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BOOKS FOR BEGINNERS.

The suggestion made by a speaker at Birmingham, on the occasion of the recent gathering there, that ringing books should be brought up to date, is one that deserves more than passing attention. There really is something to be desired in this direction, particularly in those books intended for the beginner. In the past the productions have been rather promiscuous, and despite the fairly considerable number of volumes which have appeared in connection with our art, from the 'Tintinnalogia' of nearly three hundred years ago, onwards, most people who have studied the question feel that there is still something lacking. Early authors endeavoured to give their readers in one volume all they knew about change ringing, but much of what they sought to convey was vaguely expressed and little of it was simply explained. Certainly these old books are inadequate to the requirements of modern ideas.

Later writers, who have tried to simplify the instruction have had to limit the scope of the subject dealt with, and elaboration of detail has resulted generally in restricting each volume to one particular method, with the result that the beginner who, for instance, gets hold of 'Ropesight' finds himself with information about nothing but Plain Bob. Now, one of the things which is discountenanced in these days is the ringing of Bob Doubles and Bob Triples, and to that extent 'Ropesight,' excellent as it is in the rudimentary instruction which it supplies, does not meet modern requirements even as a purely elementary treatise. Other books go out to deal exhaustively with all there is to be said about some particular method, with abstruse chapters on theories and proofs, which, of course, are absolutely beyond the comprehension of the beginner. It is well that these things should be available to all who desire to study them, but they do not help the beginner. His anxiety is to be able to grasp half pull ringing, and to go on from method to method by steady and almost imperceptible steps, without being burdened with indigestible treatises on points which, in his early days, he cannot be expected to understand.

In suggesting that ringing books should be brought up to date we do not think the speaker at Birmingham meant that someone should go through existing publications with a blue pencil, or bring editorial scissors and paste into action, but that the time had arrived when the beginner should have at his disposal a lucidly written, carefully planned, and skilfully arranged book which will guide him through the methods by the same easy stages that a schoolboy is led into the science of mathematics. What is wanted is a book which not merely lays down rules, or jumps from Grandsire to Stedman, as if they are

(Continued on page 130)

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consecutive steps in the progress of ringing; or from Treble Bob to Superlative as if there were no relation between the methods so far as the ringing of them is concerned. We should like to see a book which devoted itself to instructing the beginner in simple language and taking him from rounds to London Surprise on a plan which would show him each new step in relation to all that had gone before it, in a gradually developing scheme of progression, and leaving out all mention of conducting and composition, which might well be made the subject of a second book written on the same lines. There are one or two men in the Exercise who could write such a book, but it is almost too much to hope that either of them will undertake so big a task. If they did so, however, it would be an invaluable contribution to our art.

TEN BELL PEALS.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, February 27, 1927, in Three Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 6008 CHANGES;

Tenor 21½ cwt. in E.

HAROLD J. POOLE	Treble	LESLIE WILLIAMS	6
HERBERT NEEDHAM	2	PERCY HARRISON	7
JOSIAH MORRIS	3	WILLIAM WILLSON	8
CYRIL HOWITT	4	ALFRED MARTIN	9
E. HARRY STONELEY	5	THOMAS TAYLOR	Tenor

Composed and Conducted by WILLIAM WILLSON.

Rung to commemorate the dedication and hallowing of the Cathedral by the Lord Bishop of Leicester and his Grace the Primate of Canterbury. The ringer of the 3rd belongs to St. Margaret's, 5th to Stoke Golding, 6th to South Wigston, 8th to St. John-the-Divine, and the remainder to St. Martin's company.

LOUGHBOROUGH.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 26, 1927, in Three Hours and Nineteen Minutes.

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5019 CHANGES;

Tenor 30½ cwt. in D flat.

WALTER P. WHITEHEAD	Treble	FREDERICK S. PRICE	6
LEONARD H. WHITEHEAD	2	FREDERICK A. SALTER	7
JAMES S. HUTCHBY	3	EDWARD C. GOBEY	8
*PERCIVAL A. ALDHAM	4	PERCIVAL PRICE	9
†J. FREDERICK MILNER	5	JOHN GRANT	Tenor

Composed and Conducted by WALTER P. WHITEHEAD.

* First peal on ten bells and first attempt. † 50th peal. A birthday compliment to J. Grant. Rung after meeting short for Treble Ten.

BURTON-ON-TRENT, STAFFS.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 26, 1927, in Three Hours and Thirty-Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAUL,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 28 cwt. 2 qr. 9 lb. in D flat.

MAURICE SWINFELD	Treble	HARRY MORGAN	6
SHIRLEY BURTON	2	PERCY HARRISON	7
MISS PEYLLIS HARE	3	EDWARD R. WHITEHEAD	8
*C. FERGUSON HOWITT	4	ERNEST MORRIS	9
E. HARRY STONELEY	5	FREDERICK H. DEXTER	Tenor

Composed by JOHN A. BURFORD. Conducted by ERNEST MORRIS.

* First of Cambridge Surprise Royal. The composition is now rung for first time.

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EIGHT BELL PEALS.

PULFORD, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, February 5, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 9 cwt. 3 qr. 10 lb.

GEORGE R. JONES Treble	JOHN HAYES 5
ROBERT SPERRING 2	JAMES SWINDLEY 6
HARRY F. HOLDING 3	SAMUEL JONES, JUN. 7
HAROLD EDWARDS 4	JAMES H. RIDING Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by ROBERT SPERRING.

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, February 14, 1927, in Two Hours and Eighteen Minutes,

AT THE BELL FOUNDRY CAMPANILE,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

WASHBROOK'S VARIATION OF THURSTANS'.

Tenor 6 cwt. 2 qr. 13 lb. in B.

WALTER P. WHITEHEAD ... Treble	E. HARRY STONELEY ... 5
LEONARD H. WHITEHEAD ... 2	JAMES GEORGE ... 6
ERNEST MORRIS ... 3	FREDERICK A. SALTER ... 7
JAMES S. HUTCHESBY ... 4	RICHARD GRANT ... Tenor

Conducted by WALTER P. WHITEHEAD.

This peal was specially arranged for Mr. James George, of Birmingham, and rung for the 38th anniversary of his first peal (February 16th, 1889). A birthday compliment to Miss Dorothy Belton, daughter of Mr. C. R. Belton, of Barwell; also in honour of St. Valentine's Day.

TARPORLEY, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD

On Saturday, February 19, 1927, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. HELEN,

A PEAL OF BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 10½ cwt.

ROBERT SPERRING Treble	GEORGE R. JONES 5
*JOHN W. DAVIES 2	HENRY W. WILDE 6
JOHN HAYES 3	JAMES MORGAN 7
*JAMES H. RIDING 4	SAMUEL JONES, JUN. Tenor

Composed by THOS. POLLITT. Conducted by ROBERT SPERRING.

* First peal in the method. First peal in the method by a resident band. First peal in the method on the bells.

EARL SHILTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 19, 1927, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. SIMON AND JUDE,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 12 cwt.

C. HARRY WEBB Treble	T. HARRY WRIGHT 5
*THOMAS K. DEACON 2	FRED COTTON 6
PERCY A. ALDHAM 3	ERNEST MORRIS 7
*GEORGE NEWTON 4	JAMES F. CLARKE, JUN. Tenor

Composed by WM. HYDE INGLESANT. Conducted by E. MORRIS.

* First peal in the method. Rung on the eve of the hallowing of the Cathedral Church of St. Martin, to commemorate the restoration of the diocese of Leicester.

SAMBLESBURY, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 19, 1927, in Three Hours and Eleven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LEONARD-THE-LESS.

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

ARTHUR TOMLINSON Treble	*FURNES WOODEND 5
MISS M. CLAYTON 2	FRED HINDLE 6
THOS. WILSON 3	WILLIAM ROBINSON 7
*EDWIN JENNINGS 4	JOHN BROWN Tenor

Composed by J. BARKER.

Conducted by A. TOMLINSON.

* First peal of Major. Ringers of 1, 3 and 6 hail from Blackburn, 2 and tenor from Hoghton, and the rest from the Furness Branch.

STAPLEFORD, CAMBS.—On February 23rd, 720 each of Cuneacastle Surprise and Berwick Surprise: R. Jordan 1, Miss K. Willers 2, A. E. Austin 3, W. A. Tack 4, E. H. Finch 5, R. Howard (conductor) 6. First in the method by all.

EDINBURGH.

THE ST. CUTHBERT'S SOCIETY.

On Saturday, February 19, 1927, in Three Hours,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. CUTHBERT,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

*PARKER'S TWELVE PART.

Tenor 21 cwt. in E. Bal.

*ANNIE I. WHITSON Treble	(T. MOIRHEAD) JINKINS ... 5
*MAY S. TAYLOR 2	*WILLIAM C. G. JINKINS ... 6
WILLIAM C. S. HEATHCOTE 3	HENRY MANN 7
C. CLEVELAND ELLIS ... 4	DAVID STOCKS Tenor

Conducted by C. CLEVELAND ELLIS.

* First peal of Grandsire. † First peal in any method.

ANSTEE, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 19, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

WASHBROOK'S VARIATION OF THURSTANS'. Tenor 9½ cwt. in G.

ALBAN DISNEY Treble	HARRY MORGAN 5
LEONARD H. WHITEHEAD ... 2	*WALTER P. WHITEHEAD ... 6
EDWARD R. WHITEHEAD ... 3	WILLIAM H. CLARKE ... 7
E. HARRY STONELEY 4	MISS MARY L. CUFFLIN ... Tenor

Conducted by WALTER P. WHITEHEAD.

* 150th peal. Rung in honour of the hallowing of the restored Leicester diocese (February 21st—28th).

GRAVESEND, KENT.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Saturday, February 19, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 10½ cwt.

CHALLIS F. WINNEY Treble	PERCY E. CLARK 5
EVERED J. WALSON 2	ALAN R. MACDONALD 6
EDWARD J. BEER 3	HORACE BELCHER 7
EDWARD HARRIS 4	GEORGE MORRARD Tenor

Conducted by C. F. WINNEY.

A birthday compliment to Mr. W. H. Hollier.

LONG MELFORD, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Sunday, February 20, 1927, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 15 cwt. 8 lb. in F.

HARRY S. RICHOLD Treble	ARTHUR MAXIM 5
SAMUEL EVANS 2	ALBERT CATTERWELL 6
PERCY GRIDLEY 3	CHARLES G. BIXBY 7
THOMAS CHINERY 4	GRANVILLE C. BIXBY Tenor

Composed by P. O. BIXBY. Conducted by GRANVILLE C. BIXBY.

First peal as conductor, and rung as a birthday compliment to the ringer of the sixth. It is the fastest peal ever rung in the tower.

WOBURN, BEDS.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, February 21, 1927, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 24 cwt. 1 qr. 16 lb. in D.

WILLIAM A. JAMES Treble	CYRIL HERBERT 5
ALBERT FLEET 2	ERNEST HERBERT 6
ARTHUR MARKWELL 3	EDMUND J. HORBS 7
DOUGLAS HARRIS 4	HORACE H. SMITH Tenor

Composed by GABRIEL LINDBOFF. Conducted by EDMUND J. HORBS.

First peal in the method by all except the treble ringer. Also the first peal of London on the bells, and by the association. Rung as a birthday compliment to his Grace the Duke of Bedford, K.G., the generous donor of the bells.

EXETER.—The following members of the Cathedral band attempted a peal of Stedman Triples on the bells of St. David's, which, however, did not prove successful. A quarter of Grandsire Triples was brought round in 44 mins. by members stationed as follows: J. Harris 1, J. Arbury 2, T. Bartlett 3, J. Oke 4, F. Davey 5, T. Laver 6, G. Betts (cond.) 7, J. Sandover 8.—On Jan. 10th, to commemorate 27th anniversary of opening of St. David's Church, an attempt was made to ring a peal of Stedman Triples, which, however, did not prove successful. A well-struck quarter-peal in the same method was brought round in 44 mins. by the following band: J. Sandover 1, J. Arbury 2, W. Lethbridge 3, T. Laver 4, G. Betts 5, C. Glass 6, F. J. Davey (conductor) 7, A. Webber 8. Thurstans' composition.

SYSTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, February 21, 1927, in Three Hours and Eleven Minutes.

At the Church of SS. Peter and Paul.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.

Tenor 15½ cwt.

JOHN A. PAYNE Treble	GEORGE T. H. WALKER ... 5
ARTHUR H. MANSFIELD ... 2	*T. HARRY LEWIN ... 6
THOMAS H. PAYNE ... 3	ERNEST F. PAYNE ... 7
FRANK W. PAYNE ... 4	WALTER WRIGHT ... Tenor

Conducted by A. H. MANSFIELD.

* First peal of Triples. First peal of Triples as conductor. Rung on the occasion of the hallowing of the Cathedral of the new diocese of Leicester. All the band are local Sunday service ringers.

SUNDERLAND, DURHAM.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, February 23, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes.

At the Church of St. Ignatius-the-Martyr.

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt.

FRANK AINSLEY Treble	HAROLD B. DITCHBURN ... 5
GEORGE S. TAYLOR ... 2	JOHN J. LEIGHTON ... 6
MICHAEL F. HARRISON ... 3	JOSEPH W. PARKER ... 7
ROBERT WALKER ... 4	ROBERT L. PATTERSON ... Tenor

Composed and Conducted by JOSEPH W. PARKER.

Rung to commemorate the 14th anniversary of the augmentation of the bells to eight, and also as a birthday compliment to R. L. Patterson, and to T. Stephenson, now of Rickmansworth.

NORTHLEACH, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, February 24, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes.

At the Parish Church.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

GROVES' TRANSPOSITION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 18½ cwt.

JOHN W. SLY Treble	HARRY BARRETT ... 5
JAMES MUSTOE ... 2	WILLIAM CLAYTON ... 6
ROBERT WESTMACOTT ... 3	CHARLES WESTMACOTT ... 7
JOHN C. ACOCK ... 4	JOHN COOK ... Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES WESTMACOTT.

This peal was specially arranged to welcome the new Vicar, the Rev. Harold Hodson, M.C. All are Sunday service ringers.

LONG STANTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 26, 1927, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes.

At the Church of All Saints.

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 7 cwt. 2 qr. 11 lb.

THE REV. H. B. WOOLLEY Treble	CHARLES W. COOK ... 5
MISS CATHERINE FIELDS ... 2	FRANK WARRINGTON ... 6
ARTHUR J. ABRAMS ... 3	HERBERT FIELDS ... 7
FRANCIS G. CLEAVES ... 4	ALFRED G. RIVERS ... Tenor

Composed by W. HARRISON. Conducted by FRANK WARRINGTON.

First peal of Treble Bob Major as conductor.

LAWTON, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, February 26, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes.

At the Church of All Saints.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

TAYLOR'S SIX-PART.

Tenor 8½ cwt.

*ROBERT ARROWSMITH ... Treble	JOHN BOOTH ... 5
JOSEPH A. COOK ... 2	WILLIAM RIGBY ... 6
WALTER LONGMAN ... 3	GEORGE BIDDOLPH ... 7
THOMAS ARROWSMITH ... 4	ALEC BOOTH ... Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM RIGBY.

* First peal on eight. Rung for the dedication of the war memorial, which takes the form of a new porch at the church; also in memory of Donald Booth and Thomas Rigby, ringers at the above church, who fell in the war. A. Booth was made a member previous to starting the peal.

MITCHAM, SURREY.—At Christ Church, on Sunday, February 13th, for evening service, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: H. Allen 1, W. Crossley 2, A. Miller 3, J. W. Parslow 4, G. Pidwell 5, W. H. Joiner (conductor) 6.

RANMORE, SURREY.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, February 26, 1927, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes.

At the Church of St. Barnabas.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 20 cwt. 2 qr. 14 lb. in E.

*MISS JESSIE M. MELVILLE Treble	C. ERNEST SMITH ... 5
MISS HILDA MILLS ... 2	WILLIAM R. MELVILLE ... 6
JOHN T. SCOTT ... 3	ALFRED H. PULLING ... 7
JOHN A. COLE ... 4	WILLIAM J. ROBINSON ... Tenor

Conducted by ALFRED H. PULLING.

* First peal and rung at the first attempt. Mr. A. H. Pulling's 800th peal as conductor.

LUTTERWORTH, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 26, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes.

At the Wycliffe Church of St. Mary.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

TAYLOR'S SIX-PART.

Tenor 14½ cwt.

*A. JOHN TIMSON ... Treble	ERNEST H. BAGWORTH ... 5
†ALFRED G. GRANT ... 2	ERNEST W. TIPLER ... 6
NORMAN S. BAGWORTH ... 3	JOSEPH H. BEALE ... 7
†RICHARD J. JACKSON ... 4	*FREDERICK PERRY ... Tenor

Conducted by ERNEST W. TIPLER.

* First peal. † First in the method. First as conductor. First attempt in each case. Ringers of treble and tenor were elected members before starting. Rung to celebrate the hallowing of the new diocese of Leicester.

TOTTENHAM, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, February 26, 1927, in Three Hours and Forty-Nine Minutes.

At the Church of All Hallows.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PITSTOW'S VARIATION.

Tenor 20 cwt.

*H. W. H. STRICKLAND ... Treble	GEORGE R. PYE ... 5
HENRY A. BARNETT ... 2	CHARLES T. COLES ... 6
WILLIAM J. ELLIS ... 3	WILLIAM PYE ... 7
†JOHN G. NASH ... 4	EBENEZER A. HULL ... Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES T. COLES.

* First peal in the method. † First peal of Triples, and first in the method.

BINGHAM, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

(SOUTHERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, February 26, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes.

At the Church of All Saints.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

BROOKS' VARIATION.

Tenor 15 cwt.

WILLIAM THORPE ... Treble	ERNEST NIDD ... 5
HARRY THORPE ... 2	*ARTHUR WARD ... 6
ARTHUR MACEARS ... 3	SIDNEY PROCTOR ... 7
*HARRY HAYNES ... 4	*HARRY SQUIRES ... Tenor

Conducted by SIDNEY PROCTOR.

* First peal of Stedman. Rung on Arthur Ward's birthday, also as a farewell to Mr. J. Thorpe, brother of the ringers of treble and 2nd bells, who sailed for America on the above date.

CLEVEDON, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 26, 1927, in Three Hours and Five Minutes.

At the Church of St. Andrew.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

GROVES' TRANSPOSITION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 14 cwt. 2 qr.

A. PARKER ... Treble	R. G. WILLIAMS ... 5
T. WYATT ... 2	J. T. DYKE ... 6
L. H. MOORE ... 3	THOMAS F. KING ... 7
W. G. NIPPER ... 4	H. HAWKER ... Tenor

Conducted by J. T. DYKE.

First peal for the ringers of treble and tenor, who are both members of the newly-formed local band. This peal was rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. T. E. Francis, captain of the local band.

SKIPTON, YORKSHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 26, 1927, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,
At the Church of the Holy Trinity,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 22 cwt.

FRED HINDLE Treble	WILLIAM H. HUNTER... .. 5
JAMES HARRISON... .. 2	WILLIAM E. WILSON... .. 6
THOMAS WILSON... .. 3	ARTHUR TOMLINSON 7
RENNIE HARTLEY 4	JOHN BROWN... .. Tenor

Conducted by A. TOMLINSON.

First peal of Stedman on bells. R. Hartley's 50th peal.

ERITH, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 26, 1927, in Six Hours and Thirty-Six Minutes,
At the Church of St. John-the-Baptist,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 11008 CHANGES;

Tenor 18 cwt.

HERBERT E. AUDSLEY ... Treble	GEORGE GILBERT 5
JOHN WHEADON 2	HENRY T. WILSON 6
JOHN H. CHEESMAN 3	FRED. J. CUNNINGHAM, JUN. 7
JAMES GEORGE 4	GEORGE H. DAYNES Tenor

Composed by JOSEPH W. PARKER. Conducted by JOHN H. CHEESMAN

MELLS, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 26, 1927, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,
At the Church of St. Andrew,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.

Tenor 26 cwt.

EDWARD G. L. COWARD ... Treble	RONALD G. BECK... .. 5
WILLIAM C. SHUTE 2	REGINALD F. BECK 6
ERIC C. WADMAN 3	GILBERT H. HARDING 7
FRED A. COWARD... .. 4	WILLIAM KEATS Tenor

Conducted by GILBERT H. HARDING.

SIX BELL PEALS.

WORTH, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, February 16, 1927, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,
At the Church of St. Nicholas,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being three 720's of Plain Bob and two each of Canterbury Pleasure
and Kent Treble Bob. Tenor 8½ cwt.

GEORGE ELLIS Treble	ALFRED J. BULL 4
CHARLES H. SURRIDGE ... 2	CECIL NICE 5
NELSON ELLIOTT... .. 3	OLIVER SIPPETTS... .. Tenor

Conducted by O. SIPPETTS.

BLOFIELD, NORFOLK.

THE NORFOLK GUILD.

On Saturday, February 19, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,
At the Church of St. Andrew,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Comprising seven different extents.

Tenor 19 cwt. in F.

*ROBERT BARBER... .. Treble	*ROBERT W. BARBER... .. 4
*ERNEST E. GEDGE 2	ERNEST V. BLAKE 5
HANBURY F. CARTER ... 3	F. NOLAN GOLDEN Tenor

Conducted by F. N. GOLDEN.

* First peal. These were nominated as candidates for election previous to starting the peal.

BOURTON-ON-THE-HILL, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

THE FOUR SHIRES GUILD.

On Saturday, February 19, 1927, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,
At the Parish Church,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores, with ten different callings.

Tenor 14 cwt.

P.S. E. ASTON Treble	J. GARDNER... .. 4
W. COLEMAN 2	W. LARGE 5
C. GRIMES 3	*A. CROSS Tenor

Conducted by W. LARGE.

* First peal.

TEMPLECOMBE, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 19, 1927, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,
At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores, with ten different callings.

Tenor 12½ cwt.

RICHARD DAVIS Treble	WILLIAM C. SHUTE 4
EDWARD G. L. COWARD ... 2	FRED A. COWARD... .. 5
WILLIAM COOMBS 3	EDGAR COOK... .. Tenor

Conducted by FRED A. COWARD.

First peal and first attempt by ringers of treble (aged 15), third (aged 16), and tenor, who belong to the local company, and who have only recently commenced ringing. First peal as conductor.

WOOD GREEN, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, February 19, 1927, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,
At the Church of St. Michael,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 720's.

Tenor 10½ cwt.

FREDERICK CHERITT... .. Treble	PHILIP BLAKE 4
HERBERT J. ELDERD 2	BERTRAM TUBE 5
FREDERICK TUBE... .. 3	FREDERICK BARKER Tenor

Conducted by FREDERICK BARKER.

Ringers of treble, 3, 4, 5 and tenor belong to Finchley band, and H. J. Eldred hails from Barnet.

KINGSLAND, HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

(LEOMINSTER DISTRICT.)

On Saturday, February 19, 1927, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
At the Parish Church,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

With ten different callings.

Tenor 14 cwt.

W. L. JONES... .. Treble	W. H. JAINE... .. 4
CHRIS. LAW 2	F. A. JAINE 5
J. GREEN 3	J. JONES... .. Tenor

Conducted by F. A. JAINE.

This peal was rung as a token of respect to the memory of the late Mr. D. Hammond, for many years sexton of the above tower, who passed away at the ripe old age of 90, and was interred in the Parish Churchyard on the Sunday previous.

BURWARTON, SHROPSHIRE.

THE SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, February 20, 1927, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes,
At the Church of St. Lawrence,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

A. J. PITMAN'S ARRANGEMENT.

Tenor 11 cwt.

*JAMES J. PRICE Treble	WILLIAM MAPP 4
WILLIAM J. BENIAMS ... 2	GEORGE RANDLE... .. 5
JAMES P. HYETT 3	ARTHUR C. NASON Tenor

Conducted by J. P. HYETT.

* First peal and proposed a member before starting. The conductor was elected a life member in the tower. The ringers were afterwards invited to an excellent tea at the Vicarage, by the kindness of the Rev. Parker.

HORSMONDEN, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, February 20, 1927, in Three Hours,
At the Church of St. Margaret.

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven different 720's.

Tenor 19½ cwt.

ALAN BROMLEY Treble	REGINALD E. LAMBERT ... 4
FREDERICK J. LAMBERT, SEN. 2	FREDERICK J. LAMBERT, JUN. 5
GEORGE BURT 3	ROBERT T. LAMBERT Tenor

Conducted by ROBERT T. LAMBERT.

Rung as a 60th birthday compliment to Mr. F. J. Lambert, sen. First peal of Surprise Minor by all the band, also on the bells. First peal on the bells since they were returned and rehung by Messrs. John Taylor and Co.

DEVIZES.—On Wednesday, February 23rd, at St. Mary's Church, 720 Bob Minor: E. G. Swift 1, S. Sutton 2, W. A. Swift (conductor) 3, G. England 4, C. D. Heginbotham 5, S. Hillier 6; and at St. James' Church, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: S. Hillier 1, S. Sutton 2, W. A. Swift (conductor) 3, E. G. Swift 4, C. D. Heginbotham 5, F. Green 6.

HIGHAM-ON-THE-HILL, LEICESTERSHIRE. THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, February 21, 1927, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER, A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 Single Court and two 720's each Plain Bob, Oxford Bob and Double Oxford. Tenor 10 cwt. 3 qr. 8 lb.

*A. E. CLAYFIELD Treble	†H. V. ROWLEY 4
*E. POLLEN 2	†W. H. J. HOOTON 5
†K. R. GILLIVER 3	A. E. ROWLEY Tenor

Conducted by A. E. ROWLEY.

* First peal. † First in four methods. Rung to celebrate the hallowing of the new diocese of Leicester. All the ringers taking part are Sunday service ringers.

BARLEY, HERTS. THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION. (THE BARLEY SOCIETY.)

On Tuesday, February 22, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's of Woodbine, two 720's of Oxford and three 720's of Kent Treble Bob. Tenor 8 cwt.

ALBERT HOWARD Treble	WALTER MANSFIELD 4
*FRANK HAYES 2	HARRY HOWARD 5
WILLIAM A. TACK 3	ROBERT HOWARD Tenor

Conducted by ROBERT HOWARD.

* First peal inside.

DUSTON, NORTHANTS. THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD. (NORTHAMPTON BRANCH.)

On Thursday, February 24, 1927, in Two Hours and Forty-One Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LUKE,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Consisting of seven different 720's.

PERCY AMOS Treble	*ERNEST SIBLEY 4
GEORGE PARKER 2	JOHN DOVE 5
*ALFRED PICKFORD 3	THOMAS WISE Tenor

Conducted by THOMAS WISE.

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

GREAT BARR, STAFFORDSHIRE. THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.

On Saturday, February 26, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 720's. Tenor 12 cwt. (approx.) in G.

WILLIAM DAVIES Treble	MORRIS J. MORRIS 4
RICHARD C. INGRAM 2	GEORGE F. SWANN 5
FRED PRICE 3	FREDERICK W. RISHWORTH Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE F. SWANN.

First peal of Cambridge Minor by all the band, on the bells and by the Guild. Messrs. M. J. Morris and G. F. Swann have now completed the circle of Cambridge on 6, 8, 10 and 12 bells.

SHAUGH PRIOR, DEVONSHIRE. THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

On Saturday, February 26, 1927, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. EDWARD-THE-KING-AND-MARTYR,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 720's, each called differently. Tenor 17 cwt.

*GEORGE GODARD Treble	THOMAS G. MYERS 4
JAMES E. LILLEY 2	CHARLES R. LILLEY 5
†ROBERT J. BALDRY 3	JOSEPH WOODLEY Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES R. LILLEY.

* First peal. † First peal away from treble. First peal on the bells.

PEAL BOARD UNVEILED.

At Shepshed, Leicestershire, on Saturday, February 12th, a peal board, kindly given by Mr. C. G. Harriman, churchwarden, and an esteemed tradesman of the town, was unveiled, the dedication service being conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. D. E. K. Llewellyn.

In celebration of the event a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung by: H. Lacy 1, G. Butler 2, J. Saddington 3, H. Kirby 4, W. Thorley 5, E. Beadsmoor 6, W. Fern (conductor) 7, T. Hill 8.

HARTPUR, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION

On Saturday, February 26, 1927, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN, A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven different 720's. Tenor 14½ cwt.

GEORGE L. BRUNSDON ... Treble	THOMAS BALDWIN 4
WILLIAM H. HARRIS 2	EX-SGT. J. WILLIAMS 5
JESSE GILLET 3	JOHN AUSTIN Tenor

Conducted by JOHN AUSTIN.

First peal on the bells since rehanging by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston. Ex-Sergt. J. Williams' 100th peal.

HANDBELL PEALS.

LEEDS, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, February 15, 1927, in Two Hours and Twenty-Seven Minutes,

AT 396, MEANWOOD ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERPILERS, 5003 CHANGES;

FRED HODGSON 1-2	PERCY J. JOHNSON 5-6
WILLIAM BARTON 3-4	JOHN AMBLER 7-8
H. STANLEY ROBINSON 9-10.	

Composed by W. T. ELSON. Conducted by PERCY J. JOHNSON.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, February 18, 1927, in Two Hours and Twenty-One Minutes,

IN ST. MARGARET'S BELFRY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

WASHBROOK'S VARIATION OF THURSTANS'. Tenor size 17 in A.

WALTER P. WHITEHEAD ... 1-2	ERNEST MORRIS 5-6
EDWARD R. WHITEHEAD ... 3-4	*HARRY MORGAN 7-8

Conducted by WALTER P. WHITEHEAD.

* First peal of Triples in hand.

DEVON GUILD.

The quarterly meeting of the Exeter Branch took place at Broadclyst, on Saturday, in very inclement weather. The bells of Broadclyst (eight), Sowton (eight), Honiton Clist (eight), Pinhoe (six), and Poltimore (six), were rung by members of the Exeter, East Devon and South-West Devon branches. A very hearty service at Broadclyst, conducted by Rev. T. E. McCormick, was attended by 61 members. An excellent address, in which it was pointed out that bellringers had a three-fold mission of calling to worship, expressing sympathy with the bereaved, and joy with the wedded, was listened to with attention. The Vicar also remarked that at a parish in Somerset from which he came the beautiful tenor bell bore the unique inscription, 'Hark, how I call; prepare your heart to come to the house of God and the Kingdom of His Son.'

Tea and a business meeting followed, at which the opinion was expressed that the attendance would have been larger if the day had been finer. The re-opening of Alphington bells, near Exeter, had also attracted some members.

Grandsire, Stedman and Bob Major were rung at Broadclyst, and it is hoped the meeting will induce the local ringers to become members of the Guild. In the evening, some members proceeded to Bradninch and others to Alphington.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

NEWBURY BRANCH.

A meeting of the Newbury branch was held at Beedon on Saturday, February 19th, when 27 members were present from Bucklebury, Newbury, Shaw, East Isley, Peasemore, Yattendon, Brightwalton, Tilehurst, Abingdon, and the local band. The service was taken by the Vicar (the Rev. L. H. Coles), who gave a very interesting address. Tea was served at the Vicarage by Mrs. L. H. Coles. Among those present were the Rev. L. R. Majendie (chairman of the branch) and Mr. H. W. Curtis (hon. secretary and treasurer). The Chairman referred to the death of the Rev. C. L. Jeayes, of Peasemore, an hon. member of the Guild, all standing for a few moments as a token of respect.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Rev. L. H. Coles for his address, also the organist (Mrs. W. Wells), and Mrs. L. H. Coles for providing the tea. Mr. G. Caldwell and Mrs. A. E. Lock, of Abingdon, then played several tunes on the handbells, which were much appreciated by all.

A move was then made to the tower for further ringing, Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Plain Bob and Kent Treble Bob Minor being rung during the afternoon and evening.

THE NEW LEICESTER DIOCESE.

In the official programme of the hallowing of the diocese of Leicester and its Cathedral the hope was expressed that wherever possible the event would be celebrated by the ringing of the bells in the belfries of the diocese. Many peals and touches have, in consequence, been rung.

At Belgrave, Leicester, on Monday, February 21st, at St. Peter's Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes) in 43 mins.: L. G. Pratt (first quarter-peal) 1, W. A. Skinner 2, H. W. Martin (first quarter-peal inside) 3, A. Disner 4, H. Morgan 5, J. Pole 6, R. Borrow (conductor) 7, J. A. Bishop 8. This was specially arranged and rung in honour of the hallowing of the restored Leicester diocese, February 21st to 28th. The ringer of the 5th belongs to the Cathedral band; the remainder are members of the local band.

On Monday, February 21st, at St. Margaret's, Leicester, in honour of the hallowing of the Leicester diocese, 1,260 Grandsire Triples by: (1. Humphries 1, T. Bent 2, A. Ballard 3, W. Tanser 4, E. Morris (conductor) 5, R. Grant 6, G. S. Morris 7, J. Grant 8.

At the Church of the Holy Saviour, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes) in 50 mins.: S. W. Chapman 1, J. S. Needham 2, L. H. Whitehead 3, W. P. Whitehead (conductor) 4, E. H. Bagworth 5, H. Bell 6, A. Briggs 7, R. S. Bagworth 8.

**THE LATE REV. C. E. MATTHEWS, R.D.
HIS WAR SERVICE RECALLED.**

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I wonder if it is known generally that the late Rev. C. E. Matthews served overseas with H.M. Forces during the Great War? It was during his days as Vicar of Titchfield, when I was learning to ring, that we used to visit his tower weekly for practices, and, as beginners, we were always welcomed by his very genial smile. The Great War came upon us like a thunderbolt, and ringing was forgotten when we took up fighting. Having got a bad 'packet' on the French Front, and passing the various field hospitals, I found myself at Hazebrouck in 1915, with a leg that looked like being amputated, till a visit from the padre, our late vice-president, started further negotiations, and it is due to his handling of the doctors on my behalf that I am fortunate enough to have two legs to-day. I lay there some ten days until moved to England in a pretty bad state, but always cheered by the visits of the padre, his kindly smile, and talks on ringing and better times to come. When fit to travel, it was he again who saw me off on the journey to England, to meet again after the war at our Winchester Guild meetings. What a debt I owe to him!

MILITARY MEDALLIST.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**BRISTOL BRANCH MEETING.**

The monthly meeting of the Bristol Branch took place at Warmley on Saturday last. The weather conditions were about as bad as have been experienced at these meetings for a long time, and prevented many from being present. Those who braved the elements were members from St. Matthew's, St. Stephen's and St. Werburgh's, Bristol; Mangotsfield, Marshfield and Mr. C. D. Heginbotham (Devizes). The Vicar (the Rev. H. J. Say) was at the church to meet the visitors. The bells were rung half-muffled out of respect for the sexton of Warmley (Mr. J. Hann), who was also an old ringer. He passed away on the previous Thursday.

The service was conducted by the Vicar, and was fully choral. The Vicar, in welcoming the association to Warmley, said it was the first church with which he had been connected since his ordination at which there was a peal of bells. He had been to six other churches, and he was pleased at last to have a peal.

Tea followed in the schoolroom, at which 26 sat down, including the Vicar, Mr. Brain (the organist), and Mr. Heginbotham.

Mr. J. G. Jefferies, in the unavoidable absence of Mr. J. Gould, acted as chairman, and proposed a vote of condolence to the family of the late Mr. J. Hann, which was passed by the members standing. He also proposed a vote of sympathy to the district chairman, whose daughter was lying dangerously ill, and the secretary was instructed to write to Mrs. Hann and Mr. J. Gould.

Mr. Heginbotham, who was entrusted with the vote of thanks to the Vicar, organist and choir, said he never remembered hearing a brighter service than he had that afternoon. They certainly wanted more such services.—The Vicar, replying, said they had looked forward to this meeting, and regretted the inclement weather. He wished the branch to come again in the summer, preferably about the second week in September, and the secretary promised to arrange a bye meeting.—The Secretary moved a vote of thanks to Mr. C. Harnell and his happy band of ringers for making such excellent arrangements, also to the ladies for looking after their comfort.

Another visit was then paid to the belfry, and ringing maintained until 8.30 p.m.

FREE RIDE FOR BELLRINGING.

Mr. Charles Ralph, one of three Otley (Yorkshire) men who had been bellringers for 64 years, has died, aged 76. When the railway from Arthington to Otley was opened in 1865 he rang in a peal in celebration and received in payment 1s. 6d. and a free train ride.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

A week or two previous to their peal of Cinques at High Wycombe on the 15th inst., the band rang 3 hrs. and 7 mins., and had to 'stand' on account of the tenor bell being 'off colour.'

William Allen, a native of Chipping Norton, was buried at Slough on February 8th, in his 89th year. He moved to Slough some 70 years ago, and was one of the first team of bellringers when the ring of six were erected in 1855. The local members of St. Mary's tower gave him a muffled 'farewell touch' on the new octave.

A beginner asks us a question on the musical properties of the course end: How many times the '6th behind the 9th' comes up in a peal of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus? Great Nicholas! what next!

The actual room in a public-house at Birmingham may be visited to-day in which the late Henry Johnson was overheard to remark that he thought the late John Carter 'would hardly ever make a ringer, but this was more than 40 years ago.

The first peal of Cambridge Surprise Major by the Yorkshire Association was rung at Drighlington on March 4th, 1899. Of the band, only two remain—Mr. J. Thackray, of Armley, and Mr. Charles Pratt, of Calverley. George Bolland was one of the band.

The first peal on the bells of St. Giles', Camberwell, was a 5,003 Grandsire Caters on March 5th, 1845. It was composed and conducted by John Cox. The bells are to be reopened, after restoration, next Tuesday.

A peal of '5,040 Double Bob Royal Ten In' was rung at St. Mary's, Nottingham, on March 7th, 1791. It was called by William Doubleday Crofts, the Nottingham solicitor, and required two men on the 9th and two on the tenor. They had to work for some of their peals in those days.

A hundred and ninety years ago next Tuesday, 12,603 Grandsire Caters was rung at Norwich. Tuesday is also the 120th anniversary of the first peal of Grandsire Caters rung at Stepney. This was performed by the Junior Cumberlands on March 8th, 1807.

On March 7th, either 1741 or 1742, a peal of 'Five Thousand and Forty of Richmond Triples' was rung by the Richmond Society, at Richmond, Surrey. Can any reader tell us what this method was? Was it a locally composed peal of Grandsire? William Walker, who rang the 7th to that peal, rang the 6th to a peal of Grandsire Triples 25 years later.

Mr. John H. Cheesman has rung in all sorts of long lengths from 5,000 upwards, and last Saturday added another among the 'thousands' by going over the 11,000 mark in Double Norwich. We believe he has now rung in peals of 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 thousand, as well as the 17,000 at Loughborough.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

NO SECRETARY FOR CANTERBURY AND DISTRICT.

The annual meeting of the Canterbury District was held at Canterbury on Saturday last. There was no special service for ringers, but a good number of members attended the regular evensong at the Cathedral at 3 p.m. Over 60 afterwards sat down to tea at Gaywood's Restaurant, High Street, the towers represented being Dover, Lynginge, Elham, Faversham, Ospringe, Headcorn, St. Nicholas, Herne, Littlebourne, Wickhambreaux, besides local ringers. Mr. S. H. Green from Tunbridge Wells was also present, and, later on, Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Allen (Rochester) were found in the Cathedral belfry.

At the business meeting one honorary and ten practising members were elected. The two representatives on the Central Committee, Messrs. Harrison Smith and F. G. Brett, were re-elected, but no one was found to undertake the duties of district secretary.

The affairs of the district had been grossly neglected during the past year, and the subscriptions for 1926 had not been paid in. Possibly this fact may have acted as a deterrent, but that everyone should have fought shy of the office showed a sad lack of enterprise. It was decided to hold a meeting at Ash in the summer, at St. Lawrence in the autumn, and the annual meeting next January or February at Elham.

The Cathedral bells and the St. Alphege six were kept going until late in the evening.

THE FIRST PEAL AT FARNWORTH.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I notice in 'The Ringing World' of February 18th the report of a peal of Minor being rung at Farnworth, Widnes, Lanes, and is stated to be the first true peal on the bells. I wish to state that a peal was rung at the same church by a band of ringers from St. Paul's, Warrington, on Saturday, July 23rd, 1898, being a true and complete peal of Minor in seven different methods, and was supposed to be the first peal on the bells. It contained the following methods: Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, College Single, Grandsire, Oxford Single Bob, Canterbury Pleasure, and Plain Bob, and was published in 'Bell News' of the following week. Of course, that is many years ago, and the present band of ringers may not know about it, or may have overlooked it. I must assure them that it was a good and well-struck peal, as St. Paul's company at that time were noted for their striking abilities.—Yours,

W. BRAMMER,

One of the Band.

Ashton-under-Lyne Society.

THE JOHNSON COMMEMORATION DINNER

ST. MARTIN'S BELLS.

Among those who sent apologies for absence from the Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner at Birmingham, on Saturday week, were Alderman Sir Percival Bower (ex-Lord Mayor of Birmingham), who had been knighted by the King on the preceding Thursday, and was detained in London by the illness of his wife; Mr. Richard Wassell, director of music, Birmingham City Police, who had promised to act as accompanist, but was laid up with influenza; Mr. Albert Parsons (Old Hill), who everyone regretted was seriously ill; Mr. Bassano, Mr. Pryce Taylor (Loughborough), Mr. E. Guise (hon. secretary, Gloucester and Bristol Association), Mrs. Wilkins (Bristol), Mr. Tom Miller, and Mr. John Austin (Gloucester). Mr. W. T. Cockerill (hon. secretary of the College Youths) sent a telegram of good wishes, and Mr. W. H. Barber conveyed a letter of greeting from Mr. C. L. Routledge, of the Durham and Newcastle Association.

The toast of 'The King' having been submitted from the chair, 'The Church and State' was proposed by Mr. R. J. Heaton, who, in an interesting speech, referred to alliance between the two, and explained how by the adoption of the banners of the patron saints of the three countries of England, Scotland and Ireland, the Union Jack, typifying the strength of the nation, had been built up.

The Rector of Birmingham (Canon T. Guy Rogers), who was in the chair, replied to the toast. He referred to the close relations which, through the centuries, had existed between the Church and State, the Church which represented the spiritual side of national life having exercised its beneficial influence upon the civic, or material, side. Canon Rogers went on to allude to the revision of the Prayer Book, referring to some of the changes that had been made. He pointed out that the use of the new Prayer Book was not compulsory. It gave churchpeople a liberty which they had not enjoyed before, and he would have liked to see it made even more human than it is. The trouble was that the people who revised it were so occupied with theological questions that they, so desirous of seeing that the theology was sound, forgot to use human and simple language in all things. They wanted the Prayer Book to be a real help to them in their services; they wanted to make it so loved by the people that it would be preserved for many a long day, not only in documents and books, but in the hearts of the people (applause). In conclusion, Canon Rogers said he was proud to be chairman on that occasion; he was proud to be connected with St. Martin's Guild. He hoped as long as he was Rector of St. Martin's that he would remain closely identified with that historic and ancient Guild (applause).

'THE MEMORY.'

To Mr. W. Walsley, of Macclesfield, was entrusted the toast of 'The memory of the late Henry Johnson.' Why, he asked, did ringers meet year by year to do honour to Henry Johnson? It was not only because he had a master mind, and produced some very remarkable compositions; not only for his willingness to help others; not only for his geniality of soul; not only for his successful effort to leave the change-ringing world better than he found it, but more because he was, first and last, a gentleman. Proceeding, Mr. Walsley referred to the origin of those gatherings. Henry Johnson took part in a record peal of Stedman Cinques at St. Martin's, a peal of 9,238 on his birthday in 1881. He was then 72. On his next birthday, February 28th, 1882, another peal of Stedman Cinques was rung, after which a party of 25 sat down to a dinner at the Dog and Partridge. This was the origin of the birthday dinners which were held yearly until his death. Subsequently, they were continued with the object of honouring his memory. He (Mr. Walsley) met Mr. Johnson two or three times, but from his very earliest days as a ringer the story of this remarkable old man's achievements had been to him a source of admiration and wonder. Those gatherings not only served to keep green the memory of one of the greatest members of the Exercise, but served a very useful purpose in enabling ringers from all parts to gather round the festive board, to meet old friends and to make new ones. Other ringing centres had taken up the idea, notably Bristol, Yorkshire and Nottingham, and now they had had introduced, in connection with them, at the suggestion of Mr. Walker, conferences at which they might discuss matters of vital importance to the art of ringing. Mr. Walsley went on to refer to various outstanding events in Johnson's life and to the friendship which he had with Mr. E. Matthews, of Macclesfield. The two often corresponded, and Mr. Walsley said he desired to present to St. Martin's Guild two autograph letters written by Henry Johnson to Mr. Matthews. Henry Johnson, he added, was a man of many talents; he did not bury them but rather used them to help others. He gave of his best to all who appealed to him. No one was more diligent than he, no one more ready to impart to others the results of his labours. He wielded a quiet and powerful influence for good; he probed the mysteries of an intricate science, not for his own glorification, but for the benefit of others. He never coveted other people's compositions, but was contented with his own discoveries. He was just, fair and upright; he won for himself the respect of everyone with whom he came in contact—in a word, he was a gentleman.

The toast was drunk in silence.

THE LATE MR. JOHN CARTER.

Alderman J. S. Pritchett submitted 'Continued Prosperity to St. Martin's Guild,' and gave his customary survey of the past year.

He alluded to the fact that he was described on the toast list as a man 'of cheerful yesterdays.' He thought he could claim credit to being cheerful as a general rule; he said, but when he commenced his remarks, as was his custom on that occasion, with reference to those who were not there that night, who had been with them on previous occasions, who were dear to them when they were there, and whose memory would remain dear to them still, he must confess to a feeling of sadness for the moment. Within the last few weeks it had pleased the Master Ruler of the universe to withdraw from the ringing firmament a bright particular star in John Carter, to shine, they all believed, with greater splendour in a brighter sphere. Since the death of Henry Johnson, that Guild and the Exercise in general had suffered no greater loss. His career, his great abilities, his industry, his character had been ably and fully commented upon in 'The Ringing World,' and he would not repeat anything they had all read in that paper, but he would like to make this one remark: Considering the opportunities that he had in life, the little education he had, and the fact that he went to work at the age of 12, John Carter's achievements were little short of marvellous. He (the speaker) knew him not only as a ringer but he knew him as a workman, and he knew his employers intimately. He believed that the large fortune that his employers made was largely due to the inventions which Mr. Carter placed at their disposal, and in that he resembled many clever workmen who had not the means to run their inventions themselves. He believed that if Mr. Carter had had the opportunities and the capital to put his own inventions on the market, he might have been a millionaire. Would they, however, have respected him any more for that? He thought not. They respected him for the man they knew him to be, the kind-hearted, genial, helpful friend that they always found him; and their admiration for him and for his genius and his achievements could not have been greater in whatever station of life he had been placed. It was three years or more since he was at one of those gatherings, and those last three years had been years of suffering patiently borne. His last message given to Mr. Young—who was with them that night—was to give his love to all his friends, and everyone in that room knew him at a friend. One star, continued Alderman Pritchett, differeth from another in magnitude. While John Carter was a star of first magnitude, there were other bright stars in the universe, and they had lost one only that week in their departed friend and fellow ringer, Bernard Witchell. When he (the speaker) began ringing with St. Martin's Guild, Bernard Witchell was one of the band; a splendid ringer, always ready to take part in a peal to oblige anyone. After his recent operation he had begun again, although in the weakest possible state of health, to busy himself in ringing matters and arrange peals, and it might be due to some extent to his unwise resumption of these activities that his end came quickly at the last in rapidly developing pneumonia. The Guild had lost two other members. Mr. F. J. Cope for fifty years rang in the belfry of Lichfield Cathedral. That period was not without precedent, but it was a long time. Last, but not least, he would like to mention the loss which they had sustained by the death of Mr. Isaac G. Shade, whose tragic death in a motor accident at the age of 74 they all deplored. He was glad to know that through the exertions of Mr. Goldsmith and 'The Ringing World' Mr. Shade's handbells realised so large a sum for his poor sister.

ST. MARTIN'S BELLS NEED REHANGING.

Proceeding, Alderman Pritchett said the past year had not been a very successful one, in a sense, for the Guild. The peals had been very few—only one in St. Martin's tower—and the attendance on practice nights had been small, and had got smaller. The reason was that the bells badly wanted rehanging (hear, hear). The people's warden represented the men who had the money, and he regretted he was not there that evening, but the Rector's warden was with them and would doubtless take heed. He had no doubt they had had warnings before, and he (the speaker) only wanted to emphasise them (laughter). They had with them the Vicar of Edgbaston. Last year they impressed on him the necessity of augmenting the bells at Edgbaston, and he was pleased to see that it was to be done, and Edgbaston was to have a peal of bells worthy of that wealthy and aristocratic neighbourhood. Although not much had been done at St. Martin's, a great many eight-bell peals had been rung, and in that branch of ringing progress had been made. He would like to congratulate the ringers of that neighbourhood on the augmentation of the peal at King's Norton from eight to ten (applause), through the generosity of Mr. Frank Yates, who took the warmest interest in all matters in connection with the ringers and bells. He hoped Mr. Yates would have many years to listen to the beautiful peal which he had so generously provided (applause). Alderman Pritchett went on to mention that they had with them that night Mr. Joseph Johnson, a son of Henry Johnson, who was present at that dinner for the 39th time, and Mr. Thomas Russan, whom they were very glad to see after his severe illness (applause). The absence of their most energetic and enthusiastic secretary, Mr. Paddon Smith, they did not deplore, because they knew that he had gone to India for his own good. Mr. Smith told him before he went that he hoped to come back with orders that would enable his firm to employ another thousand men (applause). If he did so, he would be a benefactor to that district (applause). In conclusion, Alderman Pritchett referred to the rest of the quotation against his name on the toast list, in which he was described as a man of 'confident to-morrows.' He did claim credit for this, he said, that he was confident of to-morrow as regards St.

Martin's Guild (hear, hear). It was steadily progressing. They lost old and beloved members, but for every one they lost two stepped into their places, and so he was certain it would continue. He would like to associate the prosperity of the Guild in the past, and that continued prosperity which he was convinced would attend them in the future, with the name of his Deputy Ringing Master, Mr. Albert Walker. What better proof could he have given them of his abilities than the fact that he had so admirably stepped into Mr. Smith's shoes and organised that large gathering of ringers in such a splendid manner (applause).

BIG RESTORATION SCHEME REQUIRED.

Mr. Albert Walker, who was received with applause, said that the work which he had been called upon to do in connection with that gathering enabled one to realise the immense amount of work which fell on anyone who organised a dinner of that kind. Whatever he had done, however, was rewarded by the large gathering that evening. With regard to the bells of St. Martin's, there was no doubt they had got to be 'soled and heeled.' It might be that the bells would have to be scrapped and recast. They wanted at St. Martin's a good peal of bells. They had a good peal, but as the times advanced they must admit there was room for improvement. There were now few, if any, old organs in the country—they were all scrapped, and, if need be, they must scrap their old bells and put in new ones, so long as it was proved that the new bells would be an improvement. There could be no question, however, that the bells at St. Martin's ought really to come right out and be properly rehung with any other necessary repairs, and he hoped the bells would take their turn for restoration with other schemes in their proper order (applause). If this were done, they might hope to get more ringers, but the bells could not be rung by beginners to-day—they 'go' too heavily.

The Rector said St. Martin's had a reputation for doing its duty, and he did not think they need be alarmed about the claims of the bells being overlooked. His churchwarden on his left would support him in saying that St. Martin's did try to live up to its responsibilities (Mr. Kendall: Hear, hear). On the following day, the Rector's wardens would celebrate his 78th birthday (applause), and he (the Rector) did not think he would resign until he had seen the bells put in order. So far as the people's warden was concerned, all he could say was that it had been remarked that the two were like the Siamese twins—what one thinks the other thinks (applause).

THE VISITORS.

Mr. J. F. Smallwood, in proposing 'The Visitors,' expressed the gratification of the members of St. Martin's Guild at the presence of such a representative gathering. Among the clergy present was Canon Blofield, Vicar of Edgbaston, who had taken the hint dropped to him at the last dinner and had decided to have a peal of bells in his church worthy of the neighbourhood (applause). They had representative ringers there from places as far apart as Newcastle and Plymouth, and the Guild, he could assure them, did appreciate their presence. They had with them the secretary of the Central Council, and among the Guilds and associations represented were the Durham and Newcastle, the College Youths, the Staffordshire, the Yorkshire, the Midland Counties, the Bath and Wells, the Gloucester and Bristol, which sent 21 representatives, the Devon Guild, Worcestershire, Surrey, Kent, Shropshire, Essex, and other associations. He was sorry he had not been able to attend the informal conference. The Exercise appeared to be just beginning to realise the importance of encouraging young ringers. If he might offer a few suggestions he would say this, that the first thing to do was to provide them with bells they could ring on and not pull their hearts out. Then they needed a little more toleration on the part of leading ringers, who were sometimes apt to get too impatient with learners. They also required better organisation at their ringing meetings, and their ringing text books should be brought up to date. This latter might provide work for the Central Council.

Canon Blofield, who first responded, said the new peal of bells for Edgbaston was to be cast during the following week. Continuing, he said there was no gathering which he went to in the year which he enjoyed more fully and thoroughly than that dinner, although he could not describe exactly why. He thought it must be because he felt he was one with them all. That evening had been especially pleasurable, for he would never forget Mrs. Hughes' handbell ringing. With regard to the subject of their conference that day, it was no compliment to the old ones to find, as they gave up, that there was no one left to take their place. He hoped they might be all 'confident to-morrows' as well as 'cheerful yesterdays,' and would look forward to a still more successful time in the future for the cause of bell-ringing and St. Martin's Guild.

Mr. P. J. Johnson (hon. sec., Yorkshire Association) also replied and spoke of the pleasure which it gave all the visitors to be associated with St. Martin's Guild in honouring the memory of a man like Henry Johnson. There seemed to be, continued the speaker, some feeling of trepidation as to what the future held for ringing, but while they had officials with enthusiasm, such as marked their presiding Ringing Master (Alderman Pritchett) and Mr. Albert Walker, who had so ably stepped into the breach in the absence of the secretary, they need have no fear. Mr. Johnson made an amusing reference to the alleged preparations being made for a peal by a band each less than 5ft. 3in. in height and more than 18 stone in weight, and said, amid laughter, that with men prepared to go to such lengths as this, there were no

bounds to the possibilities they might achieve. He could say from personal experience that St. Martin's Guild always extended unfailing courtesy to visitors. They thanked the Guild very heartily for the expression of goodwill conveyed in the toast. He could assure them the visitors felt it an honour to be allowed to pay what little tribute they could to the great names which had been associated with St. Martin's Guild (applause).

Mr. W. A. Cave proposed 'The Ringing World,' in a kindly speech, in which he referred to the fact that the Editor discharged a difficult task in a most impartial manner.—Mr. J. S. Goldsmith responded to the toast, and referred to the much wider publicity which ringers and ringing were now receiving through the frequent notices which they received in the London and provincial Press and as the result of broadcasting. This publicity was, he said, entirely changing the view of many people in regard to bell-ringing, and it was important that ringers should at all times give of their best in order to create and maintain a good impression.

Alderman Pritchett, in a happy speech, proposed the health of 'The Chairman,' and the Rector having briefly replied, the proceedings closed with thanks to those who had contributed to the programme and to Mr. Woodhall who had acted as accompanist in the absence of Mr. Richard Wassell.

The enjoyable evening terminated with the National Anthem.

DEATH OF MR. J. G. BUCHANAN.

A FOUNDER OF THE HEREFORD DIOCESSAN GUILD.

We regret to record the death of Mr. J. G. Buchanan, of Hereford, one of the founders in 1886 of the Hereford Diocesan Guild. He was always keenly interested in its affairs, and was hon. secretary in 1892 and 1893, and Master from 1894 to 1924. He lived formerly at Clun, where he introduced half-pull ringing, and his funeral took place there on February 19th.

After the funeral, several six-scores of Grandsire Doubles were rung on half-muffled bells, with 6-8 covering, on account of meeting short for Triples: F. A. Watkins 1, Rev. H. J. Scott 3, G. W. Roberts 4, E. H. Menditt (Clunbury) 5, W. Griffiths 6, W. Mead (conductor) 7, G. Long 8.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

A DIFFICULT YEAR.

The Doncaster and District Society's annual meeting was held at Doncaster on Saturday, January 22nd, when eleven towers were represented. The service was held in the Forman Chapel, and was conducted by the Rev. A. D. Clarke, Rector of Warnsworth, in the unavoidable absence of Archdeacon Sandford and the Rev. T. B. Powell. Suitable hymns were sung, the musical accompaniment being provided by Miss N. Spibey, a member of the society.

The Rev. A. D. Clarke gave an appropriate address, taking as his text 'Walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called' (Eph. iv. 1). He eulogised the good work which ringers often did as churchwardens and church officials. Although the ringers were unseen, and in many cases unknown, he said, yet their work was appreciated, not only by those who came to church but also by countless others who were unable to do so.

At the business meeting which was held in the belfry, the secretary (Mr. Harold Walker) presented the annual report, which was considered very satisfactory and adopted. It stated that the past year had been a very difficult one for the society in many respects. Owing to the industrial unsettlement, the attendance of members at meetings of the society had suffered considerably, but they looked forward to better and happier times, and improved gatherings, in the near future. The joint meeting at Whiston with the Yorkshire Association, the Sheffield District Society, and the Barnsley and District Society was a success in every detail. It was hoped to make a joint meeting an annual event, to take place in June of each year.

The number of peals rung during the year was ten, which was a record for the society, for only eleven peals were rung in the previous five years of the society's existence. The peal of Double Norwich at Whiston was the first in this method to be rung by the society. Many of the peals rung during the first year were due to the energy and enthusiasm of Mr. J. E. Cawser, of Tickhill. A performance worthy of mention was a half-peal of Minor rung at Sprotborough on Armistice Day, by Sprotborough and Conisborough ringers.

The Hatfield Church Bells Restoration Fund had received a severe setback owing to the industrial situation. A sum of nearly £400 had already been raised with the object of recasting and rehanging the peal of eight bells, and it was very likely that the work will be put in hand during the coming year.

After fifteen months, the report added, 'we are now able to ring the bells of Doncaster Parish Church, the tower of which has been thoroughly repaired, at a cost of nearly £2,000. The bells were rung for the first time in fifteen months on Christmas Eve, and the music of them was much appreciated by the public. The tower will now be open for practice on every Saturday evening, with the exception of the last Saturday in each month.'

Mr. Harold Walker was re-elected as honorary secretary for another three years. Archdeacon Sandford is the president of the society, Mr. G. Halksworth (Doncaster) is the vice-president, Mr. G. Clark (Arksley) Ringing Master, and Mr. H. Woodhouse, J.P. (Bentley), the hon. treasurer.

PRESENTATION TO MR. J. NEVARD.

RECOGNITION OF 50 YEARS' SERVICE TO RINGING.

The high esteem and respect felt by members of the Essex Association and friends for Mr. W. J. Nevard, churchwarden of Great Bentley and Master of the North-Eastern District, was evinced at Colchester on Saturday, February 19th, when he was the recipient of a handsome, engraved silver cup, the gift of his brother ringers. Twenty-six towers were represented among the fifty members present. After a united practice at St. Peter's Church, the company had tea in St. Peter's Parish Room. The large gathering here included the Bishop of Colchester, the Vicar of St. Peter's (Rev. C. E. Cardo), Messrs. C. H. Howard (Master of the Association), R. W. Stannard, Colchester district secretary, N. Division), F. Claydon, Earl's Colne (District Master, N.E. Division), W. J. Elliot (Kelvedon), D. Elliot (Assington), W. Duffield and H. T. Pye (Colchester), and J. Runter (Springfield). Mr. J. J. Gofton (Whitley Bay) wrote regretting his inability to be present, and sent birthday greetings, and Mr. W. H. Fussell was prevented from attendance owing to his recent accident.

The Master, who presided, said he regretted Mr. W. Keeble's absence, as he was greatly instrumental in bringing about the presentation and gathering. He read a letter from Mr. Keeble, wherein it stated that he had received no refusal, either verbally or in writing, to his appeal, and thanked Mr. L. W. Wiffen (Braintree), Mr. F. Claydon (Earl's Colne), Mr. E. Andrews (Therington), Mr. R. W. Stannard (Colchester), and Mr. W. Miller (Leytonstone) for their kind and able assistance. Mr. Keeble was, however, a victim of the 'flu' epidemic. This presentation, he said, was well deserved, for Mr. Nevard had done much for ringing for upwards of 50 years, had been District Master for many years, and had represented his association on the Central Council, which he had attended very regularly for a long period. Mr. Nevard was also a keen and enthusiastic peal ringer, and although he had recently celebrated his 71st birthday, he was still good for one, two or even three peals a day (hear, hear and laughter). Mr. Nevard was a devout churchman and very fine host, and few ringers had visited Bentley without enjoying his hospitality. That was why Mrs. Nevard's name was associated with the presentation.

The Bishop of Colchester, making the presentation, thanked the ringers for their hearty reception, and said he had in Mr. Nevard one of his oldest friends. He congratulated him upon his splendid record as a ringer, not only in Essex, as Mr. Nevard had rung in over 600 towers (applause). In fact, he didn't know where he had not rung (laughter). There was nothing that gave a man more satisfaction, after years of active work, than to receive some token of the affection, appreciation and regard from his brother ringers. The Bishop then handed to Mr. Nevard the cup, which was engraved: 'Presented to Mr. William J. Nevard, of Great Bentley, upon his 71st birthday, by fellow ringers of the Essex Association at Colchester, February 7th, 1927, in recognition of his service to the art of change ringing for upwards of 50 years.'

Mr. Nevard, who was completely taken by surprise, said he had rung a good many Surprise peals, but this surprise beat them all (laughter). All he had done was for the sheer love of the art. He knew of nothing more interesting than to see the fine old cathedrals, abbeys and churches and ring the bells placed in them. He had rung in 130 towers in Essex and over 100 in Suffolk. In fact, he had rung in every county in England, and he had also rung in Ireland. In all, he had rung in 603 towers, and belonged to 25 societies and associations (applause). He once rang three peals in one day (applause). He very much appreciated the spirit that had prompted Mr. Keeble and his many friends who had been instrumental in arranging for this handsome gift, and he and Mrs. Nevard would ever hold it in grateful remembrance.

Mr. Nevard was accorded musical honours, and Mr. W. Duffield, thanking the Vicar for the frequent use of the bells and the Parish Room, joined in the testimony to Mr. Nevard. The youthful ringer, he said, should take a lesson from the life of Mr. Nevard and be encouraged by his remarkable record.

The Vicar suitably responded; and Mr. Stannard, who is to be complimented on the admirable arrangements of the day, thanked the Bishop.

The meeting expressed a sincere wish that Mr. Keeble would have a speedy recovery, and the Master was requested to write a letter to him to that effect.

OLD PENDLETON RINGER'S DEATH.

Pendleton has lost one of its oldest ringers in the person of Mr. Joseph Winterbottom. He had been a ringer about 40 years, ringing his first peal in 1893. He joined in several first peals in the method for the association, his complete score being 46.

The funeral took place on February 24th, his brother ringers acting as bearers. The first part of the service was at St. Thomas' Church, and the interment at St. John's, Pendlebury, St. Thomas' yard being full. The Rev. S. Proudfoot, Vicar, officiated. The bells were muffled for service on Sunday, and a peal was attempted after the funeral, but was lost after two hours.

The deceased leaves a widow and son and daughter to mourn their loss. One son was killed in the war.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

YORKTOWN DISTRICT.

A meeting of the Yorktown District was held at Pirbright on Saturday. The weather was very wet, but that did not discourage members and friends from attending from Aldershot, Chertsey, Weybridge and Worplesdon, as well as the local band. Several touches were rung on the six bells before the service, which was conducted by the Rev. H. S. Kelsey, Vicar of Pirbright, who gave an interesting address on bells. Mr. S. Argyle, A.R.C.O., of Knaphill, a friend of the late Rev. C. E. Matthews, presided at the organ. The members then adjourned to tea, which had been arranged by Mr. D. Cheeseman at Pirbright Hall. The Vicar occupied the chair for the business meeting which followed.

The minutes of the last quarterly meeting and of the special meeting held at Bagshot in connection with the proposed division of the Guild were read and confirmed.—Mr. S. G. Armstrong gave an excellent report upon the proceedings at the Central Committee meeting held at Winchester.

One new member was elected.

A vote of thanks, proposed by the hon. secretary (Mr. J. B. Hessey) and seconded by Mr. H. J. Chaffey, was passed to the Vicar for the kind way he had received the district and for his interesting address.—The Vicar said he was very pleased to meet them, and hoped they would come again when the weather was more settled.

Ringing was again indulged in. Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Plain Bob, Double Oxford Bob, Canterbury, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob were rung.

PORTSMOUTH DISTRICT AT NETLEY.

Despite the very unfavourable weather conditions on Saturday last, a successful meeting was held at Netley Abbey, when ringers and friends numbering 37 were present from Fareham, Hambledon, Havant, North Stoneham, Netley, Portsmouth (St. Mary's and St. Thomas'), Ringwood, Southampton, Swanmore, together with the Master (Mr. G. Williams). Owing to illness, the Vicar could not attend and conduct the service, but wished the meeting every success.

The members made good use of the bells until 5 p.m., when they adjourned to the Alexandra Cafe for the tea and business meeting.

At the outset the Chairman referred to the lamented death of the vice-president, the Rev. C. E. Matthews, who was formerly Vicar of Titchfield, and a keen member of the district, and the members stood in silence for a few moments.

Apologies for absence were read from the Vicar, the general secretary and also Bramshott and Wickham.—Two full members and ten probationers (including nine ladies from Hambledon) were elected. It was very gratifying to see no less than six of the Hambledon ladies present at the meeting, and they rang their first rounds on eight bells very creditably.

The Central Committee representatives gave a resume of the committee meeting held at Winchester on the previous Saturday, when several important matters affecting the division of the Guild were discussed and recommendations made, including the formation of a 'Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Association.'

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Hambledon on May 21st next, due notice of which will appear in 'The Ringing World.'

Votes of thanks were accorded the Vicar for the use of the bells, the members wishing him a speedy recovery.

A further visit was then made to the tower until about 8 p.m. During the afternoon and evening, various touches were rung in methods which included Superlative and Cambridge Surprise Major.

CHRISTCHURCH DISTRICT.

A very successful quarterly meeting of the Christchurch District was held at Brockenhurst on Saturday, February 26th, when, in spite of the inclement weather, 21 members attended from Bournemouth (St. Peter's), Brockenhurst, Christchurch, Lyndhurst, Lymington, Sopley and North Stoneham.

At the business meeting, Mr. Armstrong was elected chairman, and spoke of the great loss sustained by the Guild by the death of the Rev. C. E. Matthews. Respect was shown by the members standing in silence in the usual way.

It was decided to hold the next quarterly meeting at Fordingbridge, subject to the restoration work at present being carried out to the bells by Messrs. Taylor and Co. being completed. Failing that tower, Lymington was selected, and due notice of this meeting will be given in 'The Ringing World.'

Good practice was held in the following methods: Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Plain Bob and Kent Minor.

It may be mentioned that Brockenhurst possesses the lightest ringing peal in Hants, the tenor being only 4½ cwt.

WELCOME TO NEW RECTOR.

At the Parish Church, Richmond, Yorks, on Friday, February 25th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes) in 47 mins.: T. Luna 1, T. Walton 2, S. Thorpe 3, J. Frenchum 4, J. Kinchin 5, R. Todd 6, G. Holmes (conductor) 7, W. Downall 8. Rung as a welcome to the new Rector, the Rev. A. M. Sullivan, who arrived on the above date. It is the longest length by an entirely local band, all being Sunday service ringers.

ST. HELENS BELLS DEDICATED.

CENTURY-OLD PEAL OF TEN FIND NEW HOME.

The Church of St. Helen, St. Helens, Lancs., has now a fine peal of ten bells, which were dedicated on Wednesday, February 23rd. The bells themselves have a peculiar and interesting history. They were cast in 1829 by Thomas Mears, of the Whitechapel Foundry, London, for the Church of St. Peter, Liverpool, and were first rung on Sunday, April 11th, 1830. They replaced a peal of eight, tenor 21 cwt., cast by Abraham Rudhall the first, the four heavier ones in 1707, and the four smaller ones in 1724.

The tenor of the present peal of ten is 4ft. 5in. in diameter, weighs 22½ cwt. net, and has a deep C note. Its original weight, with cannons and clapper staple, was 24½ cwt. The inscription on the bell is:

May all whom I shall summon to the grave,
The blessing of a well-spent life receive.

The Revd. Jonathan Brooks, A.M., and Augustus Campbell, A.M.,
Rectors of Liverpool.

William Peatt Bushby, Esq., Wilfrid Troutbeck, Esq., Church-
wardens, 1829.

The Revs. J. Brooks and A. Campbell were the last of the 'joint Rectors' of Liverpool, and were instituted in the year the bells were cast.

St. Peter's, Liverpool, was demolished a few years ago, and the bells were sent to Loughborough for storage, pending the settlement of a new home for them. Eventually they were given to the new Church of St. Helen, St. Helens, and they then undertook their third journey, this time to return to their birthplace, the Whitechapel Foundry (Mears and Stainbank), London. Here they were cleaned by the sand-blast process and tuned. Their final journey was to St. Helens, where they have been hung in a massive teak frame, this material having been considered the most suitable for this district where ironwork does not enjoy a long and happy life.

The most modern principles have been adopted in the fittings. The bells swing on ball bearings, and the rollers also run on similar bearings, with lubricators attached. The clappers are fitted with specially bushed tops, with lubricators. The bell frame is bolted down to a reinforced concrete floor. The bells, when set, are several feet below the louvres, and the sound in the immediate vicinity of the tower is well softened.

All present at the opening ceremony were delighted with the tone and 'go' of the bells and their even clappering. The cleaning and tuning has effected a great improvement, and the bells now make a beautiful peal of ten.

It should be mentioned that in the first place the back eight only were to be hung, but representations made by the Lancashire Association against splitting the peal resulted in the complete ring being placed in the tower.

The dedication was performed by Canon Dwelly, of Liverpool, in the presence of a crowded congregation. Many were unable to gain admission to the church, and hundreds of people remained outside waiting to hear the bells for the first time. The St. Helens 'Reporter,' describing the scene, says: 'Somehow, the new association of those bells and their dedication to the new church left as deep an impression on the mind as did the consecration of the building. There was something magnetic about the thoughts of hearing the bells rung for the first time; it was not idle curiosity or casual speculation that drew so many people from their homes that night. The fascination that a peal of bells holds for the human mind is strong in itself, but the additional charm of the old bells of St. Peter's being installed in the new church of St. Helen—standing grander and more majestic than the sanctuary it replaced, made Wednesday's ceremony one that will live long in memory.'

The service was impressive, and in an inspiring address Canon Dwelly sketched the history of bells and drew lessons from their messages, in the course of which he said there was no period in English history which told a richer story than the period when the bells fulfilled almost every possible office of the corporate mind.

After the dedicatory prayers, the bells were rung in a few rounds, and at the conclusion of the service an opening touch of Grandsire Caters were rung by: J. Rigby 1, J. W. Hesketh 2, J. H. Hesketh 3, G. Saint 4, W. Bagley 5, R. Huxton 6, J. W. Hall (conductor) 7, S. Cadwallender 8, P. Bagley 9, P. Shaw 10. Others who took part in the ringing were Messrs. J. Gardner (Aughton) and G. Fisher (Liverpool), who rang on the bells on the last occasion they were rung in St. Peter's tower, 23 years ago, and also at Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897. Messrs. P. M. Cave and G. R. Newton (Liverpool), Booth, Grounds and Taylor (Standish), F. Ancough (Widnes), and J. Parr (Ormskirk) also shared in the ringing, and Mr. J. B. Tyler represented the founders, Mr. A. A. Hughes being confined to his home with a chill.

RUISLIP.—On Sunday evening, February 13th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles in 43 mins.: P. Thrift 1, W. Bunce 2, H. Ive 3, G. M. Kirby (conductor) 4, T. Collins 5, H. Woodman 6. First quarter-peal by all except the conductor.

RAINHAM, KENT.—On Sunday, February 6th, 720 Bob Minor (half-muffled): *G. Nichols 1, A. Manktelow 2, W. Seager 3, R. Ockwell 4, W. J. Walker (conductor) 5, Geo. Gilbert 6. * First 720.—On Thursday, February 10th, 720 Bob Minor: G. Nichols 1, A. R. Ockwell 5, A. Manktelow 4, C. Belsey 5, W. J. Walker 6, G. Gilbert (conductor) 7, Geo. Howland 8.

SUNDAY SERVICE TOUCHES.

HATFIELD, HERTS.—On Sunday evening, February 27th, at the Church of St. Etheldreda, in 48 mins., a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1,260 changes): F. Cull 1, S. Cull 2, O. Ellingham 3, R. E. Richardson 4, L. Shepherd 5, A. R. Lawrence 6, J. T. Kentish (conductor) 7, J. G. Dunham 8.

PLYMOUTH.—On Sunday, February 27th, at Emmanuel Church, for special service, 720 Bob Minor (six singles, nine bobs): M. J. Baldry 1, J. E. Lilley 2, H. Tippett 3, A. T. Kentfield 4, C. R. Lilley (conductor) 5, W. Richards 6.

BECKENHAM, KENT.—On Sunday evening, February 27th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes): W. Smith (conductor) 1, H. Hawkes 2, W. Hollamby 3, Miss A. Cottee (first quarter-peal) 4, E. King 5, W. Rawlings 6, F. Terry 7, W. Meek 8.

TRUMPINGTON, CAMBRIDGE.—On Sunday, February 27th, for evensong, 720 Doubles, being two six-scores each of Grandsire, Oxford Singles and Plain Bob: E. Haynes (first attempt for a 720) 1, J. Harper 2, K. Willers 3, H. Wilson 4, A. Wilson (conductor) 5.

STREATHAM.—On Sunday, February 27th, at St. Leonard's Church, for evensong, 1,260 Stedman Triples: Miss E. E. Harcastle 1, Miss B. M. Mills 2, E. E. Bish 3, J. W. Chapman 4, J. L. Watkins 5, C. W. Roberts 6, L. Attwater (conductor) 7, W. E. G. Hewson 8.

BARNES.—At the Church of St. Mary, on Sunday, February 27th, for evening service, 1,260 Oxford Bob Triples in 42 mins.: A. Cutmor 1, H. Barrett 2, W. C. Stacey 3, F. Skevington (conductor) 4, H. Cook 5, C. Hunt 6, R. Mackill 7, P. Stratton 8.

ISLEWORTH.—On Sunday, February 27th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 42 mins.: P. Norton 1, H. Belcher 2, E. V. Beadle 3, W. H. Hollier 4, H. W. Lidbetter 5, R. Thompson (conductor) 6, H. A. Folkard 7, A. Harding 8. A 21st birthday compliment to Herbert A. Harding.

TOTTENHAM.—At All Hallows' on Sunday, February 27th, for evensong, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: W. P. Roe 1, H. A. Barnett 2, W. J. Ellis (conductor) 3, W. Dickinson 4, E. A. Hull 5, J. G. Nash 6, H. Ellis 7, H. W. H. Strickland 8.

LONDON.—At the Church of St. Matthew, Bethnal Green, on Sunday, February 27th, for evensong, a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1,264 changes) in 43 mins.: H. C. Taylor 1, F. J. Parrott 2, J. H. Parrots 3, W. W. Stevens 4, J. Martin 5, H. Hills 6, F. Smith (first quarter in the method as conductor) 7, S. Penfold 8.

DOVER, KENT.—On Sunday, February 27th, for the evening service at St. Mary's Church, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples in 43 mins.: C. R. Millway 1, A. Binfield 2, J. Eagles 3, H. J. Saunders 4, H. Whitehead 5, S. Binfield 6, C. Turner (conductor) 7, C. Hardeman 8.

GREAT STANMORE.—On Sunday, February 27th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes) in 49 mins.: F. Hill 1, G. A. Hughes, sen., 2, R. Wilkinson 3, J. H. Edwards 4, G. Cheshire 5, G. A. Hughes, jun., 6, C. Dyke (conductor) 7, F. Hawkins 8.

LAVERNHAM.—On Sunday evening, February 20th, a quarter-peal of Kent Treble Bob Major (1,280 changes): F. A. Turner 1, S. H. Symonds (conductor) 2, F. A. Poulson 3, F. L. Leeks 4, W. R. J. Poulson 5, F. P. Mortlock 6, M. T. Symonds 7, A. Symonds 8. Birthday compliment to M. T. Symonds.

FARINGDON, BERKS.—On February 20th, before the evening service, at All Saints' Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles, with 4, 6, 8 covering, in 47 mins., by the local band: E. Walker 1, G. A. Webley 2, J. Pearce 3, T. Clark 4, E. Hughes 5, F. Wheeler 6, H. Taylor (conductor) 7, J. Beasley 8.

POLKINGHAM.—For evensong, on Sunday, February 20th, 720 Bob Minor: J. Lindsey 1, A. King (first 720 Plain Bob) 2, H. Maroon 3, W. Wilson 4, J. Musson 5, C. T. H. Bradley (first 720 as conductor) 6.

MERTSHAM, SURREY.—On Sunday, February 20th, for evening service at St. Katherine's, a quarter-peal of Bob Minor in 40 mins.: A. Woods 1, C. Hilton 2, B. Wells 3, J. Batters 4, H. Woods 5, C. Killick (conductor) 6. This is the first quarter-peal of Minor by the local band, who are all regular service ringers at St. Katherine's.

DUFFIELD, DERBYSHIRE.—On Sunday, February 20th, for evening service, 1,152 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major in 42 mins.: H. Hill 1, P. Dudley 2, R. Boulton 3, Miss E. Foulk 4, H. Letts 5, J. Patchett 6, G. Warrington (conductor) 7, S. Dawson 8.

EXETER.—At St. David's, on Sunday, February 13th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 44 mins.: W. Howe 1, A. G. Gooding 2, J. A. Tapley 3, J. Dunster 4, F. Murphy 5, W. Reeks (conductor) 6, G. Betts 7, W. Bedford 8. All the above are gardeners, and the above is the first touch as such. Composition taken from 'Clavis.'

BEGINNERS' TOUCHES.

In St. Stephen's belfry, Hampstead, on Sunday, February 13th, 120 Grandsire Doubles on handbells: R. P. Hunt 1-2, B. F. Farnery 3-4, S. C. Reeve-Flaxman 5-6, E. Aylett 7-8, R. Hudson (conductor) 9-10, A. J. Carter 11-12. First 120 as conductor. Rung, as was usual some years ago at Grundisburgh, each couple acting as one bell. This procedure is helpful in learning to ring double handed, and in acquiring the beat and getting some of the enjoyment of twelve-bell ringing.

A very youthful ringer rang his first 720 at Thorington on February 2nd, when 720 Plain Bob was brought round by: L. Gladwin (first 720, aged 11 years) 1, P. Almond 2, J. Bowell 3, W. J. Nevard 4, G. A. Andrews (conductor) 5, S. Davey 6.

NOTES BY THE WAY.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS VISIT OXFORD.

I now come to the extracts from Hearne's Diary, to which I referred a short time ago. The first recounts a visit the College Youths paid to Oxford in 1733. That was a time of great activity and progress in ringing. Although only eighteen years had elapsed since the Norwich Scholars rang the first peal in any method, all over the country there were bands attempting and ringing peals in several methods and on all numbers up to Cinques. In London alone there were no fewer than five societies of skilled ringers—the Union Scholars, the London Scholars, the City Scholars, the Eastern Scholars, and the College Youths. Every one of these had done some performance which made ringing history.

One of the College Youths was a Mr. Skelton. He was a man socially in a better position than the majority of his fellows, a graduate of Oxford University, who held the office of Registrar to the Bishop of London, and was a proctor in the Court of Arches, that is, a lawyer who practised in the ecclesiastical courts. Most likely he had learned ringing at Oxford, and in his undergraduate days had, like Anthony Wood, 'plucked at them' for recreation. In London, among the College Youths, he became an excellent ringer, and probably conceived the idea of taking a band of London ringers to visit his University city, and show the local men what good ringing could be like.

In the early days of George II.'s reign a journey from London to Oxford was no small undertaking. The roads were bad, and highwaymen not unknown. Railways were as yet a hundred years in the future, and even stage coaches were not general. If you were a wealthy aristocrat you would travel in your carriage with a retinue of servants. If you were well to do you would ride horseback. The rest, and that means the great majority of men, had to walk on their two feet and take what luck they could in the shape of an occasional lift by some waggon going to and from the villages on the way. In after years there grew up, somehow or other, a tradition that the College Youths of this period were an aristocratic and wealthy lot of men. There is an account published in a paper, which has frequently been quoted, which recounts how a peal of Bob Maximus was rung at Fleet Street, how the street was thronged by gentry who had come to listen, and how, after it was finished, all the twelve ringers went home each in his own carriage. On the face of it the thing does not seem very probable. One or two of the band, Geary, for instance, were very likely in good social circumstances, but I do not believe a little bit in the carriages.

At any rate, Hardman, the tobacconist, the one man in the band about whose ordinary life we know something, though he was at different times in his life pretty well to do, was certainly no aristocrat, and almost certainly never had a carriage. And even if he had, as he lived only a stone's throw from the church, he would scarcely have used it to cross the street. London then was very much smaller than it is now, and all the ringers probably lived at an easy walking distance from the towers at which they rang.

Anyhow, there were no carriages when they went to Oxford. I do not suppose Geary was in that band, but Benjamin Annable, who rang the tenor in the St. Bride's

peal, was; and he and the rest of his band walked the whole way. If you have to walk a long distance there is no better time to do it than Whitsuntide, when the days are long and the weather generally fine and bright, and when English country is at its very best. It seems they did the whole 54 miles on that Whit-Sunday. They must have started pretty early, and it was a very tired and foot-sore band that crossed Magdalen bridge into the High Street late that evening. Skelton had ridden down horseback the day before, no doubt to see all was ready for them and to make final arrangements. The intention was to ring a peal at each of the three principal college towers, Christ Church, Magdalen and New College. They do not seem to have attempted one at Merton. Perhaps the bells were not in good enough ringing order. The local men gave them a cordial welcome, and during the Monday, when they were resting after their long journey, rang some touches at Christ Church and Magdalen in their honour. The London men did not ring a peal. Four attempts they made, and all came to nothing, but the fault was not the ringers; broken gudgeons and bad ropes were the cause.

TWICKENHAM.—On Monday evening, February 14th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples as a birthday compliment to G. Bradford and V. E. Beadle: Miss Kathleen Bradford (first quarter and first attempt) 1. R. G. Ilsley 2. V. E. Beadle 3. W. H. Hollier (conductor) 4. E. A. Morris 5. D. H. Brown 6. J. A. Trollope 7. G. Bradford 8. A peal was arranged, but owing to the fog the band arrived too late.

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NOTICES.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—Meetings for practice will be held at Southwark Cathedral on March 29th, St. Magnus' on the 17th and 31st, *St. Giles', Cripplegate, on the 8th, St. Andrew's, Holborn, on the 10th (8 p.m.), *St. Paul's Cathedral on the 22nd; all at 7.30 p.m. *Business meeting afterwards.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., 'Frod-ingham,' 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT.—The annual meeting of this Guild will be held at Dudley on Saturday, March 5th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Service in church at 4.30, which will be conducted by the President, the Rev. Canon Phelps, Vicar of Dudley. Tea and business meeting afterwards. — Herbert Sheppard, 113, Himley Road, Dudley.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—A special meeting will be held on Saturday, March 5th, at Nottingham. The bells of St. Mary's (10) will be available from 3 p.m., and the meeting will be held in the belfry at 6 p.m. Tea can be obtained nearby at reasonable prices. It is urgently requested that all who possibly can will attend for the election of local officers for the ensuing year.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec., 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton-on-Trent District.—Owing to recent fire at Alrewas and the necessity for the removal of the bells, the next meeting will be held at Measham on Saturday, March 5th. Bells ready 3 p.m. Short service, followed by tea at the Meeting Room, 5 o'clock.—R. H. Dove, Dis. Sec.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Devizes Branch.—The monthly meeting will be held at West Lavington on Saturday, March 5th. Bells (6) ready at 3 p.m. Service 4.40. Tea 5. Short business meeting follows tea.—F. Green, Branch Sec., 53, Avon Road, Devizes.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Standish Parish Church on Saturday, March 5th. Bells ready at 3 o'clock. Tea at 5. Meeting at 6.—James W. Grounds, Sec., 8, School Lane, Standish.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting of the above branch will be held at Swanbourne on Saturday, March 5th. Bells (6) available from 2.30 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Will those attending notify me in good time?—Walter Sear, Hon. Sec., 19, Albert Street, Bletchley.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT AND OLD EAST DERBYSHIRE AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.—Annual meeting at Ranmoor on Saturday, March 5th. Committee meeting at 4.30. Short service at 5 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting, at which the election of officers for the ensuing year will take place.—Colin Harrison, Hon. Sec.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—A meeting will be held at Buckland on Saturday, March 5th. Six bells. Tower open 3 p.m. Service 5.15 p.m. Tea 6 p.m. All ringers welcome.—H. F. Ewins, Hon. Sec., 27, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—The next meeting will be held at Hersham on Saturday, March 5th. Bells (8) available 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. A good attendance is requested. — Miss N. E. Shorter, Hon. Sec., Ferndene, 15, Russell Road, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey.

APPLETON, BERKS.—The 109th anniversary of Appleton bells will take place on Saturday, March 5th. Tower open from 9 a.m. till 4 p.m. Dinner at 4.30 p.m. Please notify R. White, Appleton, Berks.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Kettering Branch.—A special meeting will be held at Warkton (5) on Saturday, March 5th. Usual arrangements. — H. Baxter, Silver Street, Broughton, Kettering.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meetings for March: St. Clement Danes, Sunday, the 6th, at 10 a.m., and Mondays, the 14th and the 28th, at 7.30; St. Mary's, Lambeth, Tuesday, the 22nd, at 8. Committee meeting Monday, the 21st, at 7.30, at St. Clement's.—A. H. Keighley, Gen. Sec., 19, Pepys Road, S.E.14.

ST. GILES', CAMBERWELL, SOCIETY.—The re-dedication of bells is on Tuesday, March 8th, by the Bishop of Southwark. Service commences at 8 p.m., to which all ringers are invited.—T. W. Taffender, Hon. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Oxford and District Branch.—The half-yearly business meeting will be held on Thursday, March 10th, at the Church of St. Martin and All Saints. Bells of St. Ebbe's Church available from 6 p.m. Service at All Saints' Church at 8 p.m., followed by business meeting.—W. Collett, 13, Latimer Road, Headington, Oxford.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—A meeting will be held at Acton on Saturday, March 12th. Ringing from 3 p.m. The usual tea arrangements will be made. All are welcome.—W. H. Hollier, Hon. Sec., 29, Duke Road, W.4.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Walton-le-Dale on Saturday, March 12th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Tea at 1s. 6d. a head to those who notify Mr. A. E. Woodhouse, 104, Victoria Road, Walton-le-Dale, not later than Tuesday, March 8th. A good attendance is requested.—Fred Rigby, Hon. Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—A meeting will be held at St. Paul's, Glyn Road, Homerton, on Saturday, March 12th. Bells available from 3.30. Short service at 5.15. Tea at 5.45, at usual charge of 1s.; all who require same must please advise me not later than March 9th. Buses or trams to Median Road, Clapton. Trains to Homerton (L.M.S.). Members and friends invited.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Sec., 21, Vincent Road, E.4.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—The next branch meeting will be held at the Blackburn Cathedral on Saturday, March 12th. Ringing at 3 p.m. Meeting 6.30 p.m.—J. Watson, Hon. Branch Sec.

BARNESLEY & DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at South Kirby on Saturday, March 12th. Bells ready early. Tea will be provided for those who apply to Mr. A. E. Harrison, 74, Mill Lane, South Kirby, near Pontefract, before March 9th.—C. D. Potter, Hon. Sec.

LADIES' GUILD.—Western District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Twerton-on-Avon on Saturday, March 12th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Service at 4.30. Tea in Church Room at 5 p.m. The bells of St. Mark's, Bath, will be available in the evening from 7 o'clock. Will those desiring tea kindly let me know by March 9th?—N. G. Williams, Hon. Sec., Weston House, Weston, Bath.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — Sonning Deanery Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Waltham St. Lawrence on Saturday, March 12th. Bells (6) at 3. Short Service 4.30. Tea at small charge, in Parish Hall, at 5. All ringers welcome. Please notify me by March 8th.—W. J. Paice, Hon. Sec. and Treas., Merrel, California, Wokingham.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Rochdale Branch.—A meeting will be held at Middleton on Saturday, March 12th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Meeting at 6.30 p.m. All ringers welcome.—William Horan, Branch Sec., 2, Greenhirst Hey, Tormorden.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Brookfield Church, Hyde Road, Gorton, on Saturday, March 12th. Bells at liberty 3 o'clock till 7.15 p.m. Meeting after. A good attendance is requested.—J. Hall, Branch Sec., 22, Silver Street, Miles Platting.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—A meeting will be held at West Derby on Saturday, March 12th. Bells ready at 4.30. A good meeting is requested.—Walter Hughes, Hon. Sec., 3, Shrewsbury Place, Garston.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northampton Branch.—A meeting will be held at Kissingbury on Saturday, March 12th. Bells (5) 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea 5 o'clock. Important. Will all those who require tea please notify me not later than Tuesday, March 8th? —T. Tebbutt, 53, Louise Road, Northampton.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Archdeaconry of Ely.—A district meeting will be held at Fulbourn on Saturday, March 12th. Bells (8) available afternoon and evening. Short service at 5 o'clock.—A. E. Austin, 4, Hills View, Great Shelford, Cambs.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District. —The annual meeting will be held at Howden on Saturday, March 12th. Bells (8) available from 1 p.m. Service at 4 p.m. Tea will be served in the Mission Room at 5 p.m. at a charge of 1s. 9d. per head. Applications for same to be made to Mr. R. B. Smith, Vicar Lane, Howden, not later than Wednesday, March 16th. Business meeting afterwards. Subscriptions for current year are now due.—A. B. Cook, Hon. Dis. Sec., 58, Wyndham Street, Hull.

HOLLOWAY.—The tower of St. Mary Magdalene is again open for practice on Tuesday evenings from 7.30 to 9. All friends welcome.—A. Turner, 13, Nelgund Road, Highbury, N.5.

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