

THE RINGING WORLD

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DEVELOPING A NEW INTEREST.

Anything which will encourage progress in the art of ringing deserves the warmest support, and we anticipate that the Exercise will welcome the new text-book on spliced-method ringing which will be published from 'The Ringing World' Office next week. It covers the subject most exhaustively, and deals with an entirely new phase of ringing. 'Splicing' is a modern development which was never anticipated by past authors, but it is unquestionably the direction in which six-bell ringing will now expand. The full scope of legitimate Minor methods has been explored, and there is, probably, nothing worth having in this category which is not already known. Ringers whose practice is limited to six bells would, therefore, be at the end of their resources if it were not for the introduction of the splicing system. Obviously, however, this new plan of ringing extends the field of practice to a remarkable degree, and opens up an entirely new interest.

Although the forthcoming publication is based upon the recent series of articles which Mr. J. P. Fidler wrote in these columns, it must not be thought that the book is confined merely to a reproduction of these hints on how to achieve a thirty-five method peal. The book goes far beyond this. The whole subject of 'splicing' Minor methods is dealt with by Mr. J. W. Parker, whose knowledge of this, as of many other phases of the art, is unexcelled. He discusses and illustrates the various ways in which Minor methods may be joined together in true extents, and gives the student ample information to enable him to pursue a further investigation of the various methods which may be coupled up. Mr. Parker's analysis of the subject is easily the best as well as the most exhaustive treatise that has yet been written on the theory of splicing, and, coupled with Mr. Fidler's practical hints, will enable any ringer, who cares to study the subject, to get a complete grasp of the whole matter.

The value of the book does not lie entirely in the fact that from it a band can learn to put into seven true Minor extents something like fifty different methods. Such a peal would, of course, be something to be proud of, but the publication will open up a new interest for thousands of ringers, even though they never ring a peal. The book will show ringers of plain methods how they can, if they choose, put two methods instead of one into their Sunday service touch; the more ambitious can learn how to include no fewer than ten methods in one true seven-twenty, or, if they prefer, any lesser number of methods. The important point is that it reveals a new field of operations, a new scope for the enterprising, and should imbue a really genuine new interest in the art of ringing. The

(Continued on page 818.)

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time will come when the 'method' ringer who knows nothing about splicing will be as out-of-date as the 'stoney' ringer of to-day—the publication, which will be on sale on New Year's Day, will be the 'tutor' which will put every ringer in the path of acquiring that knowledge which will enable him to achieve success in this new phase of our art. It is a book which will not only appeal to six-bell ringers, but will be found equally interesting to those whose practical ringing is confined to higher numbers. We imagine that within a few weeks it will be on every keen ringer's bookshelf, to be taken down constantly for study and reference.

TWELVE BELL PEAL.

LONDON, E.C.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 12, 1925, in Five Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-LE-BOW, CHEAPSIDE,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAXIMUS, 7392 CHANGES;

Tenor 53 cwt.

WILLIAM J. NUDDS Treble	HERBERT E. AUDSLEY ... 7
ALBERT W. COLES 2	JAMES E. DAVIS 8
CHARLES T. COLES 3	THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE, SEN. 9
JOHN H. CHEESMAN 4	HAROLD W. CLARK 10
GEORGE R. PYE 5	REUBEN SANDERS 11
WILLIAM H. HEWETT 6	WILLIAM PYE Tenor

Composed and Conducted by WILLIAM PYE.

Longest peal of Cambridge Maximus yet rung. Longest peal on the bells.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

BLEWBURY, BERKSHIRE.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, December 10, 1925, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

CARTER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 20 cwt.

† HENRY C. MULFORD Treble	RICHARD G. RICE 5
THOMAS EAST 2	ALFRED H. WEBB 6
G. FREDERICK JAMES 3	ALFRED T. BOSBY 7
CHARLES E. GREGORY 4	HARRY APPLETON Tenor

Conducted by G. FREDERICK JAMES.

* First peal. † First peal away from the tenor.

BALDERSTONE, ROCHDALE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 12, 1925, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

VICAR'S SIX-PART.

Tenor 12½ cwt.

TOM CLEGG Treble	JAMES H. KERSHAW 5
SIMEON K. TAYLOR 2	JAMES H. LEES 6
JOHN GRIFFITHS 3	JAMES JONES 7
* WALTER STAFF 4	EDMUND CHADWICK Tenor

Conducted by JAMES H. LEES.

Rung immediately after the wedding of Mr. Clifford Horsfall, one of the local ringers; also to commemorate the 25th anniversary to the priesthood of the Vicar, the Rev. C. R. Thomas. * First peal in the method.

TERRINGTON, NORFOLK.

THE NORFOLK GUILD.

On Sunday, December 13, 1925, in Three Hours and Thirty-One Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. CLEMENT,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5632 CHANGES;

Tenor 11½ cwt.

* ERNEST A. BULLOCK Treble	JAMES H. RAPER 5
ALFRED E. BACON 2	WALTER N. ASHBY 6
ROBERT E. GREENACRE 3	WILLIAM J. ELDRED 7
* JOHN W. T. WRIGHT 4	JOSEPH E. SYKES Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS (No. 242). Conducted by J. E. SYKES.

This composition is now rung for the first time. * First peal of Treble Bob Major.

DORE, SHEFFIELD.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
(SHEFFIELD DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, December 12, 1925, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,
AT CHRIST CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES;
Tenor 11½ cwt. in G.

ARTHUR CRAVEN Treble	JAMES EVINSON 5
NORMAN SHORY 2	REV. W. P. WRIGHT ... 6
JOHN W. SYKES 3	MAURICE WILSON 7
J. E. LEWIS COCKEY ... 4	FRANCIS WARD Tenor

Composed and Conducted by ARTHUR CRAVEN.

Rung with fully muffled clappers as a tribute to the memory of the late Bishop of the Diocese, the Rt. Rev. Sir Edwyn Hoskyns, Bart., D.D., for 21 years Bishop of Southwell, who, on New Year's Day, 1909, dedicated the above peal of bells. The composition, which was rung for the first time, contains the whole extent of the 7485's, 7486's, 7584's, 7586's, 7684's, and 7685's, with the fewest number of calls possible for the above length. * First peal. Ringers of 1st, 7th and 8th belong to Sheffield Cathedral; 5th to St. Marie's; 2nd, 3rd and 4th to Dore; and 6th to Eyam.

CHERITON, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, December 14, 1925, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PIRSTOW'S VARIATION. Tenor 7½ cwt.

CHARLES TURNER Treble	WALTER FARLEY 5
STEPHEN A. BAKER 2	CHARLES R. MILLWAY ... 6
STEPHEN BINFIELD 3	CHRISTOPHER R. WALKER ... 7
RICHARD H. STEVENS ... 4	FRANK A. SLINGSBY Tenor

Conducted by CHRISTOPHER R. WALKER.

Rung as a farewell to Mr. Walter Farley on his leaving Folkestone.

DISS, NORFOLK.

THE NORFOLK GUILD.

On Tuesday, December 15, 1925, in Three Hours and Twenty-Six Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 23 cwt. 3 qr.

ARTHUR LEEDER Treble	TOM FORD 5
ALBERT C. HARRISON 2	WILLIAM STEGGALL 6
WILLIAM IRELAND 3	GEORGE ARCHER 7
CLEMENT J. MORE 4	JOHN SOUTER Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS, Chesterfield (formerly of Diss).

Conducted by J. SOUTER.

ACTON, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, December 16, 1925, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt.

ROBERT E. HOLLOWAY ... Treble	WILLIAM H. HOLLIER ... 5
WILLIAM SHEPHERD 2	ARTHUR HARDING 6
MISS RUBY HAWKSWORTH ... 3	J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE ... 7
ROBERT A. FARDON 4	CHARLES W. R. GRIMWOOD Tenor

Composed by JOHN REEVES. Conducted by C. W. R. GRIMWOOD.

Rung as a birthday compliment to the Ringing Master (Mr. R. E. Holloway), and Mr. R. A. Fardon. First peal of Treble Bob as conductor.

CLEVEDON, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
(PORTISHEAD BRANCH.)

On Thursday, December 17, 1925, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.

Tenor 14 cwt.

MISS GLADYS BROAD ... Treble	REGINALD G. WILLIAMS ... 5
MISS ALICE STOKES 2	JAMES NISBET 6
MRS. WILLIAM EDWARDS ... 3	WILLIAM GILLINGHAM ... 7
ERNEST J. GOLDSTONE ... 4	ALBERT E. COLBURN Tenor

Conducted by MISS ALICE STOKES.

The first peal on the bells.

BLACKBURN.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(BLACKBURN & PRESTON BRANCHES)

On Thursday, December 17, 1925, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 15 cwt. (approx.)

WILLIAM E. WILSON ... Treble	FRED HINDLE 5
WILLIAM BRIGGS 2	JOHN WATSON 6
ARTHUR TOMLINSON 3	THOMAS WILSON 7
JOHN BROWN 4	JAMES HARRISON Tenor

Conducted by THOMAS WILSON.

First peal in the method as conductor, and first attempt. The ringers of 4th and tenor hail from Hoghton; 3rd from St. Michael's, Blackburn; the remainder are of the local company.

HANDSWORTH, YORKSHIRE.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION AND SHEFFIELD DISTRICT
SOCIETY.

On Saturday, December 19, 1925, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF SPLICED KENT AND OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

FREDERICK CARDWELL ... Treble	JOE GARTH 5
WILLIAM H. TAYLOR 2	J. E. LEWIS COCKEY 6
MISS NOEL CAWTHORNE ... 3	HENRY WILSON 7
HAROLD TAYLOR 4	FRED WATKINSON Tenor

Composed by E. C. GOBEY.

Conducted by F. WATKINSON.

First peal of Spliced Treble Bob by all the band. First peal of Treble Bob by all except ringers of 6th and tenor. First peal of Treble Bob on the bells. First peal of Treble Bob as conductor. Rung on the 5th anniversary of the opening of the bells.

GREENWICH.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 19, 1925, in Three Hours and Seventeen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ALFEGE,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

TAYLOR'S SIX-PART.

Tenor 25 cwt. in D.

HARRY WARENETT ... Treble	ERNEST B. CROWDER ... 5
CHARLES H. WALKER 2	WILLIAM H. DAYNES 6
EDWARD E. RICHARDS 3	FREDERICK W. THORNTON ... 7
JOHN JAMES LAMB 4	THOMAS JAKEMAN Tenor

Conducted by FREDERICK WILLIAM THORNTON.

Rung to celebrate the 'coming-of-age' of Miss Josie Jakeman, fifth daughter of the ringer of the tenor, and the first birthday anniversary of Miss Barley, grand-daughter of the ringer of the treble.

LUTON, BEDS.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(ST. MARY'S SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, December 19, 1925, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 19½ cwt.

THOMAS BLACKBOURN ... Treble	HARRY WOOD 5
ALFRED KING 2	FREDERICK HUNT 6
BERT WILSON 3	THOMAS KENDALL 7
ARTHUR J. SMITH 4	LEWIS A. GOODENOUGH ... Tenor

Composed by F. BENNETT. Conducted by L. A. GOODENOUGH.

First peal in the method by all, who are members of the local band; also first peal of Bristol rung in the county of Bedfordshire.

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HEADCORN, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 19, 1925, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 24 cwt.

CHARLES H. SONE Treble	THOMAS E. SONE 5
SAMUEL E. TAYLOR 2	HENRY C. CASTLE 6
ARCHIBALD C. KAY 3	FREDERICK A. FAIRBEARD ... 7
LEWIS NEWMAN 4	PHILIP HODGKIN Tenor

Composed by N. J. PISTROW. Conducted by THOMAS E. SONE.

* First peal of Treble Bob with an inside bell.

CRAYFORD, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 19, 1925, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAULINUS,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES,

Tenor 12½ cwt.

EDWIN BARNETT, SEN. ... Treble	ISAAC EMERY 5
EDWIN BARNETT, JUN. ... 2	EDWIN F. PIKE 6
C.-S.-M. JAMES BENNETT ... 3	GEORGE H. DAYNES 7
ISAAC G. SHADE 4	FREDERICK J. CULUM, JUN. Tenor

Composed and Conducted by E. BARNETT, SEN.

ROTHWELL, NORTHANTS.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD

On Saturday, December 19, 1925, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 1088 CHANGES;

Tenor 21 cwt.

MISS KITTY MOORE ... Treble	HARRY BAXTER 5
† CYRIL D. NICHOLS 2	JOHN KING 6
* MISS SYLVIA THURSFIELD ... 3	C. ARTHUR MANNING 7
MISS PHYLLIS HARE 4	ROBERT G. BLACK Tenor

Composed by J. R. FRITCHARD (No. 115 C.C.C. Sec. 2).

Conducted by ROBERT G. BLACK.

* First peal on eight bells. † First peal of Bob Major.

REDENHALL, NORFOLK.

THE NORFOLK GUILD.

On Saturday, December 19, 1925, in Three Hours and Thirty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 8088 CHANGES;

Tenor 24 cwt. in D.

ERNEST WHITING ... Treble	GEORGE GOWER 5
GEORGE HOWLETT 2	CHARLES CLARKE 6
WALTER MOSES 3	RUSSELL RICHES 7
* LEWIS LOVE 4	WALTER BARRETT Tenor

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF. Conducted by ERNEST WHITING

* First peal.

DEBENHAM, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Saturday, December 19, 1925, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

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

Tenor 19 cwt. 2 qr. 14 lb.

HARRY HALL ... Treble	LESLIE G. BRETT 5
DAVID G. WIGHTMAN ... 2	WILLIAM C. RUMSEY 6
GEORGE PRYKE 3	THOMAS W. LAST 7
GEORGE BENNETT 4	LESLIE C. WIGHTMAN ... Tenor

Composed by GEORGE H. CROSS. Conducted by WILLIAM C. RUMSEY

70th peal by the ringer of the 5th.

BOREHAM, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 19, 1925, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt. 19 lb. in F.

HIRZELL EDWARDS ... Treble	WILLIAM LINCOLN 5
THOMAS LINCOLN 2	WILLIAM KEEBLE 6
WALTER ARNOLD 3	JOHN WOOD 7
EDWARD P. BUCKINGHAM ... 4	ARTHUR HEAD Tenor

Composed by C. J. SEDLEY. Conducted by WILLIAM KEEBLE.

The 60th tower in which the conductor has rung a peal in the method.

OVERSEAL, DERBYSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 19, 1925, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

SIR A. P. HEYWOOD'S TEN-PART, NO 1.

Tenor 10 cwt.

JOHN H. SWINFELD ... Treble	CHARLES DRAPER 5
ALBERT H. WARD 2	JOHN CURTIS 6
MAURICE SWINFELD 3	JAMES GEORGE 7
ERNEST W. BEADSMORE ... 4	WILLIAM BROOKER Tenor

Conducted by A. H. WARD.

Rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. W. W. Worthington, of Lichfield.

BUCKLEY, FLINTSHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 19, 1925, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S VARIATION OF THURSTANS'.

Tenor 14½ cwt.

ROBERT SPERRING ... Treble	JAMES SWINDLEY 5
GEORGE R. JONES 2	THOMAS R. BUTLER 6
THOMAS CATHRALL 3	JAMES H. RIDING 7
WILLIAM S. HIGGINSON ... 4	WILLIAM HIGGINSON Tenor

Conducted by J. H. RIDING.

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 19, 1925, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes

AT THE BELL FOUNDRY CAMPANILE,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

MIDDLETON'S.

Tenor 6 cwt. 3 qr. 13 b. in B

LEONARD H. WHITEHEAD ... Treble	EPHRAIM W. RANDS 5
WALTER P. WHITEHEAD ... 2	FREDERICK MILNER 6
E. HARRY STONELEY 3	EDWARD C. GOBEY 7
EDWARD R. WHITEHEAD ... 4	PERCIVAL PRICE Tenor

Conducted by WALTER P. WHITEHEAD.

This peal was a compliment to the conductor on the eve of his 18th birthday, and also his 100th for the M.C.A.

EXETER, DEVON.

THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

On Saturday, December 19, 1925, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. SIDWELL,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 6120 CHANGES;

Tenor 24 cwt.

EDWIN SHEPHERD ... Treble	WILLIAM HOWE 5
WILLIAM WAKLEY 2	EDMUND SARGENT 6
TOM G. BARTLETT 3	FRANK MURPHY 7
WILLIAM RICHARDSON ... 4	ALFRED G. BETTS Tenor

Composed by H. HALEY.

Conducted by EDWIN SHEPHERD.

First peal of Kent Treble Bob by all except Mr. Wakley.

ELLAND, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 19, 1925, in Three Hours & Ten Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5080 CHANGES;

Tenor 15½ cwt.

JAMES BARRACLOUGH ... Treble	JAMES COTTERELL 5
HARRY T. RICHARDS 2	JOSEPH BROADLEY 6
HARRY ARMITAGE 3	WILLIAM B. FRITH 7
ALBERT ARMITAGE 4	JAMES E. CARTER Tenor

Composed by CHAS. HY. HATTERSLEY.

Conducted by JAMES COTTERELL.

This peal is the treble ringer's reputed last peal, and rung for his 78th birthday (which occurred on December 5th). The ringers congratulated him on attaining his great age, and on the masterly way in which he rang his bell from the first to the last change of the peal.

HASTINGS. — At Christ Church, Blacklands, on Nov. 16th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes), in 52 mins.: H. Parkin 1, Miss G. Chitt 2, S. Driver 3, J. Lavermore 4, J. Downing 5, G. Piper 6, A. Levitt (conductor) 7, D. Ruse 8. Ringers of 2nd, 6th and 7th are from All Saints', Hastings.

SIX BELL PEALS.

EAST BRIDGFORD, NOTTS.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, November 24, 1925, in Three Hours and Four Minutes.

At the Church of St. Peter,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 of Single Court, 1,440 each of Oxford Treble, Bob Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 11½ cwt.

HENRY F. CLULOW Treble	ARTHUR J. CHAMBERLAIN ... 4
GEORGE E. PADGETT 2	WALTER WHITE 5
WILLIAM E. WHITE 3	J. FREDERICK MILNER ... Tenor

Conducted by J. F. MILNER.

Rung with the bells half-muffled. First peal as conductor.

HARTFORD, CHESHIRE.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, December 8, 1925, in Two Hours and Forty-Four Minutes.

At the Church of St. John,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven different 720's. Tenor 12 cwt.

* THOMAS WILMOT Treble	HARRY EYRES 4
HARRY W. HOWARD 2	ALBERT BOOTH 5
JOHN S. ROYLE 3	HARRY PARKER Tenor

Conducted by H. PARKER.

* First peal. First peal on the bells. Rung to welcome the Rev. E. S. Oliver as Vicar. He was inducted on Saturday, December 5th, by the Bishop of Chester.

KEMPSTON, BEDFORDSHIRE.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, December 9, 1925, in Three Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes.

At the Church of All Saints,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Woodbine, Kent and Oxford Bob, and two 720' each of Oxford Treble Bob and Plain Bob.

ARTHUR WALLER Treble	ALFRED DOLLIN 4
NOEL WILES 2	HAROLD H. BEARD 5
GEORGE HUTCHINGS 3	PEARL INSKIP Tenor

Conducted by PEARL INSKIP.

GAYWOOD, NORFOLK.

THE NORFOLK GUILD.

On Saturday, December 12, 1925, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes.

At the Church of St. Faith,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

* CREAK SHIPP Treble	TOM GREENACRE 4
ROLAND NEWSON 2	ROBERT GREENACRE 5
* EDWARD GREENACRE 3	GEO. HAWES Tenor

Conducted by TOM GREENACRE.

First peal of Kent as conductor. * First peal of Kent.

WOLLASTON, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, December 12, 1925, in Three Hours and Eighteen Minutes.

At the Church of St. James,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 720's. Tenor 12½ cwt.

* WILLIAM BEDDARD Treble	WILLIAM H. COOPER 4
JOHN BASS 2	HAROLD V. COOPER 5
ROBERT MATTHEWS 3	WILLIAM GIBBS Tenor

Conducted by R. MATTHEWS.

* First peal and first attempt. Rung with the bells half-muffled as a last token of respect to the late Mr. J. H. Parsons, for nearly 40 years a ringer at this church, and for the last 16 years clerk and sexton.

MATHON, HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(WESTERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, December 19, 1925, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes.

At the Parish Church,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Cambridge Surprise, Woodbine, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Double Oxford, Oxford Bob and Plain Bob.

CHRIS. BOWERS Treble	WILLIAM RANFORD 4
WILLIAM NIBLETT 2	DAVID HORNE 5
ROBERT G. KNOWLES 3	GEORGE JORDAN Tenor

Conducted by DAVID HORNE.

A birthday peal for George Jordan.

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 19, 1925, in One Hour and Fifty-Nine Minutes.

At the Bell Foundry Campanile,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being four extents of Kent and three of Oxford.

Tenor 2 cwt. 1 qr. 5 lb. in F sharp.

{ LEONARD H. WHITEHEAD Treble	* EDWARD R. WHITEHEAD ... 4
E. HARRY STONELEY 2	J. FREDERICK MILNER ... 5
{ WALTER P. WHITEHEAD ... 3	* PERCIVAL PRICE Tenor

Conducted by E. HARRY STONELEY.

* First peal of Minor in two methods. † First peal of Treble Bob Minor. Rung to celebrate the wedding of G. R. Newton, of Earl Shilton, and after meeting short for Stedman Triples. This is the quickest peal yet rung on tower bells.

THURLESTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 19, 1925, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes.

At the Church of All Saints,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Bring seven different 720's. Tenor 15½ cwt. in F.

* GEORGE WRIGHT, JUN. ... Treble	J. WILLIAM REYNOLDS ... 4
CHARLES ALLSOP 2	T. HARRY WRIGHT 5
C. HARRY WEBB 3	ERNEST MORRIS Tenor

Conducted by ERNEST MORRIS.

* First peal of Minor. Rung on the occasion of the wedding of Miss Gladys Sanders and Mr. George Newton, a ringer at Earl Shilton, which took place at Shilton on this day.

A LECTURE ON BELLS.

On the afternoon of Sunday, November 29th, members of St. James's Church, Birch-in-Rusholme, Manchester, had a new world of experience and interest opened up for them by the Rev. F. P. Cheetham, Principal of Egerton Hall, Manchester, and a member of the Cambridge University Guild of Change Ringers, who gave a lecture on 'Bells and Bell Ringing.' There is at Birch a fine ring of eight bells, but few except the ringers had any conception of the scientific skill and knowledge necessary before the bells could be rightly used.

The lecturer began by giving a short history of the origin and development of bells and their uses, showing how intimately connected they have always been with religious worship. He then explained the theory of change ringing, aided by photographs and a model swinging bell, kindly lent by Messrs. John Taylor and Co., of Loughborough. The value of this able lecture was considerably enhanced by illustrations of change ringing, rung by a band of handbell ringers, under the leadership of Mr. H. Chapman (Messrs. D. Brown, H. Jackson, A. Barnes, A. Bailey, and F. Page). They gave leads of Bob Minor, Bob Major, and Bob Royal, following up with a plain course of Grand-sire Caters, and a plain course of Stedman Caters. Those who faced inclement weather to attend the lecture were more than repaid for their trouble, and it is hoped that the present band of change ringers at Birch (most of whom have served for many years in the belfry) will be reinforced by younger men, who, having caught something of the fascination of change ringing from this lecture, are willing to give time to the mastery of this difficult art.

No account of ringing activities at Birch at this date can be allowed to close without mention of the death of Mr. William Ryder on Saturday, December 5th, at the age of 79 years, and to which reference was made last week. He had been a ringer at Birch for over 61 years, holding the position of conductor for many years past. The writer was privileged to see him a few hours before he lost consciousness, and his last desire was to hear some account of the Rev. F. P. Cheetham's lecture. He will always be remembered for his faithful service in the belfry, a service no less valuable because rendered week by week, unseen by the majority of worshippers.

**For NEW CHURCH CLOCKS,
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write to G. & F. COPE & Co.,
NOTTINGHAM.**

SALOP RINGER'S LONG SERVICE.

SHERIFFHALES PARISHIONERS' GIFTS.

We recently recorded a peal rung at Sheriffhales, Salop, in honour of Mr. John Lovekin, for 60 years a chorister, 50 years a bell ringer, and 40 years parish clerk. On November 21st the parishioners made an acknowledgment of this long and devoted service to the church, the proceedings being in the nature of a parochial festival. They began with a service in the afternoon. The Vicar (the Rev. R. A. Giles) officiated, assisted by the Rev. T. H. Rabone (Rector of Weston-under-Lizard). The first part of the service was a short but impressive commemoration of her late Majesty, Queen Alexandra. Then the Vicar dedicated a handsome bronze tablet recording the peal, which was carried in procession to the belfry, it being formally placed in the tower by Mr. Lovekin himself. It is later to be placed in an oak frame and fixed in the tower.

At the conclusion of the service, the 'Te Deum' was sung as an act of praise and thanksgiving for the life and work of Mr. Lovekin.

The bells were then rung while the parishioners proceeded to the Church Hall, where tea was provided. The Vicar, who presided, afterwards read letters of congratulation and good wishes to Mr. Lovekin from the Bishop of Lichfield, the Archdeacon of Salop, and others, and proceeded to pay a warm tribute to the simple goodness, honesty, integrity and courtesy of Mr. Lovekin, who, he said, had lived to serve God and the district in which he lived.

The Vicar then presented to Mr. Lovekin a beautifully illuminated address, handsomely framed. It was worded: 'Parish of St. Mary, Sheriffhales-cum-St. Peter, Woodcote. Mr. John Lovekin, of Sheriffhales. We, the Vicar and churchwardens, and past and present parishioners of Sheriffhales wish to express to you our sense of the great services you have rendered to the church in this parish. You have been a chorister for 60 years, a bell ringer for 50 years, and parish clerk for 40 years. In these offices you have served with unflinching fidelity and cheerfulness. We ask your acceptance of the clock which accompanies this address, and in thanking you for all you have done for the church in this parish, we hope that the Eternal Father will give you strength of mind and body for your remaining days on earth.' The address was signed by the Bishop of Lichfield, and was to be signed also by the Vicar and churchwardens, being dated Nov. 21st, 1925.

The Vicar next proceeded to present to Mr. Lovekin a very handsome large eight-day clock, equipped with beautiful chimes, a gift of the parishioners past and present. This was also suitably inscribed.

In making the presentation to Mr. Lovekin, the Vicar remarked that they only offered him what they thought was his due. They offered it, not because it expressed what they thought of him from the standpoint of value in pounds, shillings and pence—that could not be done—but because it did express their very best wishes for himself, his wife, and the whole of his family (applause).

The Rector of Weston-under-Lizard, and other speakers, including Mr. W. Saunders, of Coalbrookdale, added their tribute to the life-long services of Mr. Lovekin, who was enthusiastically received when he rose to respond. He said he felt at a loss for words in which to express himself, and to return thanks for the way in which they had received him and treated him that evening. During his time there had been eleven organists, five vicars, and eleven curates. He thought that during his time he had been present at nearly 400 funerals, and over 500 baptisms, and 121 weddings. He had been trying the previous night to count up the ringers whom he had known and rung with. He thought there were over 50, many of whom he had broken in. He could only say that he was very grateful for the way in which the parishioners and friends had treated him, and for the beautiful gifts towards which they had subscribed (applause).

The remainder of the evening was devoted to a social, the proceedings being of a most happy and enjoyable character throughout.

The bells of the church were again rung, and performances given on the handbells.

All the arrangements had been made by the parishioners, headed by the Vicar.

BELLS FROM BRASS CANNON.

It is an old expedient in time of war to use church bells for munitions, but it is rarer for bells thus utilised to be replaced by others cast in their turn from guns. Such a curious sequence of events has occurred (according to the Danish Foreign Office 'Journal,' quoted by the 'Birmingham Daily Post') at Smith's Iron Foundries and Machine Works, Ltd., of Aalborg, North Jutland. The firm received an order for forty-four bells to be installed in churches in South Jutland. During the war a large number of bells were removed from these churches by the German authorities, and melted down for the making of munitions. The new bells have been cast from the metal of sixty old brass cannon supplied to the Aalborg foundry by the Copenhagen Arsenal. Eight of these bells have been hung in different churches in various parts of the town of Hadersley, and have been so admirably cast that although they are distributed over a wide area they ring in perfect harmony with one another.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

MR. F. PITSTOW RESIGNS MASTERSHIP OF N.-W. DIVISION.

The annual meeting of the North-Western Division was held at Bishop's Stortford, on Saturday, Dec. 5th. A short service was conducted by the Rev. Canon Lane, who welcomed the ringers, and expressed regret that, owing to other arrangements, he was unable to accompany them to their tea.

After tea, held in the Parish Room, the business meeting was presided over by Mr. C. H. Howard, of Braintree.

A letter was read from Mr. F. Pitstow (Master of the Division), stating that he thought it best to resign from office, and wishing the division every success in the future.—The Chairman spoke warmly of the most valuable work that had been carried out by Mr. Pitstow in the past, and proposed that the secretary should convey to him a most hearty and sincere vote of thanks from the meeting.—This was seconded by Mr. William Prior, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Smale proposed that Mr. H. Dew be elected Master of the Division.—Mr. Morris seconded, and the motion was carried.—Mr. Dew, amid applause, thanked the company.

Upon the proposition of Mr. Dew, and seconded by Mr. Hobbs, the secretary was re-elected.

Mr. W. Lawrence, on behalf of the Herts County Association, proposed that a joint meeting be held in the near future.—The matter was discussed, and eventually the meeting agreed that a joint meeting should be held, and that the arrangements be left to the two secretaries concerned.

Thaxted was decided upon for the next meeting-place. Various matters closely connected with bell ringing were then discussed.—Votes of thanks were passed to the Rev. Canon Lane, the steeplekeeper, and the organist.

Touchees of Grandsire Caters, Stedman Caters and Cambridge Major were rung during the day.

A JOINT MEETING AT EVESHAM.

A most successful and well-attended joint meeting of the Southern Branch of the Worcestershire Association and the All Saints' and St. Lawrence Guild, Evesham, was held at Evesham on Saturday, Dec. 12th, when nearly 80 members, representing every tower in the Southern Branch, with one exception, attended, together with seven visitors from the Western Branch. On account of the many six-bell beginners in the branch, rounds and Grandsire Triples figured largely in the ringing, but two well-struck touchees of Stedman Caters and a course of Cambridge Major were successfully brought round.

A fully choral service was held in the Church of St. Lawrence, and the Vicar (the Rev. E. O. Burbidge) gave an appropriate and interesting address from the words: 'Rejoice with them that do rejoice and weep with them that weep' (Romans xii., 15). The Rev. G. W. Webb, of Bredons Norton, read the special lesson, and a collection, taken on behalf of Offenham Bell Restoration Fund, realised £1.

Tea followed in the Church House, and at the subsequent business meetings, the Vicar presided, supported by the Revs. G. W. Webb and D. Fitzmaurice (Vicar of Hampton). The business was chiefly routine in character, the retiring officers in both cases being re-elected for the ensuing year.

Blockley was chosen for the spring meeting of the branch, and it was decided to attempt the quarterly peal at Evesham, with Mr. J. Hemming as conductor.

A vote of thanks to all who contributed towards making the meeting such a success was proposed by Mr. C. A. Binyon, and carried with acclamation.

The Vicar, in a suitable reply, said it was a great pleasure to welcome them to Evesham.

Further ringing until 9 p.m. brought an enjoyable afternoon and evening to a close.

A NOVEMBER CHARABANC EXCURSION.

The ringers of Farmborough Church, Somerset, had their annual outing on November 14th. The party, numbering 14, including the Rev. L. G. Ketchley, Mr. R. T. Clark (instructor), and friends from Camerton and Timsbury, left Farmborough by charabanc at 2 p.m., and called first at Dinder, where the bells were raised in peal, and touchees of Grandsire Doubles were rung. They then visited Croscombe, and Grandsire and Bob Doubles were rung. At Shepton Mallet tea was provided at Moon's Restaurant, kindly arranged by Mr. Wm. Richards, captain of Shepton ringers. Afterwards the party visited the tower, where more Bob and Grandsire Doubles were brought round. The journey then took the party to Douling, where they were met by Mr. H. E. Webb (captain), and, after ringing, went on to Leigh-on-Mendip, where they were provided with light refreshments, kindly arranged by the Rev. J. E. Honnywill (late President of the Association). No ringing was done at Leigh, owing to a death in the village. Farmborough was reached just after 10 o'clock. The ringers wish, through the 'Ringing World,' to thank the respective Rectors for the use of the bells; also the towerkeeper for having everything in readiness, and the Rev. Honnywill for his kind hospitality.

SPliced CATERS.

A PEAL OF 5,073 ERIN, STEDMAN AND GRANDSIRE.

By A. J. PITMAN.

ERIN.					GRANDSIRE.	
123456789	1	4	5	6	7	45237698

563214978 — 8 — — —
 146352 — — — — —
 625413 — — — — —
 531264 — — — — —
 213564 — — — — —
 641325 — — — — —
 152463 — — — — —

Repeat calling of last three
 courses 8 times, calling last
 course of fourth and ninth
 parts 4-5-6-7 produces,
 following course end:

STEDMAN.

345162978

412635 4 6 15

315642 4 5

512643 5

513642 S — 5

412653 4 5

213654 5

314062 5

512634 4 5

214635 5

415632 5

312645 4 5

215643 5

413625 4 5

315624 5

514623 5

145237698 * 1-2-4-5-8-9-12

* Fourth change of twelfth

six to commence Grandsire

as follows.

35247689 2-4-5

5423 9 in 2

4253 89

2354 9 in 2

3452 9 in 2

4532 89

5234 9 in 2

2435 9 in 2

4325 89

3245 89

2543 9 in 2

5342 9 in 2

23457698 2-4-5

3542 8 in 2

5243 8 in 2

2453 98

4352 8 in 2

3254 8 in 2

This composition contains 1,674
 changes of Erin, 1,690 of Sted-
 man, and 1,709 of Grandsire.
 To reduce to 5,001, finish as
 follows:—

53427689

42357698 2-4

2534 8 in 2

5432 8 in 2

4352 98

3254 8 in 2

WALTER P. WHITEHEAD'S 100 PEALS.

Mr. Walter P. Whitehead, better known in Leicestershire as 'Tich,' reached his century of peals by conducting, as already recorded, a peal of Bob Major on November 8th last. He has taken three years nine months to compile this hundred, having started peal ringing on Feb. 23rd, 1922, with Stedman Triples, in which he rang the treble. He is believed to be the youngest ringer to ring 'in hand' on 'inside pairs' peals of Stedman Doubles, Triples, Caters and Cinques, and to conduct a peal of Stedman Caters. This latter he did when only 16 years of age. It is probable also that he was the first to ring a peal of Superlative, Cambridge and London in his 14th year, and the youngest to call Holt's Original. Here is the list of his peals:—

	Tower bells.		Handbells.	
	Rung.	Cond.	Rung.	Cond.
Doubles in three methods	1	1
Grandsire Doubles	...	2		
Grandsire Triples	...	12	9	
Grandsire Caters	...	2		
Grandsire Cinques	...	1		
Stedman Doubles	...			
Stedman Triples	...	21	8	1
Stedman Caters	...	2	9	3
Stedman Cinques	...		2	
Bob Minor	...	1	1	
Bob Major	...	11	9	
Bob Royal	...	1		
Little Bob Major	...	1		
Canterbury Pleasure Major	...	1		
Double Norwich Major	...	2		
Kent Treble Bob Major	...	5	2	
Spliced Treble Bob Major	...	1		
Superlative Surprise Major	...	7	3	
London Surprise Major	...	2		
Bristol Surprise Major	...	1		
Cambridge Surprise Major	...	10	2	
Cambridge Surprise Royal	...	1		
Totals	84	34	16	6

Total, 100; conducted, 40; rung in 25 towers.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH.

■■■■■

THE

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Established
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Recasting, Retuning and Rehanging.

**HANDBELLS
In Sets of any number.**

BELL ROPES, MUFFLES, &c

BELFRY GOSSIP.

To all our readers we extend the old, old wish of 'A Happy Christmas.'

On Christmas morning Bow Bells will be broadcast to the world at 10.15. Call changes will be rung by special request of the B.B.C., in order to illustrate the popular changes.

A sum of over £800 is to be spent on the restoration of the bells of Hatfield Church, near Doncaster. The ring of eight (tenor 18 cwt.) is to be recast and rehung with entirely new fittings, and in a new iron frame.

Those ringers who seek information of the happenings in the Exercise for the past forty years will be interested to know that Mr. Harry Mason, who has now settled into a permanent home, 'The Goodrest,' Hagley, Worcestershire, has kindly volunteered to look up anything in reason which appeared in 'The Bell News' from the first number in 1881, onwards.

'Great George,' the 9½ ton bell in the new buildings of the Bristol University will be on view, and may be rung by holders of tickets for the Bristol United Ringing Guild's fifth annual dinner. Here is a chance for the other great George.

There will be many congratulations to the band of St. Mary's Church, Luton, upon ringing the first peal of Bristol Surprise in Bedfordshire, the peal being the first in the method by all the band. Even in these days of advanced ringing there are comparatively few 'local' companies who can put up a Bristol Surprise peal band.

The greatest scientific performance ever achieved in change ringing was the description applied to the peal of 6,048 London Surprise Major rung on December 26th, 1871, by Squire Proctor and a band of village residents at Bennington.

Boxing Day can claim quite a number of noteworthy achievements in the past. In 1760, at Hackney, the first peal of College Exercise Major was rung; in 1782, 5,040 London Union Trebbles by the Society of London Youths, 'being the first of that method,' was rung at St. Giles-in-the-Fields.

In more recent times, among the long peals rung on this holiday were: 1885, 8,064 Double Norwich, at Leiston, by the College Youths; 1894, 9,312 Superlative Surprise, at Crawley, Sussex; 1895, 10,080 Bob Major, at Helmingham; 1901, 11,111 Stedman Cinques at Birmingham; and 10,176 Kent Treble Bob Major, at Beeston, Notts; 1910, 9,728 Superlative Surprise at Clent, Worcestershire; 1923, 10,440 Cambridge Surprise Royal, at Walthamslow. It was on December 26th also that the 15,168 Kent Treble Bob Major was rung in 1831, at Elland, Yorks.

It was on December 27th, 1904, that the 17,104 Double Norwich Major was rung at South Wigston, Leicestershire, and on the same day in 1909, the 10,176 Double Oxford Bob Major, at Brierley Hill, Staffs.

The earliest peal of Treble Bob was rung on December 27th, 1718, a 5,040 Union Bob by the Union Scholars, at St. Dunstan's-in-the-East, London. This method we now know as Oxford Treble Bob, and, in view of the desire which is being evinced in some quarters to retain old names, may we not ask who it was that changed the name, for it was this peal as much as any that established the right of ringers of the first peal to give the method the name they choose. In this case the ringers called it after their own society.

In 1738 (December 27th), 'the Friendly Society of Ringers,' the forerunners, as it were, of the St. James' Society, rang a peal of 6,160 Bob Major, at St. Andrew's, Holborn.

COVENTRY BELLS.

We are asked to state that the printed leaflets relating to Coventry Bells received by the Secretaries of the Central Council's Affiliated Associations and Guilds are for their private information only, pending the hearing of the case on January 4th next.

CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAXIMUS RECORD.

MIDDLESEX ASSOCIATION RING A LONG LENGTH AT BOW. There was a great achievement at Bow Church, Cheapside, on Saturday, when members of the Middlesex County Association brought round a peal of 7,392 Cambridge Surprise Maximus on this far-famed ring of bells. There was some excellent ringing—as was only to be expected of the band, and the occasion—and no serious trip occurred throughout the peal, which occupied 5 hours 38 minutes.

This is, of course, the first 'long' peal of Cambridge Maximus, and, as a 'single-handed' performance, ranks high among the great achievements in the history of ringing. Apart from the complexity of the method, Bow is not an easy belfry in which to ring, and we believe this is the longest peal of Maximus ever accomplished on bells with a tenor of over 50 cwt. Mr. William Pye has thus added another record to his many great successes, and to him and to the whole band the Exercise will extend congratulations. It was a great performance.

WEDDING BELLS.

At Barrow-on-Humber, Lincs, on Wednesday, Oct. 28th, in honour of the wedding of Miss Elsie M. Mason and Mr. Roderick Marshall, at the Church of Holy Trinity, several 120's of Grandsire Doubles and Bob Doubles: R. Pratt 1, J. Barrick 2, J. Atkinson 3, H. E. Dannatt 4, J. W. Crowder 5, J. Parkin 6.

NOTES BY THE WAY.

THE ORIGINS OF CHANGE RINGING.

By J. A. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

It is a fascinating amusement to speculate how such a thing as change ringing was ever invented. Bells have been in use for a thousand years and more, and by all civilised people. You will find them all over the world, in the old countries of the East, as well as in Christian Churches. But change ringing is little more than three hundred years old, and is practised only in England and by a few Englishmen who have gone out to the Colonies. The whole thing is illogical. A bell is a musical instrument, but music is one of the last things with which change ringing (as change ringing) concerns itself. The bells are hung in church towers, and are dedicated by special services; but change ringing in its beginning and throughout the greater part of its history was purely secular. You will find many records of money paid for ringing in the past for many reasons, national, social, political, but seldom or never ecclesiastical.

They tell us that bells were put in church towers for the church's services, and it is largely true, but not altogether true. True for the bells of the Middle Ages; true for the present time. But not true to any great degree for the seventeenth and eighteenth and parts of the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries. You have but to study the inscriptions on the bells to see how secular the associations with them were at one time. The 'Ave Maria Gratia Plena Dominus Tecum,' or 'Santa Fides Ora Pro Nobis' of the fifteenth century, gives way in the seventeenth and eighteenth to such things as 'Let us tune and sound together England's sweet Peace for ever,' or 'At proper times my voice I'll raise to sound to our benefactor's praise,' or even 'Hark do you hear, our clappers want beer.' And only in modern times has the old style been revived, as in the noble inscription on Great Paul, 'Vae mihi si non Evangelisavers.' It is not the question of taste that is most remarkable; it is the purely secular idea that is associated with bells and bell ringing. It is not as anything connected with church services or ritual that we must look for the beginnings of change ringing, but purely as a secular sport.

But if the causes that first produced change ringing are obscure, the time when it began and the class of men among whom it began are pretty certainly known. Change ringing began in the first few years of the seventeenth century, and among ordinary everyday kind of people. It was not the deliberate invention of some great brain. It arose naturally and spontaneously, and in country villages at the same time as in the larger towns. It is not really difficult to understand how it began, and, once the first beginnings were made, its rise and development can be clearly traced.

Fabian Stedman is our authority for the date of the beginning of change ringing, but now Mr. Drake produces evidence to show that its start was much earlier. 'There have been found, inscribed on the tower of Buxhall Church, in the county of Suffolk, a set of plain changes, signed by one John Gooch, who, according to the antiquary who discovered them, died before Stedman was born.' This leaves the date of these figures very vague, but Mr. Drake assumes them to be 'about one hundred years' before 1668.

In any case the discovery is a most interesting one, but, before we accept it as any proof that Stedman was wrong, we must know on what ground the antiquary based his conclusion that John Gooch died before Stedman was born, and what his qualifications are for arriving at such a conclusion. We must also have the figures. Stedman was born in 1631, and plain changes were certainly rung before then. And so, if these are of an early type, the antiquary may be right, although Mr. Drake's conjecture is almost certainly wrong. But if the figures represent the fully developed plain changes that Stedman describes, then we can safely say that they are not earlier than the middle of the seventeenth century, and must probably belong to the last part of that century, or the early part of the eighteenth.

This is what Stedman has to say about the beginnings of our art—

'It is an Ancient Proverb with us in England (that Rome was not built in a day) by which expression is declared that difficult things are not immediately done, or in a short time accomplished. But for the art of ringing it is admirable to conceive in how short a time it hath increased, that the very depth of its intricacy is found out; for within these fifty or sixty years last past changes were not known nor thought possible to be rung. Then were invented the Sixes, being the very ground of a Six-score. Then the Twenty and Twenty-four, with several other changes. But Cambridge Forty-eight for many years was the greatest Peal that was Rang or invented; but now neither Forty-eight nor a Hundred, nor Seven-hundred and twenty, nor any number can confine us for we can ring changes ad infinitum . . . that is infinite in respect of our apprehension.'

It is quite clear that Stedman is not writing haphazardly, but deliberately, of facts which he knew. The picture he draws is of a humble beginning somewhere about 1610, a slow growth at first; and

just before the publication of his book a rapid development. There was ringing before 1610, and long before 1610 there were even ringing societies, for the 'Scholars of Cheapside' was founded as far back as 1603. But Stedman was absolutely right when he places the beginning of change ringing at the 'invention of the Sixes.' For the invention of the Sixes was the first recognition that the production of changes is subject to strict law. He tells us how the Sixes were rung, and there you have the germ from which the whole of change ringing has developed, by a process or orderly evolution.

During the reign of Queen Elizabeth bell ringing had come to be one of the English sports. The hanging of the bells was very rough and crude; there were no slays and slides; no sallies, and the ringing a single bell was a great test of physical strength. Shakespeare gives us a sketch of a country bell ringer drawn, no doubt, from his personal experience in the days when, a boy, he roamed among the villages of Warwickshire. The name he gave him—Peter Bullen—is enough to describe him, a lusty young fellow, strong of muscle, and not too intellectual, an ordinary healthy yokel.

The early ringing was necessarily round ringing. The bells were raised, rung and lowered, as was and is the custom in some West Country towers, and then naturally enough there came the time when one man said to another, 'Let's have some variety: let's have a fresh tune. Change places with me.' And when that was said and done, change ringing became possible.

'A Change,' says Stedman, 'is made between two Bells that strike next to each other, by removing into each others places.' At first, these changes were made at random, but the invention of the Sixes established ringing for all time as a science as well as an art. The Sixes are, of course, the changes on three bells. All the early ringing was done on small numbers of bells, and much of it on three and four bells. The reader will, I think, get a correct idea of what the earliest of all Change Ringing was if I quote Stedman at length.

'On three bells there are six several changes to be made: in ringing of which there is one bell to be observed, which is called the Hunt, and the other two are Extream Bells (but they cannot properly be so called because every bell hunts in the Six Changes); yet because 'tis commonly rung by observing a Hunt and two Extream Bells, I will, therefore, proceed in that course. The name of Hunt is properly given to it because of its continual motion up and down amongst the other bells, which motion is called Hunting; and the other two are called Extream Bells because, when the Hunt is either before or behind them, that is at the Extream or utmost place, there is a change then to be made between them called an Extream Change. There are two several ways to ring the six changes, one whereof is to make the Treble the Hunt, and the other way is to make the Tenor the Hunt. I will give an Example in hunting the Treble, the bells are supposed to stand thus:—

Now the Treble must first be hunted up over the Second	1 2 3
and Third, which is to be done by making a change between	
the Treble and each of those two bells in order; therefore,	
first I remove the Treble up over the Second into Second's	
place by making a Change between the Treble and Second	
thus:	2 1 3
The Treble being removed up over the Second it must next	
be removed up over the Third, as in this Change	2 3 1

Always observe that when the Hunt moves from the foremost Bell towards the hindmost, then it hunts up, as in the Changes next before, but when it moves or hunts from the hindmost bell toward the bell that leads, then it hunts down, as appears by the Changes following.

The Treble being hunted up behind the Extream bell an	
Extream Change is next to be made between them	3 2 1

Here you may observe that if the Hunt had been hunted down without an Extream Change first made, these Changes in hunting it down would have been the same with those that were made in hunting it up.

The Extream Change being made, the Treble must be hunt-	
ed down again before the bells, thus:	3 1 2
	1 3 2

The Treble being now hunted down, the next is to be an	
Extream Change.	1 2 3
which is the last Change of the six.'	

HASTINGS.—On Monday evening, Dec. 8th, at Christ Church, Blacklands, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 50 mins.: R. G. Bryant 1, J. A. Downing 2, F. J. Pont 3, S. C. Driver 4, J. Livermore 5, W. H. Ropley 6, A. Levett (conductor) 7, A. Reid 8. Ringers of 1st, 3rd, 6th and 8th are from St. Peter's, Bexhill; 7th from All Saints', Hastings; the rest are Blacklands ringers.

HARWICH.—On December 5th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes), in 44 mins.: J. H. Alderton 1, F. Ramplin 2, A. Alderton 3, E. Scarfe 4, G. Thompson (conductor) 5, J. Scarfe 6, F. Chaplin 7, C. Knopp (first quarter-peal) 8.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

SATISFACTORY POSITION OF NORTH-EASTERN BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the North-Eastern branch was held at Tiverton on Saturday, December 12th. About 55 ringers were present, nine out of the ten towers in the branch being represented. The visitors included the president and general secretary of the Guild, and ringers from Chipstable, Talaton, Payhembury, Thorverton, etc. The service in the Parish Church was conducted by the Rector (the Rev. E. Chapman).

It is hoped to hold the next meeting on Saturday, April 10th, at Silvertown, subject to the Rector's approval.

The report of the year's work was quite satisfactory. The membership had increased from 74 to 98, of whom all but seven are holding certificates. Eighteen certificates were awarded during the year. The financial position is also quite sound.

All standing officers were re-elected.

An excellent tea was arranged in the Church House by Mrs. Knowles and the wives of the local ringers.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

The annual meeting of the North Dorset Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild was held at Gillingham on Saturday, December 12th, when 76 ringers were present, representing about 20 towers. At the service, an address was given by the Rev. N. E. G. Newman (the Vicar), after which the members had tea together in the Vicarage Schoolroom.

A business meeting followed, at which the Rev. R. H. Gundry (Master of the Diocesan Guild) was re-elected chairman, and the Rev. R. E. P. Gorringe secretary of the branch.

The ringers of the tower of Moro were elected members of the Guild, and two ringers from Croton were also elected.

Several of the neighbouring incumbents had given the ringers leave to use the bells of their churches, and during the evening, touches of Grandsire, Stedman, Double Norwich and Kent Treble Bob were rung.

LADIES' GUILD

CENTRAL DISTRICT AT WILLESSEN.

The quarterly meeting of the Central District was held at St. Mary's, Willesden, on Saturday, December 12th. Although the attendance of members was small (no doubt owing to the postponement of the date), with the help of the gentlemen who very kindly supported the ladies, the meeting was voted by everyone as very successful. All methods were rung from Grandsire to London, and also a course of Cambridge Surprise, with seven members, and a gentleman ringing the treble.

The service having been postponed, steps were taken to the hall at 5 p.m., where a good tea had been prepared by Mrs. Ebberson and Mrs. H. Kilby.

A short business meeting followed, Mrs. Deal being voted to the chair.—One new member was elected, viz.: Mrs. Burnett, of Southsea.

The next quarterly meeting was suggested to be held at Walthamstow, subject to the secretary obtaining the necessary permission.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Kilby and the ladies who so kindly made all arrangements, concluded the meeting.

Several touches on handbells were rung, and then a return was made to the tower, where the bells were kept going until 9 p.m.

'MISSION' RINGING AT DEPTFORD.

The following quarter-peals were rung for services during a mission held at St. John's Church, Deptford, Kent, on Wednesday, Nov. 11th: Grandsire Triples: F. Fraser 1, C. Walker 2, T. A. Easterby 3, H. James 4, J. Hurrell 5, H. Warnett, jun., 6, H. Warnett, sen., 7, W. J. Jeffries (conductor) 8.—On Friday, Nov. 13th, Grandsire Triples: J. Dafters 1, F. Bacon 2, H. James 3, C. Walker 4, J. Hurrell 5, R. Wood 6, H. Warnett (conductor) 7, W. Norwood 8.—On Monday, Nov. 16th, Stedman Triples: F. Fraser 1, E. B. Crowder 2, H. James 3, W. Martin 4, J. Dafters 5, R. Wood 6, W. J. Jeffries (conductor) 7, J. Hurrell 8.—On Wednesday, Nov. 18th, Bob Major: F. Fraser 1, J. Dafters 2, H. James 3, W. Anderson 4, J. Hurrell 5, E. B. Crowder 6, H. Warnett (conductor) 7, W. J. Jeffries 8.

(Continued from next Column.)

of 150 years ago has been brought to light at such towns as Oldham, Hyde, Maidstone, Saffron Walden, Painswick, Abingdon, etc. Further light on the Norwich history could be obtained by a thorough search of the older newspapers. It requires a small energetic 'committee of investigation' to list up bellringing items on prepared sheets printed for the purpose. It would reveal, perhaps, the missing letter of the Crane controversy, the unknown conductors, and even the figures of some of the peals.

W. H. FUSSELL.

MORTLAKE—1721?

INTERESTING LIGHT ON EARLY PEALS.

With reference to the interesting note recently in 'Belfry Gossip,' relating to a peal of two centuries ago at Mortlake, there appears to be an error of date.

The first peal of Plain Bob Triples (see Snowden's 'Rope Sight,' p. 85) is recorded in the peal book of the Ancient Society of College Youths, No. 19, composed and conducted by Benjamin Annable, at St. Saviour's Church, Southwark, on Dec. 19th, 1730, wherein the footnote to the entry states: 'First that was rung.'

This composition was again rung by the same society at St. Stephen's, Coleman Street, City, on August 21st, 1731, conducted by William Laughton. The Mortlake peal took place the following November, so that the year 1731 would appear to be more correct. All three were rung within a twelvemonth, and similar peals were rung later as follows: At Camberwell, by the Eastern Scholars, 1735; at Harrietsham, Kent, 1744, by the Leeds Youths; at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, by the Union Scholars, 1749; and at St. George's, Middlesex, 1753, by the London Youths.

The London societies were more correct in describing their performances in those early days of peal ringing, and this was mostly due to the professional peal writers employed. There are several instances of confusion in the use of the words 'Triples' and 'Trebles,' which was increased when the Treble Bob method (Oxford) came into popular vogue.

The outstanding feature of this first 'seven-bell' peal in the method is the fact that the time of the performance was minutely recorded in the peal book, although both Snowden and Banister, in their works on change ringing, have not mentioned it. Annable had conducted 16 of the 18 peals previously rung for the College Youths without giving the time, so that he was the first to include it in his records, viz., '3 hours and 25½ minutes.' Previous to 1730 the old peal boards gave the duration of a peal—one of which affords evidence of an isolated but early achievement—Grandsire Triples at Ellesmere, Salop, on Feb. 4th, 1730, in 3 hrs. 5 mins.

The misuse of words in describing methods was continued by our forefathers on the higher numbers of bells employed, and the following combination appears in the peal book of the Leeds (Kent) Society, 1751, describing Bob Caters:—

'Complete peal of Caters in the Method of Bob Major Triples in the Tittums.'

Mr. Walker's meaning in the 'N.B.' to his peal rung at Richmond is probably the 'first in the method composed and conducted by him.' It was not only the third time it had been rung; but he was the third man ever to have conducted such a performance. Henry Lyford, who rang the 5th bell at Mortlake, was a well known riverside ringer of his day, and the father or uncle of John Lyford, a keen College Youth, usually found at the back end of the octave.

The method known as Richmond Triples was much the same as Fulham Triples, the latter being practised by the Leeds and Lenham Youths, and a peal of it rung at Leeds in 1749, conducted by Barham.

A couple of years ago Mr. Tom Hensher very kindly sent me a MSS. pocket book, dated Lavenham, Bucks, 1734, in which are the figures of a number of five-bell methods employing an 'extreme,' which could very well extend to Triples, and when a 5040 was attempted successfully the name of the town or parish would be added to the title, especially so if it was the first performance in the district.

Mr. Trollope, in his valuable 'Notes by the Way,' refers to Bob Triples by the Norwich men in 1715 as the first peal ever rung. At the same time one must consider the opinion of Shipway, a famous composer and conductor of the Royal Cumberland Youths Society, whose version of the Norwich peal coincides with the College Youths' claim of first in this method.

There was much business intercourse between London and Norwich all the year round about this period of history, via the Thames, East Coast and the River Yare to Norwich, when the roads were impassable during winter months. The growth of coaching in the 18th century led to better road making, just as the motor to-day is vastly improving and rebuilding the older carriage routes through England. Therefore, whatever change ringing was practised in either city was very soon reported to the other.

We know now, at last, who the men 'J. D.' and 'C. M.' were—members of the London Scholars, who, in 1702, published a work on change ringing, and copies of that book were found in Norwich thirteen years before the 1715 performance. Melchior, of Norwich, Barham, of Leeds, and Lawrence, of Shifnal, all visited the City of London in their day, and, as practical 'country ringers,' no doubt took the opportunity of seeing and hearing what the Cockneys could accomplish in the art.

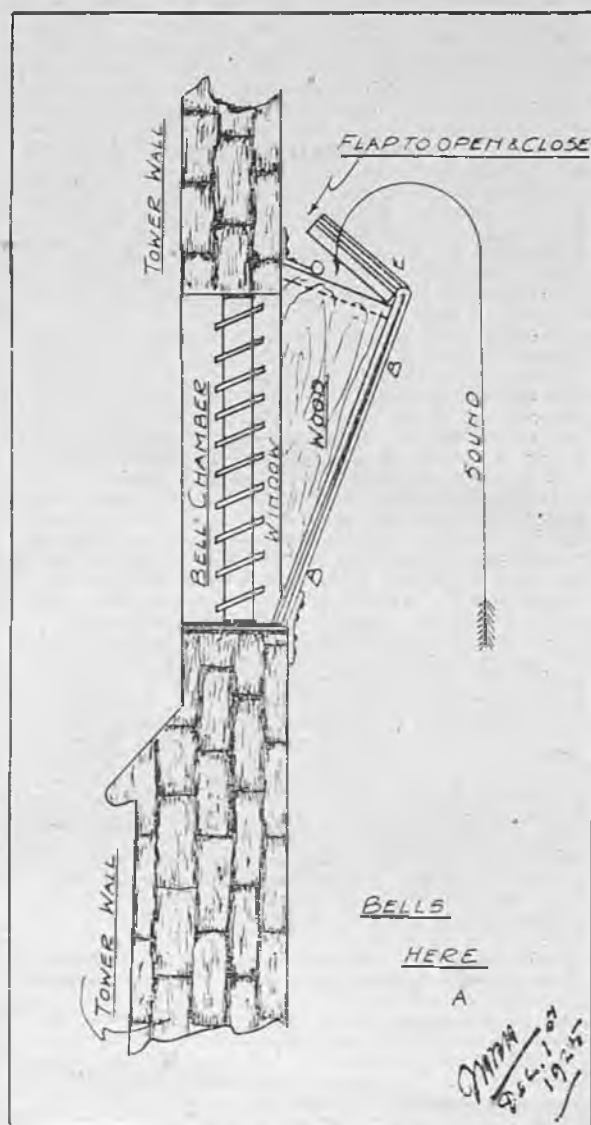
Of recent years it has been the custom of the editors of the provincial weekly journals to publish small paragraphs of local bellringing extracted from their issues of a century or more ago. In this way a curious confirmation of the peal at Windsor Castle was brought to my notice after an interval of 40 years, which I hope to report to you another day. By this means evidence of peal ringing

(Continued at bottom of previous Column.)

NOISY BELFRIES.

SIMPLE DEVICE FOR MODERATING SOUND.

The question of reducing the amount of noise of bells in the streets surrounding the church is one of the matters which should receive more attention from authorities than it does. Below we illustrate a simple device, designed by Major J. H. B. Hesse, by which the sound outside the tower can be regulated.



The sketch shows a tower wall, with the window opening in it. The V shaped piece marked 'wood' is merely a side piece filling up the gap between the wood boarding, which is shown on the slant, namely, 'B B,' and the top of the window. It would be briefly described as a screen blocking the whole of the window opening, leaning inwards towards the bells, so that all water will drain outwards again through the window. The sound waves have to go down through the opening 'O,' and the screen can, if necessary, have the flap 'E' fitted, so that sound is again restricted. If bells are on a level with the windows the wood portion 'B B' and V shaped piece can be raised to sufficient height to be well above the bells when set on end.

A DATE TOUCH.

At Boxley, Kent, on Tuesday, November 10th, being the eve of Armistice Day, a date touch of Grandshire Doubles (1,925 changes), with the bells half-muffled, in 1 hr. 16 mins., in memory of the 34 men of Boxley who gave their lives for their country in the war: D. Gower 1. W. Gosling (conductor) 2. R. Luckhurst 3. G. Voudes 4. H. Fuller 5. E. Voudes 6. First date touch by all except the 2nd.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION: EASTERN DIVISION MEETING AT ROTHERFIELD.

A quarterly meeting of the Eastern Division was held at Rotherfield on Saturday, December 12th. Members attended from the following towers: Brighton (St. Peter's and St. Nicholas'), Eastbourne (St. Saviour's), Heathfield, Lewes, Mayfield, Pevensey, Tunbridge Wells and Waldron, together with the members of the local band.

The members were warmly welcomed by the Rector (the Rev. A. F. Thornhill, M.A.), who gave a most interesting address at the service. Excellent practice was had in methods from Grandsire to Cambridge Surprise.

Through the kindness of the Rector, the company partook of a bountiful tea at the Parish Hall. Owing to an accident sustained by Mrs. Thornhill, the Rector was unable to be present at the tea. In his absence, Mr. G. Penfold presided at the tea, and also occupied the chair at the business meeting which followed.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at All Saints', Eastbourne. —A hearty vote of thanks was passed to the Rector for the use of the bells, for his address at the service, and for providing such a splendid tea. Regret was also expressed with regard to the accident which had befallen the Rector's wife.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

Members turned up in large numbers at a district meeting of this association, at Jarrow on Saturday, December 12th, and the bells of Christ Church and St. Peter's were kept going all the afternoon and evening. An excellent tea was provided at the Co-operative Cafe, and a short meeting was held afterwards, presided over by Mr. R. L. Patterson, of Sunderland, supported by the President of the Association, the Rev. A. W. Lister, of South Shields.

At the outset, Mr. William Story moved, in very feeling terms, a vote of condolence with the relatives of the late Major Hudson, whose tragic death has so shocked the Exercise. Mr. Story had known Major Hudson from boyhood, had rung many peals with him, and had always had a very high regard for him.—The vote was passed in silence, the members standing for a few moments.

The Rev. A. W. Lister proposed a vote of thanks to the local clergy for the use of the bells.—The Rev. T. H. Lilburn, of St. Peter's, in responding, said it was a very interesting occasion to him, as there were present friends from his old parish (St. Ignatius', Sunderland), friends from his present parish, and also friends from his new parish of St. Oswald's, West Hartlepool.

The next meeting was arranged to be held at Gateshead on January 30th, and the meeting concluded with the season's greetings from the chairman, with best wishes for many more successful meetings such as this in the New Year.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.

A quarterly meeting of this Guild was held at St. Andrew's Church, Netherton, on Saturday, December 5th. The eight bells were available for the members during the afternoon, and the beautiful Guild service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. R. A. Norris), who also gave a very helpful and inspiring address. After the service, an adjournment was made to Scrivens' Cafe, where tea was in readiness, about forty members sitting down.

At the business meeting which followed, the Rev. R. A. Norris presided, supported by Messrs. H. Mason, John Goodman, jun. (Ringing Master), and the secretary.—It was resolved to hold the next meeting, which is the annual one, at Dudley, and that the quarterly peal be attempted at Netherton, the arrangements to be left with the Ringing Master.

At the close of the meeting, on the proposition of Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. S. J. Hughes, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Vicar of Netherton for his kindness in granting permission to hold the meeting at Netherton, also for conducting the service, and for his address, for the use of the tower and bells, for his kind generosity for providing the tea, which was greatly appreciated by all present, and for presiding at the meeting.

The thanks of the Guild were also given to Mr. Albert Prestidge for making the necessary arrangements.

The Vicar replied, on behalf of all concerned, and closed the meeting, which was a most happy and successful one, with prayer.

FIFTY-TWO YEARS A RINGER.

At the Parish Church, Milmrow, Lancs. for evening service, on Dec. 6th, a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1,264 changes), in 45 mins.: W. Staff 1, G. Staff (conductor) 2, J. Fitten 3, J. B. Shaw 4, S. Dunn 5, C. Bennett 6, A. Buckley 7, J. H. C. Massey 8.

Arranged to celebrate the birthday of Mr. J. Fitton, the ringier of the 3rd, who reached his 71st birthday on the above date, and who is still a regular ringier at both service and practice, and also has a record of 52 years as a ringier at this church.

SYSTEMATIC INSTRUCTION.

By JOHN P. FIDLER.

One of the most outstanding features in connection with the art of campanology, is the absence of a definite course of instruction, a circumstance which bewilders the learner. In his own tower he is taught one way, whilst at another, which he may visit, a totally different system is in vogue, until 'he don't know where he are.' Some instructors bring their pupils up on a foundation which will afterwards carry them forward, without much trouble, to the most intricate systems of change ringing, but, unhappily, they are very few. More often than not, the student is taught by word of mouth only, and in a manner which makes it appear a most laborious undertaking. He is told to do this, that, or the other, but why he has to do it is very rarely mentioned. How often do we find a learner, who as soon as he can handle a bell, is put on the tenor to 'drum,' in order that the other seven may ring some good Triples, until the time arrives when he finds it a difficult task to manage a much lighter bell in the ring! Further, there is the great mistake of teaching a learner to handle a heavy bell before a light one. No doubt there is less risk of over-pulling the heavier metal, and consequently less risk of breaking a stay, but there is more to be said for the lighter bell; the knack of handling is more easily and quickly acquired, which is the fundamental. Should there be any risk of a stay going, take it off, then if the bell is over-pulled, there is nothing to break, and does not entail any expense to put things right. Moreover, a light bell can readily be lowered or raised when the student has finished. Thus we come to the first stage of a student's tuition, which is the best way for him to handle a bell? Opinions will differ, and no doubt will be aired, to the ultimate benefit of the Exercise.

The next step should be striking in rounds and call changes, with plenty of stress on the striking. Too often is the beginner put into ringing changes before he can strike correctly, with the result that he is always a bad striker. On the advertisement pages of the 'Ringing World' are advertised two books, 'Rope Sight,' by Snowden, and 'Change Ringing,' by Troyle, so whilst the student is becoming master of his bell, he ought to be in possession of one of these books, studying the opening chapters and so preparing himself for his first lesson in change ringing. The next point to decide is, which is the first lesson?

In my opinion, it is Bob Minor and on the Treble until capable of ringing the extent without prompting, after which, an inside bell could be taken. The main object will be frustrated if force is used, no matter the number of bells in the tower. Teach your man by easy stages, and he will be all the better for it, and certainly will be a more capable ringer. If yours is an eight bell tower, I think you will find much better Bob Major will eventually be rung if a thorough knowledge of Bob Minor has been obtained, and the same can be said with ten and twelve. No doubt some will say, what about the odd methods? Grandsire should present no difficulties, but if you want Stedman, the pace is being forced, which a proper course of instruction will not permit.

After Plain Bob has been mastered, go back again to Minor to master the Treble Bob principle, or if it is desired to ring a number of Plain Major methods, much good will come of a thorough study and practise of the Plain in Minor methods which appear in the Central Council's 'Collection of Methods.' The different kinds of work will be more readily learned, and more easily seen on six than on eight or more. The same also applies to the more difficult Treble Bob and Surprise methods.

When a person commences to learn an instrument, he knows full well that success cannot be accomplished without hard practice, and going slow but sure. Does he attempt to execute the work of masters before he has done his finger exercises? Certainly not, yet ringers want to do so. Are not exercises the mainstay of our present musicians? And so it ought to be with our craft. How often do we find ringers on the higher numbers scoffing at six-bell ringing! It is, however, done without thought or of the knowledge of the benefits offered by the Minor methods. In this branch of the art there is an open field for development, and a host of difficult 'passages,' which if thoroughly mastered would aid the aspirant to the more difficult methods on the higher numbers.

At the College Youths' dinner, Canon G. F. Coleridge paid me a very great compliment, for which I thank him, but I wonder what was at the back of his mind when he said 'it will be of vast interest and vast use to six-bell ringers, and perhaps eight-bell ringers as well.' Those eight-bell ringers who have attained the Treble Bob standard and aspire to ring the higher methods, will find the new book, 'Method Splicing,' a good stepping-stone. Why? In the methods detailed therein, there is a large variety of work and hints on mastering new methods, which, on being thoroughly learned, will be found beneficial when it comes to tackling Major methods.

Campanology is an interesting craft, but keeps its attractiveness very much in the background. For many, much tedious work has to be undertaken before the enjoyment comes. How many learners have given up when on the point of deriving some benefit from their labour! Chiefly, no doubt, because they thought there was nothing

more in it than hunting and dodging. Or again, there are towers where no variety is introduced, the same method being rung year in and year out, with the result that the young ones get 'fed up' and leave. Can anyone wonder? The heads of our calling and those responsible for training young ringers must make it attractive, and let the student see that change ringing is much more absorbing than at first appears. The present-day ringer calls for something better than that which suited his grandfather, but the trouble is to get hold of that something. I commend this problem to the members of the Central Council for their careful consideration, with a view to ultimately drafting a 'Course of Training' which will bring out the best with the minimum of effort, instead of the present happy-go-lucky methods which prevail, and the attendant waste of time as a result.

[Mr. Fidler's reply to Mr. Bibby's letter of last week reached us too late for insertion in this issue.—Ed. 'R.W.']

OXFORD GUILD.

TWO HUNDRED YEARS OLD AND STILL PROGRESSING.

The annual general meeting of the Oxford Society was held at the society's headquarters, Holywell, Oxford, recently, when a large number of members were present. The Master (Mr. W. Harris) presided, supported by the hon. secretary (Mr. H. Tolley), the hon. treasurer (Mr. V. Bennett), and the steward (Mr. S. Hounslow). The accounts for the year were passed as satisfactory, and show a balance of £3 13s. 6d. in hand.

After various sums of money due for ringing at All Saints' and Christ Church Cathedral had been paid out to the members concerned, Councillor C. H. Brown, on behalf of the society, presented a handsome clock to the Master on the occasion of his marriage. Councillor Brown said he had just left the Trades Exhibition, where he had been in company of the Mayor, whom he had almost persuaded to join him in coming to that meeting. He had acquainted him as far as he was able with the records and performances of the society during its 200 years' connection with the various towers, and said he was sure the Mayor would welcome the opportunity of being present at gatherings such as that. He expressed a desire that the society would extend an invitation to the Mayor to be present at the next meeting, when he himself would also be pleased to attend. He had been approached, he added, with regard to the new dance hall at Carfax, as the weekly practice in the tower on Saturday evenings somewhat interfered with the dance. This was rather a delicate point to settle, as, of course, the ringing had the prior claim, but there was no objection to the practice taking place a little earlier in order to accommodate the officials of the Carfax Assembly Room. He thought the society would be pleased to meet them, and so prevent any friction. In making the presentation, he said he felt it a very great honour to do so, especially as it was to one of the youngest Masters the society had ever had, and one who, he knew, had the society's welfare always at heart. It was his special pleasure to present the clock, on behalf of himself and his colleagues, with their best wishes for his future health and happiness.

Mr. Harris, in thanking Councillor Brown and the members, said he had been very happy in doing all he could for the society during his year of office, but had no idea that it was going to terminate with such a pleasant surprise. He hoped the new Master would be as lucky.

Mr. W. H. B. Wilkins was selected as Master, and Messrs. H. Tolley, V. Bennett and S. Hounslow were re-elected as secretary, treasurer, steward, respectively.

In reply to a question re the Washbrook Memorial, Mr. Wilkins stated that the dedication of St. Ebbe's bells would take place on Saturday, December 5th, at 3 o'clock. He had that day been to view the ringing chamber, and reported that five of the bells were already hung, and were awaiting the arrival of the other three from White-chapel.

Some discussion then took place with regard to the irregularity of payments made from time to time, and the consequent confusion which had resulted, and it was proposed by Mr. Wilkins, seconded by Mr. V. Bennett, that the society's rule on the subject should be strictly adhered to, Mr. Bennett adding a suggestion that all money received other than the regular annual amounts should be paid out on the society's quarterly nights.—This was carried. A few words by Mr. F. Payne on the advisability of pressing for the restoration of the bells at St. Peter's-in-the-East brought the meeting to a close.

Councillor Brown, before leaving, presented Mr. H. Tolley with a sum of money, on behalf of the members, as a mark of their appreciation for his untiring efforts as their secretary.

WEDDING BELLS.

At Oswestry, Shropshire, on Tuesday, Nov. 17th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes), in 46 mins.: T. Marshall 1, R. Evans (conductor) 2, J. Hughes 3, H. Hughes 4, H. Jarman 5, E. H. Kynaston 6, E. Jones 7, R. Edwards 8. Rung on the occasion of the wedding of P.C. Fred Gehlert (Manchester City Police) and Miss M. Evans, of Oswestry.

SUNDAY SERVICE TOUCHES.

We regret that, owing to the demands upon the space available for Sunday Service Touches, we are unable to undertake to insert anything less than a quarter-peal on eight bells and upwards, and 720 of Doubles or Minor. Many correspondents send us quite short touches for publication and they must not be disappointed if we are unable to find room for them.

EGHAM.—On Sunday, Dec. 13th, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 43 mins.: W. Peck 1, J. B. Hessey 2, H. Worsfold 3, A. Hiscock 4, E. Burley 5, H. J. Chaffey 6, S. G. Armstrong (conductor) 7, W. Perrey 8. First quarter-peal by ringers of 1 and 5.

OXHEY.—On Sunday morning, Dec. 13th, at St. Matthew's Church, a 720 Bob Minor: *R. French 1, *T. Norris 2, C. Leman 3, *P. Bishop 4, H. Hodgkiss 5, F. W. Brinklow (conductor) 6. *First 720 Bob Minor.

HILLINGDON WEST, UXBIDGE.—On Sunday, Dec. 13th, for evening service, at St. Andrew's Church, a quarter-peal of Oxford Bob Triples: Miss P. M. Moss 1, G. H. Gutteridge 2, P. E. Jones 3, E. Hancox (conductor) 4, J. H. Lucas 5, F. Corke 6, R. Carter 7, C. Nicholls 8. First attempt at quarter-peal in method by 5 and 6.

HILLINGDON WEST.—On Sunday, Dec. 13th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Oxford Bob Triples: Miss P. Moss 1, G. H. Gutteridge 2, P. Jones 3, E. Hancox (conductor) 4, *J. Lucas 5, *F. Corke 6, R. Carter 7, *C. Nicholls 8. *First quarter-peal in this method.

BRISTOL.—On Sunday, Dec. 13th, at the Church of SS. Philip and Jacob, for evensong, 1,152 Cambridge Surprise Major: E. J. Brown (conductor) 1, Miss A. Brown 2, F. W. Wade 3, F. E. Tyler 4, P. C. Williams 5, R. C. Seager 6, H. T. Howell 7, I. Long 8.

WESTMINSTER.—At St. Margaret's Church, on Sunday, Dec. 13th, for evensong, a quarter-peal (1,260 changes) of Double Norwich Court Bob Royal, in 50 mins.: F. I. Hairs 1, Mrs. F. I. Hairs 2, J. A. Trollope 3, Mrs. R. F. Deal 4, W. H. Hewett (conductor) 5, W. J. Nudds 6, C. W. R. Grimwood 7, A. W. Coles 8, R. F. Deal 9, J. E. Davis 10. First quarter-peal of Norwich Royal by ringers of 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8.

BEDDINGTON, SURREY.—On Sunday, Dec. 6th, at the Church of St. Mary, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters (1,259 changes): *F. Jennings 1, *L. A. Bance 2, E. Talbot 3, A. Arnold 4, *G. Jennings 5, *J. Galyer 6, A. Trappitt 7, E. G. Denham 8, T. G. Bannister (conductor) 9, *J. Avery 10. *First quarter-peal of Caters.

CIRENCESTER, GLOS.—On Sunday, Nov. 29th, for morning service at Holy Trinity Church, Watermoor, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes): F. W. Bond 1, F. J. Lewis 2, W. C. Cuss 3, W. G. Cook 4, G. Dore 5, W. H. Hayward 6, H. C. Bond (conductor) 7, J. Roberts (first quarter-peal and first attempt) 8.

ST. ALBANS, HERTS.—On Sunday, Nov. 29th, at St. Michael's Church, 720 Bob Minor in 22 mins.: H. W. Bedford (longest length) 1, B. H. Swinson 2, B. Halsey 3, L. Turner 4, F. J. Spicer 5, Francis Kirk (conductor) 6. The average age of the ringers is 19 years.

ERITH, KENT.—On Sunday, Nov. 28th, for confirmation service, at the Church of St. John the Baptist, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes), in 48 mins.: F. Staggs (longest touch) 1, F. J. Cullum, sen. 2, W. Axtell 3, L. J. Cullum 4, E. J. Petti 5, F. J. Cullum, jun. (conductor) 6, J. S. Morton 7, O. Robinson 8. Rung with the bells half-muffled, as a token of respect to the late Queen Alexandra.

WOLVEY, WARWICKSHIRE.—Rung on the eve of Armistice Day, with the bells half-muffled, as a token of respect to the men of the parish who lost their lives in the Great War, 1914-1918, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles, in 46 mins.: A. Furborough (first quarter-peal) 1, A. Thorpe (first quarter inside) 2, J. Taylor 3, J. H. Beale (conductor) 4, W. Thorpe 5, R. Pond 6.

LAWTON, CHESHIRE.—On Sunday evening, Nov. 8th, for the Armistice service, and in memory of D. Booth and T. Rigby, late members of the above tower, killed in the war, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1,260) in 44 mins.: G. Biddulph 1, E. Harper 2, W. Rigby 3, T. Arrowsmith 4, W. Longman 5, J. Wildblood 6, J. Booth (conductor) 7, R. Arrowsmith 8. First quarter-peal of Stedman inside for 1, 4, 5 and 7, and longest length conducted by 7th in any method. All are members of the above tower.

ECTON, NORTHANTS.—On Sunday, Nov. 1st, for morning service, 720 Grandsire Doubles, with the bells half-muffled: A. Johnson 1, F. Pinney 2, C. Tebby 3, H. Tebby 4, A. W. Robinson (conductor) 5, F. Harbutt 6. Rung as a token of respect to the late Mr. W. F. Robinson, churchwarden.

GRAVESEND.—At St. George's Church, for Divine service and the eve of the Rector's 42nd birthday, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 45 mins.: J. Avis 1, S. Sandford 2, G. Ambrose 3, W. J. Beer, sen. 4, E. J. Beer, jun. (first quarter-peal as conductor) 5, G. Morrad 6, R. Smith 7, E. Hadlow 8. Great credit is due to the conductor, who has only been a ringer a little over 12 months, and has already rung eight peals.

READING, BERKS.—On Sunday, Nov. 1st, for evensong, at St. Giles' Church, Reading, a quarter-peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major (1,280 changes), in 51 mins.: H. Osborne 1, L. T. Osborne 2, A. Evans 3, E. Humfrey 4, A. Bailey 5, H. Egby 6, A. Jeffery 7, A. W. Osborne (conductor) 8. First quarter-peal of Oxford by all.

ELTHAM, KENT.—At the Parish Church of St. John the Baptist, for morning service and the anniversary of the opening of the bells, a quarter-peal of Kent Treble Bob Major (1,260 changes): F. Fraser 1, P. Spice 2, G. Durling 3, *C. A. Bines 4, *Capt. W. Anderson 5, W. J. Jeffries 6, *J. Hurrell 7, R. Brett Smith (conductor) 8. *First quarter-peal.

WANTAGE, BERKS.—On Sunday, December 13th, before evensong, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 46 mins.: H. Gregory 1, H. C. Mulford (first on a bob bell) 2, A. Mayo 3, E. Hudson 4, E. A. Gregory 5, W. Seymour 6, R. G. Rice (conductor) 7, E. White 8. First quarter-peal by ringers of 1st and 8th. With the exception of the conductor all are Sunday Service ringers at this church.

BECKENHAM, KENT.—On Sunday, December 13th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (from Parker's twelve-part): W. Smith (conductor) 1, H. Hawkes 2, W. Hollamby 3, F. Scutcher 4, F. King 5, G. Wickens 6, F. Terry 7, W. Meek 8. Rung as a welcome to the new Rector.

TOTTENHAM.—At All Hallows', for evensong, on Dec. 13th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: W. P. Roe 1, H. W. H. Strickland 2, S. W. Crabb 3, W. J. Ellis 4, H. Ellis 5, E. A. Hull 6, C. Button (conductor) 7, W. Patmore 8.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S DEATH.

WINDSOR.—On Saturday, November 28th, following Queen Alexandra's funeral at St. George's Chapel, Windsor, 504 Grandsire Triples, with the bells half-muffled: W. Phipps 1, W. P. Cross 2, H. F. Hunt 3, T. Farr 4, T. Smith 5, J. W. Croft 6, L. Stilwell (conductor) 7, J. H. Cropley 8.

EDENBRIDGE, KENT.—On November 28th, 1,740 of Stedman Triples, with bells fully muffled, for the death of the Queen-Mother: R. Jenner 1, E. Leigh 2, W. Leigh, sen. 3, E. Jenner (longest in method) 4, G. Malvan 5, E. Cullison 6, J. Hearnman (conductor) 7, W. Leigh, jun. (longest length) 8.

CAERLEON.—On November 27th, at the Church of St. Cadoc, on the occasion of the funeral of Queen Alexandra, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, with the bells half-muffled: *A. Sparks 1, F. R. Bolton 2, *T. Sargent 3, H. Shires 4, S. Jones 5, T. Lawes 6, P. H. Stafford (conductor) 7, G. Watts 8. *First quarter-peal.

SOUTHGATE.—At Christ Church, on November 27th, after an unsuccessful attempt for Heywood's peal of Stedman Triples, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples, in 50 mins.: J. Armstrong (conductor) 1, A. R. Glascock 2, W. Pickworth 3, J. E. Miller 4, H. Miller 5, E. G. Tomlinson 6, N. Tomlinson 7, A. G. Crane 8. Rung with the bells half-muffled on the evening of the funeral of Queen Alexandra.

MUFFLED TOUCHES.

CAERPHILLY, GLAM.—On Saturday, November 28th, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples, rung half-muffled, in 45 mins., at St. Martin's Church: S. Addicot 1, W. Pike 2, E. Dare 3, P. Jones 4, H. Broughton 5, G. Cooke 6, A. Addicot 7, W. Dare 8.

WRENTHAM, SUFFOLK.—On Friday, November 27th, 720 Woodbine Treble Bob, with the bells half-muffled: Rev. F. R. Bonsey 1, A. J. L. Naunton 2, E. Bailey, sen. 3, C. Bailey 4, J. Spencer 5, F. W. Naunton (conductor) 6.—On Sunday, November 29th, for evening service, 720 Bob Minor: W. C. Bunn 1, A. J. L. Naunton 2, E. Charlton 3, Rev. F. R. Bonsey 4, J. Spencer 5, F. W. Naunton (conductor) 6.

GODALMING, SURREY.—At the Parish Church, on Saturday, Nov. 28th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes) was rung in 48 mins., with the bells half-muffled: R. Pamment (first quarter-peal away from tenor) 1, C. Bish 2, W. Hooker 3, V. H. Smith 4, C. Childs 5, J. A. Cole (first quarter as conductor) 6, W. Moorey 7, W. G. Mills 8.

PENDLETON.—On Friday, Nov. 27th, at St. Thomas's Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes), in 48 mins.: H. Hollingworth (first quarter-peal) 1, H. Greenhalgh 2, S. Greenhalgh 3, A. Bailey 4, H. Chapman 5, H. Shuker 6, F. Page (conductor) 7, W. Howarth 8. Also on Saturday, Nov. 28th, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1,260 changes), in 50 mins.: H. Greenhalgh 1, S. James (first quarter-peal of Stedman) 2, A. Bailey 3, F. J. Steele 4, J. Ridyard 5, F. Page (conductor) 6, H. Chapman 7, H. Hollingworth 8. Rung with the bells half-muffled.

LUTON, BEDS.—At the Parish Church, on Saturday, Nov. 28th, with bells half-muffled, 1,260 Stedman Triples, in 52 mins.: A. King 1, H. Walker 2, B. Wilson 3, A. Smith 4, H. Wood 5, F. Hunt 6, L. A. Goodenough (conductor) 7, T. Kendall 8.

WRITTELE.—On Saturday, November 28th, at All Saints' Church, with the bells half-muffled, 1,260 Stedman Triples: G. W. Sorrell 1, F. W. Edwards 2, H. Head 3, H. Edwards (first quarter of Stedman) 4, A. Head 5, F. G. Radley 6, W. Lincoln (conductor) 7, T. Lincoln 8.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with a minimum charge of 1/6.

The EDITORIAL OFFICE of the 'RINGING WORLD,' to which all communications should be sent, is 63, COMMERCIAL ROAD, WOKING.

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ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTH! (Established 1637).—Meetings for practice will be held at *St. Paul's Cathedral on December 29th, at 7.30; *Business meeting afterwards. The subscription of 1s. 8d., which entitles members who have not made 20 attendances in the past year to vote on financial matters, is now due.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., 'Frod-ingham,' 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Woolos', the pro-Cathedral, Newport, on Boxing Day, Dec. 26th. Service at 4 o'clock. Tea and business meeting to follow in Waters Lane Mission Room. Bells available before and after the meeting, and also the bells of All Saints.—John W. Jones, Hon. Sec., 29, Barrack Hill, Newport, Mon.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—A representative gathering of the branch is requested for the meeting at Holy Trinity Church, Bolton, on Boxing Day. Bells from 2.30 p.m. Meeting 7 p.m.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—A practice will be held at St. Mary's, Lambeth, on Tuesday, Dec. 29th, at 8. Meetings for January: St. Clement Danes, Sunday, the 3rd, at 10 a.m., and Mondays, the 4th, at 6.30, followed by the quarterly business meeting at 8.15, and the 18th, at 7.30; St. Mary's, Lambeth, Tuesday, the 26th, at 8. The annual general meeting will take place on Saturday, Feb. 13th. Full details later. Please reserve date.—A. H. Keighley, Gen. Sec., 18, Merrick Square, S.E.1.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Devizes Branch.—The monthly meeting will be held at Holt on Saturday, Jan. 2nd. Bells (6) ready at 2.30 p.m. Service 4.40. Tea at 5. Business meeting to follow.—F. Green, 53, Avon Road, Devizes.

MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—The annual meeting of the above will be held at St. Mary's, Nottingham, on Saturday, Jan. 2nd. Tower open 2.30. Meeting 6 p.m. Nominations for officers will greatly oblige. Will members please make an effort to be present? All ringers welcome.—F. Blood, Hon. Local Sec.

SOCIETY OF SHERWOOD YOUTHS (NOTTINGHAM), Established 1672.—The annual meeting for election of officers will be held on Saturday, Jan. 2nd. Ringing, St. Mary's, Nottingham, 2.30. Meeting 8 p.m. Amendments to Rules 3 and 12 will be proposed at this meeting. It is hoped members will be present. All ringers welcome.—F. Blood, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.—Loughborough District.—The annual meeting of the district will be held at Loughborough on Saturday, Jan. 9th. The bells (10) of the Parish Church and the Bell Foundry Campanile will be open from 3 o'clock onwards. The foundry will be open from 2 till 4.30 for visiting ringers to see the recast York Minster bells. Will all members try to attend (election of officers)? There will also be a short social evening. Tea will be provided at a moderate charge for those who notify me not later than Jan. 7th.—J. Saddington, Hon. Dis. Sec., 27, Chapman Street, Loughborough.

BRISTOL UNITED RINGING GUILDS.—Fifth annual dinner, Grand Hotel, Broad Street, Bristol, Saturday, Jan. 9th. Tickets 5s. 6d. each. Peals arranged during afternoon. University Buildings and 'Great George Bell' (9½ tons) on view, and will be rung (ticket holders only). Tickets may now be obtained of tower secretaries, officials and stewards, or direct from E. Guise, Hon. Sec., 39, Tankard's Close, St. Michael's Hill, Bristol.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—A meeting will be held at All Saints', Hamer, Rochdale, on Saturday, Jan. 9th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Meeting at 6.30 p.m. SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE. REPORTS TO HAND. All ringers welcome.—William Horan, Branch Sec., 2, Greenhirst Hey, Todmorden.

MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.—The third quarterly meeting will be held at Eastwood, Notts, on Saturday, Jan. 16th. Bells (8) open 2 to 8 p.m. Committee meeting at Sun Hotel 3.45 p.m. Meat tea (2s.) at Sun Hotel, 5 o'clock, followed by general meeting. Members requiring tea please notify Mr. J. P. Pollard, 20, Addison Villas, Eastwood, Notts, not later than Jan. 14th. Trams leave Upper Parliament Street, Nottingham, every 15 minutes. Buses leave Hippodrome every few minutes. Will members in arrears please pay up on or before this date, either locally or direct to me, specially noting Rule 4 (a)?—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec., 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

SOCIETY OF SHERWOOD YOUTHS (NOTTINGHAM), Established 1672.—Preliminary Notice.—William Doubleday Crofts' Memorial Dinner will take place on Saturday, Jan. 30th, at the Welbeck Hotel, Milton Street. Tickets, 4s. each, can now be obtained from the hon. sec., F. Blood, 91, Dame Agnes Street, Nottingham.

PUBLICATIONS.

'HANDBELL MUSIC.'—Catalogues from W. Gordon, 37, Norwood Road, Great Moor, Stockport.

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GREETINGS.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—Christmas, 1925.—Will all members and ringing friends please accept our best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. — Robert E. Holloway, Ringing Master; William H. Hollier, Hon. Sec.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

CHISLEHURST.—On Thursday evening, Oct. 15th, at the Parish Church, the eve of the dedication festival, 224 Bob Major; 504 Stedman Triples: T. Groombridge, senr. (conductor), 1, J. Ford 2, P. Spice 3, E. Mounter 4, C. Brett-Smith (first 504) 5, R. Brett-Smith 6, P. Brett-Smith (first 504) 7, H. Durling 8.—578 Kent Treble Bob Major: R. S. Goodchild 1, J. Ford 2, T. Groombridge, senr. (conductor), 3, E. Mounter 4, C. Brett-Smith 5, P. Spice 6, P. Brett-Smith 7, R. Brett-Smith 8. Messrs. Mounter and Spice are from Bromley; the rest belong to the local band.

BRANSTON, Lincs.—On Friday, Oct. 16th, for practice, at the Church of All Saints, a quarter-peal of Minor (960 Oxford Treble Bob and 240 Plain Bob), in 45 mins.: W. H. Lloyd (conductor) 1, J. Pearson, H. Marcon 3, M. Billings 4, H. Carter 5, C. Claydon 6. Longest length of Oxford by ringers of 2nd, 4th, 5th and 6th.

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