and W. Keeble, A.C.G. (Kelvedon, Essex), who had been in the rest camp, Southampton Common, for a fortnight, awaiting orders. The methods rung during the evening were: Grandire and Stedman Triples, Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Double Norwich Major. This meeting was arranged by the North Stoneham band as a substitute for a district meeting, which should have been held at Cheriton on the same date. It is hoped to hold similar meetings during the summer, when all visitors will be welcome.



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Tenor Bell, 25½ cwt., of the new ring  
of Ten at St. Peter's, Brighton.

## ESTIMATES SUBMITTED

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Musical Handbells in sets, Bell Ropes, &c.

*At the Handbell Contest held annually in Manchester the First Prize for the last 16 years has been awarded to bands using our bells, and on fourteen of those occasions they have gained the Second Prize also.*

## BELLS AND BELFRY REFORM. CHURCH AUTHORITIES' LACK OF INTEREST.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Your leader in the issue of May 4th, in which you say the belfries have been reformed by the ringers themselves from the inside of the belfry, rather than from outside, is very true. What authority has "The Church Times" in making such a scathing denunciation of ringers? Why do they not, instead, denounce the clergy for their inability to reform, or, I might say, set their own house in order? I know of a case where the tower and bells of the Rural Dean's own Parish Church is in one of the dirtiest and most dilapidated states I ever saw, and I may say his living is one of the best in the district. I believe this is a case which might be put right with outside help, but then the question arises, "Why should the outside public be asked to pay for the restoration of the bells when the Vicar or Rector alone (as is so often said) has the sole right to them?" Personally, I believe the churchwardens have an equal right; but their right has been usurped so long by the incumbents that it is generally believed to be the parson's entire right, and it is a well-known fact that the incumbent is careful to choose a churchwarden who will say 'yea' or 'nay' to his own liking. I have had three years' experience of being parish churchwarden, and I find the only thing many Vicars care for is to set up a graven image in the chancel, with candlesticks, thus driving away the congregation. Some clergy make such a fetish of Eucharistic services that the people, including the ringers, dislike it and stay away. I do not think a ringer should ring the bells and then walk away always. A man should be a churchman first and a ringer afterwards. He ought also to be a communicant, but some clergy think of nothing else but Eucharist services. At Margate, where I used to ring, we had some good rules, e.g., ringers should be communicants, and were expected to attend service at least once on Sundays; and I believe these rules were acted upon better than any hard and fast rules would have been. We also had a fine Vicar, who appreciated our voluntary services, and made it his business to come into the belfry among us at times. Admittedly, there is among us, like the clergy, much room for improvement, as also with ringing generally. Mr. Fussell's advice, quoted by Mr. Marsh, is very good; and when I started ringing at Margate, now some 17 years ago, I received from Mr. Wm. Newell, of Reading, some excellent advice on handling a bell rope. I have tried to pass on this knowledge to many of my acquaintances, and I believe, if it were acted upon it would result in much greater accuracy in striking, and easier work to the ringers themselves, to say nothing about the results to anyone who had to listen to the music outside the tower.

I have been to many meetings where it has been positively a disgrace to see change ringers handle their bells so badly, especially in raising or falling in peal, whereas the old school of round ringers make no trouble of it, and strike much more accurately. There is too much "don't care" in ringers and ringing, save in few cases, where, by contrast, the ringers do their utmost to advance the art. But theirs is an uphill game, and a little encouragement from the authorities of the church would help them a lot.

I often read of Easter Vestry meetings being held where the organist and choir (paid as a rule for what they do) are thanked for their services; but I do not see any thanks rendered to the ringers, who, as a rule, are unpaid, unthanked, and unseen, and often condemned. I have personally attended many meetings and practices to help advance the cause of ringing, and I believe if the clergy would help, where possible, and by their example bring in the wardens, sidesmen, etc., and assist in the work of bell ringing, there would be more fellowship between each other, and the incumbents would find their ringers at church oftener. As things now are, it would be better, in many instances, that the bells should hang in secular towers rather than in those of our parish churches, where no interest is taken in either bells or ringers.

There are instances, as at Headcorn in Kent, where the Vicar's good wife, Mrs. Gatehouse, is setting a noble example, and a few other isolated towers where the clergy are doing likewise; but many of the clergy would prefer the cricket or football field, or, to be like the choristers, where they are to be seen and feted, rather than shut away in the belfry, unseen, uncared for, and only abused. — Yours very truly,

C. W. PLAYER.

"Cameron," Stone, Ashford, Kent.

## A RINGING JUBILEE.

On Sunday, May 6th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 44 mins., was rung for evening service, at Sedgely Parish Church, by: J. Ray 1, F. Evans 2, T. Griffiths 3, J. Jaggard 4, T. Watten 5, Jess Screen (conductor) 6, W. Mills 7, B. Fullwood 8. After service, a short touch of Grandsire, conducted by J. Jaggard. This ringing was to celebrate the 80th birthday of Mr. Jaggard's mother, who is still well and hearty, and residing in Burton-on-Trent, and the 50th anniversary of Mr. Jaggard's ringing career, he having started ringing on May 6th, 1867, at St. Thomas's, Oxford. "What a many 'changes' have gone by since then!"

**FALLEN IN ACTION.****ROTHERHAM RINGER KILLED.**

The news has come to hand that the esteemed secretary of the Rotherham Parish Church (All Saints' Company), Sgt. Leonard Garrison, has been killed in action. By his death the ringers have sustained a sad loss, deceased was an excellent ringer, and possessed a most cheerful and affectionate disposition. As a Sunday service ringer, before joining the colours, he was very regular in his attendance.

He joined the Yorkshire Association in 1912, but had only taken part in one peal. He had several invitations to ring in peals, at St. Stephen's Church (Rotherham), but had declined, saying he intended to ring his first peal on the bells on which he had learnt and always rung; and his only peal was, therefore, secured on the Parish Church bells on January 20th, 1914 (5004 Grandsire Caters). The Parish Church Sunday School will feel the loss of Mr. Garrison keenly, as he had been a member of the Bible Class for many years, and acted as secretary to the Cricket Club, and held several other offices in connection with the class.

Sergt. Garrison, who belonged to the York and Lancs Regiment, was killed in France by a bomb on May 1st. In a letter to his parents, the commanding officer spoke highly of his work, and much deplored his loss, adding that he was buried in the cemetery at Arras, and that a cross had been erected to mark his grave. As a last token of respect the bells of the Parish Church were half-muffled, on Saturday, May 12th, and touches in the standard methods were rung, the following ringers taking part: L. Brightman, W. E. Unstead, S. Bagle, H. North, H. Taylor, C. Ryder, L. Littlewood, J. W. G. Cottam, A. Kettell, W. Froggath, and A. Hague. On the following day (Sunday) the bells were again rung half-muffled, and the Vicar made reference to the death of Sergt. Garrison from the pulpit. Miss Hague assisted in the ringing, being home after thirteen months' work in the V.A.D. at Dover Military Hospital. Capt. Froggath (Y. and L.) was on leave from France, and Pte A. Hague (R.A.M.C.) from one of H.M. hospital ships.

**DEVONSHIRE RINGER KILLED AT SALONICA.**

Ringling in Devonshire has suffered a severe loss by the death of Rifleman Julius Algernon Snow, of Exmouth, who died at the age of 36, in hospital at Salonica, on March 26th, from wounds received during a bombardment by enemy aircraft.

Coming from a ringing family, Rifleman Snow, who was the 6th son of Mr. and Mrs. John Snow, of Withycombe Raleigh, Exmouth, soon won renown, not only as a peal ringer, but also as a steady, careful and painstaking exponent of the art in whatever ringing he could get. He also did a good deal of instructing, and his loss in South Devon will be keenly felt.

He was a member of the Lymington Volunteer Artillery for some years, and afterwards joined the National Reserve. When war was declared he was posted for guarding the G.W. Railway, and was afterwards transferred to the Wessex and Welsh Battalion of the Rifle Brigade.

He leaves a widow and one daughter, aged 4. The sad news, coming so quickly after the death of his brother, Sergt. Louis Snow, who died of wounds in France, has been a cruel blow to the relatives, and the sympathy of the Exercise will go out to them in their double loss.

**CHISLEHURST RINGER KILLED BY A SHELL.**

It is with deep regret we have to record the death of Lieut. Cpl. John H. Mitcham, of the 27th London Regiment (Machine Gun Section). Deceased was engaged with his company on April 7th on salvage work, collecting into "dumps" the debris of one of last year's battlefields. One of the shells he was handling proved to be fuzed, and, when it was allowed to drop, it exploded, and killed him and seven of his comrades. It was considered impossible by the salvage officer in charge that any fuzed shell of this particular type should be met with.

Lance-Corpl. Mitcham was 22 years of age. He joined the colours in February, 1916, and went to France in January, 1917. His captain has written expressing the profoundest sympathy which was shown by all who knew him. He died on the field of honour, serving his country equally as though he had met his death at the hands of the enemy.

Deceased had been a ringer at St. Nicholas' Church, Chislehurst, for six years, and a member of the Kent County Association for five years. He had rung the treble to two peals of Grandsire Triples, his last being a half-muffled peal in January, 1916, for those who had fallen in the war.

On Monday, April 30th, as a last token of respect, a half-muffled peal of Stedman Triples was attempted, but failed, but a quarter-peal was rung by: I. Emery 1, G. Durling 2, A. E. Newick 3, P. Spice 4, W. Martin 5, W. J. Jeffries 6, T. Groombridge, snr. (conductor) 7, H. Durling 8. "Gone, but not forgotten, beloved by all who knew him."

**KILLED LAST JULY.**

Rifleman T. Shepherd, one of the ringers of Milnrow Parish Church, Lancs, was last week officially reported killed in the great advance last July, and on Sunday evening, May 13th, the local band rang a date touch of 1917 Grandsire Triples, in 1 hr. 10 mins., with the bells half-muffled, as a tribute to his memory: R. Buckley 1, G. Staff 2, J. Rhodes 3, E. Schofield 4, J. C. Bennett 5, C. Fielding 6, J. H. C. Massey 7, H. Buckley 8.

**MUFFLED PEAL ATTEMPT.**

At St. Helen's Church, Worcester, on Saturday, a peal of Stedman Triples was attempted with the bells muffled, in memory of the soldiers and sailors who have fallen in the war, but, unfortunately, "stand" had to be called at the end of the 49th course, reached in 2 hrs. 20 mins., owing to a shift.

**ROLL OF HONOUR.**

Pte R. W. Collier, of Rotherham, 2nd Battalion, K.O.Y.L.I., stationed at Sheffield.

Pte A. Burton, of St. Paul's, Walkden, R.A.M.C., now in Mesopotamia.

From Islip, Northants:—

Pte R. C. Loveday, 3rd Norfolk Regt.

From St. Peter's, Northampton:—

Driver A. J. Mawby, R.F.A.

**LANTERN SLIDES ON CHURCH BELLS.**

*To the Editor.*

Apologos of Mr. Beams' letter on the subject of an illustrated lecture on bells and ringing, may I say that I have a set of about 70 lantern slides, made by myself, with an accompanying lecture on the subject of Church bells? These are at the disposal of anyone who cares to borrow them, if they will pay for carriage. As I am only an amateur photographer, the slides are not, perhaps, of the best; but they are, I think, interesting.—Yours truly,

H. SHIRE.

18, Kingsley Road, Pinner, Middlesex.

*To the Editor.*

Sir,—The above subject has caused some correspondence, also inquiries in the columns of "The Ringing World." One correspondent asks if any lantern slides are available.

Some time ago, I was an interested spectator of a lecture on bells suitably illustrated with slides, given by Mr. W. Willson, in Leicester; I was so struck with the novelty of the thing that I borrowed the slides, and personally gave a lecture myself in our own town before the C.E.M.S. This was so successful that I was requested to repeat it later to another branch of the society also in our own town.

I had two sets of slides, one of which was kindly lent me by Mr. Cyril F. Johnstone, of the Bell Foundry, Croydon; the other set, of course, was the property of Mr. Wm. Willson, 23, Hopefield Road, Leicester. Both of these sets make a fine collection, and, with suitable memoranda of the history of bells, ancient and modern, make a very educational lecture possible, which will amply repay anyone who takes the trouble to search up the necessary data.

The notes I made, I passed on to Mr. A. Coppock, of Nottingham, who was going to give the lecture in that town, but the war put an end to it for the time being, and he is now in France.

Whether these slides can be hired out or not, I cannot say. Mr. Johnston, of course, is in France, but a letter from your correspondent to Mr. Willson will bring him the necessary information. The slides I used were augmented by local views of our own bells and church, the Vicar and myself, by one of our local ringers who is interested in photography.—Yours, etc.,

E. A. RIDGWAY.

Leek.

**RINGERS' RAMBLE.**

**VISIT TO MOTTRAM.**

On Saturday last, the ringers of St. Peter's, Ashton-under-Lyne, with a number of friends, had the first of a series of rambles to be held during the spring and summer months, the famous church and village of Mottram-in-Longdendale being chosen as the rendezvous. Leaving Ashton by car, a happy party arrived at the famous cutting made during the memorable cotton panic of the sixties, after which they emerged in full view of the beautiful scenery by which Mottram is surrounded, the majestic hills of the Pennine chain standing out in bold relief. Reaching the church, which commands a fine view for miles around, they were met by the tower keeper, Mr. Joe Goddard, who had made all preparations for their comfort, and one of the churchwardens, Mr. Wagstaffe, who gave them a cordial welcome. The bells (which are at present not regularly rung owing to the ringers being depleted in numbers by deaths and circumstances relating to the war) were set merrily going by Mrs. Wolstencroft, Miss Ethel Grimshaw, Miss Edith Williams, Miss Ada Wolstencroft, Miss Sarah Holt, Miss M. E. Thorp, W. W. Wolstencroft and Mr. John Rolls, to the tune of Grandsire. Other courses of Grandsire were also successfully brought round, with Miss E. Crabtree, Miss Doris Ogden, and Mr. Joe Goddard and Mr. John Harrison taking part.

Before leaving the tower a hearty vote of thanks was accorded the authorities for the use of the bells, and also to Mr. Goddard for adding to the visitors' comfort.—Churchwarden Wagstaffe, in reply, remarked upon how marvellously well the ladies could manipulate the ropes.

Tea was afterwards partaken of at Mrs. Hobson's, whose house is at the foot of the church, where she has lived for a great many years.

After tea the party rambled over hill, dale and woodland, enjoying themselves to the full, as only happy hearts can. Arrived at Gee Cross they boarded the car, which brought them safely home, tired, but conscious of having had a happy, glorious, and beautiful outing, which, it is hoped, is but a forerunner of others to follow (D.V.).

W. W. W.

## MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

**WEST EALING.**—On Saturday, March 31st, at St. Stephen's Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 43 mins.: Miss Edith Jones 1, A. W. Davis 2, J. Hunnisett 3, C. Edwards 4, G. M. Kilby 5, R. Holloway (conductor) 6, E. Harris 7, W. Lawrence 8.—On Palm Sunday, for the evening service, another quarter-peal in the same method, in 44 minutes: J. Hunnisett 1, Pte R. H. Stevens 2, Miss Edith Jones 3, C. Edwards 4, H. Chaffey 5, R. Holloway (conductor) 6, W. Lawrence 7, Staff-Sergt. E. T. Verrills 8.

**BARNES.**—At St. Mary's Church, on Palm Sunday, 1264 Bob Major, in 44 mins.: M. Jacobs 1, H. Barrett 2, W. H. Stevens 3, Pte S. Meadows 4, F. Skevington 5, C. Collis 6, H. Cook 7, C. Hunt (conductor) 8.—On Easter Sunday, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples, in 42 mins.: M. Jacobs 1, H. Barrett 2, W. H. Stevens 3, F. Skevington 4, Pte S. Meadows 5, H. Cook 6, C. Hunt (first in the method as conductor) 7, P. C. Brooks 8.

**DEPTFORD.**—On Easter Sunday, for morning service, at St. John's Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 43 mins.: T. A. Easterby 1, F. W. Richardson (conductor) 2, A. G. Bennington 3, A. E. Goddard 4, E. J. Pannett 5, W. J. Jeffries 6, J. Law 7, C. D. Letzer 8.

**MILNROW, LANCs.**—On Easter Day, for evening service, at St. James' Parish Church, a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1440 changes), in 55 mins.: R. Buckley 1, G. Staff (conductor) 2, W. Staff (first quarter-peal) 3, E. Schofield 4, J. Fitton 5, C. Fielding 6, J. C. Massey 7, H. Buckley 8.

**ACTON.**—At St. Mary's Church, for morning service, on April 15th, 336 Grandsire Triples and some Stedman, conducted by J. Parker and Miss Edith Parker. For evening service, a quarter-peal of Bob Major: C. Edwards 1, Staff-Sergt. Verrills 2, E. Newell 3, H. Chaffey, R.N.A.S., 4, R. Holloway (conductor) 5, W. Vickery 6, A. Davies 7, W. Lawrence 8. For evening service, on Sunday, April 22nd, as a welcome to Second Air-Mechanic H. Holloway, on leave from "somewhere in France," a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: A.-M. H. Holloway 1, Miss Jones 2, J. W. Fruin 3, C. Edwards 4, H. Chaffey 5, R. Holloway (conductor) 6, W. Vickery 7, W. Lawrence 8.

**NORTHAMPTON.**—At All Saints' Church, on April 22nd, for evening service; also as a birthday compliment to A. P. Hensman, a quarter-peal of Double Norwich Major (1280 changes): J. White 1, A. P. Hensman (composer and conductor) 2, T. Law (first quarter in the method) 3, F. Hopper 4, W. Farey 5, H. Rainbow 6, J. Hensman 7, H. Blundell 8.

## THREE GENERATIONS OF VETERANS.

The death is announced at Tiffoulme, Devon, of Thomas Hellier, a veteran ringer, whose father and grandfather each rang for half a century.

## MEMORIAL BELL ROPES.

A gift of eight bell ropes has been made to Crawley Parish Church by Mr. Dewey, in memory of his son, Pte Henry John Dewey, R.A.M.C., who, as we recently recorded, was accidentally drowned in India. Private Dewey was an enthusiastic ringer, and began to ring when only 12 years of age.

## 5016 BOB MAXIMUS.

By C. R. LILLEY.

23456	W	M	H	23645	W	M	H
45236	—	—	—	64235	—	—	—
25634	—	—	—	24536	—	—	—
63254	—	—	—	53246	—	—	—
26354	—	—	—	25346	—	—	—
35264	—	—	—	43256	—	S	—
23564	—	—	—	24356	—	—	—
Repeated produces				23456	—	S	—
23645							

## 5036 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR.

By G. CROSS.

23456	1	4	5	6	35264	1	4	5	6
32654	—	—	—	—	34256	—	—	—	—
26354	—	—	—	—	42536	S	—	—	—
32465	—	—	—	—	25436	—	—	—	—
24365	—	—	—	—	54236	—	—	—	—
43265	—	—	—	—	32456	—	—	—	—
62345	—	—	—	—	24356	—	—	—	—
23645	—	—	—	—	43256	—	—	—	—
36245	—	—	—	—	52346	—	—	—	—
42635	—	—	—	—	23546	—	—	—	—
26435	—	—	—	—					
25463	—	—	—	—	Repeated.				
45362	—	—	—	—	Has the 2nd only				
52364	—	—	—	—	twice in 5—8.				
23564	—	—	—	—					
35264	—	—	—	—					

## NOTICES.

The EDITORIAL OFFICE of "THE RINGING WORLD," to which all communications should be sent, is 9, COMMERCIAL ROAD, WOKING.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS** (Established 1637).—Meetings will be held at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., on May 31st, 1917, for handbell practice, and on the 22nd for general business; all at 8 p.m.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W. 4.

**ST. PETER'S, CROYDON.**—The bells (10) will be available for all ringers on Saturday, the 19th May, from 4 to 8 p.m.—Chas. Dean, 2, Biddulph Road, Croydon.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Tonbridge District.—The annual meeting of this district will be held at Penshurst on Saturday, May 19th, 1917. Tower open at 3. Service in church at 5. Tea at 5.45, followed by general meeting. A representative of the district will be elected to serve on the sub-committee to consider the subject of a memorial to those members who have fallen in the war. Three pence per head will be charged for tea. Subscriptions are now due and should be paid at the meeting or sent to W. Latter, Hon. District Secretary, 11, Dudley Road, Tunbridge Wells.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Bolton Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Horwich Parish Church on Saturday, May 19th. Bells available from 4 p.m.; meeting at 7.—Thomas B. Worsley, Branch Secretary, 19, Parkfield Road, Bolton.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Rochdale Branch.—The next meeting will be held at East Crompton on Saturday, May 19th. Bells ready at 2 o'clock till dusk; meeting at 6.30.—T. K. Driver, Sec., 99, Hunter Street, Middleton.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Rossendale Branch.—The next branch meeting will be held at Christ Church, Bacup, on Saturday, May 26th. Bells ready at 2.30; meeting at 6.30. Subscriptions due. Reports to hand.—J. H. Haydock, Branch Secretary.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Flixton on Whit-Saturday. Bells available during the afternoon and evening. Meeting at 6 o'clock.—W. W. Woistencroft, Branch Secretary.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—The annual meeting will be held at Romford on Whit-Monday. Divine service at 4 p.m. Address by Rev. G. M. Bell, Vicar of Romford. Tea at 5 p.m., to be followed by the annual meeting. Towers open for ringing: Romford, Hornchurch, Dagenham, Shenfield, Little Heath (Brentwood for 20 minutes' touches, 1½ hours in all). Members intending to take tea must send me notice not later than previous Tuesday on account of the difficulties of catering.—H. T. W. Eyre, Hon. Sec., Great Totham Vicarage.

**CENTRAL NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—The annual meeting will be held at Rothwell on Whit-Monday, May 28th. Bells available at 10 o'clock. Service at 12 noon. Meeting to follow. Committee meeting at 10.30.—Fred Willford, Gen. Sec., 149, Ashburnham Road, Northampton.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.**—South and West District.—The next meeting will be held at St. Peter's, Staines, on Saturday, June 2nd. Bells available from 3.30. All ringing friends welcome.—H. C. Chandler, Hon. Sec., Church Road, Heston, Hounslow.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—North Bucks Branch.—The annual meeting of the above will be held at Shenley on Saturday, June 2nd. Service, 3 p.m.; meeting to follow. Owing to difficulty in getting provisions no tea will be provided. Bells (6) available 2 p.m.—W. Sear, Sec., 69, Windsor Street, Bletchley.

**DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION**—It has been decided to abandon the Whit-Monday meeting which was to have been held at Bishop Auckland, owing to the excessive railway fares and the food restrictions. The annual meeting, however, will (D.V.) be held as appointed at Sunderland on Saturday, October 27th.—G. T. Potter, 13, Park Parade, Whitley Bay, Northumberland.

**SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.**—It has been decided by the Committee that in view of present difficulties the Annual Meeting be postponed indefinitely, but that the Master and Secretary be empowered to convene such a meeting at their discretion: all officers to retain their posts until such meeting be held.—F. L. Edwards, Secretary.

**PEAL BOOKS.**—Price 3s., post free 3/6. Peals written in at 3d. per page. Prices for entering peals in Association official peal books upon application.—J. Beams, West Ewell, Epsom.

#### **MEMORIAL TABLET TO THE LATE MR. SAMUEL SPITTLE.**

At the annual meeting of the Dudley and District Guild, held on Saturday, March 10th, 1917, it was unanimously decided to erect in the Parish Church, Dudley (the Vicar and wardens having consented to the same), a tablet recording the half-muffled peal of Grandsire Caters rung on Saturday, February 3rd, at St. Thomas's Church, Dudley, to the memory of the late Mr. Samuel Spittle, who had been its ringing master ever since the Guild was formed, and had held other important offices at the Parish Church for upwards of 70 years. It was further decided to appeal to the members of the Guild for subscriptions, and it was thought that many of the late Mr. Spittle's ringing friends and acquaintances would like the opportunity of contributing something towards perpetuating the memory of so devoted and honoured a ringer and church worker. The work has already been put in hand, and subscriptions should be forwarded without delay to the Ringing Master, Harry Mason, Stourdell, Old Hill, Staffs, or to the Hon. Secretary, Herbert Sheppard, 113, Himley Road, Dudley, who will in due course acknowledge the same in "The Ringing World."

Rev. Dr. Gray Maitland, LL.D., Vicar and President.

Harry Mason, Ringing Master.

Herbert Sheppard, Hon. Sec.

#### **HANDBELLS WANTED.**

**WANTED.**—HANDBELLS (secondhand), any notes. Send full particulars to Rev. G. Elwell, The Vicarage, St. George, Bristol.

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