



No. 782. Vol. XXI.

FRIDAY, MARCH 12th, 1926.

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

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SPliced METHOD RINGING.

There are many ringers who look upon 'spliced' method ringing as something, interesting perhaps, but rather freakish. It is, however, far removed from that category, and is almost certain to become a matter of regular and general practice in the not very distant future. There are many living to-day who remember when Surprise methods were looked upon as 'crank' stuff, and it was not until the closing years of the last century that ringers began to treat peals in these more advanced methods as anything beyond the hobby of the interested few. Gradually, however, thanks to Snowdon's 'Standard Methods,' and a spirit of emulation among those who showed a real enthusiasm in the art, the practice of Surprise ringing has spread until now no ringer's education is considered complete until he is at least conversant with the best known of the Surprise methods.

By the same process 'spliced' method ringing may be expected to develop. At present it is practised by but few, and that principally in six-bell towers. The obvious reason of this is that very little of the system of joining up a number of methods into true touches or peals has hitherto been understood, and it has been chiefly in connection with Minor methods that the idea has been applied. In this department the adoption of the principle offers almost as great a scope in variety as the construction of methods themselves, and, while the crowding of forty or fifty methods into a peal of 5040 changes may at present be looked upon merely as a curiosity, the practice of changing to two or three methods in the course of each 720 is a plan which adds immensely to the interest.

In its application to eight bell ringing, the system is proceeding more slowly. At present constant changes of method in the course of a peal are limited to one or two types, as in Spliced Superlative and Cambridge, or in Mr. Pitman's plan of joining up plain Triple methods, which are changed according to the bell in the hunt. The splicing of plain Major methods, like that of Double Norwich and Plain Bob, which was published in our last issue, offers certain stumbling-blocks to frequent switching over, but probably when the new 'Collection of Plain Major Methods,' which is to see the light in the near future, makes its appearance a wider scope will offer itself, just as the 'Collection of Minor Methods' revealed the possibilities in six-bell ringing. We would suggest that the committee, which has in hand the preparation of this publication, should, either by grouping, or by an index, indicate which of the methods can be spliced into true peals. The whole subject is one of fascinating interest, and its practical application, so far as Minor ringing is

(Continued on page 162.)

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concerned, has been placed within the reach of every six-bell change ringer by the publication of 'Method Splicing,' the book in which the whole subject is lucidly explained.

TEN BELL PEALS.

PLYMOUTH, DEVON.
THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

On Monday, March 1, 1926, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,

AT CHARLES' CHURCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5079 CHANGES;

Tenor 23½ cwt. in D.

CHARLES R. LILLEY... .. Treble	WARREN S. HORN BROOK ... 6
* JAMES E. LILLEY 2	WILLIAM J. RUNDLE ... 7
† HAROLD M. ASHTON... .. 3	† ALFRED T. WESTCOTT ... 8
WILLIAM G. HISCOTT ... 4	ERNEST W. MARSH ... 9
† THOMAS G. MYERS 5	JOSEPH WOODLEY Tenor

Composed by HENRY W. HALEY. Conducted by CHARLES R. LILLEY

* First peal of Stedman Caters. † First peal of Stedman.

STEPNEY, LONDON.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 6, 1926, in Three Hours and Thirty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. DONSTAN,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5019 CHANGES;

Tenor 31 cwt. 1 qr. 7 lb. in C.

FREDERICK G. SYMONDS ... Treble	OLIVER SIPPETTS... .. 6
WILLIAM T. BEESON, JUN. ... 2	JOHN H. B. HESSE ... 7
* C.Q.M.S.G. GILBERT, R.E. ... 3	C.S.M. J. BENNETT, R.M. ... 8
CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 4	CLARENCE H. DOBBIE... .. 9
JOHN A. COLE 5	ALFRED H. POLLING Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF.

Conducted by A. H. POLLING.

* First peal of Stedman Caters on an 'inside' bell. Rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. C. H. Dobbie; it was also his 100th peal.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION

On Saturday, March 6, 1926, in Three Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,

AT THE COLLEGIATE CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5025 CHANGES;

Tenor 21½ cwt.

SHIRLEY BURTON... .. Treble	* WILLIAM H. CLARKE ... 6
GEO. STEDMAN MORRIS ... 2	FREDERICK H. DEXTER ... 7
REDVERS F. ELKINGTON ... 3	* JOHN HY DREWERY... .. 8
WILLIAM WILLSON 4	ERNEST MORRIS... .. 9
JOSIAH MORRIS 5	JOHN GRANT Tenor

Composed by FREDK. H. DEXTER.

Conducted by ERNEST MORRIS.

* First peal of Stedman Caters.

BRISTOL.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 6, 1926, in Three Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. STEPHEN-THE-MARTY.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5067 CHANGES;

Tenor 21 cwt. in E.

ALFRED E. REEVES Treble	ALBERT STOWELL 6
JOHN W. JONES 2	REGINAID G. GILBERT ... 7
MRS. R. J. WILKINS 3	E. GEORGE TREW 8
EDWIN J. RIDLER 4	WILLIAM A. CAVE 9
RICHARD CLARK 5	URIAH BRAVEN Tenor

Composed by JAMES E. GROVES. Conducted by ALFRED E. REEVES.

Rung with the bells half-muffled, as a token of sympathy with Mr. J. A. Burford, conductor of St. Stephen's Guild, on the death of his father. A. Stowell's 100th ten-bell peal.

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NOTTINGHAM.**

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA.

On Sunday, September 20, 1925, in Three Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,

At the Cathedral Church of St. Paul,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5840 CHANGES;

REEVES' VARIATION OF HOLT'S TEN-PART.

Tenor 31 cwt.

ARTHUR SAVAGE Treble	HARRY BLAKELY 5
GEORGE WHBELER 2	JOHN M. GUEST 6
WILLIAM R. MADGWICK ... 3	JOHN W. SPENCER 7
ARTHUR FITZGERALD 4	GEORGE PADBURY Tenor

Conducted by ARTHUR FITZGERALD.

First peal as conductor, and the first peal in Australia by all except the ringers of the 4th and 6th.

ERITH, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, March 1, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,

At the Church of St. John-the-Baptist,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5840 CHANGES;

WASHBROOK'S VARIATION OF THURSTANS'.

Tenor 15 cwt.

EDWIN BARNETT Treble	C.S.M. J. BENNETT 5
FRED J. COLLUM, SEN. ... 2	HERBERT E. AUDSLEY ... 6
JOHN H. CHEESMAN 3	JAMES GEORGE 7
ISAAC G. SHADE 4	SIDNEY A. STAGG Tenor

Conducted by JOHN H. CHEESMAN.

MIDDLETON, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, March 2, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,

At the Church of St. Leonard,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5840 CHANGES;

J. J. PARKER'S SIX-PART.

Tenor 12½ cwt.

JOHN HOLLOWES Treble	SAMUEL HOLT 5
WILLIAM BERRY 2	TOM A. OGDEN 6
JAMES JACOBS 3	JAMES H. BASTOW 7
THOMAS K. DRIVER 4	FRANK BERRY Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM BERRY.

Rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. J. Hollows on his attaining the age of 70 years. Mr. Hollows has been a ringer at the above church over 40 years.

GILMORTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 6, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,

At the Church of All Saints,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5856 CHANGES;

Tenor 10 cwt. 3 qr. 19 lb. in G.

LEONARD H. WHITEHEAD ... Treble	ALFRED G. GRANT 5
ALBAN DISNEY 2	WALTER P. WHITEHEAD ... 6
ERNEST W. TIPLER 3	THOMAS K. DEACON 7
PERCIVAL A. ALDHAM 4	GEORGE A. NEWTON Tenor

Composed by H. WHITTLE. Conducted by WALTER P. WHITEHEAD.

* First peal in the method, and first attempt. Rung to celebrate the coming of age of P. A. Aldham; also as a birthday compliment to the mother of the treble and 6th ringers.

SWANSCOMBE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 6, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

At the Church of SS. Peter and Paul,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5840 CHANGES;

WASHBROOK'S VARIATION OF THURSTANS'.

Tenor 18½ cwt.

*FREDERICK A. MITCHELL ... Treble	JOHN H. CHEESMAN 5
FREDERICK M. MITCHELL ... 2	WILLIAM S. LANE 6
ISAAC G. SHADE 3	GEORGE H. DAYNES 7
JOHN BURLES 4	HERBERT E. AUDSLEY Tenor

Conducted by JOHN H. CHEESMAN.

* First peal of Stedman. The ringer of the 2nd has now rung all the bells in this tower to a peal. The band was attempting a peal of Spliced Double Norwich and Plain Bob, but after an hour's perfect ringing one of the ringers was suddenly indisposed, and Mr. Lane kindly took the vacant rope, and made this peal possible.

EPSOM, SURREY.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 6, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

At Christ Church,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5880 CHANGES;

FREDERICK RADFORD Treble	GEORGE MARRINER 5
MRS. C. HAZELDEN 2	GEORGE TOMSETT 6
JOHN BEAMS 3	SEPTIMUS RADFORD 7
CHARLES HAZELDEN 4	ALBERT HARMAN Tenor

Composed by H. DAINS.

Conducted by ALBERT HARMAN.

NORTH STONEHAM, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 6, 1926, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

At the Church of St. Nicolas,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 9 cwt. 26 lb. in G.

WALTER G. ROWE Treble	FREDERICK W. ROGERS ... 5
*WILLIAM G. EDWARDS ... 2	WILLIAM F. CHEATER ... 6
GEORGE POLLINGER 3	FRANK BLONDELL 7
FREDERICK A. BURNETT ... 4	GEORGE WILLIAMS Tenor

Composed by F. BENNETT.

Conducted by GEORGE WILLIAMS

* First peal of London.

BEHINGTON, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 6, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

At the Church of St. Andrew.

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 9 cwt.

ROBERT SPERRING Treble	HARRY F. HOLDING 5
WILLIAM CLARKE 2	*HAROLD EDWARDS 6
THOMAS CATHRALL 3	SAM JONES, JUN. 7
WILLIAM JONES 4	JAMES H. RIDING Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS.

Conducted by J. H. RIDING.

* First peal in the method.

RAWTENSTALL, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(ROSSENDALE BRANCH.)

On Saturday, March 6, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5840 CHANGES;

J. J. PARKER'S FIVE-PART.

Tenor 14 cwt.

G. E. ROLLERSON Treble	T. BARLOW 5
T. COLLINGE 2	E. SHERLOCK 6
T. ROLLERSON 3	A. RIDBOUGH 7
S. PICKUP 4	A. NEWMAN Tenor

Conducted by T. COLLINGE.

First peal by T. Barlow and E. Sherlock.

HORSHAM, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 6, 1926, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF COURT BOB TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 23 cwt.

SIDNEY PAICE Treble	WALTER CHARMAN 5
JAMES BURDFIELD 2	JACK BRANCH 6
WESLEY PETTIFER 3	JOHN COOK 7
PETER CHARMAN 4	EDWARD STURT Tenor

Composed by J. J. PARKER.

Conducted by W. CHARMAN.

First peal by E. Sturt, who kindly filled up a gap at the last moment, and who was elected a member of the association.

LONDON.

THE LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(LATE THE ST. JAMES' SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, March 6, 1926, in Three Hours and Fourteen Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary Matfelon, Whitechapel, E.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5840 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S VARIATION.

Tenor 20 cwt.

GEORGE J. HARMAN Treble	JOHN L. WATKIN 5
JEFFERY R. GAMMON 2	THOMAS H. TAVENDER ... 6
HARRY DYAS 3	LEONARD H. BAYBOT 7
STANLEY C. MOYE 4	HENRY C. TAYLOR Tenor

Conducted by JEFFERY R. GAMMON.

STANDISH, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, March 6, 1926, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. WILFRED,
A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 12½ cwt.

*GEORGE HEWETT Treble	JAMES W. GROUNDS 5
JOHN BOOTH 2	ERNEST G. WILLIAM 6
WILLIAM E. AUSTIN 3	JOSEPH RIDYARD 7
FRED RIGBY 4	ERNEST BIRCHALL Tenor

Composed by B. ANNABLE. Conducted by ERNEST BIRCHALL.

* First peal in the method. † First peal.

WIDFORD, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, March 6, 1926, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 12½ cwt.

EDWARD KEMP Treble	HARRY SMALE 5
WILLIAM J. NEVARD 2	WALTER ARNOLD 6
THOMAS LINCOLN 3	WILLIAM KEEBLE 7
EDWARD P. BUCKINGHAM 4	ARTHUR HEAD Tenor

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF. Conducted by WILLIAM KEEBLE.

Rung on the 21st anniversary of E. P. Buckingham's wedding, 60th peal of Superlative by W. J. Nevard, and 100th of Superlative by the conductor.

NEWCHURCH, WARRINGTON.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, March 6, 1926, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,
 AT THE PARISH CHURCH,
A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 12 cwt. in F sharp.

*JOSEPH LEATHERBARROW...Treble	JOHN E. BIBBY 5
WILLIAM BIBBY... .. 2	THOMAS B. WORSLEY... .. 6
GEORGE R. NEWTON... .. 3	TITUS BARLOW 7
EDWARD JENKINS 4	ALLAN F. BAILEY Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF. Conducted by E. JENKINS.

* First peal in the method. First peal in the method on the bells. Mr. G. R. Newton's 250th peal.

OVER, CHESHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Saturday, March 6, 1926, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. CHAD,
A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt.

*HORACE J. SMITH Treble	*JOHN S. ROYLE 5
FREDERICK H. CRAWLEY... 2	ALBERT CRAWLEY 6
ALBERT H. BOOTH 3	JOSEPH ASHMOLE 7
GEORGE H. CRAWLEY 4	HARRY PARKER Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by H. PARKER.

* First peal of Major. First peal of Bob Major on the bells. First peal of Major as conductor. Rung as a birthday compliment to the ringers of the treble.

CRAWLEY, SUSSEX.
THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
On Sunday, March 7, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 6030 CHANGES;

GROVES' VARIATION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor 13½ cwt.

*CECIL NICE... .. Treble	PETER TYLER 5
WALTER CHARMAN 2	ALFRED J. BULL... .. 6
JOHN COOK 3	OLIVER SIPPETTS 7
JAMES BURDFIELD 4	*NELSON ELLIOTT Tenor

Conducted by OLIVER SIPPETTS.

* First peal.

At Goldhanger, Essex, on February 13th, a half-peal of Minor, consisting of 720 each of Kent Oxford Treble Bob and Plain Bob, and 360 of College Exercise was rung: B. C. Mann 1, S. J. White 2, J. D. Buckingham 3, C. J. Mann 4, G. H. Neville (conductor) 5, H. R. Gardner 6. This was a compliment to B. C. Mann on his 14th birthday, and was the longest length by ringers of 1 and 2, and also as conductor by G. H. Neville.

LONDON.
THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.
On Monday, March 8, 1926, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LEONARD, STREATHAM,
A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;
 Tenor 14 cwt. in F sharp.

JOHN LEE Treble	HAROLD N. PITSTOW 5
MISS E. E. CHAPMAN... .. 2	JOHN F. GALYER 6
MISS F. E. ORR 3	CHARLES H. KIPPIN 7
JAMES W. CHAPMAN 4	CHARLES W. ROBERTS Tenor

Composed by H. W. WILDE. Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.

First peal of Double Norwich as conductor.

SIX BELL PEALS.
 NEWDIGATE, SURREY.
THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, February 20, 1926, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,
A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

BERNARD WELLS... .. Treble	JAMES BATTERS 4
CHARLES KILLICK 2	HERBERT WOOD 5
ARTHUR KNAPP 3	ALBERT ELLIS Tenor

Conducted by ALBERT ELLIS.

BENHALL, SUFFOLK.
THE SUFFOLK GUILD.
On Tuesday, February 23, 1926, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,
 AT THE PARISH CHURCH,
A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Viz., three 720's Oxford Treble Bob, two 720's Kent Treble Bob, and two 720's Woodbine Treble Bob. Tenor 6½ cwt.

H. G. SMITH Treble	J. SMY 4
W. SMITH 2	A. E. SMITH... .. 5
A. A. LING 3	A. LING... .. Tenor

Conducted by A. LING.

All belong to the Blaxhall company.

NEATH, GLAMORGANSHIRE.
THE SWANSEA AND BRECON DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Saturday, February 27, 1926, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,
 AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,
A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different 720's.

ALBERT J. HATTON Treble	†GWYN T. LEWIS... .. 4
†WILLIAM J. THOMAS... .. 2	HARRY BOYCE 5
*THOMAS C. SCOTT 3	ERNEST STITCH Tenor

Conducted by HARRY BOYCE.

* First peal. † First peal of Minor. First peal as conductor.

BURNLEY.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.
 (BLACKBURN BRANCH.)
On Sunday, February 28, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,
 AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,
A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's each of Plain Bob and Oxford Treble Bob, and three 720's of Kent Treble Bob. Tenor 11½ cwt.

WALTER STEPHENSON ...Treble	HERBERT WORMWELL ... 4
WILLIAM ROBINSON 2	HARRY ENTWISTLE 5
WILLIAM MCCLEAVE 3	WILLIAM H. HUNTER... .. Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM H. HUNTER.

First peal of Minor by all except the 4th and 5th. Rung with the bells fully muffled as a token of respect to Mr. Arthur Hitchon, who was a lay reader at the above church, and a superintendent of the Sunday School for many years, who left for missionary work under the Bishop of Trinidad, and was drowned in a collision at sea one month after arriving there.

MINIATURE BELLS

have raised money for many "Bell Funds." Let them raise it for yours. Inquiries to: John P. Fidler, 9, Bear Leach Road, Hazel Grove, Cheshire.

BLAXHALL, SUFFOLK.
THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Monday, March 1, 1926, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

At the Church of St. Peter,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Double Court and Kent Treble Bob, two 720's each of Woodbine and Oxford Treble Bob, and 720 Bob Minor.

Tenor 9½ cwt.

H. G. SMITH	Treble	J. SMY	4
A. E. SMITH	2	W. SMITH	5
A. A. LING	3	A. LING	Tenor

Conducted by A. LING.

Rung as a birthday compliment to W. Smith.

HIGHAM.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 6, 1926, in Two Hours and Forty-Nine Minutes,

At the Church of St. Peter,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven different 720's. Tenor 10 cwt. 3 qr. 8 lb.

F. H. ROWLEY	Treble	H. V. ROWLEY	4
K. R. GILLIVER	2	A. E. ROWLEY	5
WM. MARTIN	3	W. H. J. HOOTON	Tenor

Conducted by A. E. ROWLEY.

This is the first peal on the bells; also first peal by ringers of 1, 2, 3 and 4, and first as conductor.

BEETHAM, WESTMORLAND.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(FURNESS & LAKE DISTRICT BRANCH.)

On Saturday, March 6, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,

At the Church of St. Michael,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different 720's. Tenor 11 cwt.

EDWIN JENNINGS	Treble	WILLIAM PICTHALL	4
FURNESS WOODEND	2	JAMES THOMPSON	5
THOMAS J. CLEMENTS	3	WILLIAM ROBINSON	Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM ROBINSON.

* First peal. First peal on the bells, which were recast in 1837. The ringers of the treble, 3rd and 5th are from Kendal; 4th from Barrow; 2nd from Brathay; tenor from Ambleside. The 5th ringer was elected a member of the association.

WATTON, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 6, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary and Andrew,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of City Delight, Duke of York, New London Pleasure, Woodbine, Oxford Delight, Kent and Oxford.

Tenor 13½ cwt.

GEORGE N. BARKER	Treble	BARNARD PATMORE	4
SIDNEY CARTER	2	GEORGE H. CARTER	5
ARTHUR WOOLSTON	3	WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE	Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE.

GULSBOROUGH, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 6, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

At the Church of St. Etheldreda,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Consisting of seven different 720's. Tenor 9½ cwt.

WILLIAM E. LETTS	Treble	ARTHUR J. MARLOW	4
WILLIAM BOTT	2	THOMAS H. WISE	5
NORMAN HEEPS	3	TOM TEBBUTT	Tenor

Conducted by TOM TEBBUTT.

* First peal and first attempt. Rung with the bells half-muffled as a token of respect to Sidney Francis Brown, F.I.G.C.M., who was organist at the above church.

LANGPORT, SOMERSET.—On Sunday, March 7th, for morning service, 360 Plain Bob Minor: T. Lock 1, R. Mills 2, G. Lock 3, T. Jeanes 4, H. Westlake 5, T. Creed (conductor) 6; and for evening service, 360 Plain Bob Minor, with T. Creed (conductor) 4, T. Jeanes 5.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

A FALLING OFF IN THE READING BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the Reading Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild was held on Saturday, February 6th, at Reading. The programme commenced with ringing at St. Mary's, St. Giles' and St. Laurence's Churches, from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m., Doubles, Triples and Cutters being rung. A well-attended service was held at St. Laurence's, at which the Master of the Guild (the Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn) officiated, and the Vicar (the Rev. J. T. Mumford) gave an appropriate address.

A party of 66 sat down to tea at the Central Cafe, members being present from Ivor, Goring, Newbury, Mortimer, Henley, Checkendon, Purley, Caversham, Tilehurst, and the three central towers mentioned above.

At the business meeting which followed, all the officers were re-elected, with the exception of Mr. J. R. Mackman on the general committee, he having left the diocese. Mr. H. Tucker was elected in his place.

The chairman (Mr. W. P. Routh) wished to retire after 15 years' keen and faithful service. His resignation was received with regret, and he was then unanimously elected hon. president. The Rev. J. T. Mumford was elected chairman of the branch.

The secretary's report showed a small decrease in the number of members, and a considerable drop in the number of peals rung by the branch, while the attendances at combined practices were very poor. After considerable discussion it was decided to hold quarterly meetings instead of combined practices, and the three places chosen for 1926 were Tilehurst, Mortimer and Henley.

Following the business meeting, the members were entertained with a pianoforte solo by Mrs. Wood, a vocal duet by Mr. and Miss Pike, and songs by Mrs. F. W. Lane, Miss Pike, and Messrs. A. W. Pike, J. Goodenough, H. Simmonds, and the Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn, Mrs. Wood being the accompanist. Thanks were tendered to all the above for their kind services.

DUAL CELEBRATION AT ECCLESFIELD.

RINGERS' 'JUBILEE.'

On Saturday, February 13th, a very interesting event took place at Ecclesfield, when a supper was held to celebrate the occasion of 50 years' service as change ringers of Mr. William Turton and Mr. Sam Hemmingfield. The bells of the 'Minster of the Moors' were thrown open to all visitors during the afternoon, during the course of which a date touch of 1,926 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major was well rung by a mixed band.

In the evening, at the Black Bull Hotel, guests assembled from Sheffield Cathedral, St. Marie's, All Saints', and Norton, reinforced by members of the local company and sports club, and other residents of the township of Ecclesfield. A big fire, spotless table cloths, and an appetising smell, greeted all who entered the large dining-room, and Yorkshire and season pudding, served in double quick time, followed by roast beef heart, vegetables of all kinds and apple pudding, satisfied the pangs of hunger in a very satisfactory manner. Owing to the generosity of the local residents who had given all the food required, the charge for this sumptuous repast was only three-pence per head.

Tables cleared and pipes lit, everyone settled down to enjoy a really good night, local talent being to the fore with entertainment of all kinds.

A good course of Grandsire Caters opened the proceedings, followed by 'The Wolf,' sung in splendid style by Mr. Bingham, who sang as an encore 'Asleep in the Deep.' The singer could not have been more than 4ft. 10in. in height, but the depth and volume of his voice were simply astounding. Mr. R. Harper then obliged with two songs by Sims Reeves, to which he gave full effect with his beautiful tenor voice. And so the evening was spent until D.O.R.A. put her foot down, when, with handshakes and good wishes, the visitors wended their way home.

Both Mr. Turton and Mr. Hemmingfield have passed their 75th birthday, but the latter, owing to failing health, was unable to be present. His 'inner needs' were, however, seen to by the kindly thought of the hostess, Mrs. Jackson, to whom many thanks are due for the efficient way in which she catered for all.

During the course of the evening, Mr. Willey presented, on behalf of the local company, a briar pipe in case to Mr. Turton, and Mr. Willis Whitham also received one on behalf of his father-in-law, Mr. Sam Hemmingfield.

The thanks of all present are due to the Ecclesfield company and local residents for their generous hospitality, and to the entertainers for the excellent fare they provided.

HANDBELL RINGING IN NEW ZEALAND.

At Dunedin, N.Z., on Tuesday, January 26th, at the residence of J. S. Wilde, on handbells, 720 of Bob Minor: Charles Wilde 1—2, James Kemp (conductor) 3—4, James S. Wilde 5—6.

NOTES BY THE WAY.

WILLIAM SHIPWAY AND SOME OF HIS PEALS.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

Among the names of the distinguished ringers of the past, few hold a more honourable position than that of William Shipway, and to few of our predecessors do we owe more for the advancement of ringing than to him. He was a practical ringer of considerable ability, and a composer of much more than average talent, but his chief claim to be remembered lies in the fact that he was the author of a book on change ringing, which was for long the standard text book, and which, on its own lines, and within its own limits, has never been surpassed.

William Shipway was born in the city of Bath on September 29th, 1760, three weeks before the peal of Imperial at St. Giles', Norwich, began the second period in the history of the Norwich Scholars; four years after the death of Benjamin Annable, and about twenty years after the birth of John Reeves. He was apprenticed to a certain Mr. Handcock, a cabinet maker, who was also sexton to the Abbey Church. His master employed him, no doubt, to do odd jobs in the tower, and this brought him into contact with the ringers. He soon, as he tells us, 'became much attached to the art, in which he made such proficiency as to have rung as far as Treble Bob Royal before he left the city.'

Ringling got to be a passion with him, and, though Bath 'had a respectable and able band,' he soon reached their limits, and, finding that 'the art did not improve so rapidly as he wished,' he decided to leave the town for London. He reached the Metropolis on July the 29th, 1785, and joined the Junior Society of the Cumberlands. With them he rang about nine peals, two of them in the first year of his arrival in London, one 5,248 of Oxford Treble Bob at St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green, the other, 5,184 Grandsire Cinques, at Southwark. In the next year he rang three peals, one of Grandsire Triples and two of Oxford; and in 1786 also three peals.

Two of these latter were of more than ordinary interest. The first was 8,448 of Kent, at St. Mary's, Whitechapel. This was John Reeves' composition, and was, at the time, the longest peal composed or rung with the tenors together in the methods. For some reason or other it was not included in the Junior Cumberlands' peal book. The other was a peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, and was the second known to have been rung in that method, the first being the 6,720 by the Norwich Scholars, at St. Michael's Coslany, in 1771. The following is the record of the 1786 peal from the Junior Cumberlands' peal book: 'St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green, 11th April, 1786. The society rang a true and complete peal of 5,440 changes of Norwich Court Bob Major in 3 hours and 33 minutes. Performed by Chas. Burt treble, Anth. Cavalier 2, Wm. Shipway 3, Daniel Mallen 4, G. Gross, jun., 5, William Gibson 6, John Wooding 7, G. Gross, sen., tenor. Composed and called by G. Gross, sen. N.B.—The first peal ever rang in that method.'

Two years later the Senior Society of Cumberland Youths rang 5,040 of the same method at the same church, and claimed it as the first true peal rung in London. This seems to show that the other was false, either in composition or execution, and this is corroborated by the fact that Shipway makes no reference to it in his book.

In 1788 Shipway joined the Senior Society of Cumberlands, and remained with them till his death. Altogether he rang sixty-two peals with that society. The first was 5,184 of Stedman Caters, at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, in 1788; the last, 5,040 Stedman Triples, at St. James', Clerkenwell, in 1834. His first peal as conductor was one of Grandsire Caters in 1792, and altogether he called seventeen peals.

The following are the records of the most interesting of his peals:

'St. Saviour's, Southwark, on Monday, May the 7th, the society rang a true peal of 5,112 Grandsire Bob Maximus in 4 hours and 10 minutes, being the first in that method:

Call'd by J. Reeves	1	Thos. Reeves	7
Rd. Bartell	2	Wm. Shipway	8
Will. Gibson	3	Abrhm. Smith	9
Will. Richardson	4	Malli Channon	10
John Darby	5	W. Stephens	11
J. Frazier	6	Thor. Mariss	12

The method was undoubtedly Grandsire Maximus. If it had been rung sixty years earlier under the name of Grandsire Bob we should have known that it was Plain Bob Maximus.

'At St. John's, Hackney, Tuesday, 17th February, 1801, the society rang a true peal of Triples, 5,040, on a new principle that reverses the present system of ringing by dodging, in 3 hours 46 minutes, without a dodge:—

T. East	Treble	T. Freeth	5
J. Poulden	2	J. Hints	6
G. Gross	3	W. Shipway	7
S. Cowling	4	C. Earl	Tenor

The principle of this peal being by place-making, and is the first peal ever rung in the method. The society, to commemorate the

Union of Great Britain and Ireland, entitled it Cumberland Imperial Place Triples, composed and called by W. Shipway (without a single), the author of this system of ringing.'

The following is a lead of the method:—

PLACE TRIPLES.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2	1	3	5	4	7	6
2	3	1	5	7	4	6
3	2	5	1	7	6	4
3	5	2	7	1	6	4
5	3	7	2	6	1	4
5	7	3	6	2	4	1
7	5	6	3	4	2	1
7	6	5	4	3	1	2
6	7	4	5	1	3	2
6	4	7	1	5	3	2
4	6	1	7	5	2	3
4	1	6	7	2	5	3
1	4	6	2	7	3	5

1 4 2 6 3 7 5

Bobs and Singles as in Bob Triples.

The method, it will be noticed, is not a good one. Shipway does, indeed, get his 5,040 without a dodge, but to manage that he has to let a bell lie behind for three consecutive blows, and he has to make sixth's place when the treble is not behind. These things would now, and, I think, always, be considered serious defects. Purists, too, have never been able to tolerate a seven-bell method in which the changes are not continuous triple changes, and dodging is, musically, one of the charms of ringing, a thing to be encouraged, not to be done away with. It is possible, however, to get interesting and musical methods without dodging, and last year at Willesden we all but rang a peal in a Major method which has no dodging.

The composition of Shipway's peal was a three-part, a clever production, in which the out-of-course course-ends are produced by making the seventh run in and out at bobs. Shipway seems to have been rather proud of the place method, and he also called a peal of Major, and one of Caters. The first was at St. Mary's, Islington, the second at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, both in 1802.

'St. Mary's, Lewisham, Kent, Sunday, September 15th, 1816, the society rang a true peal of Grandsire Triples, being the first ever rang with all bobs containing 5,040 changes, in 3 hours.

The performers were: W. Crosswick treble, W. Shipway 2, R. Otley 3, T. Freeth 4, J. Glide 5, E. Taylor 6, F. Mathew 7, R. Margetts tenor. Mr. William Shipway, conductor.'

The composition was the well-known five-part one by Shipway. He obtained it from Holt's Ten-part. Each part consists of one part of the Ten-part, and its reverse, with the addition of a Fifth's Place bob. Shipway was evidently very proud of this composition. He says: 'I shall conclude Grandsire Triples with the above 5,040 in five parts, which may be considered as the ne plus ultra of composition in this admirable method, it being produced without a single, which was never before attained, although it has long been an object of research. The author composed this peal purposely for the present work; his wish to render it as complete as possible induced him to make the attempt, though its accomplishment has somewhat retarded the publication.'

E. Taylor, who rang the 6th at Lewisham, was the composer of the well-known Bob and Single peal of Grandsire Triples, and of several peals of Bob Major of more than usual interest. He seems to have been a Greenwich man, and was at one time the leading ringer and conductor of the Eastern Scholars.

Quex House, Isle of Thanet, Kent (the seat of John P. Powell, Esq.), on Wednesday, August 4th, 1819, the society rang on that gentleman's new peal of twelve bells in a steeple erected for the purpose in his park, a true peal of Grandsire Cinques, consisting of 5,213 changes, composed in the tittum position, having the eighth behind the eleventh throughout, in 3 hours 39 minutes:—

G. Gross	Treble	T. Freeth	7
J. Nash	2	T. Ovenden	8
W. Shipway	3	J. Stickbury	9
J. Hints	4	J. Riley	10
P. Jones	5	T. Grainger	11
J. Blacklock	6	F. Mathew	Tenor

Mr. George Gross, conductor. This is the first peal on these twelve bells. The like is not to be found in the three kingdoms of a private gentleman erecting a steeple and having a peal of twelve bells for his own amusement, nor likewise a peal of that light weight hung for ringing. Tenor 15 cwt. Key of F.'

'St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, Cumberland Youths. This inscription will hand to posterity the unparalleled abilities displayed in the performance of a peal that was rung in this steeple on Tuesday, 7th April, 1801, a 5,220 changes of Court Bob Royal, in 3 hours 27 mins.,

being the first ever rang by any society in that intricate method. Composed and called by Geo. Gross, sen. Mr. George Lassigned, Master.

George Gross	1	John Hints	6
Geo. Gross, jun.	2	M. Channon	7
James Nash	3	T. Reeves	8
W. Shipway	4	Samuel Bowling	9
J. Poulden	5	W. Stephens	Tenor.

'St. James', Clerkenwell, Wednesday. The following members of the Cumberland Society rang a peal of 5,040 Triples upon Stedman's principle, in 3 hours 15 minutes, viz.:—

W. H. Burwash	Treble	W. Kelliatl	5
H. Pratt	2	W. Ludford	6
W. Shipway	3	A. G. Frost	7
J. Miller	4	J. Cox	Tenor

Conducted by Mr. W. H. Burwash. The above is the original composition of Mr. William Shipway, with 362 calls, and is the first time it was rung, and the first peal of Stedman Triples by this society.

J. Miller, who rang the fourth, was something of a composer, but is better known as a man who varied other men's compositions, and, as possibly allowed by the standards of the time, passed them on as his own. Three notable peals were rung at Benington, in Herts, all as the composition of Miller. The Superlative in 1855 was the reverse of a peal by John Cox, which again really belonged to Benjamin Thackrah; the London in 1870 was the reverse of a peal by W. Harrison; and the Cambridge in 1873 was Middleton's peal begun at a different course end. Another peal (of Double Norwich), rung at Seffron Walden in 1817, composed and conducted by Miller, was the simplest variation of Annable's Three-part peal of Bob Major.

John Cox, who rang the tenor at Clerkenwell, afterwards became the leading man among the Cumberlands. This was his third peal.

Other notable peals in which Shipway took part were 6,380 Oxford Treble Hob Royal, at Christ Church, Spitalfields, in 1793; 5,120 Cumberland Treble Bob, at Edmonton, in 1795; 10,008 Bob Major, at the same church and in the same year; 5,104 London Court Bob, at St. John's, Hackney, in 1801; 7,104 Treble Bob Maximus, at Southwark, in 1804; 7,104 Stedman Cinques, at Spitalfields, in 1806; and 6,000 Treble Bob Maximus, at Shoreditch, in 1809.

The Stedman Triples at Clerkenwell was his last peal. He died in 1842, aged 82.

FALSE PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reference to the false peal of Double Norwich that was rung in Lancashire last year, and withdrawn in the last number of 'The Ringing World,' the peal is perfectly true if a single is called at 1 instead of 6. (See peal 182, which was rung for the first time at Mitcham, Surrey, 1903, conducted by Mr. W. Pye.) The note under the peal is entirely wrong, and I can assure your readers it was not my doing. All I can put it down to is a typographical error. When the collection of peals was published in 1908, I wrote the late Dr. Carpenter, asking if peal 158 had been rung or published. He replied in the negative. I also wrote to 'The Bell News' withdrawing all claim to it.—Yours faithfully,

J. HUNT.

Taunton.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

WESTERN DIVISION ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Western Division was held at Angmering on Saturday, February 20th, when just over 30 members were present from Angmering, Arundel, Chichester, Aldrington, Heene, Lyminster, Shoreham, West Tarring and Havant, and Mr. F. Beckett, of Oxford. During the afternoon several Minor methods were practised, also Doubles and rounds for beginners.—At the church room they were met and welcomed by the Rector (the Rev. T. L. Palmer) and Mr. J. H. Loveys, churchwarden, who had provided an excellent tea.

At the business meeting, with the Rector presiding, the following new members were elected: E. C. Hills and R. P. Reese, of Angmering; Arthur Holden and Sidney James Broadbridge, of Pulborough; H. Hunt, of Lyminster; A. Dawkes, of West Tarring, and Clarence Dobbie.

The following officers were re-elected for the ensuing year, viz.: Mr. A. W. Groves, district secretary; Messrs. Challen, Lindup and Doick, committee; and Messrs. Charman, Burdfield and Burtenshaw, committee of advice.

It was proposed to hold the next quarterly meeting at Pulborough. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the Rector for presiding, and granting the use of the bells, and providing the tea. That gentleman having suitably responded, the company paid a further visit to the belfry, and the bells were kept busy for another hour or two.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

We are able to publish this week the details of the peal rung in September last at Melbourne, Australia. Apparently the report sent by the secretary got lost at sea.

At present the Melbourne band, when they are able to meet, which is not regularly on account of the distances at which the members live, are practising Grandsire Caters and Stedman Triples.

The four old bells at Burmarsh, Kent, have been recast and rehung, with the addition of two new trebles, by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank. The tenor is 10 cwt. The bells will be dedicated on Saturday, March 20th, at 3 p.m.

The many ringing friends of Mr. Fred Chamberlain, who is now lying in Cardiff Infirmary, and who recently met with a serious railway accident, may be pleased to know that he is making excellent progress. He is deeply grateful to all who have made and sent inquiries, and to those who have visited him.

The first peal of Treble Bob Maximus, which would, of course, have been in what we know as the Oxford variation, was rung at Southwark on March 12th, 1758, by the College Youths.

On March 13th, 1849, the College Youths rang a peal of 7,040 Kent Treble Bob Major at St. Peter's, Walworth, a tower which appears to be 'coming into the picture' again.

The first peal on the twelve bells of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, was rung by the London Scholars on March 14th, 1727. This was a 6,006 Grandsire Cinqs, and on the following day the College Youths rang a 6,314 in the same method.

A peal of 10,133 Grandsire Caters was rung at Christ Church, Bristol, on March 14th, 1837.

March 16th is the anniversary of a peal of 10,080 Bob Major at Debenham, rung in the year 1767. It was accomplished by a local band, and is significant from the following note appended to the record: 'This peal was excellently completed in six hours and one minute, a performance never before accomplished by eight men without assistance to ye great bells.'

Eighty years ago next Wednesday, 7,025 Stedman Caters was rung at All Saints', Poplar, 'the first time the extent of 80 courses (out of course) has ever been rung.' It was composed and conducted by H. W. Haley.

At the famous church in the Bull Ring, Birmingham the first peal of Duffield Maximus was rung on March 17th, 1891.

Illness has compelled Mr. D. J. Nichols, of Kettering, to resign the secretaryship of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild and Mr. R. G. Black is carrying out the duties pro tem.

The attention of readers is directed to the alteration of date in the Coalbrookdale bells opening. It will take place on April 17th, but the other arrangements will stand as advertised.

Mr. W. Keeble rang his one hundredth peal of Superlative Surprise on Saturday. This century has been distributed over 61 towers in 16 counties.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT SOCIETY AT BOLSOVER. THE COMING CUP CONTEST.

With ideal weather and a grand peal of eight bells, members of the Sheffield District Society spent a very pleasant time at Bolsover on Saturday, March 6th, when 50 ringers were present from Chesterfield, Dore, Eckington, Ecclesfield, Handsworth, Killanarsh, Rotherham, Sheffield Cathedral, St. Marie's, Sheffield, and North Wingfield. About a dozen learners were present, and took many advantages of the opportunities offered with experienced ringers to guide them through their courses, and if the present rate of progress is continued the society will have very little difficulty in finding aspirants to the art ready to fill the gaps which the hand of fate so consistently makes.

Tea was served in the Church Hall, where the Vicar, the Rev. Joseph Pagat, extended a hearty welcome to all, and in his address at the business meeting appealed to ringers in general to give their very best ringing for Sunday services. The congregation would then not only realise that the ringers had the cause of the church at heart, but it would be a direct incentive in filling the church with worshippers, thus giving encouragement and confidence to the preacher.

The secretary announced that the annual cup contest would be held again in June, and in order that more companies might enter, it has been decided that entrants, whether belonging to a 6, 8, 10 or 12-bell tower, could give their exhibition of ringing on either 6 or 8 bells, at their own option. Members are reminded that all applications for entry must be in the secretary's hands for the annual meeting in May, when the tower chosen for the event will be announced.

Thanks were accorded to the Vicar and churchwardens for their presence and welcome; to the ladies for their untiring labours at tea-time; and to the local company for the excellent arrangements made in the ringing chamber.

Ringing continued until 8.30 p.m., the methods ranging from Treble Bob Minor to London and Bristol Surprise Major.

THE JOHNSON COMMEMORATION DINNER.

LAST SATURDAY'S GATHERING AT BIRMINGHAM.

The sustained popularity of the annual gathering at Birmingham, commemorating that grand old man of the ringing Exercise, Henry Johnson, was never better displayed than during the last week-end, when over a hundred and fifty ringers, representative not only of Birmingham itself but of many of the important Guilds and Associations throughout the country, assembled to do honour to the memory of one of the most remarkable and distinguished, as well as the most lovable of men who have ever adorned the ranks of the Exercise. In these days, perhaps, the event has taken on a wider aspect, but the spirit which prompted the originators of the gathering, to keep alive the memory of one who was a giant among the men of his day and generation, is still faithfully maintained, and the occasion loses none of its intention by reason of its greater social appeal. Visitors to the city found a welcome awaiting them at the belfries of St. Martin's, the Cathedral and Bishop Ryder's Church, and ringing was enjoyed for a couple of hours or more. Later, at the Imperial Hotel, the Rector of Birmingham, Canon T. Guy Rogers, B.D., M.C., who is Chaplain to the King, presided over a very happy party. He was supported by Alderman J. S. Pritchett (Presiding Ringing Master of St. Martin's Guild), Canon Blotfeld (Vicar of Edgbaston), Rev. T. B. Harvey Bruce (Rector of Solihull), Lieut.-Col. the Rev. F. J. Cheverton (Rector of Rowley Regis), Messrs. J. J. Kendall and F. W. Blake (churchwardens of St. Martin's), R. A. Eaton (churchwarden of Boldmere) and Mrs. Eaton, Mr. E. Alex Young (hon. secretary of the Central Council) and Mrs. Young, Mr. A. Paddon Smith (hon. secretary of St. Martin's Guild) and Mrs. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Goldsmith (Woking), Mr. H. Mason (Hagley), Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Parsons (Old Hill), Mr. W. R. Heaton, Mr. A. A. Hughes (White-chapel Foundry), Mr. C. F. Winney (College Youths, London), Mr. A. Walker (Deputy Ringing Master) and Mrs. Walker, Messrs. T. H. Reeves and J. Preston (auditors), J. Waghorn (London), C. Dean (hon. secretary, Surrey Association), A. E. Sharman (hon. secretary, Bedfordshire Association), A. Coppock (Master of the Sherwood Youths, Nottingham), Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Smallwood and Mr. A. Ward (Derby), Messrs. E. C. Shepherd (Beeston), T. J. Salter (Kidderminster), J. Oldham (Messrs. Taylor and Co., Loughborough), S. R. Roper (Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, Croydon), Mr. and Mrs. W. Thomas and Mr. W. Knight (Bristol), Messrs. T. King (Bath), H. W. Wilde (Chester), S. F. Palmer (Sheffield), Mr. W. Saunders (Coalbrookdale), A. J. Hughes (Rhyll), R. G. Knowles and C. Camm (Worcestershire Association), E. C. Gobey (Ilkeston), B. Gough (Coseley), Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Groves, Mr. P. Laffin (King's Norton), Mr. J. George (Bishop Ryder's), Mr. J. Neal, Mr. S. Bragg (Solihull), etc.

After an excellent repast, the toast of the King was honoured, and the Secretary announced apologies from Canon W. J. Cole (Vicar of Aston), Rev. T. S. Dunn (Vicar of King's Norton), Rev. A. T. Jenkins (St. Martin's), Messrs. O. Johnston (Croydon), J. H. Shepherd (Swindon), H. Chapman (Manchester), J. Carter (London), T. Russam, W. Kent and Baggs (Birmingham), and F. B. Yates (Ringing Master, King's Norton Society). He said they would all specially regret the absence of Mr. Russam, who, until that night, had attended the whole series of dinners without a break. For 37 years Mr. Russam had been present, and that evening was a break in the chain which they and he all regretted. The question had been raised in one letter as to why the dinner was frequently held in Lent. The reason was that it had been their custom, and they did not intend to depart from it, to hold it on the nearest convenient Saturday to Feb. 28th, which was the birthday of Henry Johnson. The secretary added that a wire had been received as follows: 'Bristol United Ringing Guilds send best wishes to all assembled for Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner. Guise, Bristol' (applause).

Alderman Pritchett said one apology had not been mentioned, and that was from Mr. J. E. Sykes, the well-known Yorkshire ringer, who had recently been in China, and was now in France. He had brought back from China three pairs of chopsticks, which he wished to be presented that night to the three ladies who most deserved them (laughter), and he (the speaker) had been asked to present them to Mrs. Groves, Mrs. Goldsmith and Mrs. Walker (applause).

CHURCH AND STATE.

Mr. A. E. Parsons proposed the toast of 'Church and State,' and referred to the part which the Church had played in making the country and the Empire what it is to-day. He spoke of the debt which we owed to the noble gifts and sacrifices of our forefathers, and went on to ask if we were maintaining the glorious traditions which had been handed down to us? There was cause to-day, he said, for grave apprehension on this score, for men who took Holy Orders,

and at their ordination gave their solemn pledge to observe the tenets embodied in the Thirty-Nine Articles of the Church, violated their vows, and, when reproved for their actions, openly defied the Bishops placed in authority over them. Such a state of things, he said, was a cause for anxiety.

The Rector of Birmingham responded to the toast. He referred to the welcome given him at the previous dinner, when he came among them just prior to his induction, and expressed his appreciation of the compliment they had now paid him by asking him to preside. With regard to the toast, he liked to think he had some relationship both to the Church and State, for he had the honour to be a chaplain to His Majesty, which very directly connected him with the State, and he had the honour to be Rector of Birmingham, and no one could have a higher honour than that paid to him (applause). Continuing, he said the Church and State were co-operating forces, and he would be the last to wish to see the church allied to any political party. It was important that the Church should stand forth as an independent, co-operating force. It would be bad for the Church if it attempted to dominate the State, and it would be equally foolish for the Church to surrender its independence. He hoped the day would never come when the Church would not count for something in the life of the State, and be recognised as a force that made for righteousness. He hoped the Church and State would long continue to co-operate to uplift the lives of the people, and to set before them the highest ideals (applause). Canon Rogers added that it was a great pleasure to be there that night. He was proud to think he was there as their chairman, and to think that he had not outworn his welcome in that great city; that they had a place for him and a use for him, as an Irishman having the misfortune to come to them from London (laughter). He was warned before coming that Birmingham took nobody for granted, and, after a year's residence in that city, which he had already learned to love, he was glad to feel they were ready to accept him, and had a use for him (applause).

HOW THURSTANS COMPOSED HIS MASTERPIECE.

It has always been the custom at these gatherings to entrust the toast of 'The Memory of the late Henry Johnson' to someone who knew the famous old ringer in the flesh, and this year Mr. Thomas Miller was given the task, which he performed in characteristic style. He had many reminiscences to tell of ringing in Birmingham in the days when he knew Henry Johnson, whom he first met in 1877. No peal was rung at St. Martin's Church between 1863 and 1878, owing to structural alterations, and he (Mr. Miller) joined St. Martin's company in 1879, so that he came early on the scene after ringing restarted. He had heard Johnson say more than half a dozen times how Thomas Thurstans got his famous peal of Stedman Triples. Thurstans and Johnson worked at two business places about three hundred yards apart, and Thurstans used to pop down to the timber yard where Johnson was manager, and hand him the figures of his attempts to get the peal, saying, 'Harry, I want you to look at these.' Johnson would look at the figures, and Thurstans would come back later to know the result. Johnson would point out where the figures repeated, and Thurstans kept trying, although he seemed for a time to get worse and worse. Eventually, of course, his perseverance was rewarded, but he (the speaker) had heard Johnson say he could have done Thurstans out of his peal if he had wished to do so. But Johnson was a different man to that; he was straightforward, upright and conscientious, and would not take advantage of any man who was in the position of Thurstans. Thurstans succeeded in getting his peal, which he conducted for the first time on August 8th, 1882. Although Johnson suffered from rheumatism, he was a very healthy man, and was dancing at his son's house nine days before his death. Mr. Miller told numerous amusing anecdotes of other old ringers, contemporary with Johnson, and the toast was drunk in silence.

A count of those present who had actually known Henry Johnson revealed that eighteen of the company had had the old gentleman's acquaintance. A course of Stedman Cinques on handbells was rung at this stage by Messrs. P. Laffin, G. F. Swann, A. Walker, J. E. Groves, A. E. Norman and M. J. Morris.

THE ALDERMANIC REVIEW.

Alderman Pritchett submitted 'Continued prosperity to St. Martin's Guild,' and, following his usual custom, reviewed the principal events of the year. First of all he congratulated the Guild on that splendid gathering of members and visitors from all parts of the country, although, he said, there were one or two whom they missed, and who they would never see there again. Among them was the veteran ringer, the late Mr. Ted Horrex, who, until well past eighty years of age, came frequently to their gatherings, and whom it was

always such a pleasure to welcome, whose kindly face and genial company they so greatly appreciated. His absence was in some measure compensated for by the presence of Mr. Joseph Waghorn, now 83 years of age, who had come from West Ham to support his old Vicar in the chair, and to take part with them in that gathering. He hoped Mr. Waghorn would live long to be with them on many future occasions. Another whom they missed and would not see again was their old friend, William Reek Small, one of the best of men, and the best of ringers. It would be a great satisfaction to all who knew him to know that as a memorial his five sons were going to place a window in Tipton Church, side by side with one which Mr. Small erected to the memory of his first wife. Another name which would occur to them all was that of John Buffery, who, at the time of his death, was 'father' of the Guild. He was the last of that celebrated band who visited him (Alderman Pritchett) more than fifty years ago at Oxford—but they had all heard that story (laughter, and a voice: 'Tell it again.') They had lunch with him, said the speaker, and he had provided them with ale to drink. On the sideboard was a tankard of extra strong ale, which he intended should be sent round as a sort of loving cup, when the cheese came on. But Buffery passing the sideboard, thought the old ale was similar to that which he had already been drinking, and took a deep draught (laughter). The consequences were disastrous (laughter). They had had some very creditable ringing in the morning, but in the afternoon they had no more (laughter). John Buffery was dead and gone, but that was a little memory of him which he would never forget. Bastable, Henry Johnson and Mr. Robinson were among that company.

Continuing, Alderman Pritchett said the Guild had not rung so many peals during the past year as usual. There were only 33, which was small in comparison with their previous records. But despite this they might fairly say they had made continued progress in ringing. The peals ranged over all the methods usually rung, from Grand-sire Triples to London Surprise, while one peal was accomplished by a band who went from Birmingham to Canterbury and rang a peal of Siedman Cinques on the splendid ring of twelve in the Cathedral. Practices had been somewhat interfered with since last September, owing to illness near St. Martin's. For several months, the usual evening practice was suspended, but happily they were able to continue the Sunday morning ringing without seriously troubling the invalid. Alderman Pritchett went on to refer to the absence of Mr. John Carter, whose continued illness they all so much regretted. They deeply sympathised with him, and he asked the hon. secretary to send him a letter conveying their feelings. In conclusion Ald. Pritchett thanked the Guild for having again elected him as their presiding Ringing Master. He appreciated the tolerance which the members showed on account of his infrequent attendance. He would not hold the office for one moment did he not know that the duties were so efficiently discharged by his deputy, Mr. Albert Walker with the assistance of Mr. Laffin, Mr. Swann and Mr. Neal, who together with Mr. Paddon Smith, their indefatigable hon. secretary, were the mainstay of the Guild, and mainly responsible for its continued prosperity.

(To be continued.)

HERTS COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

RECORD MEETING AT HERTFORD.

An exceptionally well attended meeting of the Eastern District was held at Hertford on Saturday week, when 60 members were present from Edmonton, Southgate, Luton, Cheshunt, Barley, Barkway, Cambridge, Sawston, Broxbourne, Kimpton, Ware, Hitchin, Royston, Hunsdon, Widford, Braughing, Nazeing, Walford, Hatfield, St. Albans, Great and Little Mundon, and Bengoe. Service was held in All Saints' Church, the Vicar giving a short, interesting and helpful address.

The fine ring of ten bells at All Saints' were raised just after three o'clock, and many methods were rung upon them, while the eight at St. Andrew's were also utilised both before and after tea. Cambridge Royal and London Surprise were amongst the methods rung by the more advanced members, and all present were provided with a pull, from Grand-sire Triples upwards. This meeting may well claim to be the largest district meeting ever held at Hertford.

Mr. J. Parker, of Edmonton, presided at the business meeting, and votes of thanks were accorded to him, to the Rector of St. Andrew's, and the Vicar of All Saints' for their welcome, and the splendid address by the last named.

CHESHIRE RINGERS' FIRST QUARTER OF LONDON.

On Monday, March 1st, at the Church of St. Mary-within-the-Walls, Chester, a quarter-peal of London Surprise Major (1,344 changes), by W. Thomas 1, J. Hayes 2, H. W. Wilde 3, W. Bibby 4, J. Swindley 5, R. Sperring 6, J. Morgan 7, S. Jones, jun., 8. Conducted by R. Sperring. First quarter-peal of London Surprise Major in the county by a resident band.

BRIGHTON RINGER'S DEATH IN AMERICA.

We have received from Mr. Richard Newton, of Boston, Massachusetts, news of the death in that city, from cancer, of Mr. Philip J. Allfrey, formerly of Brighton, Sussex. Mr. Allfrey, who was 54 years of age, went to Boston in 1913, at the time when several English ringers crossed over at the invitation of the late Dr. Nichols. He took an active part in such ringing as the Boston Guild was able to arrange, and was greatly esteemed by his fellow-members. His death leaves only six ringers in Boston.

Before going to America Mr. Allfrey was attached to St. Paul's tower, Brighton, and took part in a number of peals for the Sussex County Association.

BARTON TOWER UNSAFE FOR RINGING.

AN APPEAL.

To the Editor.

Sir,—We should be grateful if you would kindly allow us to appeal to your many readers, on behalf of the Barton (Cambridge) Church tower. In the opinion of two eminent architects, the tower has considerable charm, chiefly by reason of its triangular stair turret and its well-shaped buttresses, but it is in need of considerable repairs. The east and west walls are badly cracked, and the belfry windows considerably weathered. There is a peal of five excellent bells, which, however, it is considered unsafe to have rung with the tower in its present condition. The estimated cost of repairs is £300.

Barton is a small and poor parish; we have raised locally £200, and are stuck for the last hundred. Perhaps some of your readers who have admired the tower, or who are interested in the preservation of ancient buildings, or who are interested in bell ringing, may feel inclined to help us. Donations may be sent to Barclays Bank, Cambridge, or to either of us.—Yours,

J. C. CATER, Vicar.

H. S. MARR, Churchwarden.

CONDITION OF BELLS AND BELFRIES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I note with interest in your leading article this week that the above subject is likely to come up for discussion at the next Central Council meeting. This matter, I believe, has been discussed by the Council several times already, and I think it time that they should pass a measure which would help bring about better conditions in belfries.

I know of cases even here in Devon where bells are out of order, and the church authorities do practically nothing to improve them. Rural Deans also, I am afraid, do not trouble to inspect them. This state of affairs is, in my opinion, a drawback to those who contemplate taking up change ringing, and I think it is up to the Central Council to see that a better state of affairs is brought about.

I might add that we sometimes read of a diocese granting funds to a church or churches for various objects. I think it would be a good thing if these sums were granted to churches where the bells require attention also.—Yours truly,

A. L. BENNETT.

Buckfastleigh, Devon.

GRANDSIRE DOUBLES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In addition to the arrangement of Grandsire Doubles, which you were kind enough to publish some time ago, I have now the following arrangement, which may also be found useful to conductors.—Yours faithfully,

A. J. PITMAN.

240 GRANDSIRE DOUBLES.

2345 Continued.

S 5423	— 4532
S 3254	S 2345
S 4532	— 4523
4253	4352
S 3542	S 2543
— 4235	— 4325
S 5342	S 5243
5234	5324
S 4352	S 4253
— 5243	— 5342
S 3452	S 2453
3245	2345

This arrangement will be found to consist of two distinct blocks of 120 changes, and has the advantage of running in 24 different variations. Thus a peal of 5,760 may be rung called on this plan in 24 different callings. First rung at Baglan, Glam, on Feb. 18th, 1926, conducted by E. Stith.

DURHAM & NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION. PEAL RINGING SLACKNESS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to the report of the meeting of the Western District, held at Chester-le-Street on January 16th, and your comments in 'The Ringing World' of February 12th, it is obvious that until the supposed extremely unfavourable facts mentioned by your correspondent are, at any rate, made much clearer, it is evidently the opinion of some members that it is foolish and probably mischievous for the outside critic or member to attempt to pass any judgment upon the working of the association. Yet it is clearly as grave as it is sudden, and the members have an equal right to demand full information as to what is going on in their interests. The worst of effusions of this kind is that they almost inevitably produce equally indefensible retorts from the other side.

However, one can only hope that the very small volume of smoke which is arising may lead to the suppression, before it is too late, of the fire which is causing it.

What is already certain is that the action of a clique has raised a storm of protest among members in the outlying districts, which is spreading by degrees. There must, presumably, be some very cogent reasons for voicing their feelings, and it is up to the association to remedy such a state of things.

The letters of your correspondents of 26th February hardly bring out the salient points in dispute. The question at issue is that when peals are attempted it is generally the same lot, with few exceptions, who are selected. Having carefully perused the report for 1924-25, it would appear that the centres for ringing peals are Newcastle Cathedral, Whitley Bay, North Shields, and St. Ignatius', Sunderland, with Tanfield occasionally thrown in, the towers being within reasonable distance of each other, better train and 'bus services are obtainable, also lower expenses. Your correspondents, in telling their story, differ in the number of peals rung and the members who took part in them for the year under review, and, although I give preference for veracity to he who quotes 29 and 71 respectively, yet it reads to the ordinary man that 71 members took part in each of the 29 peals, which is obviously incorrect. In unravelling these figures, I find that out of the 29 peals (ten of which were rung almost exclusively by London men, on holiday in the north, at different towers in the two dioceses), there is only to the credit of the association 19, which were mostly rung at Newcastle, Whitley Bay, and North Shields, not by 71 members, but by that number less our friends from London.

The largest number of peals rung by any one member is as under: W. H. Barber, Newcastle Cathedral, 11; J. E. Keen, Newcastle Cathedral, 10; W. L. Goffton, Whitley Bay, 11; T. T. Goffton, Whitley Bay, 10; R. A. Goffton, Whitley Bay, 8; Wm. Story, Newcastle Cathedral, 7; J. A. Goffton, Whitley Bay, 7; E. E. Ferry, St. George's, Newcastle, 7; A. Payne, Newcastle Cathedral, 6; S. Stratford, Whitley Bay, 6; E. Hern, North Shields, 5; W. Shuckford, Newcastle Cathedral, 5; R. Alder Goffton, Whitley Bay, 5; J. W. Parker, Sunderland, 4; J. E. Goffton, Whitley Bay, 4; Joe Rowell, Newcastle Cathedral, 4.

Those members registering less than four peals, in which there are several first attempts, are omitted on account of space. The above list alone is sufficient to emphasise the meaning of the phrase, 'The favoured few who are selected to ring,' and is intended for those whom it may concern.

There is no necessity to advertise, but we are glad to observe that the association is the happy possessor of such a plodding, unselfish, and painstaking secretary. His untiring efforts in search of new recruits, and his excellent results at training a young band of ringers are most praiseworthy; his attitudes and methods when conducting peals are also a revelation. It even surprises those who know him that he has got such a poor opinion of his own capabilities: yet with all the journeys he has made in search of new talent, etc., he prefers to class himself as an 'old fogey.'

Every credit is due to those energetic members who are doing work for the association, but what about the distant towers where there are several ringing members of undoubted ability left in obscurity, and who would welcome and help to still further expand their knowledge, if the chance came their way? But, alas! no, our experts seek their ringing pleasures nearer home, and consequently the feeling arises when any peals are on the carpet that those who are in 'the swim' get the first pickings. At the Newton Hall meeting of the association on the 13th February a very sensible resolution was passed about future meetings, and district secretaries were recommended to confer with each other with a view to avoid clashing. Let us hope much good will result thereby.

Comparisons.—Peals rung in the year 1923-24 were 28 in number, as under (1924-25 show 19 only by the association):—Handbells, 11, by the Goffton family; church bells, 17, rung practically by the same band who took part in 1924-25.

Number of towers where change ringing is possible.—Durham Diocese, 40, in one of which the bells are not hung to ring; Newcastle

Diocese, 25, in one of which the bells are not hung to ring; total, 65. 1923-24.—28 peals rung (including handbells, and Edinburgh Cathedral), spread over 14 churches. 1924-25.—19 peals (excluding 10 rung by London contingent), spread over 11 churches.

The latter, when closely examined, shows that peal ringing in the association is on the wane, with the exception only of the Goffton family.—Yours faithfully,

FAIR-PLAY.

STEDMAN'S 'TINTINNALOGIA.'

To the Editor.

Sir,—Regarding the authorship of the above work, lately questioned by the Rev. H. Drake, in 1880 and 1881 the late Canon Ellacombe published in 'Church Bells' a long list of British and foreign books dealing with bells and ringing. In the issue for December 10th, 1881, appears: 'Tintinnalogia, 1668.—Registered at Stationer's Hall, February 8th, 1667, by Fabian Stedman, SO THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT ABOUT THE AUTHOR. This is the work so highly spoken of by Father Burney in "History of Music," Vol. III., p. 413.'

The capitals are mine, and the sentence shows that Canon Ellacombe accepted the registration as proof of authorship. Perhaps, one of your readers versed in the 'making of books,' will say if it was, and is, necessary for the author and no other to register at Stationer's Hall.

Canon Ellacombe was given the 1671 edition, and compared it with the 1668 himself. He says the books were identical, save the title page, which in the 1671 is worded, 'Printed for F. S., and are to be sold by Tho. Archert at his shop under the Dial of St. Dunstan's Church, Fleet Street, 1671.' What became of Canon Ellacombe's books, and this one in particular?

An interesting point to me is why Stedman should trouble to give the number of changes possible on twelve bells, and also the positions of the semi-tones. Who was the first ringer to consider 12-bell ringing 'practical politics'? We know that York (1681) had the first twelve in the country, followed by St. Bride's (1724), and yet Stedman talks of changes on twelve bells fourteen years or more before a twelve was put up!—Yours truly,

CHAS. E. BORRETT.

12, Grove Avenue, Norwich.

BRIGHTON RINGERS AT DINNER.

ST. NICHOLAS' COMPANY'S ANNUAL GATHERING.

On Tuesday, March 2nd, the annual gathering and supper of the St. Nicholas' Ringers, Brighton, was held at the Pavilion Creamery. The Vicar (the Rev. H. Collinson) presided, with Mr. F. Bennett, Master, as vice-chairman, and supported by Mr. H. Woolley, churchwarden, Mr. J. Jay, secretary, and Mr. P. A. Coard, the oldest ringing member of the society.

After justice had been done to the good things spread by Host Morley, Mr. Bennett read to the company an account of a similar gathering—from 'The Bell News' of 1883—this being previous to the formation of the Sussex County Association, and at which meeting the association was first mooted.

This reading was followed by a musical entertainment and recitations by several of the company; a notable contributor being Mr. P. A. Coard, with songs self accompanied, and recitations.

Mr. J. Jay, Mr. G. Bleach, Mr. D. Hoather, Mr. Simpson, Mr. W. Hart and Mr. E. C. Merritt all contributed to a delightful evening, the songs being accompanied on the piano by Miss Hoather, who also gave several items herself.

The Vicar congratulated the ringers, and thanked them, on his own behalf, and that of many parishioners, for their services on Sundays, and for the assiduity shown in their practices.

This was supplemented by Mr. Churchwarden Woolley, who said that it was one of his greatest pleasures to hear the bells ringing for the Sunday services.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

Nearly 40 members attended a meeting of the North and East District of the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild, held at St. Mary's Church, Islington, on Saturday last. Ringing commenced shortly after 3 o'clock, and a variety of methods were rung. The ringers attended evensong, at which the Vicar officiated. After tea, the business meeting was held, the district vice-president, Mr. W. Pickworth, taking the chair.

Five new members were elected, and Hendon chosen as the venue for the next district meeting, on May 1st. It was also announced that the annual general meeting was fixed for April 10th, at Fulham.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Vicar for the use of the bells; also to Mr. J. Bullock for arranging for the meeting to be held.

Ringing was continued until 8 p.m., and included Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Rob Major, Double Norwich and Cambridge, London and Bristol Surprise.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**YORKTOWN DISTRICT'S SUCCESSFUL MEETING.**

On Saturday week one of the most successful meetings of the Yorktown district was held at Bagshot, and the following towers were represented: Blackwater, Chertsey, Farnborough, Weybridge, Yorktown, and the local band. Ringing took place during the afternoon, and the service was conducted by Canon Stewart, a most interesting address being given by Canon Challacombe, of Farnborough. An excellent tea was served in the new parish hall, admirably prepared by Mr. Nye, and other lady helpers.

At the business meeting, Canon Stewart occupied the chair, supported by Mr. C. Gray, churchwarden, and Mr. E. J. Hickox, organist.

The representatives gave their report of the proceedings at the Central Committee meeting.

Three new members were elected, viz., two from Chertsey and one from Yorktown.

The Ringing Master gave a very encouraging account of the towers and ringing in the district, and a vote of thanks was given to Canon Stewart, Canon Challacombe, Mr. Hickox and Mr. Corbett, who had done everything possible to ensure an enjoyable meeting.

Standard methods were rung during the afternoon and evening.

ISLE OF WIGHT DISTRICT.

The spring quarterly meeting of the Isle of Wight District was held at All Saints' Church, Freshwater, on Saturday, Feb. 27th. About 30 ringers from all parts of the island and several from the mainland were met by the district president, the Rev. H. E. H. Coombes, R.D., Rector of Freshwater, who took an active part in the ringing, conducted the service, and gave an interesting address. The ringers were afterwards entertained to tea in the Parish Hall by the Rector and Mrs. Coombes.

At the business meeting which followed, four probationary members were elected, and the representatives on the Central Committee gave their reports of the general committee meeting held at Winchester on the previous Saturday.

It was resolved to hold the next quarterly meeting at All Saints' Ryde, on Whit Monday, also a combined practice at St. Thomas' Church, Newport, on Thursday evening, April 15th.

The President voiced his pleasure in meeting so many members of the Guild, including those from the mainland, and Mr. G. Preston, hon. secretary of the Christchurch district, responded, on behalf of the visitors. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the president and Mrs. Coombes for their kind hospitality, also to Mr. R. Ridett for presiding at the organ during the service. Touches of Triples and Major were rung on the handbells, and further ringing in Minor methods was afterwards indulged in on the church bells until 8 p.m.

GUILDFORD DISTRICT.

A meeting of the Guildford District was held at Farnham on Feb. 13th, when there was a good attendance, ringers being present from Aldershot, Ash, Cranleigh, Godalming, Guildford (Holy Trinity and St. Nicolas'), Haslemere, Seale, Worplesdon, and Witley, as well as members of the local company. Ringing was indulged in during the afternoon, and a short service was conducted by the Rector (the Rev. J. M. C. Crum), who also gave an address. Forty sat down to tea, and, in the absence of the Rector, the chair was taken by Mr. F. E. Goddard (Rector's warden), supported by Mr. Granger (churchwarden), Major J. H. B. Hesse, Mr. A. C. Hazelden (Ringing Master), Mr. E. Raddon (secretary), and others. Amongst the visitors was Mr. E. B. Richardson, of Brockley, Kent.

At the business meeting which followed, the Ringing Master's report was adopted, and two honorary, two full members, and one probationer were elected.

After the usual vote of thanks to the Rector and wardens, to the organist, and to the members of the local company for making the arrangements, the members again visited the tower, and several touches in various methods were brought round.

PORTSMOUTH DISTRICT AT WICKHAM.

A quarterly meeting was held at Wickham on February 13th, when members and friends, numbering nearly 30, were present from Alverstoke, Bishop's Waltham, Curdridge, Gosport, Hambledon, North Stoneham, Portsmouth (St. Mary's and St. Thomas'), Ringwood, Shedfield, Swanmore and Wickham; also the Master (Mr. G. Williams) and the general secretary, Mr. G. Pullinger. Five full members and two probationers were elected, viz., Messrs. J. Hooker (Hambledon), R. Thorne (Havant), W. Greenwood (Portsea), A. Apps (Bishop's Waltham) and P. W. Burnett (Portsmouth), W. Poole (Hambledon) and S. Rogers (Bishop's Waltham).—It was decided to hold the next meeting at West Moon on May 15th next, due notice of which will appear in 'The Ringing World.'

Mr. R. J. Stone gave a short report on the course of instruction he had concluded at Havant, and Mr. F. A. Burnett reported on his tuition at Hambledon.

(Continued at foot of next Column.)

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.

LONDON.—On Sunday, March 7th, for evening service, at St. Magnus-the-Martyr, City, 1,280 London Surprise Major: S. C. Noye 1, T. H. Taffender 2, C. C. Mayne 3, W. Miller 4, G. A. Card 5, J. R. Gammon 6, E. P. Duffield 7, E. D. Smith 8.

WHITCHURCH, GLAM.—On Sunday, March 7th, for evening service, 720 Plain Bob Minor: Ralph Bailey 1, Jesso Pitcher 2, Jon Bailey 3, Bruce Chew 4, Fred Bailey (conductor) 5, Loo Wright 6.

BRABOURNE, KENT.—On February 28th, for evensong, 720 Kent Treble Bob: L. Finn 1, F. Castle (Elham) 2, P. Pearse 3, S. Finn 4, E. Cheesman 5, A. Castle (Elham), conductor, 6.

HITCHIN.—On Sunday evening, March 7th, at the Parish Church, a quarter-peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major (1,280 changes), in 54 mins.: L. Fidler 1, T. Scott 2, H. W. Else 3, C. V. Hare 4, G. Wolfe 5, J. Hare (conductor) 6, G. T. Croft 7, W. J. Croft 8.

HINCKLEY.—At St. Mary's Church, for evening service, on March 7th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 48 mins.: C. Payne 1, J. Ison 2, P. A. Aldham 3, D. A. Aldham 4, S. White 5, B. Ridgway 6, G. Thompson 7, F. Cotton (conductor) 8. Rung as a birthday compliment to P. A. Aldham.

FULMER, BUCKS.—On Sunday, February 28th, for morning service, 720 Spiced Oxford and Kent Treble Bob Minor: P. Jones 1, Miss P. Moss 2, A. D. Barker (conductor) 3, G. H. Gutteridge 4, Mrs. A. D. Barker 5, F. Corke 6. First 720 of Spiced Minor by ringers of 1, 2, 4 and 6.

OLVESTON, GLOS.—On Sunday, February 28th, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes), in 42 mins.: V. Wills 1, S. Poole 2, H. Robbins 3, G. Capewell (conductor) 4, D. Pitcher 5, T. Fowler 6, W. Brown 7, E. Neale 8. First quarter-peal by ringers of 1 and 8.

DARLINGTON.—On Sunday, February 14th, for evensong, at Holy Trinity Church, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor, in 26 mins.: J. S. Titt 1, Roland Park 2, W. N. Park 3, F. W. Lupton 4, W. H. Porter 5, G. W. Park (conductor) 6. Rung with the bells half-muffled, as a last token of respect for Mrs. Oliver, wife of Mr. W. Oliver, one of the ringers at this church, who died on Feb. 13th.

NOTICES.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—A business meeting will be held on March 20th at St. Mary's, Putney. Tower open from 4 o'clock. Business at 6. Everybody cordially welcomed. — C. F. Mitchell, Hon. Sec., 4, Phene Street, Chelsea.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch. — The next meeting will be held at St. Bartholomew's, Bolton, on Saturday, March 27th. Bells available 3 p.m., meeting 7 p.m.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec., 201, Devonshire Road, Bolton.

HALIFAX & DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.—The next quarterly meeting and an 8-bell contest will be held at Lightcliffe (near Halifax), on Saturday, March 27th. Draw to take place at 2.45 p.m. All those desiring tea must notify me not later than March 22nd. Tea 1/6 each.—L. Hargreaves, Hon. Sec., 30, Banksfield View, Halifax.

(Continued from previous Column.)

Votes of thanks were accorded the Rector of Wickham and the Vicar of Swanmore for kindly placing the bells at the disposal of the members, after which the ringers returned to the towers for further ringing.

During the day, the ringing included Grandsire, Stedman and Erin Doubles, Bob, College Single, Canterbury Pleasure, Grandsire, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Double Court and Cambridge Surprise Minor.

Methods from Grandsire to Bristol Surprise were rung at the meeting of the Winchester District of the Winchester Diocesan Guild held at Bishopstoke on February 6th. Fawley and Diphden were selected for the meeting on May 3rd.

NOTICES.

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

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

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ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—(Established 1637).—Meetings for practice will be held at St. Magnus, on the 18th, *St. Paul's Cathedral on the 23rd; at 7.30. *Business meeting afterwards.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., 'Frodingham,' 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern Division.—The annual meeting will be held at the Cathedral, Sheffield, on Saturday, March 13th. Bells available from 2.30 p.m. Further particulars will be sent by circular to secretaries of towers.—F. Clark, Hon. Sec.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held at Dudley on Saturday, March 13th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Service in church 4.30. Tea and business meeting afterwards.—Herbert Sheppard, Hon. Sec., 113, Himley Road, Dudley.

LADIES' GUILD.—Western District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Mangotsfield on Saturday, March 13th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Service at 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. — N. G. Williams, Hon. Sec., Weston House, Weston, Bath.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Egham on Saturday, March 13th. Bells (8) available at 3 p.m. Short service at 5 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting. All ringers will be heartily welcomed.—Miss N. E. Shorter, Hon. Sec., Ferndene, 15, Russell Road, Walton-on-Thames.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Tarleton Parish Church on Saturday, March 13th. Bells available from 2.30.—Fred Rigby, Branch Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at the Parish Church, Ashton-under-Lyne, on Saturday, March 13th. Bells at liberty 3 o'clock. Meeting 7 p.m. A good attendance is requested.—J. Hall, Branch Sec., 22, Silver Street, Miles Platting, Manchester.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—The next meeting will be held at the Parish Church, St. Anne's-on-Sea, on March 13th. Bells ready 2.30. Business meeting 6 p.m. Subscriptions due.—C. Sharples, Branch Sec., 320, N. Promenade, Blackpool.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—A meeting will be held at Kirbymoorside on Saturday, March 13th. Bells (6) will be available from 2 o'clock.—A. L. Henderson, Mayfield, Pickering.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Kettering Branch.—A special meeting will be held at Barton Seagrave (5) on Saturday, March 13th. Usual arrangements.—R. G. Black, Branch Sec., Geddington.

SOCIETY OF SHERWOOD YOUTHS (Established 1672).—The next meeting of the above will be held at Wollaton on Saturday, March 13th. Tower open 5 p.m. Business meeting 7.30 p.m. All ringers welcome.—F. Blood, Hon. Sec.

LADIES' GUILD.—Central District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Walthamstow, on Saturday, March 13th. Ringing from 3 p.m. Service at 4 p.m., followed by tea and meeting.—Mrs. F. I. Hairs, Hon. Sec., 17, North Side, Clapham Common, S.W.4.

THE LADY BELLRINGERS OF BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT will meet for practice and tea, at St. Peter's Church, Harborne, on Saturday, March 13th. Bells available 3.30 p.m. Gentlemen will be welcomed.—Mrs. Groves, 43, Malvern Road, Handsworth, Birmingham.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—The next branch meeting will be held at Clitheroe on Saturday, March 20th. Bells ready 3 p.m. Meeting 6.30 p.m.—J. Watson, Hon. Branch Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—The annual meeting will be held at Almondbury on Saturday, March 20th. Bells available from 12 noon. Tea will be provided at a charge of 1s. 6d. per head, and all applications for tea tickets must reach Mr. J. E. Carter, 70, Northgate, Almondbury, not later than first post Saturday, March 13th. — F. Hutchinson, Hon. Dis. Sec., Weetwood Lane, Headingley, Leeds.

HERTS COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Next meeting will be held at Northchurch on Saturday, March 20th, when a good attendance is requested. Bells available in the afternoon and evening. Short, attractive service at 4.45 p.m. Tea, kindly provided by the Rector, to those who send in their names to me by the 16th. Please note this. Subscriptions to be in by that date.—W. Ayre, School House, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—The annual meeting of this division will be held at All Saints', Eastbourne, on Saturday, March 20th. Tower open at 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea at 5 p.m. (by the kind invitation of the Rev. G. M. Hanks). Business meeting to follow. St. Saviour's tower will also be open from 6.45 to 8 p.m.—Geo. W. Stokes, Hon. Div. Sec., 22, Melbourne Road, Eastbourne.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Upholland Parish Church on Saturday, March 20th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. A good attendance requested. — James W. Grounds, Sec., 10, School Lane, Standish.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—A meeting will be held at Feltham on Saturday, March 20th. Tower open at 3.15. Cheap tickets issued on the Southern Railway.—W. H. Hollier, Hon. Sec., 29, Duke Road, W.4.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Wotton-under-Edge Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Stone on Saturday, March 20th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. All ringers welcome. Kindly notify me not later than March 16th.—H. G. Phillips, Branch Hon. Sec., Lynch, Berkeley, Glos.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northampton Branch.—A special meeting will be held at Rothamsthorpe on Saturday, March 20th. Bells (5) 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea 5 o'clock. Will all those who require tea please notify me not later than Tuesday, March 16th? —T. Tebbutt, 53, Louise Road, Northampton.

BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Royston on Saturday, March 20th. Bells ready early. Tea will be provided for those who apply to Mr. W. Hemings, Ringer, Royston. All ringers are cordially invited.—C. D. Potter, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—The next meeting of this district will be held at Higham-on-the-Hill on Saturday, March 20th. Bells (6) available from 3.30 p.m. All ringers cordially invited.—W. Cope, Wigston Parva, Hinckley.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch.—The next meeting of the above branch will be held at Highworth on Saturday, March 20th. Bells available at 3 p.m. Those requiring tea please notify me early. — S. Hopper, Branch Hon. Sec., 2, Florence Street, Gorse Hill, Swindon.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Debenham District.—A meeting will be held at Framsdon on Saturday, March 20th. Tea at the Greyhound Inn at 4.30, at a charge of 1s. each. Business meeting to follow. Helmingham bells also available, and it is proposed to ring there first, at 2.30. Names for tea by March 18th will make matters easier. Subscriptions may be paid at this meeting. — W. C. Rumsey, Debenham, Stowmarket.

ROMNEY MARSH GUILD.—The next meeting will be held at Burmarsh on Saturday, March 20th, when the new ring of six will be opened. The bells will be dedicated by the Very Rev. Archdeacon of Maidstone at 3 p.m., and will be available for the afternoon. Tea will be provided at 5.30 p.m., to be followed by meeting and social.—C. W. Franklin, Hon. Sec., 18, Kingsnorth Road, Ashford.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—The first quarterly meeting will be held at St. Peter's, Belgrave, on Saturday, March 27th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Tea in the Parish Rooms at 5 p.m., for those who advise me not later than Thursday, March 25th. Business meeting in Talbot Inn at 7.30. A good attendance is requested.—Alban Disney, Local Hon. Sec., Belgrave Vicarage, Leicester.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—The annual meeting will be held at Sherburn-in-Elmet on Saturday, March 27th. Bells (8) available from 1 p.m. Short service at 4.15 p.m., followed by tea, at 1s. 3d. per head. Applications for tea tickets to be made to Mr. G. Thornton, Church House, Sherburn-in-Elmet, not later than Wednesday, March 24th. For further particulars see circular.—A. B. Cook, Hon. Dis. Sec., 58, Wyndham Street, Hull.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rossendale Branch.—The next branch meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Rawtenstall, on Saturday, March 27th. Bells ready 3.30. Meeting at 7. A good muster of members is expected to be present. Subscriptions due. Reports to hand.—John H. Haydock, Branch Sec., 31, St. Paul's Street, Ramsbottom.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Clare District.—A meeting will be held at Clare on Saturday, March 27th. Bells (8) available from 2 o'clock. Meeting in Vestry at 4.30 p.m. A good attendance is hoped for. — W. Underwood, Assistant Dis. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held on Easter Monday at Burton-on-Trent. Bells of St. Paul's (10), St. Modwen's (8) and Winshill (6) will be available all day (except during the

time of association service). Committee meeting at 3 p.m. in St. Paul's Institute. A short service will be held at St. Paul's at 4 p.m., at which the Rev. H. E. Worthington, M.A., R.D. (Rector of Seales) will preach. Collection for Bell Repair Fund, and it is hoped all members will attend. Meat tea will be served in St. Paul's Institute at 5 p.m., followed by the general meeting. All intending to be present at tea (1s. 6d. each) must advise Mr. Ronald H. Dove, 128, Station Street, Burton-on-Trent, on or before March 29th.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Secretary.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Preliminary Notice.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Lawrence, Thanet, on Easter Monday, April 5th. Service at 12. Dinner at the Ramsgate Commercial Hotel 1.30 p.m. Business meeting after dinner. The Rev. H. A. Serres (Birchington) invites members to tea (5.30 p.m.). Those who wish to accept must send a postcard direct to him before April 1st. For dinner tickets apply to the secretary before March 31st.—Fred J. O. Helmore, Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, Canterbury.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual general committee meeting will be held in the Chapter House, Christchurch, Oxford, on Saturday, April 10th. Notice of motion should reach secretary at least ten days before that date.—Richard T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preliminary Notice.—A general meeting of the Yorkshire Association will be held at Knaresborough on Easter Monday, April 5th. Bells (8) available throughout the day. Further details later.—P. J. Johnson, Hon. Gen. Sec., 396, Meanwood Road, Leeds.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Painswick, Glos., on Easter Monday, April 5th. Cold luncheon 2s. 3d. Tea 1s. 3d. Management Committee meeting at 11 a.m. Service 12.15 noon. General business meeting 2.30 p.m. Tea afterwards. Charabancs from Bristol will pick up en route, if convenient. Fare 5s. 6d. Early notification for luncheon, tea or charabanc should be given.—Edgar Guise, Hon. Sec., 39, Tankard's Close, St. Michael's, Bristol.

COALBROOKDALE BELLS.—The Lord Bishop of Hereford will (D.V.) dedicate the two new trebles at the official opening on Saturday afternoon, April 17th. All ringers will be most welcome, and special arrangements will be made for all ringers to have a pull. Complete bands, from Plain to Surprise methods, will be given every opportunity, so that the bells may be heard at their best during the afternoon and evening. There is exceptionally good train service from Shrewsbury and Wellington. Train leaves Coalbrookdale 8.15 Saturday evening. Midland bus runs to and from Wellington Saturday nights from Coalbrookdale 6.5, 8.45 and 10.55. Sunday service, from Wellington 11 a.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. From Coalbrookdale, 12.45, 4.25, 6.25, 8.25 and 9.47 p.m. All the above connect at Wellington for Shrewsbury. Lodgings can be booked at Coalbrookdale if arrangements are made in good time. G.W. trains leave Coalbrookdale for Wellington on week days 6.20, 7.20 and 9 a.m.—All ringers who propose visiting Coalbrookdale should write to William Saunders, Institution House, Coalbrookdale, Salop.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Mr. D. J. Nichols has, owing to his continued illness, had to resign the office of general secretary of the above Guild. The Central Committee have appointed the undersigned to act until the annual meeting, and all correspondence should now be sent to R. G. Black, Stamford Road, Geddington, near Kettering.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Mr. A. Paddon Smith, hon. sec. of St. Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham, has removed to 'Donnor,' Wellington Road, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham.

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Printed for the Proprietor by the Woodbridge Press, Ltd., Guildford, and Published by The Bells House Publishing Co., Ltd., Broom's Buildings, London, E.C.4.