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FRIDAY, JANUARY 29th, 1926.

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

Price 8d.

GILLETT AND JOHNSTON

(The Croydon Bell Foundry, Ltd.)

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The Recast Ring of 10 (Tenor 28 cwt.) for
MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL, Nov., 1925

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CLOCK AND CARILLON MAKERS

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A BAD PRECEDENT.

The fight for the preservation of Coventry bells is finished, and the peal, as it has existed for a hundred and fifty years—recognised as one of the finest peals of ten in the country—is irretrievably lost. One last effort to save them was made by the hon. secretary of the Central Council (Mr. E. A. Young), who deserves the utmost thanks of the Exercise for the energetic and tenacious manner in which he has carried on the struggle to prevent these bells from going into the melting-pot. His letter to the Bishop of Coventry was a last, despairing attempt to gain a respite, but the curt reply from the Bishop's secretary, published in another column, makes it clear that the sentence of the Court will not be interfered with. We believe that ringers throughout the country will regret the passing of these bells, which, though few of the present generation have heard them, were a 'tradition' in the Exercise, and, of their kind, a supreme example.

There are very few old peals of bells whose preservation, except for sentimental reasons, could create the feeling that has been aroused by those of Coventry, and there are many which ringers would be only too glad to see go into the furnace and be recast. The points, however, that strike us most in connection with this question are, first, the fact that the thin end of the wedge has been inserted to substitute, in church towers, for our fine old English art of bell ringing the mechanically played carillon; and, secondly, there has been established a precedent for melting up good peals merely because they are not 'Simpson' tuned.

It is in the former that we see the most danger. When next a big restoration at an important church or cathedral is talked of, we shall not be surprised to hear of some Dr. Brazil or Professor Starmer coming along, calling themselves campanological experts, and advocating following the example of Coventry. And, if we are not very careful and wide-awake, the church authorities may decide to follow the example of Coventry. Moreover, it might even develop into a 'fashion,' and if it did so it would be a sorry day for our art. The people who are in the best position to counter any 'aggression' of this kind are our bell founders, who, until recently, at all events, found their 'bread and butter' in the towers of our English churches. Lately, however, the carillon for abroad has, happily, increased the English bell foundry trade considerably, but it will only continue to be, 'happily' for the art of ringing, as long as the carillons are sent overseas, or, at any rate, are kept out of our church towers. In this matter, we say, the bell founders, who can get the first word in the ear of the church authorities, have an overwhelmingly strong position, and

(Continued on page 66.)

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we hope it will always be used, as we said a fortnight ago, in favour of retaining English church bells for English bell ringing, and not to pander to the fads of campanological professors, self-styled or otherwise.

TEN BELL PEALS.

LONDON.

THE LADIES' GUILD.

On Wednesday, January 20, 1926, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. CLEMENT DANES, STRAND,
A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS 5067 CHANGES;

Tenor 24 cwt.

Miss E. E. CHAPMAN Treble	*Miss E. HARCASLE 6
†Miss N. E. SHORTER... .. 2	Mrs. F. I. HAIRS 7
†Miss P. UPSHER 3	Mrs. A. D. BARKER 8
Miss F. E. ORR... .. 4	Miss E. K. PARKER 9
Mrs. R. F. DEAL 5	†Miss R. HAWKSWORTH ... Tenor

Composed by C. H. HATTERSLEY. Conducted by Miss E. K. PARKER

† First peal on 10 bells. * First peal of Stedman Caters. The band wish to thank the Rector for allowing the use of the bells, and also Mr. J. E. Davis for overhauling and splicing the ropes and oiling the bells. The kindness of these gentlemen, and also the members of the local band in giving up their practice night for the attempt, was greatly appreciated by all.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

THE DURHAM & NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION

On Saturday, January 23, 1926, in Three Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes,

At THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5039 CHANGES;

Tenor 37½ cwt.

EDWARD A. HERN Treble	†JOSEPH W. PARKER 6
*WILLIAM SHUCKFORD 2	†JOHN FOREMAN 7
WILLIAM STORY... .. 3	THOMAS H. REEVES 8
*WILLIAM L. GOFTON 4	JOSEPH E. R. KEEN 9
*JAMES E. GOFTON 5	WILLIAM H. BARBER ... Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF.

Conducted by W. H. BARBER.

* First peal in the method. † First of Caters in the method. Rung after meeting short for Stedman Cinques.

EWERBY, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

(NORTHERN BRANCH, SLEAFORD DISTRICT.)

On Saturday, January 23, 1926, in Three Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5003 CHANGES;

Tenor 15 cwt.

F/SERG. F. A. HOLDEN ... Treble	WALTER H. WOOD 6
*CHRISTOPHER WILSON 2	†ARTHUR DIXON 7
†REGINALD SCOTT 3	GEORGE SMITH 8
HAROLD MARCON 4	WILLIAM DICKINSON... .. 9
WILLIAM H. LLOYD 5	*REAST RICHARD DIXON ... Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by FRED A. HOLDEN.

* First peal. † First peal of Caters.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

CHIPPING BARNET, HERTS.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, January 18, 1926, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S VARIATION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART. Tenor 24 cwt.

Miss PHOEBE UPSHER... .. Treble	HERBERT J. ELDERD 5
ALFRED R. GLASSCOCK 2	WILLIAM PICKWORTH... .. 6
ROBERT ROFFEY 3	NORMAN A. TOMLINSON 7
JOHN ARMSTRONG... .. 4	ALFRED G. CRANE Tenor

Conducted by NORMAN A. TOMLINSON.

Rung in celebration of the golden wedding of J. Sumpster (Nov. 27th, 1925), who has been a member of the local band for 34 years. Also of the silver wedding of Alfred G. Crane (Nov. 28th, 1925), a member of the Christ Church, Southgate, Society.

HELMSHORE, LANCASHIRE. THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, January 19, 1926, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5089 CHANGES;

Tenor 10 cwt.

*JAMES JACKSON Treble	*THOMAS ISHERWOOD 5
JOSEPH BANKS 2	*JOHN WISE 6
THOMAS WALLWORK 3	JAMES H. BANKS 7
*ROWLAND HASLAM 4	JOSEPH E. SYKES Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR CRAVEN. Conducted by JOSEPH E. SYKES.

* First peal.

SUNDERLAND, DURHAM.

THE DURHAM & NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, January 20, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. IGNATIUS THE-MARTYR,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES.

Tenor 13 cwt.

*FRANK AINSLEY Treble	ROBERT WALKER 5
† HAROLD B. DITCHBORN 2	MICHAEL F. HARRISON 6
GEORGE S. TAYLOR 3	JOSEPH W. PARKER 7
THOMAS STEPHENSON 4	ROBERT L. PATTERSON Tenor

Composed and Conducted by JOSEPH W. PARKER.

Rung on the 22nd anniversary of the first peal on the bells, and as a send-off to Thomas Stephenson, who is leaving the district. * First peal of Major. † First peal of Major inside.

LICHFIELD, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, January 20, 1926, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEOMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

G. LINDOFF'S TWELVE-PART No. 5.

Tenor 19½ cwt.

MAURICE SWINFELD Treble	CHARLES DRAPER 5
THOMAS MEREDITH 2	JOHN CURTIS 6
JAMES PAGETT 3	JAMES GEORGE 7
JOHN H. SWINFELD 4	GEORGE F. NEWMAN Tenor

Conducted by M. SWINFELD.

The band wish to thank Mr. F. Cope for having everything in readiness.

BLACKBURN, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, January 21, 1926, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 15½ cwt.

ARTHUR TOMLINSON Treble	THOMAS WILSON 5
MISS MAY CLAYTON 2	WILLIAM E. WILSON 6
FREDERICK HINDLE 3	JOHN WATSON 7
JOHN BROWN 4	JOSEPH E. SYKES Tenor

Composed by ABRAHAM SYKES.

Conducted by J. E. SYKES.

MYTHOLMROYD, YORKSHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 23, 1926, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

† JOHN WILCOCK Treble	FRANK FIELDEN 5
† WILLIAM CARTER 2	* CYRIL F. SUTCLIFFE 6
† JAMES INGHAM 3	WILLIAM HORAN 7
† ARTHUR BOTTOMLEY 4	FRED HODGSON Tenor

Composed by JOHN BARKER.

Conducted by FRED HODGSON.

* First peal. † First peal in the method. First peal in the method on the bells. The ringer of the 5th bells from Todmorden Unitarians; 6th from Old Sowerby; 7th from Cross Stone, Todmorden; tenor from Liversedge; the rest belong to the local company. Mr. William Carter was elected a non-resident member of the association before commencing the peal.

EADOXTON, NEATH. — On Wednesday, January 6th, at the Church of St. Catwg, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles (1,260 changes), in 42 mins.; H. Mathews 1, G. W. Hollis (Aberavon) 2, C. Lake 3, W. J. Thomas 4, Gwyn Lewis (first quarter as conductor) 5, C. Bandle 6.

TETTENHALL, STAFFORDSHIRE.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Saturday, January 23, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE COLLEGIATE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor 15 cwt.

ARTHUR BENNETT, Northumberland Fusiliers Treble	
JOHN J. TAYLOR, 6th North Staffs Regiment 2	
THOMAS PERRY, Aerial Construction Services 3	
ROBERT PICKERING, 6th South Staffs Regiment 4	
J. D. GEORGE HARRIS, Shropshire Yeomanry 5	
BENJAMIN DALTON, 3rd Notts & Derby Regiment 6	
WILLIAM H. LAWLEY, 4th South Staffs Regiment 7	
ROBERT THOMPSON, Staffs Yeomanry Tenor	

Conducted by ROBERT PICKERING.

First peal by all ex-Servicemen rung in the county of Stafford.

CROYDON, SURREY.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 23, 1926, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THEURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 31 cwt.

ARTHUR DEAN Treble	GEORGE MARRINER 5
WALTER SMITH 2	ROBERT BRETT SMITH 6
ISAAC EMERY 3	THOS. GROOMBRIDGE, SEN. 7
HERBERT J. SKELT 4	THOS. GROOMBRIDGE, JUN. Tenor

Conducted by THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE, JUN.

The conductor has now called this peal eight times, once from each bell, treble to tenor in rotation, and has also taken part in the same peal, non-conducted, each peal being rung in a different tower.

LONDON.

THE LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(LATE THE ST. JAMES' SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, January 23, 1926, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY, ROTHERHITHE, S.E.,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S VARIATION.

Tenor 18 cwt.

GEORGE J. HARMAN Treble	GEORGE A. CARD 5
THOMAS H. TAFFENDER 2	WILLIAM BERRY 6
HARRY DYAS 3	LEONARD H. BAYBUT 7
*JOHN L. WATKINS 4	†BERTIE ALDRIDGE Tenor

Conducted by THOMAS H. TAFFENDER.

† First peal. * First peal in the method.

MAIDENHEAD, BERKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

(EAST BERKS & SOUTH BERKS BRANCH.)

On Saturday, January 23, 1926, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS, BOYNE HILL.

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

Tenor 17½ cwt.

WILLIAM H. FUSSELL Treble	JESSE ELDRIDGE 5
*JOSEPH S. HAWKINS 2	ARTHUR MARTIN 6
FRANK BOREHAM 3	GEORGE MARTIN 7
WILLIAM A. GARRAWAY 4	JAMES E. DAVIS Tenor

Composed by F. HOLDEN.

Conducted by JAMES E. DAVIS.

* First peal of Double Norwich on an inside bell.

PULFORD, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, January 23, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

WILDE'S TRANSPOSITION.

Tenor 9 cwt. 3 qr. 10 lb.

THOMAS R. BUTLER Treble	WILLIAM JONES 5
FREDERICK EVANS 2	ALBERT J. HUGHES 6
JOHN HAYES 3	WILLIAM S. HIGGINSON 7
ROBERT SPERRING 4	JAMES H. RIDING Tenor

Conducted by ROBERT SPERRING.

Mr. J. H. Riding has now rung each bell in the tower to a peal of Stedman Triples.

FERRING, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 23, 1926, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS.

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 18 cwt. in F.

WILLIAM J. NEVARD Treble	LESLIE G. BRETT 5
WALTER ARNOLD 2	WILLIAM KEEBLE 6
ISAAC G. SHADE 3	*C.S.M. JAMES BENNETT 7
FRANK CLAYDON 4	ARTHUR SAUNDERS Tenor

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF. Conducted by WM. KEEBLE.

The conductor's 450th peal. * First peal in the method. Arranged for L. G. Brett, of Framsden, and C.S.M. J. Bennett.

WALDRON, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 23, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS.

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 12½ cwt. in G.

WILFRED BOOTH Treble	ALBERT HOBDEN 5
HAROLD S. HOBDEN 2	REG. E. LAMBERT 6
ROBERT T. LAMBERT 3	FREDK. J. LAMBERT, JUN. 7
PHILIP S. THOMPSON 4	ALBERT E. EDWARDS Tenor

Composed by H. J. TUCKER. Conducted by A. E. EDWARDS.

SAMLESBURY, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 23, 1926, in Three Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LEONARD-THE-LESS.

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5472 CHANGES;

Tenor 18½ cwt.

FREDERICK HINDLE Treble	WILLIAM E. WILSON 5
ARTHUR TOMLINSON 2	JOHN BAILEY 6
MISS MAY CLAYTON 3	JOHN WATSON 7
JOHN BROWN 4	JOSEPH E. SYKES Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS (No. 173).

Conducted by J. E. SYKES.

This composition, now rung for the first time, contains the 4th, 5th and 6th their extent in 5-6 without the 2nd in 6th's.

DEANE, BOLTON, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 23, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

WASHBROOK'S VARIATION.

Tenor 12½ cwt.

FRED ABBOTT Treble	TITOS BARLOW 5
ROBERT WALLWORK 2	THOMAS WALLWORK 6
ERNEST CUTSPORTH 3	THOMAS W. WORSLEY 7
JOSEPH LEATHERBARROW 4	THOMAS SMITH Tenor

Conducted by THOMAS B. WORSLEY.

SUNBURY-ON-THAMES, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, January 23, 1926, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 14½ cwt.

MISS PHYLLIS M. MOSS ... Treble	WILLIAM WELLING 5
WILLIAM SHEPHERD 2	MAJ. JOHN H. B. HESSE 6
CAPT. JAMES R. MACKMAN ... 3	FERRIS J. SHEPHERD 7
ARTHUR CROSS 4	WILLIAM WARNE Tenor

Conducted by FERRIS J. SHEPHERD.

WILLENHALL, STAFFORDSHIRE.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Saturday, January 23, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES.

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

JOHNSON'S VARIATION.

WILLIAM T. POWELL ... Treble	HERBERT KNIGHT 5
†SYDNEY ELTON 2	CHRISTOPHER WALLATER 6
CHARLES R. LILLEY 3	THOMAS J. ELTON 7
*JOHN PERRY 4	WILLIAM FISHER Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM FISHER.

† First peal of Surprise. * First peal of Surprise with an inside bell.

CRAWLEY, SUSSEX.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, January 23, 1926, in Three Hours,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST.

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 13½ cwt.

*WALTER CHARMAN ... Treble	JOHN A. COLE 5
*MISS IRENE L. HASTIE ... 2	CLARENCE H. DOBBIE 6
HENRY HUTTON 3	OLIVER SIPPETTS 7
WILLIAM T. BEESON, JUN. ... 4	ALFRED H. PULLING Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF.

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

This peal was specially arranged for Miss Hastie, who was heartily congratulated at the conclusion. * First peal of London Surprise.

THURCASTON, Near LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 23, 1926, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,
AT THE LATIMER CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

F. H. DEXTER'S VARIATION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 10 cwt.

C. ARTHUR MANNING ... Treble	WILLIAM COPE 5
J. FREDERICK MILNER ... 2	WILLIAM H. CLARKE 6
LEONARD H. WHITEHEAD ... 3	NORMAN S. BAGWORTH 7
WALTER P. WHITEHEAD ... 4	JOHN GRANT Tenor

Conducted by WALTER P. WHITEHEAD.

The band wish to thank Mr. N. S. Bagworth for making the band up at the last minute. This was his first peal, and first 'attempt.'

ECKINGTON, DERBYSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(SHEFFIELD DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, January 23, 1926, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

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

Tenor 16½ cwt.

JOHN HOLMAN Treble	*PERCY JERVIS 5
*J. EDWARD CAWSE 2	*BERNARD DITCHER 6
CHARLES MASON 3	JOHN H. BROTHWELL 7
JESSE J. MOSS 4	JOHN FLINT Tenor

Composed by EDWIN BARNETT, SEN. Conducted by JOHN FLINT

* First peal in the method.

LEEDS.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, January 23, 1926, in Three Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes,

AT CHRIST CHURCH, UPPER ARMLEY.

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5376 CHANGES;

Tenor 15 cwt. 2 qr. 22 lb.

ALFRED WINDSOR ... Treble	*HARRY LOFTHOUSE 5
MISS O. L. LUMLEY 2	†ARTHUR FIELDBOUSE 6
*JAMES HEY 3	JOHN W. MOORHOUSE 7
FRED BLACKITH 4	GERALD MOORHOUSE Tenor

Composed by WM. SOTTANSTALL.

Conducted by F. BLACKITH.

* First peal and first attempt. † First peal. First peal as conductor. Rung as a welcome to the new Vicar (Rev. S. J. Harris), and as a 21st birthday compliment to Miss M. Wade. First eight-bell peal on these bells.

**For NEW CHURCH CLOCKS,
REPAIRS, or CHIME ADDITIONS,
write to G. & F. COPE & Co.,
NOTTINGHAM.**

**BEDWORTH, WARWICKSHIRE.
THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.**

*On Saturday, January 23, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,
At the Church of All Saints,*

**A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5050 CHANGES;
MIDDLETON'S.**

Tenor 14 cwt.

OSWALD J. HUNT Treble	SIRLEY BURYON 5
*JOSEPH H. W. WHITE 2	THOMAS W. CHAPMAN 6
FRANK E. PERVIN 3	ERNEST MORRIS 7
FRANK W. PERRINS 4	FREDERICK H. DEXTER Tenor

Conducted by FREDERICK H. DEXTER.

* First peal in the method. First peal in the method on the bells. Also the conductor's 100 peal of Surprise.

**SILVERDALE, STAFFORDSHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**

*On Saturday, January 23, 1926, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,
At the Church of St. Luke,*

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 9 cwt. 2 qr. 15 lb.

JOHN PARKER Treble	FREDERICK H. CRAWLEY 5
HARRY PARKER 2	JOHN BRASSINGTON 6
*GEORGE BIDDULPH 3	ARTHUR ALLMAN 7
†THOMAS HURD 4	ALBERT CRAWLEY Tenor

Composed by F. HOGGOOD.

Conducted by A. CRAWLEY.

† First peal of Major. * First peal of Major away from the treble. ‡ First peal in the method. First peal of Bob Major on the bells.

SIX BELL PEALS.

**LEYLAND, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**

*On Monday, January 18, 1926, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,
At the Church of St. James,*

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 Cambridge Surprise, and two 720's each of Woodbine, Oxford and Treble Bob. Tenor 10 cwt.

WILLIAM HOLMES Treble	WILLIAM NELSON 4
JAMES MILLER, JUN. 2	HARRY FRANCE 5
JAMES MILLER 3	JOHN T. MILLER, SEN. Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM HOLMES.

First peal of Minor by all the band. First peal as conductor. All the ringers reside in St. James's Parish. Credit is due to James Miller, ringer of the 3rd, who is a churchwarden at the above church.

**UPTON PYNE, DEVON.
THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.**

*On Wednesday, January 20, 1926, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,
At the Church of Our Lady,*

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores ten callings.

Tenor 11 cwt.

†W. S. LETHBRIDGE Treble	*A. TAVENER 4
†J. ARBURY 2	*V. TAVENER 5
*R. SCANES 3	*A. WEBBER Tenor

Conducted by J. ARBURY.

First peal on the bells. Rung in honour of the wedding of Capt. J. B. W. Pennyman, of Ormesby Hall, Yorkshire, and Miss R. C. D. Knight, daughter of the Rector of Upton Pyne. * First peal. † First peal of Doubles. First peal as conductor.

**WITHAM, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**

*On Wednesday, January 20, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,
At the Church of St. Nicholas,*

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

720 each of Woodbine, Cambridge, Oxford, Kent Double Court, Double Oxford and Plain Bob. Tenor 18 cwt. in F.

VICTOR GLASS Treble	LESLIE G. BRETT 4
WILLIAM BUTLER 2	WILLIAM KEEBLE 5
ERNEST BRIGHT 3	HENRY DORKING Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM KEEBLE.

Arranged for L. G. Brett, of Framsden, Suffolk.

HORNSEY.—At St. Mary's Church, on January 11th in 29 mins., 720 Bob Minor: G. Northcott 1, E. G. Hibble 2, H. Blee 3, J. G. Nash 4, A. P. Putland 5 C. H. Ross (conductor) 6.

LITLINGTON, CAMBS.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

*On Saturday, January 23, 1926, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,
At the Church of St. Catharine,*

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

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

*FRANK E. HAYNES Treble	WALTER MANSFIELD 4
†MISS KITTY WILLERS 2	ALBERT E. AUSTIN 5
WILLIAM A. TACK 3	ROBERT HOWARD Tenor

Conducted by ROBERT HOWARD.

First peal of Minor on the bells. * First peal of Minor. † First peal in seven methods on an inside bell.

TWYNING, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(WESTERN BRANCH.)

*On Saturday, January 23, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes
At the Church of St. Mary Magdalene,*

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

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

Tenor 11 cwt.

JAMES R. NEWMAN Treble	SIDNEY T. HOLI 4
ROBERT G. KNOWLES 2	W. RANFORD 5
ERNEST GIBBS 3	CHARLES J. CAMM Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES JOSEPH CAMM.

First peal of Minor on the bells.

LAMBERHURST, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION

*On Saturday, January 23, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,
At the Church of St. Mary,*

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Westminster, Ipswich and Cambridge Surprise, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Double Oxford and Oxford Bob.

WALTER MARSHALL Treble	ANDREW MARSHALL 4
ARTHUR H. SMITH 2	GEORGE WAGHORN 5
ALBERT RELFE 3	HERBERT J. HAMMOND Tenor

Conducted by ALBERT RELFE.

First peal on the bells since they were rehung in a new steel frame by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston. All the ringers belong to the local band except Mr. Waghorn, who kindly took a rope at a minute's notice.

PONTEFRAC, YORKSHIRE.—On Monday, December 28th, at the Parish Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes), in 46 mins.: J. Jackson, junr., 1, A. Fox 2, J. Agar 3, W. Fox 4, J. H. Lenton 5, A. Walker, sen. (conductor), 6, V. Applegate 7, H. Walters 8. First quarter-peal by ringers of 1, 2, 3, 4 and 7.

BROOMFIELD, ESSEX.—At St. Mary's Church, on Wednesday, January 6th, being the occasion of the induction of the new Vicar by the Bishop of Chelmsford, a 720 Oxford Treble Bob and 360 Kent Treble Bob before the service, and 360 Oxford afterwards, the following ringers taking part: L. Ainger, W. Windley, H. Warn, W. Bradley, G. Parsons, E. Clarke, H. Devenish and H. Bradley (conductor).

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NOTES BY THE WAY.

EARLY PEALS OF DOUBLE NORWICH.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

The one method about which we should have expected Hubbard to give us particular information is Double Norwich Court Bob, but in this thing he is woefully disappointing. The first peal of Major was rung in 1771; the first of Royal in 1769; and the first of Maximus in 1817. But Hubbard seems to have known nothing about any of them. Of course, he could not help knowing that the Maximus was rung, for there was the big board in Mancroft belfry that records its performance; not, as now, high up and almost out of sight; but easily read from the old floor. But what was rung Hubbard did not know, and could not tell us. As for the other peals, they were written on no boards, and the memory of them seems to have died out in the city. According to Mr. Snowdon, the 6,160 which Thurston called at Coslany in 1831 was claimed to be the longest in the method at the time. I do not know where the claim was made (it is not on the peal board), but sixty years before in the same tower 6,720 had been rung; and the remarkable thing is that the man who rang the tenor to that peal, John Trowse, was still alive, still living in Norwich, and still taking an interest in ringing. Most probably he was still a member of the Mancroft company, for membership was practically a life tenure. Once elected, a man remained a member till he died, or resigned, or left the city. If he got too old to take any active share in the ringing, a younger man could always be found to deputise for him, and after the latter was paid there was still something for the old man, which doubtless came very welcome. Trowse's ringing career began very soon after the revival of peal ringing under Chamberlin, and he outlived Samuel Thurston and the climax of ringing in Norwich.

The first peal of Royal was rung before Trowse was a ringer, but he knew the men who took part in it, and it is strange that in his lifetime it should so completely have been forgotten. But it always is the case that imperfect sympathy exists between old men and young. The old are not always willing or able to give the knowledge they possess, and the young are still less willing to listen. Otherwise we might know a great deal more about early ringing than we do. After all, it would not take many consecutive memories to carry us back to the very beginning of peal ringing. I knew Ben Smith, who knew John Trowse, who knew Chamberlin, who knew John Webster, who was one of Garthor's pupils.

Double Norwich Royal was composed by William Porter in 1751, and was regularly practised at St. Peter's for many years. As late as 1857 John Cox, when on a visit to Norwich, rang a course or two with the Norwich Scholars, and during the intervening century it seems to have been a standard method at Mancroft. But only one peal was rung. Some time ago, Mr. George Burton found the full record of this in the files of the 'Norfolk Chronicle.' 'On Monday, April 17th, 1769, was rung at St. Peter's Mancroft in this city, a compleat 5,040 of that most ingenious peal called the Court Bob. It was performed in three hours and 29 minutes, without a bell being out of course; and from the harmony and regularity of its changes filled every lover of the art of ringing with the most pleasing wonder and astonishment. This incomparable peal was invented in the year 1751 by Mr. Wm. Porter, one of the ringers belonging to St. Peter's company, and though from that time it has been annually practised, yet never was perfectly gone through with without bells being out of course till now; so that it may be affirmed that this is the first compleat 5,040 that ever was rung in the known world, performed by

John Chamberlin ... Treble	Charles Jarvis	6
(and call'd the peal)	John Dixon	7
John Peak	James Watling	8
Thomas Barton	Simon Watling	9
Robert Dyke	and	
John Havers	John Dye	Tenor

Published by desire of the churchwardens.

Thomas Blakemore, on his visit to Norwich, talked and rang with many of the men who took part in this peal, and the note he inserted in 'The Clavis' is the only thing that preserved any memory of it.

Double Norwich Major was composed about the same time, whether before the Royal or after is doubtful. Somewhere or other I have come across a tradition of a peal of Major being rung before 1769, but I cannot trace it, and the 6,720 at Coslany is the earliest we have any record of.

The following is Osborne's account of it:—

'St. Michael, Coslany, Norwich, January 15th, 1771, was rung by Norwich Scholars a peal of 6,720 changes of Court Bob, in 4 hours and 25 minutes, by the underwritten members, as follows:—

Jno. Chamberlain	1	William Warner	5
Jno. Peake	2	Jno. Dye	6
Jno. Havers	3	James Vine	7
Simon Watling	4	Jno. Frowse	8

Conducted by Jno. Chamberlain.'

The method is called Court Bob only, but there is not the slightest doubt that it was Double Norwich. I have already told how the Norwich men called it Court, because it was what they thought was the correct version of Court Bob Minor; how 'The Clavis' authors added the word Norwich to distinguish it from the Court Bob then rung in London; and how Shipway further added the word Double. You will notice, too, that Osborne spells the conductor's name Chamberlain, but the usual Norwich spelling of the name is Chamberlin, as given in the 'Chronicle' account of the peal of Royal. He also spells the tenorman's name Frowse, and Mr. Snowdon does the same when copying the 1778 peal of Treble Twelve from the Cumberland's peal book. But the correct name is Trowse, and is evidently derived from the village of that name on the outskirts of Norwich.

Chamberlin, as conductor, was succeeded by James Watling, who called the 5,170 of Grandsire Cinques in 1775, and Thomas Barton, who composed and called the 6,240 of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus in 1778. They, in turn, were followed by Robert Chesnutt, who occupies a foremost place in the history of the Norwich Scholars, and who is especially associated with Double Norwich Court Bob. His leadership lasted from the closing years of the eighteenth century till his death in 1821, and he conducted one or two notable performances. But the next peal to the Maximus was not rung by the Norwich Scholars, but by a young and energetic band who practised at St. Giles'. This was on October 22nd, 1809, a peal of Bob Major. It was conducted by Jeffrey Kelf, and was the first by all the band, which included Samuel Thurston. Kelf does not seem to have done anything else, but a Charles Kelf, obviously a relative, rang in the Maximus in 1817; unless it is the same man. The Mancroft ringers probably despised such simple stuff as Bob Major, and their next peal was Double Norwich Major at Coslany in 1815.

Monday, December 18th, 1815, 5,040 changes of that intricate Method of Norwich Court Bob were rung in three hours and 20 minutes in this steeple without the misplacing of a bell, or the repetition of a single change. The peal was conducted by Mr. Robt. Chesnutt, with his accustomed precision, and the bold and regular striking reflects great credit on the ringers; after which a short length of that Ingenious and Harmonious Peal, Stedman Triples, was rung by the same company, and performed by the following persons:—

Jno. Clarke	Treble	Robert Chesnutt	5
Willm. Mann	2	Thos. Burrell	6
Jno. Giddens	3	Saml. Havers	7
Fredk. Watering	4	Josh Lubbock	Tenor

This board was erected by the churchwardens to commemorate the above Display of Genius in the extensive science of Campanologia.

Meanwhile Thurston was making a name as a ringer of outstanding ability. For a long time he was outside the Norwich Scholars. The company, no doubt, was full up, and Chesnutt was not too tolerant of the claims of a young and brilliant rival. The rivalry between the two was pretty keen, and led to the younger man challenging the older in the local paper to ring with him for £100. Whether this challenge was more than rhetoric, and how, if accepted, it was to be decided do not appear, but it came to nothing. Thurston joined the Norwich Scholars in 1814, and with his help one of the very best performances they ever did became possible. This was the peal of Double Norwich Maximus at St. Peter's on January 20th, 1817. The following is a copy of the tablet which records it:—

'Monday, January 20th, 1817, were rung in this steeple 5,016 of that most ingenious and intricate peal, Norwich Court Bob Maximus, in 4 hours and 2 minutes, without the miss of a bell or the repetition of a single change. The peal very much resembles Norwich Court Royal on Ten; there being very short dodging on the bells before and behind, and tenth's place at the hob. The ingenuity of its composition and the bold and regular striking reflects great credit on the company, and are allowed by judges to be a performance which if ever equalled can never be surpassed. It is the first peal ever accomplished in England in that intricate method of twelve bells; was conducted by Robert Chesnutt, and rung by the following persons:—

Robert Chesnutt	Treble	George Hames	7
Peckover Hill	2	John Trowse	8
John Giddens	3	Joseph Lubbock	9
Charles Gittings	4	Thomas Hurry	10
Samuel Havers	5	Nathaniel Beales	11
Charles Kelf	6	Samuel Thurston and	
		Matthew Smith Tenor	

The peal was composed by Thurston, and as a reward for that and for the way in which he rang the tenor the Norwich Scholars presented him with a silver-gilt jewel with the following inscription: "Presented to Mr. S. Thurston, July 4th, 1825, by the United Ringers of St. Peter Mancroft, for his eminent services in composing the peal of Norwich Court Twelve In, and ringing the tenor in a Superior Style."

This presentation was made after Chesnutt was dead, and when Thurston was the undisputed leader of the Norwich ringers. It is most probable that Thurston extended the method to twelve

bells as well as composed the peal, and that, in contrast with Double Norwich Royal, it was not rung much before or after the peal.

Hubbard told Mr. Snowden that he never heard any of it. He 'thought it was one of the methods given on page 37 or 38 in the fourth edition of his book,' which means he did not know anything definite about it. He does not give it in his first edition, and apparently in the six years that had elapsed between the ringing of the peal and his becoming acquainted with the company it had been completely dropped.

A QUERY.

A correspondent writes: Isn't Mr. Trollope making too 'vivid a contrast' in his last 'Notes by the Way' concerning the Brothers Trowse? If John Trowse rang a peal in 1771, he would be at least 94 years of age, when Hubbard was dreaming of his 1845 edition? The names appear in the subscribers' list merely as 'J. Trowse and J. Trowse, junr.' They were probably descendants, but surely not the 1771-1817 brothers. Nor was George Smith the son of Matthew Smith, as stated in a former article.

One would have thought that he would have been sure to have inquired about such a notable performance, especially with the big peal board so continually before his eyes whenever he was ringing at Maneroft. He was intimate with Thurston, the composer, and though Thurston was dead when he wrote his book, John Trowse and Nathaniel Beales and Thomas Hurry were still alive, if not others. But Trowse was very old, possibly there was a slight coldness between Hurry and Hubbard, and Beales seems to have been a silent, reserved man, not given to talking about himself and his doings. William Freeman told me that as a young man he worked alongside Beales, and knew him well, but never heard him so much as mention the peal, surely the most outstanding thing in his personal history.

BIRTHDAY COMPLIMENTS.

At Bishop Ryder's Church, Birmingham, on Monday, Dec. 28th, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1,260 changes), in 43 mins.: J. W. Pemberton 1, George E. Large 2, R. C. Ingram 3, B. W. Wichehll 4, S. Elton 5, F. W. Richworth 6, James George (conductor) 7, W. C. Dowding 8. Rung specially in honour of the Rev. Canon C. E. Badger's birthday, which occurred on December 23rd.

At Staveley Parish Church, for evensong, on November 1st, a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1,344 changes), in 51 mins., to celebrate the Rector's 83rd birthday: A. Markwell 1, L. G. Palmer 2, W. Palmer 3, S. Smedley 4, H. Slow 5, A. E. Parsons 6, S. Smedley, sen., 7, F. Parsons 8.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Northern District was held at St. Magnus-the-Martyr, Lower Thames Street, on Saturday, January 16th, about 24 members being present.

The annual report showed a very improved interest in the district, particularly in the attendance at the bi-monthly meetings. Six meetings have been held during the year, with an average attendance of 24, a great improvement on previous years.—The cash statement showed the highest balance since the inauguration of the district.

The following officers were elected: Master, Mr. Alleway; secretary (pro tem.), Mr. W. Bottrill; treasurer, Mr. Darnell; steward, Mr. Riley; committee, Messrs. Carmen and Newman.

It was decided to ask for the tower of St. Mary, Islington, for the next meeting on Saturday, March 21st, and if possible, also to obtain the use of St. Mary Magdalene's bells.

The Master thanked the committee and members for their support during the past year, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded the Rev. Fynes Clinton for the use of the bells, and the verger, Mr. Hughes, for preparing the room for the meeting.

OXHEY SOCIETY SOCIAL GATHERING.

On Saturday, January 9th, the above society had a dinner and social evening at the Tea Rose Rooms, Watford Heath. The ringers, accompanied by their wives and friends, sat down to an old-fashioned English dinner, consisting of hot roast beef, mutton, Christmas pudding, mince-pies, etc., which was excellently cooked and served, and which moreover was equally enjoyed. The evening was spent in song, music, and handbell ringing, to which nearly everyone present contributed. Flute solos by Mr. Richard Brinklow were specially enjoyed, his instrument being not only a very valuable one, and rich in tone, but his rendering of the solos was simply delightful.

A course of Superlative Surprise Major was rung on the handbells by C. Leman 1-2, H. Hadgetts 3-4, H. Cashmore 5-6, F. W. Brinklow 7-8. Although these two performances are mentioned specially, all the other items were equally well rendered and enjoyed to the full; there was not a dull moment.

This dinner being the first occasion at which the wives of the ringers were present, the arrangements were entered into with a certain amount of trepidation, but it is pleasing to record that it turned out a complete success, and was voted a delightful evening by all.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH.

■■■■■

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One of the men who contributed enormously to the foundations of the art of ringing was Benjamin Annable, who died on February 1st, 1756—one hundred and seventy years ago next Monday. He was buried under the tower of St. Bride's, Fleet Street, where in 1724 he had taken part in the first peal of Cinques on record.

A newspaper paragraph of that day may well be quoted, and, although there may be fulsome flattery, it indicates something of Annable's ability, and of the admiration which was held for his work.

A few nights ago was buried under the tower of St. Bride's, Mr. Benjamin Annabel, the best ringer that was ever known in the world. Till his time ringing was only called an art, but from the strength of his great genius he married it to the Mathematics, and 'tis now a science. This man of figures and ringing was like a Newton in philosophy, a Ratchiffe in physic, a Hardwick in wisdom and law, a Handel in music, a Shakespeare in writing, and a Garrick in acting. O rare Ben!

Forty years ago to-day Henry Haley, one of London's foremost composers and conductors, died at Bethnal Green, at the age of 66.

The first peal of Double Bob was rung at St. Mary's, Whitechapel, on January 29th, 1769.

At Wavrnham, where, next Saturday week, there is to be an attempt on the London Surprise record, Harrison's 10,176 of Kent Treble Bob was rung on February 2nd, 1891. On Feb. 4th, 1861, 10,032 Grandsire Major was rung in 6 hrs. 18 mins. at Walsall.

For a young ringer who only rang his first Surprise peal on Dec. 31st, 1924, John A. Cole, of Godalming, has a most creditable record for 1925, his peals including five of Superlative, four of Cambridge and 13 of London.

In connection with the first ten-bell peal rung by a band of ladies, namely, that at St. Clement Danes last week, referred to elsewhere in our columns, it is interesting to recall that the first ladies' peal was Grandsire Triples at Cubitt Town on July 20th, 1912. Peals, exclusively by ladies, since then have not been numerous—three or four altogether. Miss E. K. Parker, who called the first on eight, had the pleasure also of conducting the first on ten bells.

LADIES' TEN-BELL PEAL.

FINE PERFORMANCE AT ST. CLEMENT DANES.

The ladies have added to their conquests of the belfry by ringing, for the first time in history, a peal of Stedman Caters without the aid of 'mere man.' On Wednesday of last week ten members of the Ladies' Guild, all of them now well known in ringing circles, met at the famous Church of St. Clement Danes, Strand, London, where the bells had been placed at their disposal by the Rector (the Rev. W. Pennington Bickford), and the local 'Youthis' had given up their practice night to enable the peal attempt to be made. Under the conductorship of Miss E. K. Parker, a splendid peal was rung in three and a half hours, and when it is remembered that the weight of the tenor is 24 cwt., the merit of the performance, even only as a test of endurance for the 'back-enders,' is one on which they are to be heartily congratulated.

In such a performance, interest will doubtless turn to the lady who had the pluck and physique to tackle the 24 cwt. tenor, a heavier bell than any lady has previously rung to a peal. This was Miss Ruby Hawksworth, a robust brunette, who is only 17 years of age. She commenced her ringing career at her native village of Bradfield, in Berkshire, at the age of 12, but on her removal to London two years ago, her knowledge was limited to Grandsire Doubles. She has now to her credit peals of Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Plain Bob and Kent and Oxford Treble Bob Major, and Stedman Caters, and is ringing Double Norwich and Cambridge Surprise. Considering the restricted amount of practice she has been able to obtain, Miss Hawksworth has developed into an excellent ringer, her bell management and striking being superb, and she possesses the happy qualification of being equally 'at home' on the heavy end as on the light bells. Reliability is just another of her strong points.

Many eminent ringers were present who heard the performance from start to finish, and all were enthusiastic in their praise, for it was unanimously agreed that the ladies had accomplished a feat of which they might naturally be proud.

MALE LISTENERS' CONGRATULATIONS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—On behalf of the 'Male Listeners,' we wish to congratulate the ladies on their very successful attempt for the first peal of Stedman Caters ever rung by ten ladies.

C. F. WINNEY,
J. E. DAVIS,
F. I. HAIRS,
W. H. HEWETT,
R. F. DEAL,
A. W. COLES,
G. W. FLETCHER.

COVENTRY BELLS.

UNAVAILING APPEAL TO THE BISHOP.

The final effort to save Coventry bells from the melting-pot has been made by the hon. secretary of the Central Council (Mr. E. Alexander Young), who, under date 18th January, wrote to the Lord Bishop of Coventry as follows:—

My Lord,—As the Worshipful Chancellor has now given his decision by granting a faculty in respect to the bells, I take it that the desire expressed in your letter to me (that I should not write to you, the question being sub judice) no longer applies. I am anxious, however, to make a final appeal on behalf of my Council whilst there is still a chance that some mutually satisfactory way out might be found, and the bells saved for future years.

It has always been a matter of regret to us that our offer to send down a strongly representative deputation was never accepted. They would have been able to point out many interesting and valuable things.

I venture to enclose you a copy of the current number of the 'Ringing World,' which has several articles and letters, together with the evidence for the petition.

Mr. Caldicott has been in correspondence with me, and I believe he has endeavoured to persuade the donor to modify her views, and he has told me that he is sure the money could be immediately raised in Coventry to save the old bells and leave them in the Cathedral tower, where they might still be chimed by hand and form a complement to the magnificent gift, which you have been so fortunately offered, of a carillon.

My appeal is this. Firstly, as you will see by all the standard words, carillons are always preferably composed of a series of light bells, indeed running up into quite small ones, their success depends on this. You are now constrained to endow the carillon with a replica of your ten existing heavy bells.

Secondly, that whatever Dr. Brazil and Dr. Stanner may say (the one we know is distinctly in favour of foreign carillons, and neither of them are what we call ringers, nor have the ringer's ear), I feel sure that in your own mind on due reflection, you will feel that there must be a great tone-value in these old bells for them to have had such a remarkable reputation. There is never smoke without fire! The appeal is, therefore, mainly to allow us to indemnify the donor against all loss, and at the same time leave the bells of the City of Coventry untouched in their tower to await a campanile. I cannot but feel that this is a splendid offer for the Cathedral Church of Coventry, and will not be rejected without careful consideration.

I feel sure that we are passing through a period in respect to these bells, which will at some future time be looked upon as historical. I would beg to remind you that the terrible Wyatt was actuated by the very best of intentions when he 'scientifically' restored Salisbury. His name is now a by-word.

The reply received by Mr. Young from the Bishop's secretary was as follows:—

Dear Sir,—The Bishop of Coventry has been seriously ill, and in bed for nearly five weeks. He is unable to write to you personally. He has, however, seen your letter, and bids me to tell you that the matter of the Cathedral bells has been decided in the Chancellor's Court.

DIPLOMAS OF AUTHORITY.

To the Editor.

Sir,—When a splendid ring of bells, which have always been pleasing to the ears of skilled judges in the past, has been condemned unheard, by 'experts,' I think most ringers will agree that the less we hear of experts the better! To the average musical man in the street, surely it can matter little whether a bell has 400 vibrations per second, or whether the exact number is 396½.

During the last few years, many new subjects and fresh fields, brimful of interest, have appeared in the columns of your excellent 'Ringing World,' but with the beginning of the present year, surely the palm must be awarded to 'something' which has recently come to light in the case of the Cathedral bells at Coventry.

I, for one, am simply thirsting for information, so perhaps some of the more enlightened and talented members of the ringing fraternity will kindly tell us how, when, and where we may be possessed of the coveted diploma or certificate of some sort or other, in order to qualify and become 'an expert' on bells, and professor of campanological matters generally.

Independent of my own experience, we have many well-educated men who have been devoted to bells and ringing ever since their school days, and who are now greatly marvelling to think that none of us have ever heard of—much less seen—any person before calmly walk into the witness-box and openly declare themselves as professors of campanology.

It would indeed be most interesting to be informed of the existence and whereabouts of the college or university from which such a degree

may be obtained, or do they only study as a hermit and suddenly come into being similar to a butterfly from a silkworm?—Yours truly,
F. E. DAWES.

THE LESSON OF COVENTRY.

There is no doubt that if the ringers of Coventry Diocese had a Diocesan organisation, their Cathedral bells would not have been lost. As ringers, we were considered outsiders at the Consistory Court, not to say meddlesome busybodies, interfering where we were not wanted. Ringers are clearly a nuisance in that Diocese.

Under the new system of Church government, Church bodies which are not Diocesan are clearly out of date, and not only useless for many purposes, but are preventing others doing the necessary work.

There is no doubt whatever that those now in authority in the Councils of the Church, look on ringing with a very unfriendly eye, and would gladly turn all our rings of bells into carillons. If we had, as we ought to have, a proper organisation in every Diocese, these people could do nothing.

As the Midland Counties Association was the first ringing association I joined, it has a tender place in my heart; but I cannot shut my eyes to the fact, that unless it reorganises itself on Diocesan lines (which it could easily do, without altering many of its arrangements, or its work), it will have to record the loss of many rings, which it might have preserved for the art.
HERBERT DRAKE.

WHAT DO RINGERS THINK OF SIMPSON TUNING?

Sir,—I also attended, as an interested spectator and listener, the Consistory Court held at Coventry to consider the recasting of these famous bells, and now that the result is known, I would like to give your readers some of my impressions. To all those who have heard these bells rung or chimed, it must have been a shock to hear the startling evidence of the supporters of the petition, that some of these bells were out of tune, and also by our own witnesses that they could be improved by the tuning machine, which really goes to show how careful one has to be when judging a peal of bells by the ear. I have heard Coventry bells chimed, and thought they were splendid, and all in tune with one another, but according to the musical experts they were not, although I do not agree they were out of tune to the extent of the piano demonstration, which was entirely misleading. Still we had no evidence, as you remarked in your leading article, to meet it.

As one reads this case, it will be very evident that one of the main arguments was whether bells should be Simpson tuned, or, as we know them, tuned on the old plan; and, in view of the fact that the question of the Simpson tuning of bells is, I believe on the agenda for the Central Council meeting to be held at Ipswich this year, my object in writing is that you invite ringers and non-ringers interested, who have had their bells recast or retuned on the Simpson principle, as carried out by our English bell founders, to say whether they consider they have a better and more tuneful peal of bells than those cast and tuned on the old plan. This expression of opinion would be very useful to show the general opinion of ringers before the meeting at Ipswich. I have in mind among recent recast and retuned peals of bells, St. Chad's, Shrewsbury; Westbury, Wilts; St. Margaret's, Leicester; Monks Kirby, Warwickshire; St. Mary's, Warwick; Macclesfield, Manchester Cathedral, Westminster Abbey; St. Andrew's, Holborn; and St. Clement Danes, Strand; and nearer Birmingham, we have St. Peter's, Wolverhampton; Wednesbury; Bishop Ryder's, Birmingham; King's Norton, and Northfield, and which represent recent work by our three bell founders. There are many others I could quote, such as Tiverton, Devon, but there are sufficiently well known members of the Exercise amongst these towers mentioned who could give us their opinions. In conclusion, I for one am convinced that the art of bell founding, as it exists to-day, is a vast improvement, both in casting and tuning, and that where peals of bells can be improved we should all assist in getting the very best that is there for us. I apologise for taking up so much space, but I feel certain all ringers are keenly interested, and I hope we shall have the views of others on the question of Simpson tuned bells.

Birmingham.

ALBERT WALKER

THE 'LONDON' RECORD.

NEXT WEEK'S ATTEMPT AT WARNEAM.

As announced in our last issue, an attempt is to be made at Warnham, Sussex, on Saturday, February 6th, to beat the existing London Surprise Major record, of 14,112, rung at King's Norton by the St. Martin's Guild, on May 11th, 1903.

The length of the composition which is to be attempted is 14,144 changes, and the figures, by the Rev. H. Law James, were published in our issue of January 27th, 1922.

The band is that which, under the conductorship of Mr. A. R. Pulling, of Guildford, has recently been scoring numerous peals of London Surprise, but as this attempt is to be made in Sussex, it will be under the auspices of the Sussex County Association. The start will be at 11 a.m.

NEW BELLS AT USK.

FINE PEAL OF EIGHT FOR SOUTH WALES.

The complete restoration of the bells at Usk, Monmouthshire, has just been completed by Messrs. John Taylor and Co., of Loughborough, the scheme including the recasting of the old six bells with extra metal and the addition of two trebles, the whole being rehung in a new iron frame on a steel foundation. The tenor is now 14½ cwt., and the old inscriptions have been reproduced on the bells, which are tuned on the firms 'true harmonic' principle.

An improved Ellacombe chiming apparatus has been installed, and the old Sanctus bell has been rehung with new fittings, in new framework, above the new bell frame. The inscriptions on the bells are as follows:—

Treble and 2nd.—1925.

3rd.—Let us ring and merrily sing. A: R. 1713.—Recast 1925.

4th.—Prosperity to this place. A: R. 1713. Recast 1925.

5th.—Peace and Good Neighbourhood. A: R. 1713.—Recast 1925.

6th.—Abr Rudhall of Gloucester Bellfounder Cast Vs 1713.—Recast 1925.

7th.—William Jones, Esqr. Edward Prytherh Churchwardens 1713. Mr. Samuel Morgan, Vicar. Prosperity to This Place Amen.—Recast 1925.

Tenor.—The Living I to Church do Call and to the Grave do Summon All. 1713.—Six Bells Recast and Two Added. 1925.

E. MORGAN, Vicar. u. D. R. SAGE and H. T. PEARCE, Wardens.

The name of John Taylor and Company appears on each bell also. The dedication took place on Wednesday, January 13th, the ceremony being performed, in the presence of a large congregation, by the Bishop, who also dedicated a memorial stained glass window. The Bishop preached an impressive sermon, in which he dwelt on the message of the bells. Their exercise, he said, should be subservient to the spiritual life, and they should not be used for anything that was purely worldly or secular. When they rang they carried a message to every Christian soul in the place, and they acted as a sort of bond to keep them together. To the devout the bells were living messengers giving a call from God. They spoke not only a message, but he thought it would not be irreverent to say that, provided the community was a devout and spiritual community, they might be regarded as giving pleasure to God Himself; that just as God was pleased to hear His praises sung from a thankful heart so was He pleased to hear the bells as a memorial before Him. God would never have made the birds to sing unless He loved music, and He would accept the music of the bells. God intended them to become His real children, and if they were slack, indifferent or below the level they ought to reach, the bells would call them back and cause them to return to that path of righteousness which should lead them up to God.

At the dedication the bells were rung by the local band, under Mr. P. T. Clift, and after the service members of the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association rang touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples, and Bob Major, and the delightful tones of the bells were much admired, as well as was the easy 'go' of them, and Messrs. Taylor and Co. are heartily to be congratulated upon giving South Wales another fine peal of eight.

THE LEADING PEAL RINGERS.

WHAT THEY DID IN 1925.

Among the ringers who rang 40 peals and upwards in 1925 were the following:

C.S.M. J. Bennett, R.M., who rang 80 in 111 attempts, on all numbers from 6 to 12 bells, in 37 towers. Six peals were conducted.

Mr. James George, who rang 66 (2 on handbells) in 44 different towers.

Mr. H. E. Audsley, who rang 60 peals (conducted 31 in 28 towers).

Mr. Ernest Morris, who rang 57 (conducted 16) from Donbries to Maximus in 29 towers in ten counties. Five of the peals were on handbells.

Mr. Robert Sperring, who rang 48 peals (conducted 28) in 21 towers.

Mr. A. H. Pulling, who rang and conducted 47 peals in 31 towers.

Mr. William Keeble, who rang 41 peals (including 2 on handbells) in 25 towers in five counties. Mr. Keeble conducted the whole of the peals in which he took part.

Mr. Edward Barnett, senr., who rang 40 peals and conducted 21 of them.

There are a few others who rang over 40 peals during last year.

NOISY BELFRIES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am much obliged to Mr. H. J. Tucker for pointing out that the shutter arrangement recently shown in this paper is not my idea. I hope, however, the sketch may be of some use.

J. H. B. HESSE.

GLOUCESTER & BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. CHELTENHAM BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the Cheltenham Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association was held on Saturday, January 16th, at Leckhampton. It was not an ideal day, for the snow lay several inches deep, and this in some degree affected the attendance. The light ring of eight were early set going to Stedman Triples, and, later, service was held in church, conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. F. R. Standfast), who had with him a full choir. After service, all adjourned to the spacious Village Hall, where an excellent meat tea was provided by the Vicar and friends, and about 40 members, besides the choir, sat down.

The business meeting followed, with the Vicar in the chair, and one was pleased to see several friends from Gloucester, including Mr. John Austin, the esteemed Ringing Master of the Association.

The Secretary gave a short report of the year's work, and congratulated everyone on what had been accomplished. A reference was made to the death of an old and esteemed member, in the person of Mr. T. Compton (Prestbury), and the secretary was instructed to write a letter of condolence to the relatives of deceased.

The balance sheet was considered very satisfactory. Two honorary and six performing members were elected, and all the retiring officers were re-elected, viz.: Branch chairman, the Rev. A. D. Pennington (Alderton); branch representative, Mr. W. Townsend (Leckhampton); branch hon. secretary, Mr. Walter Yeend (Swindon); and they were heartily thanked for their past services.

Withington was chosen for the next meeting, and details were left to the secretary to arrange.

Mr. Hale urged all members to take in the 'Ringing World.'

Mr. W. Devereux, in a very earnest speech, voiced the thanks of the members to the Rev. and Mrs. Standfast, Capt. Lyne, R.N. (churchwarden), the organist and choir, and all who had helped make the gathering so successful.—This was seconded by Mr. J. Austin, and carried with cheers.

The Vicar, responding, said how pleased he had been to do anything for the branch, for they at Leckhampton all loved their bells.—This concluded a very happy meeting. Afterwards the handbells were brought into use, and the tower again visited.

PROPOSAL TO DIVIDE LIVERPOOL BELLS.

ASSOCIATION'S OPPOSITION TO ST. PETER'S SCHEME.

The Liverpool and Wigan Branches (Liverpool Diocesan Guild) of the Lancashire Association met at St. Nicholas' Church, Liverpool, on January 16th, and passed a resolution regretting the proposal to divide up the ring of ten bells at St. Peter's Church. Forty-three members attended from Walton, Woolton, Chidwall, Halewood, Garston, St. Luke's, Rainford, Poolstock, Upholland, Ormskirk, Aughton, Crosby, Southport, and St. Nicholas.

A short service was conducted by the Rev. F. H. Keatch, the Rev. E. C. Collier, and the Archdeacon of Warrington, warden of the guild. The sermon, preached by the Rev. E. C. Collier, was a 'friendly talk,' as the preacher described it, to ringers, emphasising the parallels between ringing and living, preparation, concentration, and unity being special points of analogy.

After service, tea was provided, and the annual meeting held, under the chairmanship of the Warden, who congratulated the St. Nicholas' company on ringing a muffled peal of Stedman Cinques in memory of the late Queen Alexandra.

A resolution was carried that 'The Liverpool Diocesan Guild learns with regret the suggestion to split up the St. Peter's ring of ten bells into a ring of eight, and urges the diocesan authorities to use their influence to the utmost to retain the St. Peter's bells as a ring of ten.'

This resolution has been forwarded to the Bishops, the Vicar of St. Helens, and the president of the Lancashire Association.

The secretary of the Liverpool and Wigan branches gave satisfactory account of the doings in their respective areas.

SURPRISE RINGING AT LAVENHAM.

At Lavenham, on Thursday, January 8th, at St. Peter and Paul's Church, a quarter-peal of Cambridge Surprise Major (1,280 changes), composed by F. Dench: A. Symonds 1, M. T. Symonds 2, F. L. Leeks 3, S. H. Symonds (conductor) 4, L. Poulson 5, F. F. Mortlock 6, F. A. Poulson 7, W. R. J. Poulson 8. Longest length of Cambridge in the Sudbury Archdeaconry by entirely local hand.—On Tuesday, Jan. 19th, 1,152 Superlative Surprise Major: S. H. Symonds 1, F. A. Turner 2, F. Leeks 3, A. Symonds 4, L. Poulson 5, F. F. Mortlock 6, F. A. Poulson 7, W. R. J. Poulson 8.

STAPLEFORD, CAMBS.—On Wednesday, January 20th, 720 Chester Surprise: A. E. Austin 1, W. A. Tack 2, F. E. Haynes 3, Miss K. Willers 4, E. H. Finch 5, R. Howard (conductor) 6. First 720 Chester by all.

A WEST COUNTRY FESTIVAL.

BRIDGERULE'S BELL OPENING.

A programme, which began with an early celebration of Holy Communion, and included after the bell opening ceremony, a luncheon, tea, concert, supper and dance, as well as ringing from 9 a.m. till midnight, marked the completion of the restoration of the bells at Bridgerule, a little parish near Holsworthy, Devon, on New Year's Day. Posters announcing the event had been displayed in every village for miles around, and ringers from every parish invited. Never, probably in all history had there been such a day of public festivity in this little village, where the church is dedicated to St. Bridget.

In May last the 2nd bell of the old peal of 5 broke away from its headstock, and fell into the pit. This bell and Nos. 4 and 5 were already cracked. The Vicar (the Rev. F. H. Kingdon) promptly took the matter in hand, and called in expert advice. It was found that the old oak frame and fittings were in a badly rotted condition, and dangerous. In June, at a Parochial Church Council meeting, it was definitely decided to recast the three cracked bells, add a treble to make a peal of six, and to provide a new frame and fittings. It was later decided to recast the whole five bells, and to increase the weight of the peal from 8 cwt. tenor to 10½ cwt. tenor. The work was entrusted to Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, Croydon.

New Year's Day saw the crowning of the efforts of those who had laboured to have everything worthy of the beautiful church.

It may be mentioned that during the 35 years' ministry of the Vicar, £7,000 have been collected and spent for various restorations and improvements to this building, and this in a village of under 300 inhabitants. Although the church is a mile from the village, a crowded congregation assembled for the reopening and dedication, which took place during the choral eucharist service, the Vicar performing the ceremony. In this he was assisted by the Rev. J. C. L. Johnstone, Vicar of Egg Buckland, who preached a very forceful and homely sermon, referring especially to ringers and their part in the worship of Almighty God.

Rounds were rung during the service by F. Gilbert, F. Gilbert, jun., C. Sangwan, R. Goulden, J. Honey, J. Sangwan. It was indeed a very beautiful service, and one long to be remembered.

After the service, an adjournment was made to the schools for luncheon. It would be impossible to provide a more bountiful feast. This, together with the tea and supper, was given by the residents, the proceeds going towards the bell fund.

After luncheon, the Vicar proposed a comprehensive vote of thanks to all donors and helpers, and also to Messrs. Gillett and Johnston. He said he felt sure that everyone would agree that that firm had given them a sweet-toned and beautiful peal of bells, beside hanging the bells with the most up-to-date fittings and frame. He was assured by the ringers that the 'go' was perfect. He thanked Messrs. Gillett and Johnston for the courteous and businesslike way they had carried out their contract. He was very glad to announce that there would be no debt on the bells, as all the money had been collected.

Mr. S. R. Roper (who represented Messrs. Gillett and Johnston) thanked the Vicar for his kind remarks on the firm's work. It had been a real pleasure to work with such a business man as the Vicar.

The Rev. C. E. Southern supported the vote of thanks, chiefly referring to the loyal support and work of all connected with this restoration. It said much for the good feeling in the village, when all sects and creeds had contributed.

For those who were not ringers, games, a concert and a dance were provided. As to the ringing, this was kept up until midnight, the total hours of ringing during the day being 13½. The following bands of the 'Tamar Valley Guild of Ringers' took part: Bridgerule, Frithulstock, Whitstone, Marhamchurch, Davidstowe Poundstock, Black Torrington, Sheepwash, Werrington, Pyworthy (2), Kilkhampton, Tamerton, Launcells, Thornbury, St. Teath (2). The first scientific ringing was 120 Grandshire Doubles by the following: W. Slee, Pyworthy (conductor) 1, C. Cholwill, Pyworthy, 2; W. Shears, Pyworthy, 3; F. Rogers, Heavitree, Exeter, 4; S. R. Roper, Croydon, 5; J. Sangwan, Bridgerule, 6. This was followed by several 120's by the Pyworthy band. It would not be right to close this account without saying what a wonderful day it was, both from the ringers' and visitors' point of view. To show everyone's enthusiasm it should be mentioned that it rained in torrents all day. Many people had to wade through a foot of water to join in the festivities. The proceeds of the day came to over £70.

The following are the bells with their inscriptions:—

Treble.—G. Mears and Co., founders, London, 1866. Recast by Gillett and Johnston, Croydon, 1926. Weight, 3 cwt. 2 qr. 16 lb.

2.—Mr. William Braddon and Mr. John Jewell, churchwardens, T. B. Feet 1777. Recast January, 1926. M. I. Sanders. Recast by Gillett and Johnston, Croydon. Weight, 4 cwt. 0 qr. 14 lb.

3.—Erected September, 1877, when this church was restored, H. G. Southcomb, Vicar. Mears and Stainbank, founders, London. Recast by Gillett and Johnston, Croydon, 1926. Weight, 4 cwt. 2 qr. 25 lb.

4.—Mr. William Braddon and Mr. John Jewell, churchwardens. T. B. Feet 1777. Recast by Gillett and Johnston, Croydon, 1926. Weight 5 cwt. 1 qr. 6 lb.

5.—Rev. Thos. H. Kingdon, Vicar, 1818. John Inch and Nicholas Roger, C.W.I.P. Recast by Gillett, etc. Weight, 7 cwt. 1 qr. 23 lb.

6.—(A flat, 38 inches).—Erected January, 1926. F. H. Kingdon, Vicar. 'Ave Maria.' Gillett and Johnston, Croydon. Weight, 10 cwt. 1 qr. 21 lb.

Total weight: 35 cwt. 2 qr. 21 lb.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

REVISION OF RULES.

Although wintry weather prevailed, and the elements were forbidding, quite a large number of Midland Counties Association members were present at Eastwood, Notts, on Saturday, January 16th, on the occasion of the quarterly meeting. The bells of the Parish Church, a beautifully toned peal of eight, were kept going during the afternoon and evening to most of the standard methods.

The committee met in the afternoon, and after the usual routine business, the question of rules was again gone into, and after several minor alterations, were proposed and passed, the whole was proposed to be laid before the annual meeting at Burton-on-Trent on Easter Monday for final settlement and adoption.

Mr. W. Lambert, of Bolsover, a highly-valued member, was transferred to the hon. life members' list, and 25 new members admitted, viz., two honorary, five life, and 18 ringing.

At the subsequent tea, some 50 members from Burton, Cotgrave, Derby, Ilkeston, Nottingham, Loughborough and Leicester sat down, and later the general meeting took place. Owing to a severe cold, and on the doctor's orders, the president, Alderman R. B. Chambers, J.P., was unable to be present. Mr. W. E. White, of Cotgrave, therefore, officiated in his stead.

The usual business was transacted, and two auditors elected to check the last year's accounts, which are in a most satisfactory condition. It cannot be too clearly shown to the members, however, that the present balance is not due to their own subscriptions, but to the magnificent roll of patrons and honorary members which the president (Ald. Chambers) has secured.

A discussion followed on the 'Sherwood Youths,' in which it was shown that any suspicion as to whether the M.C.A. were bearing the expenses of this body was absolutely unfounded, as they were simply an independent society formed to revere the memory of the late W. Doubleday Crofts, of Nottingham, and to revive the old society for social intercourse.

Votes of thanks were passed to the local committee for their arrangements, and Mr. Pollard replied. Further ringing on the bells brought a successful meeting to a close.

BATH & WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

AXBRIDGE DEANERY GOING AHEAD.

The annual meeting of the Axbridge Deanery Branch of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association was held at Weston-super-Mare, on Saturday, January 16th. Despite the climatic conditions, some 30 members from different parts of the Deanery turned up at the Parish Church (St. John's) by 3 p.m., where the bells, with tenor of 12 cwt., were soon going to Grandshire and Stedman Triples, Bob Major, etc. The party, including the Rev. A. C. Schofield (president) (the association), the Rector of Weston-super-Mare (the Rev. G. Porcher), and the secretary (Mr. G. Chamberlain, of Burnham-on-Sea), later met at the Paragon Cafe, High Street, where a good tea was served, after which business was dealt with. The Rev. R. T. Sydenham was elected a member, and it was gratifying to hear the secretary propose that 24 new performing members be admitted to the association, which shows that the art is gaining in popularity. The new members are from Winscombe (3), Worle (3), Uphill (1), Mark (6), Burnham-on-Sea (3), and Bleadon (8). The last-named village has recently had a new treble bell added to its peal, and they now have a good-toned ring of six, the work having been carried through by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank.—The Rector of Bleadon (the Rev. Powys David) was made an honorary member of the association. Congresbury was chosen as the next place of meeting.—The balance sheet, which showed a creditable balance on the right side, was adopted.

Mr. Alec. Evans suggested that their president should act for another year. That gentleman agreed to do so, stating that his interest in ringing was keener than ever, as he had begun to ring again. It would certainly be an incentive to him to do his best. The indefatigable secretary (Mr. Chamberlain) was re-elected, after remarking that he had held office for the last ten years, and intended to resign. He was, however, persuaded to carry on for one more year.

A hearty vote of thanks was passed to the Rector (the Rev. Porcher) for the use of the bells and in responding, the reverend gentleman said the more frequently they could have their meetings at Weston-super-Mare the more pleased he would be.

A special service at the Parish Church was then held, the Rector officiating, and giving a most appropriate address to the ringers, after which the bells were again set going.

STEPPING-STONES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Bibby, in his reply to my query, is in agreement with my argument, whether he intends to be or not. Firstly, he says it is obvious that he who can ring Surprise Minor will ring the Major extensions quicker than he who is only a Kent Treble Bob Minor ringer. He makes a distinction between a Spliced Minor ringer and a Surprise Minor ringer; I cannot see why. The chances are, that when a ringer is capable of ringing a number of spliced extents he will be far in advance of his Surprise brother; in fact, he may be splicing Surprise methods. If, when a ringer has mastered the 'Abbey Group,' page 32, 'Method Splicing,' he cannot ring London Surprise Minor, he ought to give up ringing.

In Mr. Bibby's suggestion for a course of study, he includes the elementary and advanced, but excludes the intermediate stage. Nine bands out of ten, capable of ringing Kent Treble Bob Minor, are not in a position to jump to Cambridge or London Surprise Minor, without outside help. Even those who do accomplish it have had to put in many hard practices and waste much time before they were successful. Does not 'Method Splicing' supply this intermediate stage?

Without giving any reason, Mr. Bibby states that the book is not the best stepping-stone, yet that stage which it undoubtedly leads up to, is. Further comment from me is unnecessary.

I thank Mr. Keeble for his very favourable remarks, and I think if he will study splicing carefully, learning methods by order of passing treble will be found the better way. Coursing is a very good guide, but has too much of 'follow my leader' about it. At the present moment, I am not conversant with a great number of Major methods, but should imagine there are some which are combinations of two or more methods, similar to the Minor methods, and if the time comes when two or more Major methods are introduced into one course, the order of passing treble will prove its superiority. Take Mr. Parker's eight method 720, for example (page 41, 'Method Splicing'), it would be a difficult matter to ring it, other than by the order of passing treble.—Yours, etc.

JOHN P. FIDLER.

A WORD FOR THE COURSE BELL.

Dear Sir,—To those of us who have been taught, and have taught by, the coursing method, Mr. Fidler's letter reads rather strangely. Surely the coursing method is the foundation of change ringing, and there does not seem to be a better way of starting off beginners than by giving them something to follow. Certainly ringers thus taught are more reliable, and take to different methods much quicker than those who simply learn the work of their own bell.

Good striking may not be obtained by this means alone, but repetition is greatly helped by this method. Then again, how are young conductors to be brought out if they have not acquired the art of coursing a bell themselves? They will not be able to put a strayer right by telling him his course bell, will they?—Yours truly,

Yeovil.

J. E. BAKER.

INSTRUCTION OF BEGINNERS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I have read with much interest your article on 'Instruction of Beginners,' and also the letters commenting on it. I hope a book will be published on this subject; it would be greatly appreciated by such counties as Cumberland, where we are always having to teach new ringers to fill the gaps in our bands, which are often being depleted through members having to leave the districts to seek work and experience further afield.

There is another subject which I think the Central Council ought to take up, and that is getting more into touch with outlying counties. Of course, this would no doubt mean considerable expense, but if some Guild or Association would get together a band of ringers to tour these counties it would be greatly appreciated. We in Cumberland had some ringers touring the towers in the association recently, and I can assure them their visit was greatly appreciated, but their stay in the towers was rather short, and members of some of the belfries were consequently unable to meet them. Is it possible that a tour like the above could be arranged this year? It is well worth while visiting Cumberland to see the beautiful lake scenery. I hope to hear soon of some move being made in this direction. Yours truly,

Keswick.

T. HOGARTH.

WHERE ASSOCIATIONS LOSE GROUND

Sir,—With reference to your leading article of last week, you have touched an important point. I think associations lose a lot of ground in not allowing the instructor to keep on till a young band can ring the four standard methods. I hope, therefore, your leading article will be read by every ringer in England, and well studied by all officers of associations.

A. J. SKELDING.

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.

DARLINGTON.—On Sunday, January 24th, for evensong, 960 London Surprise Minor: J. T. Tilt 1, W. Oliver 2, R. Park 3, W. H. Porter 4, F. W. Lupson 5, W. N. Park (conductor) 6.

LAWTON, CHESHIRE.—At All Saints' Church, on Sunday, Jan. 24th, for evening service, and in honour of the birth of a son on the same day to the wife of the ringer of the sixth, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 37 minutes: R. Arrowsmith 1, G. Bidduph 2, J. Booth 3, E. Harper 4, J. Pierpoint 5, W. Longman 6, W. Rigby (conductor) 7, T. Arrowsmith 8.

GREAT BADDOW, ESSEX.—On Sunday, Jan. 24th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes), in 45 mins.: W. Amos (first quarter-peal) 1, W. Rice 2, H. Dawson 3, A. Rickell 4, H. Allen 5, Spencer Phillips 6, George Green (conductor) 7, Norman Boughtwood 8.

GREAT BARDFIELD.—On Sunday, Jan. 24th, for morning service, 720 of Spliced Oxford and Kent Treble Bob Minor: W. Richardson 1, A. Piper 2, W. Piper 3, F. Suckling 4, E. Townsend 5, J. Jennings (conductor) 6. Rung at the first attempt.

FULHAM.—At All Saints' Church, on Sunday, Jan. 24th, for evening service, 1,239 Stedman Caters: H. Folkard 1, W. H. Wood 2, A. Culmore 3, W. H. Hollier 4, W. R. Grimwood 5, J. Driver 6, F. Skevington (conductor) 7, A. Harding 8, J. A. Trollope 9, H. Belcher 10.

COLESHILL.—On Sunday, Jan. 3rd, a quarter-peal of Bob Triples, in 42 mins., for morning service: F. Clayton (conductor) 1, R. Davis 2, E. Morris 3, J. Fifield 4, T. Goldby 5, C. Dale 6, C. Davis 7, W. Simmonds 8.

UXBRIDGE, MIDDLESEX.—On Sunday, Jan. 3rd, for morning service, at St. Margaret's Church, a quarter-peal of Oxford Bob Triples, in 44 mins.: F. Corke 1, G. H. Gutteridge 2, Miss P. M. Moss 3, E. Hancock (conductor) 4, J. H. Lucas 5, P. E. Jones 6, R. Carter 7, C. Nicholls 8.

HORSHAM.—At the Parish Church, for evening service, on Jan. 3rd, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes), in 44 mins.: E. Waller 1, R. Dale 2, L. Paice 3, W. Chandler 4, S. Knight 5, J. Whitehead 6, S. Paice (first quarter as conductor) 7, E. Sturt 8.

OLD LEAKE.—After being silent for several weeks, owing to the restoration of the church tower, which is now completed, 720 changes of Plain Bob Minor was rung on Sunday morning, in 25 minutes: P. Lakin 1, J. W. Lakin, sen. 2, F. Harwood 3, W. Small 4, S. W. Houghton 5, J. W. Lakin, jun. (conductor) 6.

ODD AND EVEN PEALS OF STEDMAN TRIPLES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I observe that you published in your last issue a five-part peal on the above lines. It is with regret that I must ask the composer, Mr. Parker, to withdraw his name from it.

In my book of Stedman peals, I have six constructed in this manner, viz., Nos. 60 to 65. I used them as the foundation in building up my peal No. 82. I enclose you No. 63 as typical.

I gave the six peals, with others, to Mr. Samuel Grove and the reason I have done nothing with them is because each has 40 singles. I saw they were capable of improvement, and I composed my peal with the two singles only, referred to above. This peal has been rung.

—Yours faithfully,

JOHN CARTER

No. 63, By JOHN CARTER.												
2314567	1	3	4	5	6	7	8	10	12	13		
5426317									8			
6213457	S											
4365217	S											
5612347	S											
3254617	S											
1436257												
5612437												
2134657	S											
4365127												
1542367	S											
6213547												
3145267	S											

4 times repeated.

The seventh is undisturbed throughout the peal. The above is typical of peals Nos. 60 to 65, but one has the Singles all at 5, and another all at 5-6.

NOTICES.

SOCIETY OF SHERWOOD YOUTHS, NOTTINGHAM (Established 1672).—The fourth memorial dinner to the late W. D. Crofts will be held at the Welbeck Hotel, Nottingham, on Saturday, Jan. 30th, at 6.30 p.m. Tickets, 4s. each, can now be obtained from the hon. secretary up to Jan. 29th, first post. Ringing at St. Mary's (10 bells) from 2.30 to 6 p.m. All ringers welcome.—F. Blood, Hon. Sec., 91, Dame Agnes Street, Nottingham.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch. —The next meeting will be held at Bolton Parish Church on Saturday, Jan. 30th. Bells available from 2.30 p.m. Meeting 7 p.m.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec., 201, Devonshire Road, Bolton.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Clevedon on Saturday, Jan. 30th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Divine service at 4. Tea at 5 o'clock, with business meeting to follow.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Rochester District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Upchurch, where the bells have recently been rehung, on Saturday, Jan. 30th. Bells available at 3. Association service at 5, conducted by the Vicar. Business meeting after tea. Subscriptions for 1926 are now due, and can be paid at or before the meeting.—Fred M. Mitchell, Dis. Hon. Sec., 114, Sun Lane, Gravesend.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—Annual meeting, St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, Saturday, Jan. 30th. Bells available 4 p.m. Tea at 6 p.m. Meeting at 7 p.m.—J. Sparrow, Hon. Sec., 84, Meadvale Road, Woodside, Croydon.

HERTS COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Next meeting will be held at Hemel Hempstead on Saturday, Jan. 30th. Bells available 3 o'clock. Short service 4.45. Tea and business meeting to follow. All welcome. — W. Ayre, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—The annual meeting will be held at Biggleswade on Saturday, Jan. 30th. Bells (8) available at 2.30. Tea at 5. All ringers invited. A good attendance is requested.—C. J. Ball, 2, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—The annual meeting of this district will be held at Hinckley on Saturday, Jan. 30th. Bells available from 3.30 to 7 p.m. Business meeting will be held at the 'Coffee House,' Market Place, at 7 p.m. Will all members please make an effort to attend?—W. Cope, Local Hon. Sec., Wigston Parva, Hinckley.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Eastern Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Butterwick on Saturday, Jan. 30th. Bells (6) available from 2 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea 4.45 p.m., followed immediately by business meeting.—John Phillips, Hon. Sec., The School House, Butterwick, nr. Boston, Lincs.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A meeting of the Eastern District will be held at Gateshead on Saturday, Jan. 30th. St. Mary's bells (8, tenor 15 cwt.) will be available from 2.30. Tea at Carrick's Cafe, West Street (opposite the Town Hall), at 5 o'clock.—G. S. Taylor, Dis. Sec.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Grappenhall Branch.—A meeting will be held at Frodsham on Saturday, Jan. 30th. Bells read at 3 o'clock. Tea at 5 o'clock. Meeting after tea.—F. Bibby, Hon. Sec., London Road, Frodsham.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Ledbury District.—The annual meeting will be held at Ledbury on Saturday, Jan. 30th. Bells 3 p.m. Church service 5.30 p.m.—Richard Thomas, District Hon. Sec., Post Office, Coddington, Ledbury.

HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Watford. —St. Mary's, Saturday, Jan. 30th. Ringing 4 p.m. Tea 6 p.m., in Old Free School. Business meeting after. Excursion train from London. Return fare 2s.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting of the Yorkshire Association will be held at Thornaby-on-Tees on Saturday, Jan. 30th. Bells (8) available from 12 noon. Divine service at 4 p.m. Preacher, Vicar of Thornaby (Rev. P. W. Worster, M.A.). Tea will be served in the Parish Hall at 5 p.m., and a charge of 2s. per head will be made for same. Further details on circulars.—P. J. Johnson, Hon. Gen. Sec., 396, Meadowood Road, Leeds.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—The subscription of 1s. 8d., which entitles members who have not made 20 attendances in the past year to vote on matters of finance, should be paid before the 28th inst. Meetings for practice will be held at Southwark Cathedral on Feb. 2nd, St. Magnus on the 4th and 18th, *St. Mary le Bow on the 9th, St. Andrew's, Holborn, on the 11th (8 p.m.), St. Michael's, Cornhill, on the 21st (6 p.m.), for service, *St. Paul's Cathedral on the 23rd, at 7.30 p.m. *Business meeting afterwards.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., Frodingham, 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—A meeting will be held at Rochdale Parish Church on Saturday, Feb. 6th. Bells ready at 3 p.m. Meeting at 6.30 p.m. **SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE. REPORTS TO HAND.** All ringers welcome. — William Horan, Branch Sec., 2, Greenhirst Hey, Todmorden.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern Division.—A meeting will be held at Ingatestone on Saturday, Feb. 6th. Bells available 3 o'clock. Service 4.30, followed by tea and meeting in the Parish Room. Subscriptions for 1926 are now due. A good attendance is requested. Will all members intending to be present please notify me on or before Wednesday, Feb. 3rd?—P. Timson, Hon. Sec., 80, Springfield Street, Chelmsford.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—The quarterly meeting will be held at St. John's, Erith, on Saturday, Feb. 6th. Bells available at 3 p.m. Service at 5. Tea (kindly supplied by the Vicar) and business meeting to follow. Tea will be provided only for those who notify me before Tuesday, Feb. 2nd. Subscriptions for 1926 are now due, and should be paid at this meeting.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Hengist Road, Erith, Kent.

STOKE ARCHIDIACONAL ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Audley on Saturday, Feb. 6th. Bells (6) from 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m. Committee meeting after tea. All intending to be present please send word to me not later than Monday, Feb. 1st. A. Vaughan, Hon. Sec., 10, High Street, Knutton, Staffs.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT AND OLD EAST DERBYSHIRE AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Rotherham Parish Church (10 bells) on Saturday, Feb. 6th. Bells available from 2.30 p.m. Committee meeting in the church at 4.30. General meeting in belfry at 6 p.m. Visitors please make their own arrangements for tea.—Colin Harrison, Hon. Sec. (pro tem.), 62, Roach Road, Sheffield.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Macclesfield Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at the Parish Church, Macclesfield, on Saturday, Feb. 6th. Bells at 3. Meeting at 6.—J. Norbury, Branch Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northampton Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Ecton on Saturday, Feb. 6th. Bells (6) 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea 5 o'clock. Will all those who require tea please notify me not later than Tuesday, Feb. 2nd?—T. Tebbutt, 53, Louise Road, Northampton.

LADIES' GUILD.—Southern District.—The postponed meeting at Seale is fixed for Saturday, Feb. 6th. Bells 3 o'clock. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. All welcome. Those requiring tea please notify me by Feb. 4th.—H. F. Mills, 125, St. Michael's Road, Aldershot.

LADIES' GUILD.—Northamptonshire District.—A meeting will be held at Cranford on Saturday, Feb. 6th. Bells available 2 o'clock. Service 4 o'clock. Tea 4.30. Will those wanting tea please inform me by Thursday, Feb. 4th?—S. Thursfield, Cranford Rectory, Kettering.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bedford District.—A meeting of the above branch will be held at Elstow on Saturday, Feb. 6th. Tower open from 3 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. Meeting to follow.—W. Stapleton, New Fenlake, Bedford.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—A quarterly meeting of the Winchester District will be held at Bishopstoke, Eastleigh, on Saturday, Feb. 6th. Bells at 2.30. Tea 5 o'clock. Those requiring tea please inform me not later than Feb. 2nd.—W. T. Tucker, District Sec., 71, High Street, Eastleigh.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Reading Branch.—The Annual Meeting of the above Branch will be held at Reading, on Saturday, Feb. 6th. The towers of St. Giles and St. Mary's open for ringing from 3 p.m. Service at St. Lawrence's at 5 p.m., address by the Rev. J. T. Mumford. Tea, business meeting, and smoker at the Central Café, Friar Street, at 6 p.m., at 2/6 each. Members who let me know their intention of being present by Wednesday, Feb. 3rd, 1/- each.—F. W. Hopgood, Hon. Br. Sec., 75, Kensington Road, Reading.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Devizes Branch.—The monthly meeting will be held at Westbury, on Saturday, Feb. 6th. Bells (8) ready at 3 p.m. Service 4.40. Tea 5; short meeting follows tea. All ringers welcome.—F. Green, Hon. Sec., 53, Avon Road, Devizes.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD OF RINGERS.—Exeter Branch.—Meeting at Topsham Feb. 13th. Service 4 o'clock. Tea free to members. Adjacent towers open. Further particulars from Stokes, 35, Okehampton Road, Exeter.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—The next meeting of the above branch will be held at Preston Parish Church on Saturday, Feb. 13th. Bells available from 2.30 p.m.—Fred Rigby, Branch Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, Feb. 13th, and all members are asked to attend if possible. Ringing at All Hallows', Lombard Street, from 1.45 to 3.15 sharp, and at St. Clement Danes from 2 to 3.30. Service at the latter at 4 p.m., before which, at 3.45, a group photograph will be taken if circumstances permit. Tea in the Parish Room, tickets for which should be obtained in advance, followed by business meeting. Other meetings for February:—St. Clement Danes, Sunday, the 7th, at 10 a.m., and Mondays, the 1st and 15th, at 7.30; St. John's, Wilton Road, Monday, the 8th, at 7.30; and St. Mary's, Lambeth, Tuesday, the 23rd, at 8.—A. H. Keighley, Gen. Sec., 18, Merrick Square, S.E.1.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—The annual meeting of this district will be held at Penshurst on Saturday, Feb. 13th. Tower open at 3. Service at 4.30. Tea at the Institute after service, followed by business meeting. Members requiring tea must notify the district secretary not later than Tuesday, Feb. 9th. Subscriptions are now due, and should be paid at the meeting or sent to the district secretary.—W. Latter, Hon. District Sec., 11, Dudley Road, Tunbridge Wells.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Eccles on Saturday, Feb. 13th. Bells ready 3 o'clock. Meeting 7 p.m. Reports to hand. A good muster is requested.—J. Hall, Branch Sec., 22, Silver Street, Miles Platting, Manchester.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—A meeting will be held at Wanstead on Saturday, Feb. 13th. Bells from 3 p.m. Service 5.15 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Subscriptions for 1926 are now due. Will secretaries of bands note and forward to district hon. secretary?—E. Butler, 3, Eustace Road, Chadwell Heath.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—A meeting will be held at Upton-on-Severn on Saturday, Feb. 13th. Service at 4 prompt. Business meeting afterwards. The bells will be available. Tea provided. The branch secretary should be notified how many to expect by the Wednesday previous.—R. G. Knowles, Madresfield, Malvern.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—The annual meeting will be held at Isleworth on Saturday, Feb. 13th. Tower open at 3. Service at 5. Tea at 5.45, and business to follow. Members will be entertained to tea by the Vicar and churchwardens. Will members, other than the South and West, let me know by the 8th if they require tea?—W. H. Hollier, Hon. Sec., 29, Duke Road, W.4.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Surfleet on Saturday, Feb. 13th. Bells (10) available from 12 noon. Service at 3.30 p.m. Tea at 4.15 p.m. Business meeting immediately after tea. Tea will be provided for those who notify me not later than Wednesday, Feb. 10th.—Geo. Ladd, Hon. Sec., Pinchbeck, Spalding.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The pre-Lent meeting will be held at Newton Hall on Saturday, Feb. 13th. Committee meeting at 4 p.m. and tea at 5 p.m. in the Church Institute (adjoining the church). Tea, 1s. 6d. per head. Those coming to tea please notify me by Monday, Feb. 8th.—E. Ferry, Hon. Sec., 16, Gordon Avenue, Gosforth, Newcastle.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
—Ilchester Deanery Branch.—Annual meeting of the above Branch will be held at Martock on Saturday, Feb. 6th. Service at 4.30. Tea at 5 o'clock. Meeting to follow.
—F. Farrant, Hon. Local Sec., North Street, Martock.
WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Christchurch District.—A meeting will be held at St. Peter's, Bourne-mouth, on Saturday, Feb. 6th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Tea at 5.30.—G. Preston, 3, Waterloo Place, Christchurch.

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