

No. 371. Vol. XIII.

FRIDAY, APRIL 26th, 1918.

[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, 1894
Bantlemen.

The re-casting of the peal of ten bells with the addition of two new ones to 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

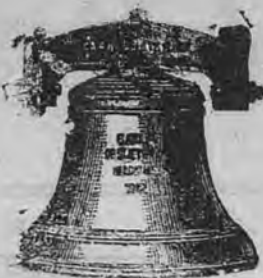
BELGIUM'S LOST BELLS.

The suggestion put forward by Mr. E. H. Lewis, in our last issue, that a fund should be inaugurated, to be contributed by the ringers of England and friends, for replacing some of the bells of Belgium despoiled by the Germans, is a proposal that will, we are sure, appeal very directly to the hearts of the lovers of bells. The wanton destruction of the bells, and particularly of the famous carillons, while it is only of a piece with all that has been done before, by the savagery of the Hun, who could scarcely be expected to preserve bells when he has destroyed cathedrals and committed unspeakable crimes against women and children, is a cruel blow to the Belgian people, whose bells form part of their national life, even more intimately perhaps than the bells of England do of the life of those who live in this country. Mr. W. Gorham Rice, an American, after exploring the carillon towers of Holland and Belgium, wrote: "Many travellers have sought to comprehend the secret of the attractiveness of the Low Countries. Complex and elusive that secret doubtless is, yet I believe we shall find a clue for our search in a knowledge of this distinctive (carillon) music. Surely its long-continued hold upon the people of Holland and Belgium; its association with stirring events in their history; its touch with prosaic duties; its democratic spirit; its companionship with time; its seat in lofty towers; and its maintenance at the public charge—all give suggestions of racial temperament well worth considering."

The bell music from the carillon towers throws its spell over all who hear it, and when we realise that to the Belgians these bells are as closely allied with their national life as the English church bells are to ours we shall sympathise with them to the fullest degree in the loss which has befallen them. What would be our feelings if an invading foe stripped our cathedrals and our churches of the bells? And once the bells have gone from the Belgian towers, in the wholesale manner that the Germans are said to have taken them, how are they eventually to be replaced? We are afraid it must be many, many years before they are completely restored; but if the ringers of the ringing Isle, with outside friends, can replace even one of the lost carillons, it would be an act which would not only be received with gratitude by the Belgian people, but would stand for all time as a memorial erected by the Exercise in England to the immortal heroism of and the tragic sacrifices made by the little nation who is our ally. Mr. Lewis proposes to put the subject before the Central Council, and we feel sure if he does it will meet with all the sympathy it deserves. The Council is unquestionably the best body to take the lead in this matter, and if it decides to do so, we hope it will do so with a "live" interest.

MODERN WORK

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

**FOR CHURCHES,
SINGLY,
OR IN PEALS.**

CHIMES FOR CLOCKS.

PEALS AUGMENTED,
CRACKED BELLS REPAIRED.

FRAMES

IN BEST SEASONED OAK,
STEEL OR IRON.

Chiming Machines.

Best Workmanship and
Satisfaction Guaranteed.

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OF ALL KINDS.

**ARTISTIC WROUGHT IRON
BRACKETS.**

WALL-MOUNTED IRON BRACKETS:
BEST BELL ROPES.
REPAIRS AND REHANGING
IN ALL BRANCHES.

BELLHANGERS sent to inspect
and report on Bells and Towers

SEND FOR CATALOGUE.

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Cathedral, Edinburgh, St. Alban's, Lincoln, Durham, Peterborough
Melbourne (Australia), Rochester, Dublin, St. Patrick's, Manchester
and Worcester Cathedrals etc., etc.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

STANDISH, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 20, 1918, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. WILFRED,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THOMAS DAY'S SIX-PART. Tenor 12 cwt.

ALBERT SEDDON 2	JOHN BOOTH 5
JOSEPH GREY 2	JAMES W. GROUNDS 6
FRED RIGBY 3	PETER CROOK 7
ERNEST BIRCHALL 4	GEORGE HEWITT Tenor

Conducted by PETER CROOK.

Rung as a compliment to John Grounds, father of the ringer of 6, who has completed 40 years' service as a ringer at the above church.

DUFFIELD, DERBYSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 20, 1918, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ALMUNDS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

SIR A. P. HAYWOOD'S VARIATION OF THURSTAN'S.

Tenor 17 cwt.

ALBERT H. WARD 2	BART MITCHELL 5
GEORGE WARD 2	JOHN FLOWER 6
CHARLES E. HART 3	FRED HICKLING 7
JOSEPH LORD 4	WILLIAM J. WILEMAN ... Tenor

Conducted by ALBERT H. WARD.

Rung with the bells half-muffled in commemoration of the anniversary of the death of the late Sir Arthur Haywood, Bart.

HANDBELL PEAL.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND
LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD

On Friday, April 20, 1918, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF ST. LEONARD'S CHURCH, SHOREDITCH.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5007 CHANGES;

J. BRUCE WILLIAMSON ... 1-2	GEORGE R. PYE 7-8
MRS. F. I. HAINS 3-4	WILLIAM PYE 9-10
WILLIAM SHEPHERD 5-6	CHARLES H. HORTON ... 11-12

Composed by CHARLES H. HATTERLEY.

Conducted by WILLIAM PYE. Umpire, G. M. KILEY.

* First peal of Stedman Cinques.

The umpire in the handbell peal at Birmingham published in our issue of April 12th was Mr. William Kent.

LLANDAFF DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

A quarterly meeting of the Llandaff Diocesan Association was held at Peterston-super-Ely, Glamorganshire, on Saturday week, and proved an excellent one. It was well attended, the ladies being well in evidence, and members being present from Llanbradach, Rumney and Newport. Mr. Symon, the local leader, welcomed all on arrival, and spared no pains to make the meeting a success. The bells, a light ring of six, go excellently, and were kept busy until 5 p.m., when a move was made to the Schoolroom, where, notwithstanding the food restrictions, there was an excellent tea kindly provided by the Rector and his wife. Over 40 sat down, and, needless to say, the hospitality was much appreciated. The Rector's wife, with other lady assistants, were good enough to look after the needs of the visitors, for which at the conclusion the best thanks of the members were accorded them.

Subsequently the business meeting was presided over by the Master (Mr. W. Bolton), in the unavoidable absence of the Rector. Several new members were elected, including seven from Penarth, where in the past was to be found one of the best if not the best Minor band in the Association. Penarth and Llanbradach were each proposed as the place at which to hold the next Glamorgan meeting, and on being put to the vote, Llanbradach was carried by a large majority. The next Monmouthshire meeting is to be held at St. Mellons.

During the evening, the bells were rung in the four Standard methods, everyone appeared to thoroughly enjoy themselves, and the meeting can be said to have been a huge success. Several of the pioneers of the Association put in an appearance, amongst whom was Mr. W. Coombes, and the veteran enthusiast, Mr. J. Clutterbuck.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

E. BERKS AND S. BUCKS BRANCH.

An excellent annual meeting of the East Berks and South Bucks Branch was held at Beaconsfield on Easter Monday, as a result of the wise decision of the Oxford Diocesan Guild Branch Committee at their last sitting to defer this event, which usually takes place in mid-winter. Previously it was the custom to fix up a Saturday evening when the moon was at the full; add to this the war regulations now forbidding certain sounds beloved of bell ringers with certain light restricted at certain hours; the dearer railway fares; the urgent calls for civilian labour on police, Red Cross, munitions, Volunteer rifle training, and many similar causes, and then wonder no longer that men of the ringing fraternity—those unclaimed by the Ministry of Recruiting—do not assemble in greater numbers.

Some readers will probably inquire: Are we not piling up our woes a little? To these I answer there are others—our friend the weather thought fit to break up after an exceptionally long spell of fine spring days; the Germans thought fit to begin their smashing to pieces of the British Army on the West Front about Lady Day; there are doleful pessimists about who would silence all bells just now; then the Food Controller's new orders do not appeal to the inner man of the bell ringer; whilst there is yet another woe to come—the raising of the military age-limit to 50 will carry off a few more of our hands—and still we are not down-hearted. On the contrary, a few prime young men of 50 summers suggested to me the raising of a 'ringers' platoon' for R.G.A. duty at Plymouth or Portsmouth—and (this is the kind of spirit prevailing, generally speaking, throughout the Exercise to-day).

The day's proceedings began at Slough at ten o'clock, the Rev. G. S. Deacon and Messrs. H. Hunt, C. Farr and J. Croft (Windsor), Wm. Hewitt, Percy Smith and R. Sanders, of London; Messrs. Leader (steeplekeeper of St. Mary's), T. S. Smith, W. Henley, W. Bateman and two daughters, Miss Fuller, Mr. G. H. Gutteridge, Mr. J. Brant (Warfield), and others sufficient to ring three methods were present. At Farnham Royal the ropes were resumed, and a double team took part in six methods—the visitors being met by the local veteran steeplekeeper, Mr. J. J. Parker, and Messrs. Elderfield, Eastwell and Dowling.

Another part of the county—High Wycombe—was invaded by Mr. Wm. Lawrence and Miss Jones (Ealing), Messrs. Tom Beadle, A. Reckensale (Isleworth), W. T. Elsom (Fulham), T. H. Taffender, and another of Southwark; Mr. R. T. Hilbert and his son (Caversham), Mr. J. H. Barnes and his son (Great Missenden), Mr. John Evans and his son (Hughenden), the Rev. J. Fraser Amies and a pupil of Chalfont St. Peter; Messrs. C. Edwards (Acton), J. Milner (Harrow), W. Shepherd (Hersham), E. F. Pike (Brockley), C. Hare (Tottenham), etc. The local members of the All Saints' Society mustered well, including Messrs. F. Hayes (conductor), R. Cole (the steeplekeeper), J. Grausbury, R. Biggs, J. W. Wilkins, Wm. Horne, G. White, and others, so that good ten and twelve bell touches of Kent Treble Bob and Stedman were rung between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

THE FESTIVAL.

During the afternoon some sixty ringers visited the old town section of Beaconsfield, the additional members including Messrs. J. L. Kirk (Cookham), E. Harding (Fulmer), the Vicar of Waltham and his steeplekeeper, the Misses Williams and Feltham (Hillingdon), Mr. and Mrs. J. Blackmore, the Bishop of Buckingham, the Rev. A. S. Commeline (Vicar of St. Mary's), Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Bagley (churchwarden), Mr. O. F. Davies, F.C.O. (organist), Mr. George Allder (Burnham), and the Guild secretary. Evening service, conducted by the Rector, found 58 ringers in their seats, the sermon—more like a homely address—was delivered by the Bishop of Bucks, in which he pointed out the fact that church bells were not mentioned in the Old or New Testaments although the pealing of bells in this country was the only means of calling people together in early days to hear the Bible read. Allusion was made to the terrible loss of life caused by the war, including many of the members of this Guild whom they would remember in their prayers that day, as well as those who were still doing 'their bit' in the battle area. The hymns selected were: 'Jesus lives' and 'Rock of Ages.'

A Buckinghamshire Surprise awaited everyone, except Mr. Reeves (sexton), Mrs. Reeves, and Mr. and Mrs. Blackmore, the creators thereof, by the exceptional provision made in the way of rations.

The tea was served in the long room of the old Rectory, a unique 14th century half-timbered building now preserved as a national treasure, and in the charge of Mr. Reeves. A wood fire was burning on the dog irons of the fireplace, and the tables were nicely set out, several junior relatives of the curator taking up the task of waiting upon the guests, who one and all appeared to be most comfortable and happy under the Daylight Saving Act, and quite fearless of penalties threatened to food hoarders.

BUSINESS MEETING.

The Bishop having to leave early, the chair was kindly taken by the Rev. A. S. Commeline, whose courteous and expert handling of the agenda enabled a good deal of business to be got through in a brief period.

The balance sheet for the year ending 31st December, 1917, which showed the branch was £13 Bs. 10d. to the good, after paying the large proportion of £11 13s. 4d. into the Guild's Diocesan Fund.

The committee, president and treasurer were all re-elected for 1918, with Messrs. Smith and Kirk as Borks deputies for Messrs. Wellington and Martin, and Messrs. Blackmore and Borcham as Bucks deputies for Messrs. Buckland and White. The following voluntary instructors were unanimously approved by the meeting, and their services will be available at any tower in their respective districts on application to the secretary: Messrs. Copsey (Boyne Hill), Smith (Windsor), Brant (Winkfield), Gutteridge (Iver), Horne (Amersham), and Haynes (Wycombe). The Secretary reported the roll of members as follows: Life subscribers, 8; honorary members, 37; non-resident ringing, 62; unattached, 15; change ringing, 230; complimentary, 89; total, 439. There are 17 lady ringers of whom 13 are change ringers. Men on war service total 144, of whom 11 have been killed in action, and 55 paid fees to branch. One tower of nine men in arrears is included in the total. There are 29 towers in union.

Amongst other coincidences, mentioned by the secretary were that returns came to hand the same week from two towers mustering 36 members (Wycombe), whilst two subscribers—the Bishop and a sapper in the R.E.—each sent in double subscriptions to cover the current and coming year's contributions. This is the sort of 'Kameraderie' which only men of the ringing isles can fully understand.

A war-time break took place, when the members opened their arms to welcome two new towers, viz., St. Michael's, Warfield, with ten ringers, under the leadership of Mr. L. Bristowe, and with the Rev. C. Toogood (Vicar), as hon. member; and St. John's, Windsor, with 17 members, including eight ladies, under the leadership of Mr. A. Patch, and the Vicar (the Rev. E. M. Blackie), and the churchwardens as hon. members. Mr. J. L. Kirk (Cookham), Mr. A. S. Bagley (Beaconsfield), the Rev. C. H. Stokes (Wexham), the Rev. Walter Thackeray (Boyne Hill), were added to the list of honorary members; Mr. Percy H. Smith was made a non-resident member, and Messrs. Dowling, Barnes, junr., H. W. Badger, F. O. Nickolls junr., E. J. Kippington John Mitchell, and a number of the probationers, were added to the list of performing members; and, last, but not least, the Misses Jones, Bateman and Williams were elected change ringing members.

The absence of Canon Drummond, President of the Branch, through illness, was regretted, a message sent through the chairman stated how disappointed he was not to be able to give his yearly address to them after 40 years of office, but urging the branch to carry on their work with brotherly zeal.

A vote of thanks to the Bishop for sparing a valuable half-day to the ringers, and to the Rector, churchwardens and organist of Beaconsfield for their hearty welcome to the Guild, was passed with acclamation. Mr. and Mrs. Reeves and Mr. and Mrs. Blackmore (for their kind catering arrangements) received a similar mark of appreciation.

The tower was again visited for further touches—a little of all of it—by mixed teams, who gradually dispersed in groups for home, via Great Central Railway, or astride the trusty cycle, as the shades of evening closed in.

W. H. F.

DEATH OF AN OLD WORKSOP RINGER.

We have to record the death of a well known personality in North Notts ringing circles, Mr. Thomas Henry Thorpe, of Worksop, an old and respected employee of Messrs. Oates, Ltd. The deceased, who was 67 years of age, was a remarkable character in his way, and was a most experienced woodman.

During the many years he was in the employ of Mr. G. A. Oates and the late Mr. Benjamin Gardside, he never missed a day's work, nor was he ever known to be behind time. He was seldom idle, as he occupied his leisure time in bell ringing, or in some other form of work.

The late Mr. Thorpe was the last of the Worksop band of 50 years ago. He formed the Priory company of change ringers in the year 1863, and remained a ringer for 46 years, until Aug., 1909, resigning his position as captain soon after the death of the late Vicar (the Rev. H. T. Slodden). He was also the organ blower for 25 years, so the work he did for the church was very practical. He has walked many miles in pursuit of ringing, and, although not an enthusiast for peal ringing, he has rung many 720's of Minor in various Treble Bob methods, and also three quarter-peals of Kent and Oxford Treble Bob Major, ringing the tenor in good style.

The deceased served on the committee of the North Notts Association for several years, and invariably attended all the district meetings. His quiet and unassuming disposition endeared him to all with whom he came in contact.

His remains were laid quietly to rest in the New Cemetery, Worksop, on Monday week, and as a last tribute of respect to his memory the Priory ringers rang touches of Grandsire Triples, with the clappers half-muffled. The following took part: H. Weaver, F. Willey, E. Clark, T. Bartholomew, G. Hardwick, W. Roberts, A. Johnson (conductor), J. T. Wilson and P. Hopkinson.—R.I.P.

THE SPITTLE MEMORIAL.

UNVEILING AT DUDLEY PARISH CHURCH.

The annual meeting of the Dudley Guild, held at Dudley, on Saturday, April 6th, was made specially memorable on account of the fact that advantage was taken of the occasion to unveil the memorial tablet to the late Ringing Master of the Guild (Mr. Samuel Spittle), who was not only one of the founders of the organisation, but for more than 70 years was connected with the church. Although the weather was not all that could be desired, upwards of one hundred members availed themselves of the opportunity of being present, and the beautiful ring of ten bells were at their disposal from 3 o'clock until 9 p.m., a privilege which was greatly appreciated by the ringers and townsfolk generally, as there is no ringing except for Sunday services at present.

The service in the church was conducted by the Rev. Canon A. Gray Maitland, President of the Guild, and Vicar of Dudley, who also dedicated the tablet. To the processional hymn, 'Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven,' the clergy, choir and officers of the Guild proceeded from the vestry to the site of the tablet, where the President, after a few introductory remarks as to the reason for its erection, requested Sir Arthur G. Boscawen, M.P. for Dudley, and a vice-president of the Guild, to conduct the unveiling ceremony. This took place in the presence of a large assembly, representing not only the congregation of the Parish Church, but also the greater part of bell ringers from that and adjoining districts.

After the unveiling, Mr. Harry Mason, the Ringing Master, in a brief speech, handed over the tablet to the care of the churchwardens (Mr. F. R. McDowell, Vicar's warden; and Mr. J. McDougal Tait, people's warden), who willingly accepted charge of the tablet to the memory of so faithful a servant of the Church. They promised that every care should be taken of it, and that they would hand it down to their successors for all time.

The Vicar then dedicated the tablet a special form of service being used. The procession then reformed, and on reaching the chancel, the Vicar concluded the service, in the course of which the hymn, 'Jesus lives,' was sung, and Sir Arthur Boscawen gave an eloquent address, in the course of which he referred to the long and honourable life of the late Mr. Spittle. He spoke of his close association throughout life with the Parish Church, and of the valuable and constant services he had rendered during 71 years as an officer of the church, and, for upwards of 50 years, as its head bell ringer. Referring to the many men from Dudley who were serving their country, and the magnificent spirit of self-sacrifice they were showing, Sir Arthur said it was with the same spirit, of devotion and self-sacrifice that the late Mr. Spittle had served his Church and town, and was worthy equally with the soldiers of the honour and respect they were paying to his memory that day.

The singing of the hymn, 'For all the saints, who from their labours rest,' and the Benediction, brought the service to a close.

The tablet, which is a copper panel, mounted on a black marble plaque, with repoussé lettering, bears the following inscription:—

'In sacred memory of Samuel Spittle, chief beadle of this church, and Ringing Master of the Dudley and District Guild, who died January 26th, 1917, at the age of 80 years, an honoured and devoted servant of this church for 71 years. "May he rest in peace." On Feb. 3rd, 1917, was rung upon the bells of this church in 3 hours and 18 minutes, half-muffled, a peal of Grandsire Caters (5057 changes), composed by the late William Micklewright, and rung by the following members of the above Guild, as a last tribute to the memory of their beloved Master: Gilbert Guest treble, Samuel Baker 2, William Mills 3, Herbert Sheppard 4, John Goodman, senr. 5, Harry Jeavons 6, John Goodman, junr. 7, Harry Goodman 8, Benjamin Gough 9, William Meek tenor. Conducted by John Goodman, junr. Rev. A. Gray Maitland, LL.D., Vicar. F. R. McDowell, J. McDougal Tait, churchwardens.'

After service an adjournment was made to the Schoolroom, where tea was in readiness. Mrs. Gray Maitland and Mrs. Tait presided at the urns, and among the visitors present were the churchwardens, Mr. F. R. McDowell and J. McDougal Tait, Alderman J. S. Pritchett, M.A. (King's Norton), Mr. A. E. Parsons (Master, Worcestershire Association), Mr. A. Paddon Smith (St. Martin's, Birmingham) and Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Mason, Mrs. J. E. Groves, Mr. and Mrs. John Price (of Coseley) and others. The following towers were represented: Coseley, Dudley, Bradley, Bilston, Brierley Hill, Blakenhall, Sedgley, Tipton, Old Hill, Oldswinford, Smethwick, West Bromwich, Wolverhampton, Birmingham, Wednesbury, etc. Apologies were received among others, from Rev. F. W. Jones (Coseley), Rev. C. H. Barker (West Bromwich), Messrs. John Carter, Herbert Knight (secretary, Society of Archdeaconry of Stafford), J. R. Newman (secretary, Worcestershire Association), W. H. Johnson (secretary, Worcester Cathedral Guild), W. Cheshire (Erdington), J. H. Shepherd (Swindon), J. W. Jones (secretary, Llandaff Association), James George (Master of Warwickshire Guild), and John Bradney (Wolverhampton).

The business meeting followed, under the presidency of the Rev. Canon Gray Maitland, LL.D., who at the commencement gave the members a hearty welcome to Dudley.

The annual report and balance sheet, which had been prepared and presented by the Hon. Secretary (Mr. Herbert Sheppard), was passed, and ordered to be printed.

All the officers were re-elected, and several new members, including several lady ringers, as well as the following as hon. members, were elected: Mr. and Mrs. John Price (Coseley), Mrs. A. Gray Maitland, Mrs. H. Mason and Mrs. B. Gough.

The next quarterly meeting will be held at Coseley, on Saturday June 8th, and it is hoped members will take a note of the date.

At the close of the meeting, a hearty vote of thanks was, on the proposition of Mr. A. E. Parsons, seconded by Mr. A. Paddon Smith, accorded to the president for conducting the service in church, presiding at the meeting, and for the use of the schoolroom, tower and bells; to the organist (Mr. T. W. North), the deputy organist (Mr. T. Cutler), and the choir for their services; also to the ladies for presiding at the tables, and assisting at the tea.—Special votes of thanks were also given to Sir Arthur G. Boscawen for kindly coming to unveil the tablet, and for his inspiring address, and to the visitors especially the ladies, who graced the meeting by their presence; to the Ringing Master (Mr. Harry Mason) for kindly bearing the expense of so bountiful a tea, his hospitality being greatly appreciated by all present.

The singing of the National Anthem brought another successful meeting to a close.

KILLED IN THE GERMAN OFFENSIVE.

It is with much regret that we have to record the death of one of the members of a well-known Sussex ringing family, Lieut. E. Aitwater, who was killed in action in France on March 22nd. He was struck in the head by shrapnel, and his death was instantaneous.

A member of the Sussex and Surrey Associations, and of the College Youths, he was a very reliable ringer, and had rung several peals, conducting one. He was formerly a member of the cricket staff at the Oval, and saw much fighting in the earliest days of the war at Ypres, Loos, and the Somme, where his meritorious work as a machine gunner earned for him a commission.

He was married 14 months ago to the daughter of Councillor and Mrs. R. W. Hulls, of Arundel, and much sympathy has been expressed with his widow and their infant. Lieut. Aitwater was much respected at his home at Cuckfield, Sussex, where, as in Arundel, his loss will be deeply regretted.

Pte. Charles Owen, 1/7th Manchester Regiment, died of wounds in France on April 4th. The deceased was a nephew of Mr. J. E. Groves, of Birmingham, and was one of the first company formed at St. Nicholas' Liverpool, after the bells had been rehung in 1911. He joined the Forces in 1915, and had served in Egypt and France.

As a mark of respect to the deceased, on Sunday week at St. Nicholas' Church, 720 Rob Major, with the tenor covering, and with the bells muffled: W. Fisher 4, W. A. Sevious 5, J. H. Moore 6, S. Hammond 7, G. R. Newton (conductor) 8, E. Caunce 9, G. Fisher 10, W. Davies 11, J. Lamb 12. The company met for Grandsire Caters, but owing to illness one of the band was unable to ring, and the above rung instead.

News has been received of the death in action, of a well-known London ringer—Mr. W. Truss. He was killed in France on the 12th inst., and much sympathy will go out to his widow, who is left with a family of five children.

The Rev. Canon Baker, Rector of Dunstable, and President of the Bedfordshire Association, has lost a son in the recent fighting in France, and as a token of respect to the memory of the deceased, and all the other brave men who have fallen in the great German offensive, a half-muffled quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1260 changes) was rung at Dunstable on Saturday evening by the Luton company: F. Hunt 1, L. A. Goodenough 2, H. Wood 3, T. Kendall 4, B. Wilson 5, J. Rookwood 6, A. King (conductor) 7, H. Shaw 8.

MUFFLED RINGING AT READING.

St. Giles' Church, Reading, has lost a valued supporter by the death of Mr. J. Okey Taylor, J.P., who was formerly senior church warden and took an active and leading part in the augmentation of the original peal of six to the present beautiful peal of eight.

With the bells half-muffled, to the memory of the deceased gentleman, 504 Stedman Triples was rung on Saturday last at St. Giles' Church, by: H. Simmonds 1, N. Cox 2, A. Wiggins 3, T. E. Sone 4, Miss E. Goodship 5, H. Eby 6, A. W. Osborne (conductor) 7, G. Cook 8. A touch of 210 Grandsire Triples was also rung, conducted by Miss Goodship. On Sunday, for evensong, the last 742 from Holt's Original, was rung by: Miss D. Ratten 1, G. Boddington 2, L. T. Osborne 3, T. E. Sone 4, Miss E. Goodship 5, A. W. Osborne 6, H. Eby (conductor) 7, N. Cox 8. Pte. T. E. Sone hails from Maidstone, and is a patient at the War Hospital at Reading.

EDGRASTON.—For service, on Sunday morning, March 17th, at the Parish Church, 720 Kent Treble Rob Minor: C. Webb 1, W. Bryant 2, M. Edgely (Arley Kings) 3, J. Eaton 4, G. Pigott 5, H. Withers (conductor) 6.

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**SOUTHERN BRANCH ENTERTAINED AT OFFENHAM.**

A quarterly meeting of the Southern Branch of the Worcestershire Association was held at Offenham on Saturday last, and, despite the downpour of rain throughout the afternoon and evening, was well attended, ringers being present from Evesham, Hampton, Bengeworth, Fladbury, Bretforton, Toddington, etc.: Mr. Harry Withers, of Birmingham, also being present. Service was held in church, at which the Vicar (the Rev. G. H. B. Greening) and the Vicar of Hampton (the Rev. D. Fitzmaurice) officiated, the organist and choir being in attendance and the Vicar giving an excellent and a most interesting address. Tea, which was contributed by the Vicar and Mrs. Greening, and churchworkers and friends, was served in the school, and surpassed all expectations, but as a friend said to the writer, 'the Offenham people will do it.' About 50 sat down to the well-laden tables, including the Vicar (the Rev. D. Fitzmaurice), the churchwardens, and the choir.

A business meeting followed, at which the Vicar presided, and at which he was elected an honorary member, and Mr. W. Large (of Todenham) was elected a life member. About 20 performing members were elected, including three lady ringers.

It was decided to attempt the quarterly peal at Offenham, with the bells half-muffled, with Mr. F. J. Johnson as conductor.

It was further resolved to hold the next quarterly meeting at Bengeworth.

A vote of sympathy was passed, by all standing, with the relatives of the late Mr. John Godfrey, of Pershore, and Mr. Daniel Walton, of Hinton, two well-known and much-respected members of this branch, and who had recently been removed by death.

The usual votes of thanks were proposed by Mr. G. Ashley, to the Vicar for presiding, for his excellent address at the service; to the kind donors of the tea; to the large staff of ladies who had waited upon the visitors; to the churchwardens, choir and organist; and also to the Vicar of Hampton for his presence with them.

Brief and humorous speeches followed, by the chairman, the Rev. D. Fitzmaurice, and the churchwardens, and concluded a most successful and enjoyable meeting. Handbells were then brought into use, on which touches and tunes were rung, those taking part being H. Withers, H. Middleton, F. J. and Miss E. M. Johnson, J. and G. J. Hemming.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**VISIT TO SUDBURY.**

A most enjoyable afternoon was spent on Easter Monday by members of the above Association in the quaint old West Suffolk town of Sudbury, the grand ring of bells at All Saints' Church being placed at their disposal by the Rector (the Rev. P. Oswald). A number of well-struck touches were brought round in the following methods: Bob Major, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, Stedman Triples, Double Norwich, and Superlative, the ringers including Messrs. A. and S. Symonds, Lavenham; F. Claydon and J. French, Earls Colne; J. Sadler, W. Howell and E. W. Beckwith, Coggeshall; W. Ladbams, Great Tey; A. Shuffelebotham, Braintree; W. J. Nevard, Great Bentley; and D. Elliott, A. Perry, W. Dixon, M. Silvester and S. Howell, of the local band. Sudbury has three magnificent churches, dedicated respectively to St. Gregory, St. Peter and All Saints, and each has a fine tower and ring of eight bells which must be nearly unique in a town of 7,000 inhabitants. The ring of St. Gregory's (tenor 16 cwt.), by T. Mears 1821, are at present in London, being retuned, etc., and awaiting more peaceful times for their return. St. Peter's (tenor 23 cwt.) include three pre-Reformation bells, a Miles Graye, 1641; John Darbio, 1662; and a James Edhurie, 1605. All Saints' (tenor 28 cwt.) also has three pre-Reformation bells, and the tenor before recasting, by Warner, in 1875, was by S. Tonni, Bury, 1576.

When the ringers left the church on Bank Holiday, the Rector complimented them on the excellent striking, and they in their turn thanked him most heartily for the use of the bells.

Tea was obtained at a restaurant, and some of the party afterwards visited St. Gregory's to view the skull of Archbishop Simon, of Sudbury, who was beleaguered by Wat Tyler in 1381. The house in which Thomas Gainsborough, the great artist, was born, was also viewed, as well as the important bronze statue erected on the Market Hill in front of St. Peter's Church to his memory, and unveiled in 1913 by Princess Louise. A final meet at the Station Hotel before leaving at 8.30 finished a day which does so much in these times to keep the old hands together.

E. W. B.

MEETINGS.

The Royal Cumberland Youths are holding a meeting at Southwark Cathedral to-morrow, and the unique opportunity (in war time) of ringing on these bells should attract a large gathering.

There is also a meeting of the S. and W. District of the Middlesex Association at Heston, and a meeting of the Lewisham District of the Kent Association at Crayford.

NOTICES.

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

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Peter's, Brighton, on Whit-Monday, May 20th, 1918. Short service at 4 o'clock, address by the Vicar of Brighton (Canon F. D. Pierce), Business meeting at 4.30 p.m. in Parish Room, adjoining Church. Half railway fares without limit. Towers open as follows: St. Nicholas, 10.30 a.m. to 12, 6.30 p.m. to 8; St. Peter, 2 p.m. to 4, 6.30 p.m. to 8.—H. R. Butcher, Gen. Hon. Sec., 2, Kent View, Crowborough, Sussex.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—A meeting will be held at Heston to-morrow, Saturday, April 27th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Tea provided (no sugar) at 6. All ringing friends welcome.—H. C. Chandler, Hon. Sec., Heston, Hounslow.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—Quarterly meeting at Southwark Cathedral to-morrow, April 27th. Bells available 2.30 to 5. Business meeting, "King of Denmark," Old Bailey, afterwards.—J. Parker, Hon. Sec. *pro tem.*

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham district.—The next meeting will be held at Crayford to-morrow (Saturday), April 27th. Tower open at 3 p.m., service and address at 5.30 p.m. The business meeting will follow in St. Paulinus' Hall. I shall be glad to receive outstanding subscriptions.—T. Groombridge, Hon. Dist. Sec., 35, Albany Road, Chislehurst.

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The first meeting of the new St. Albans District will be held at Hatfield on April 27th, 1918. Bells (8) available at 3 p.m. All ringers will be welcome.—Wm. Nash, "Glenthorne," North Mymms, Hatfield, Hon. Dist. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Estab. 1637).—Meetings will be held at the "Coffee Pot," Warwick Lane, E.C., for handbell practice, on May 2nd, 16th and 30th, and for general business on the 7th and 21st, all at 8 p.m.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Frome and Midsomer Norton Deanery Branch.—Annual meeting at Frome, Saturday, May 4th. Bells (8) available all the afternoon and evening. Buckland Dinham bells (6) also available. Tea and business (Union Jack Restaurant) at 5 p.m.—I. B. Holmyard, Hon. Sec., Midsomer Norton.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—The annual meeting of the Division for the election of Divisional Officers will take place at the Parish Church (St. Peter's), Bexhill, on Saturday, May 4th. Ringing from 3 o'clock. Half railway fares to members attending.—Geo. H. Howse, Div. Hon. Secretary, Kenilworth, Latimer Road, Eastbourne.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—The postponed annual meeting will be held at Burton-on-Trent on Saturday, May 4th. Committee meeting at 4 o'clock, followed by general meeting at 4.45 p.m. in St. Margaret's Schools. St. Paul's bells will be available for ringing from 2.30 until about 7. No arrangements have been made for tea, but it may be obtained at various cafes in the town.—W. E. White, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Diocesan Guild.—A meeting will be held at Grassendale on Saturday, May 4. Bells ready at 4. Service at 5. Meeting at 5.30. Rev. E. C. Collier.—Walter Hughes, Sec.

BATH & WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Portishead on Saturday, May 4th. Bells available 4 p.m. Tea at the Café, High Street, at 5.45. Those who require tea must let me know by Tuesday, April 30th.—George Yeo, Hon. Sec., Long Ashton.

BEDDINGTON.—Monthly practices will be resumed on Saturday, May 4th, at 6 p.m., and every First Saturday in month; arrangements can also be made for every Wednesday, 7.30.; open to all.—A. J. Perkins, 3, Mellows Road, South Beddington, Wallington.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—The next meeting will be held at the Church of St. John of Jerusalem, South Hackney, on Saturday, May 4th. Ringing from 3.30 p.m. Service 5.30. Tea and business meeting to follow. Members desiring tea are asked to inform me by April 30. A good attendance is required. All ringers welcome. The church is easily reached by bus No. 6, from Kensal Rise to Lauriston Road, or car from Liverpool Street. Subscriptions for 1918 are now due.—W. H. Oram, Hon. Sec. *pro tem.*, 25, Crown Street, Harrow.

BATH & WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Axbridge Deanery Branch.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Uphill, May 4th. Service, 5 o'clock. Tea and meeting after service. Bells (6) afternoon and evening. Intending visitors please write.—G. Chamberlain, 35, Oxford Street, Burnham-on-Sea.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—The next monthly meeting will be held on Saturday, May 4th, at Shore Parish Church. Bells ready from 3 o'clock till dusk; meeting at 6.—T. K. Driver, Hon. Sec., 99, Hunter Street, Middleton.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT AND OLD EAST DERBYSHIRE AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.—The annual meeting will be held at Chesterfield on Saturday, May 4th. Ten bells available from 3 o'clock. Business meeting in vestry at 5 o'clock.—Sam. Thomas, Hon. Sec., 164, Greystones Road, Sheffield.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Yorktown and Guildford Districts.—A combined practice meeting of these districts will be held on Saturday, May 4th, when several towers will be visited. Full details later.—F. J. Shepherd, 1, West Carr's Lane, Hersham, J. J. Jones, Bridge Street, Guildford, Hon. Secs.

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.

SITUATIONS VACANT.

COACHBUILDERS, WHEELWRIGHTS AND WOODWORKERS wanted on Government work.—Apply Wilton Carriage Co., 107, Waddon New Road, Croydon.

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