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IS PEAL RINGING FUTILE?

We publish elsewhere in our columns a letter on the subject of peal ringing which has reached us from a source which demands respect. The writer is a ringer of long standing and considerable repute, and although he has adopted a *nom de plume* on this occasion our readers may take it that his letter has behind it the full force of genuine conviction arrived at after many years of wide ringing experience, and, doubtless, much thought. Having said this, however, we hasten to remark that we profoundly disagree with several of the conclusions at which 'Enlightened' has arrived, and we are quite sure that the majority of our readers will be with us in this respect. In his arguments against peal ringing our correspondent gives three reasons for his conclusions; that it is (1) futile, (2) a desecration of the bells of the Church, (3) a nuisance to many parishioners.

Is peal ringing futile? This may be a matter of opinion, but in our view peal ringing is a means to an end—it is the best means of raising the standard of striking and of securing the highest competence in accurate method ringing. We do not pretend that the end is always achieved, but we do say that the general standard of ringing to-day would have been nothing like as high as it is without the peculiar practice which peal ringing has provided. While there are plenty of 'sloppy' ringers who get through peals, we think it can hardly be denied that peal ringing with any band makes, in the end, for good ringing. There is also another aspect from which to judge peal ringing. No other practice can take its place in the cultivation of the mental attributes necessary to good change ringing—concentration, consistent accuracy, the subjugation of the individual to the collective aim. From each of these standpoints one peal is worth far more than four quarter peals; not only because the ringers attach more importance to it, but because of the greater sustained effort which is necessary.

Is peal ringing a desecration of the Church? In our view, emphatically no, if the behaviour of the ringers is consistent with the sacredness of the place in which they are engaged. When bells are dedicated they are set apart from 'profane and unhallowed uses,' and, when proper reverence is observed by the ringers, we cannot believe that peal ringing, which should bring out all the best characteristics in a ringer, is 'profane and unhallowed.' A peal can be no more profane and unhallowed than a practice, whether of the ringers, the choir or the organist, and we feel that our correspondent has adopted an exaggeration of language when he includes all peal ringing under the term of 'desecration.'

(Continued on page 498.)

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Is peal ringing a nuisance to many of the parishioners? Here there is more room for agreement with 'Enlightened.' There are undoubtedly numerous towers where the noise of the bells is more than the immediate neighbours ought to be asked to put up with, not only for peals, but also for practice. But the remedy is not the abolition of peal ringing; it lies in the effective control of the sound of the bells—a matter which, as was mentioned in our leading article last week, is simple and inexpensive in the majority of cases, and is one which should be undertaken wherever necessary by the church authorities.

TEN BELL PEAL.

YARMOUTH, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, August 5, 1933, in Three Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5000 CHANGES;

Tenor 30 cwt. 1 qr. 21 lb.

FREDERICK J. HOWCHIN ... 1 Treble	BERTIE J. HOWCHIN 6
MRS. G. H. CROSS 2	WILLIAM C. DUFFIELD 7
F. NOLAN GOLDEN 3	GEORGE BAILEY 8
GEORGE MAYERS 4	WILLIAM CLOVER 9
GEORGE HOWCHIN 5	GEORGE H. CROSS Tenor

Composed and Conducted by GEORGE H. CROSS.

* First peal in the method.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

KNEBWORTH, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, July 29, 1933, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor 12½ cwt.

WALTER D. POOLEY Treble	THOMAS C. CASTLE 5
CHALLIS F. WINNEY 2	LEONARD E. FIDLER 6
HERBERT ELSE 3	R. THOMAS NEWMAN 7
GILBERT E. DEBENHAM 4	GEORGE W. DEBENHAM Tenor

Conducted by C. F. WINNEY.

HUSBORNE CRAWLEY, BEDFORDSHIRE.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, July 31, 1933, in Three Hours and Eleven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 18½ cwt.

*GEOFFREY JACKSON Treble	ALFRED KING 3
CHARLES W. SMITH 2	HORACE H. SMITH 6
ARTHUR MARKWELL 3	ARTHUR E. SHARMAN 7
ALBERT FLEET 4	†FREDERICK BOWLER Tenor

Composed by J. J. PARKER.

Conducted by A. E. SHARMAN.

* First peal on eight bells. † First peal. Rung at the invitation of the Vicar for the annual parish feast. First peal of Triples on the bells.

STOKE MANDEVILLE, BUCKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

(EAST BERKS & SOUTH BUCKS BRANCH.)

On Saturday, July 29, 1933, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 9½ cwt. in G.

WILLIAM H. FUSSELL Treble	GEORGE MARTIN 5
*WILLIAM HENLEY 2	REV. C. ELLIOT WIGG 6
KATHLEEN E. FLETCHER 3	*WILFRED EDWARDS 7
†DOROTHY R. FLETCHER 4	HARRY WINGROVE Tenor

Composed by N. J. PITSTOW.

Conducted by H. WINGROVE.

* 350th peal. † First peal in the method. First peal of Superlative on the bells. Rung as a fourteenth birthday compliment to Miss M. Wingrove, daughter of the conductor.

MOSSLEY, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.
(MANCHESTER BRANCH.)

On Wednesday, August 2, 1933, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE.

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5280 CHANGES;
Tenor 13 cwt.

RALPH TAYLOR Treble	JOHN RADCLIFFE 5
JOHN CLAYTON 2	HARRY MELLOR 6
ERNEST GARSIDE 3	VERNON SYKES 7
HARRY PICKLES 4	FRED DUNKERLEY Tenor

Composed by W. SOTTENSTALL. Conducted by RALPH TAYLOR.

Ringers of the 6th, 7th and tenor are from Oldham, the others are all regular service ringers at the above church.

MEASHAM, LEICESTERSHIRE
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, August 2, 1933, in Two Hours and Thirty-Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

J. W. PARKER'S ODD AND EVEN BOB AND SINGLE TWELVE-PART, No. 94
Tenor 10 cwt.

MAURICE SWINFELD Treble	JOSEPH BAILEY 5
JOHN H. SWINFELD 2	NORMAN G. LEECH 6
J. CHARLES DICKEN 3	JAMES GEORGE 7
CHARLES DRAPER 4	JOHN CURTIS Tenor

Conducted by M. SWINFELD.

This composition is now rung for the first time, and is the first peal of Stedman Triples in twelve equal parts.

BECCLES, SUFFOLK.
THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Wednesday, August 2, 1933, in Three Hours and Thirty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;
Tenor 25½ cwt.

GEORGE HOWLETT Treble	STANLEY COFLING 5
MISS VIOLET BECKETT 2	EDWIN R. GOATE 6
MRS. G. H. CROSS 3	FREDERICK A. FINCH 7
*WILLIAM C. RUMSEY 4	GEORGE H. CROSS Tenor

Composed and Conducted by G. H. CROSS.

* 100th peal of Double Norwich. E. R. Goate has now rung a peal on each bell in this tower.

WROTHAM, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, August 5, 1933, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;
Tenor 20 cwt. in E.

EDWIN BARNETT Treble	FREDERICK W. ROGERS 5
THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE, JUN. 2	ALFRED B. PECK 6
JOHN W. WARD 3	CHARLES W. ROBERTS 7
ARTHUR T. GREENWOOD 4	THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE, SEN. Tenor

Composed by C. HATTERSLEY. Conducted by T. GROOMBRIDGE, JUN.
First peal in the method as conductor. Quickest peal of Major on the bells.

BURLEY, LEEDS, YORKS.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, August 5, 1933, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MATTHIAS,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;
Tenor 7 cwt. 3 qr. 16 lb.

ROBERT THOMAS Treble	JOHN W. MOORHOUSE 5
LEONARD DRAKE 2	G. WILFRED SLACK 6
CHARLES MCGUINNESS 3	GEORGE W. SLACK 7
PERCY J. JOHNSON 4	HAROLD WALKER Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by PERCY J. JOHNSON.

OLD WINDSOR, BERKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, August 5, 1933, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF LINCOLNSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;
Tenor 11 cwt. 2 qr. 21 lb.

KATHLEEN E. FLETCHER Treble	WILLIAM HENLEY 5
ROLAND BIGGS 2	CRCIL C. MAYNE 6
GEORGE MARTIN 3	HARRY WINGROVE 7
LEONARD STILWELL 4	WILLIAM WELLING Tenor

Composed by Rev. H. LAW JAMES. Conducted by WM. WELLING.

First peal in the method by all the band, on the bells and by the Guild. 100th peal as conductor. This was the 100th peal on the bells.

KNOWLE, WARWICKSHIRE.

THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.

On Saturday, August 5, 1933, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. JOHN THE BAPTIST, LAWRENCE AND ANN,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;
Tenor 10 cwt.

WILLIAM C. DOWDING Treble	GEORGE F. SWANN 5
WILLIAM B. CARTWRIGHT 2	GEORGE E. FEARN 6
FRANK E. PERVIN 3	SAMUEL GROVE 7
HENRY H. FEARN 4	C. HOWARD STANLEY Tenor

Composed by F. BENNETT (No. 20). Conducted by W. B. CARTWRIGHT

First peal of London Surprise Major on the bells.

CHULMLEIGH, DEVON.

THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

On Saturday, August 5, 1933, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor 25½ cwt.

ARTHUR NEWTON Treble	ARTHUR A. TRUMAN 5
ERNEST W. HILL 2	EDWARD W. BIFFIN 6
WILLIAM A. WILLS 3	PERCY NEWTON 7
WILLIAM H. HOWE 4	*HYLA NEWTON {
	*LEVI NEWTON { Tenor

Conducted by P. NEWTON.

* First attempt for the peal. First peal on the bells.

EAST ILSLEY, BERKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, August 5, 1933, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART. Tenor 8½ cwt.

WILLIAM HIBBERT Treble	MISS PAT HOLLOWAY 5
CYRIL J. HIBBERT 2	RICHARD T. HIBBERT 6
*MARK ROSIER 3	EDGAR HUMFREY 7
MISS VERA ROBINSON 4	REGINALD W. REX Tenor

Conducted by C. J. HIBBERT.

* First peal of Grandsire Triples 'inside.'

BIRMINGHAM.

THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.

On Saturday, August 5, 1933, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF BISHOP RYDER,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S No. 1. Tenor 12 cwt. 3 qr. 24 lb.	
A. PADDON SMITH Treble	BENJAMIN GOUGH 5
JOHN H. SWINFELD 2	ARTHUR BRAINES 6
ALBERT H. WARD 3	JAMES GEORGE 7
JOSEPH B. FENTON 4	WILLIAM DAVIES Tenor

Conducted by ALBERT H. WARD.

Rung as a compliment to Rev. C. H. Williams, M.A., on his induction, as Vicar, to the benefice of this church.

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LINTON, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, August 5, 1933, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

At the Church of St. Nicholas,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 15 cwt.

*NELSON BOURNE Treble	LUTHER J. HONESS 5
MRS. H. BAKER 2	CHARLES H. SONE 6
TOM SAUNDERS 3	FREDERICK A. LEASON 7
HARRY BAKER 4	BENJAMIN F. BAKER Tenor

Composed by J. A. TROLLOPE.

Conducted by C. H. SONE.

* First peal of Major.

CODDENHAM, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Saturday, August 5, 1933, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

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

Tenor 16 cwt.

CHARLES A. CATCHPOLE ... Treble	GEORGE A. FLEMING 5
WILLIAM C. ROMSEY 2	GARNEAM A. BLAXCELL 6
KEITH W. WHITTELL 3	HARRY D. LISTER 7
SHELFORD SPARROW 4	ARTHUR GRIMWOOD Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF.

Conducted by HARRY D. LISTER.

SIX BELL PEALS.

BURNHAM-ON-CROUCH, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, August 1, 1933, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's of Cambridge Surprise, and one each of London Surprise, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Double Court and Plain Bob. Tenor 10 cwt. 15 lb.

ARTHUR F. PUTLAND Treble	REGINALD G. HARVEY 4
WILLIAM G. GRIDLEY 2	HARRY S. BARKER 5
HARRY SIEBBINGS 3	EDWARD J. HOWARD Tenor

Conducted by HARRY S. BARKER.

First peal in six methods by all. Rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. T. C. Ringrose.

CHARING, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, August 2, 1933, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

At the Church of SS. Peter and Paul,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Norwich Surprise, Cambridge Surprise, Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob, Double Court, Single Oxford and Plain Bob. Tenor 13½ cwt.

GEORGE C. HILL Treble	WILLIAM J. HENNIKER 4
MISS GLADYS PACK 2	JOSEPH T. PACK 5
WILLIAM A. OLDFIELD 3	ALEXANDER WADDINGTON ... Tenor

Conducted by A. WADDINGTON.

First peal in seven methods by all the band, and first on the bells. Ringers of treble and 4th belong to the local company, 3rd from Little Chart, the remainder are from Egerton.

WRAGBY, NEAR WAKEFIELD, YORKS.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, August 5, 1933, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,

At the Church of St. Michael and Our Lady,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Wragby Delight, Kingston, Sandal, London Scholars' Pleasure, College Exercise, Oxford and Kent. Tenor 10 cwt.

JOHN MAJOR Treble	FRANK ATKINSON 4
ARTHUR PANTHER 2	ARTHUR GILL 5
GEORGE LORD 3	DANIEL SMITH Tenor

Conducted by D. SMITH.

Rung to celebrate the 400th anniversary of this church (1533-1933). First peal on the bells since 1910. Ringers of 2, 3 and 5 belong to Wath, 4 to York Minster, and treble and tenor to Felkirk.

NETHERTON, WORCESTERSEIRE.—On Saturday, June 3rd, in honour of His Majesty's birthday, an attempt for a peal of Bob Major came to grief after ringing 4,600 changes in 2 hours and 37 minutes, owing to the 7th rope slipping wheel. The ringing was also done as a birthday compliment to Mr. and Mrs. A. Prestidge: B. Gough 1, H. Goodman 2, W. Green 3, H. Hill 4, N. C. Williams 5, A. Prestidge, sen., 6, T. A. Townsend 7, J. Goodman (conductor) 8.

KNUTSFORD, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, August 5, 1933, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

At the Church of St. John,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Consisting of 38 methods, spliced into seven extents, viz.:

- (1) Melandra, Castleton, Peveril, Beeston and Leasowe Delight.
- (2) Chepstow, Dover, Balmoral, Skipton, and Fotheringay Delight.
- (3) Rostherne, Ely, Wilmslow, Knutsford and Bagedone Delight.
- (4) Crowland, Abbeyville, Combermere, Vale Royal and St. Werburgh Delight.
- (5) Charlwood, Newdigate, Neasden, Old Oxford, St. Albans, College Bob IV., Wragby and Willesden Delight.
- (6) Oakley, Morning Star, Duke of Norfolk, College Exercise and Norbury Treble Bob.
- (7) Capel, Oxford, Sandal, London Scholars' Pleasure and Kingston Treble Bob.

SIDNEY HOUGH, SEN. Treble	WILFRED STEVENSON 4
JAMES FERNLEY, JUN. 2	JOHN WORTH 5
JAMES A. MILNER 3	ERNEST BENNETT Tenor

Conducted by ERNEST BENNETT.

This peal contains the greatest number of methods yet rung in seven true extents.

WISTASTON, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, August 6, 1933 in Two Hours and Thirty-Four Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Consisting of seven different 720's. Tenor 6 cwt. 6 lb.

ALBERT CRAWLEY Treble	RICHARD T. HOLDING 4
WILFRED STEVENSON 2	HARRY PARKER 5
JAMES A. MILNER 3	JOHN WORTH Tenor

Conducted by JOHN WORTH.

First peal of Cambridge Minor by all except treble ringer.

GOLDHANGER, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, August 7, 1933, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

At the Church of St. Peter,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's of Oxford Treble Bob and one each of London Surprise, Cambridge Surprise, Kent Treble Bob, Double Court and Plain Bob. Tenor 6½ cwt.

EDWARD J. SHYNN Treble	REGINALD G. HARVEY 4
WILLIAM G. GRIDLEY 2	HARRY S. BARKER 5
HARRY SIEBBINGS 3	EDWARD J. HOWARD Tenor

Conducted by HARRY S. BARKER.

HANDBELL PEALS.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, August 1, 1933, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

In St. Margaret's Belfry,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERERS, 5131 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

HAROLD J. POOLE 1-2	GEO. STEDMAN MORRIS 5-6
PERCY HARRISON 3-4	ERNEST MORRIS 7-8
JOSIAH MORRIS 9-10	

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

STOCKPORT, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, August 3, 1933, in Two Hours and Seven Minutes,

At 23, GREEK STREET.

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

ALFRED BARNES 1-2	FREDERICK PAGE 5-6
ALLEN F. BAILEY 3-4	PETER LAFLIN 7-8

Composed by J. HUNT. Conducted by A. F. BAILEY.

Rung as a compliment to Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Bailey.

BELL ROPES

MADE FROM ITALIAN HEMP OR ITALIAN FLAX.
SOFT AND PLIABLE IN HAND. ALL ROPES SENT
CARRIAGE PAID AND ON APPROVAL.

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DAVID MAXON, ROPE WORKS, GRANTHAM

RECAST RING OF SIX AT DAGENHAM. BELLS RING AGAIN AFTER FOURTEEN YEARS.

Dagenham is one of those many villages and townships that have been assuming in these last few years a dual personality. As one approaches the vicinity of this one-time rural retreat in Essex, the new great Ford works loom into view not many furlongs from the by-pass road to Southend. Thence a mile run through modern villadom brings the visitor to old-fashioned Dagenham and its church, dedicated to SS. Peter and Paul, with tower and timbered spire.

The church was rebuilt and a ring of six bells installed in 1804 during the incumbency of Rev. Henry Morice, but records dated October 3rd, 1552, give evidence of the bells that were installed in a previous belfry:—

'Bell mettall. It'm. Remeynyng in our church iiii bells wyth a lytyll sance bell and a cloke strykyng upon the grett bell the gret bell weying by estymacyon xc
the thyrd bell weying by estymacyon viijc
the secundo bell weying by estymacyon viijc
the treble bell weying by estymacyon vjc
the lytyll sance weying about xxxli.'

The peal erected at the beginning of the last century had fallen into a grievous state, and had not been rung for about fourteen years. The wood frame was 'mobile,' the fittings in serious condition, four bells were cracked, and the whole ring was of poor tone.

The determined efforts of the Vicar, the Rev. George Jones, and his Council, have now altered this state of things, and the rededication of the bells by the Bishop of Barking (Dr. Inskip) took place on Thursday evening, July 27th, in the presence of a large congregation, clergy from neighbouring parishes, and a strong complement of ringers.

The wood frame has been reinforced and set on heavy steel girders; ball bearings and other new fittings have been supplied, and all six bells recast into a most musical ring with a 14½ cwt. tenor in F sharp.

The previous inscriptions have been reproduced with the addition on each bell of 'Recast by Gillett and Johnston, Croydon, 1933,' and the firm were congratulated on all sides for yet another perfect peal, easy to handle and of outstanding musical quality.

Just inside the west entrance to the church and in the tower is a plate bearing the inscription: 'To the glory of God. All six bells were recast, and a new steel grillage erected, in the year 1933, by the efforts of the parishioners and largely by the generosity of Mrs. C. Gunary and her sisters in memory of their parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. Henry and Maria Farrance, formerly of this parish. Rev. G. Jones, Vicar. Edward J. West and Frederick T. Lazell, Churchwardens.'

The Bishop based his address on the words 'Rejoice in the Lord.' The word 'bell' only occurred twice in the Bible, he said, and bells were not known in this country much before the ninth century, when they were then used in some of the ancient abbeys. There were no foundries, and the bell founders used to travel about the country and would cast bells at the churches where required. Things were very different to-day. It was recognised that every church had to have its bell or bells, and they ranged from the type to be found in St. Paul's Cathedral down to the awful little tinkle from a single bell rung continuously by some diminutive choirboy.

In ancient and historic churches, such as that at Dagenham, it would be particularly appreciated that they should have a peal of bells. In new towns they were proud of their associations with the past, and that was where they were the envy of Americans, who had nothing that could be called really old. No one could foresee the future of Dagenham, but it had already taken its place among the important towns of the country, and the growth of its population was the greatest in the past ten years of any town in the kingdom. It was up to the people in the district to maintain the traditions of the past and also to build up traditions for the future, and he hoped that an enlightened Church would play no small part in that. They had been without a peal of bells for fourteen years, and he hoped that, now the belfry had been renovated and the bells recast, they would do justice to the town.

His Lordship went on to refer to the ringers, and said that they, like engine drivers and others who did useful work, were often taken for granted. Yet they often served for years without further reward than the satisfaction they got out of their labours.

Proceeding, he referred to the uses of the bells and of the sorrows and happinesses which they indicated. He hoped that they would strike a true note and that their message would bring back the wanderer to the right road.

After the Bishop had dedicated the bells they were rung in rounds by members of St. Margaret's Society, Barking, till the choir, clergy and Bishop had returned to the chancel. After the service 240 Bob Minor was rung by F. E. Collins (Croydon) 1, R. Fenn 2, G. W. Faulkner 3, E. G. Cottis 4, A. Chaplin (Dagenham) 5, C. Fenn (conductor) 6. There were about 50 members of the Essex Association present, including Mr. Pryor (Master South-Western Division) and Mr. E. J. Butler (divisional secretary), and many visitors. All of the ringers afterwards had the opportunity of ringing, and touches in methods from Cambridge Minor to Grandsire Doubles and rounds were rung. Everyone was delighted with the 'go' and tone of the bells.

(Continued in next column.)

A LINCOLNSHIRE BEAUTY SPOT.

A quarterly meeting of the Southern Branch of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild was held at West Deeping on July 29th. It was not an overcrowded gathering, but ringers were present from Market Deeping, Bourne, Wymondham, Grantham, Folkingham, etc. Despite 72ft. of rope, the bells go well, and touches of Surprise Minor, Stedman and Grandsire Doubles were rung, and quite a happy time was spent, thanks to the arrangements made by the Vicar, Mr. Neal and Mr. Cuthbert Bradley. Tea was served on the Vicarage lawn, and thanks are due to the ladies for their efforts in this direction.

West Deeping was beautiful from the pride taken by the villagers in the appearance of their homes. Nearly every house was gay with well-tended flowers growing in the windows and gardens, while the old water mill added a touch of picturesqueness to the scene.

The spire of the church was struck by lightning recently, but happily very little damage was done.

MR. GEORGE GILBERT'S 300 PEALS.

Mr. George Gilbert, of Maidenhead, who has had the rare experience of ringing two peals with seven ladies, has just completed his third century of peals. In these 300 peals 442 ringers, of whom 31 were ladies, took part. In the 131 peals which Mr. Gilbert conducted, 43 ringers rang their first peal and 301 their first in the method.

Doubles:	Rung.	Conducted.
In three methods	2	2
In four methods	1	1
Minor:		
In one method	1	1
In two methods	2	2
In three methods	5	5
In four methods	12	9
In five methods	4	3
In seven methods	63	26
In eight methods	2	2
Triples:		
Grandsire	35 (g)	26
Oxford Bob	1	—
Plain Bob	4	4
Stedman	28	2
St. Clement's	1	1
Plain Major:		
Canterbury Pleasure	1	1
Double Norwich	17 (a)	2
Little Bob	1	—
Plain Bob	24 (c)	16
Single Oxford	1	1
St. Clement's College	1	1
Treble Bob Major:		
Kent	22 (f)	12
Oxford	11	10
Spliced (Worcester Variation)	1	1
Surprise Major:		
Bristol	7 (e)	—
Cambridge	8	—
Double Dublin	1 (b)	—
Guildford	1	—
London	13 (d)	—
New Cambridge	1	—
Painswick	1	—
Pudsey	1	—
Superlative	13	2
Surrey	1	—
Yorkshire	1	—
Caters: Stedman	6	—
Royal:		
Plain Bob	1	—
Kent Treble Bob	3	1
Cambridge Treble Bob	1	—
Cinques: Stedman	1	—
Totals ...	300	131

(a) Includes 11,008. (b) Includes 8,600. (c) Includes Army and Navy Peal. (d) Includes George peal. (e) Includes George peal. (f) One with seven ladies. (g) One with seven ladies. Rung in 116 towers, in 10 counties and for nine associations.

(Continued from previous column.)

Among those present at the opening were Mr. C. F. Johnston, representing the founders, and ringers from Barking, Hornechurch, Romford, Leytonstone, West Ham, Woodford, Stamford-le-Hope and Orsett.

On the following Sunday four of the Barking company, at the invitation of the Vicar (Rev. G. Jones), assisted in the ringing for the services. In the morning the first 720 Bob Minor on the bells was rung by: E. G. Cottis 1, R. Fenn 2, S. J. Holgate 3, J. Berry 4, A. Chaplin 5, C. Fenn (conductor) 6, and in the evening another 720 of the same method with A. Chaplin as conductor. Messrs. Berry and Chaplin are local ringers.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**ANNUAL FESTIVAL AT CHESTER.**

The annual festival of the Chester Diocesan Guild was held at Chester on Saturday, July 29th, when there was a good attendance representing all the seven branches of the Guild and several visitors from the bordering counties. The Guild's form of service was conducted in the Cathedral by Rev. W. R. Ingham, the secretary and treasurer of the Guild, and an instructive address was given by the Lord Bishop of the diocese.

At the business meeting held directly after the service, the Master, Rev. C. A. Clements, spoke of the loss the Guild and ringers in other parts of the country had sustained by the death of Rev. A. T. Beeston, who was the secretary of the Guild from 1907 to 1926, treasurer from 1908 to 1932, and for several years a trustee of the Guild. As a mark of respect all present stood in silence.

The report and statement of accounts were confirmed.

All the officials, with the exception of two vacancies on the committee, were re-elected, the vacancies being filled by Rev. H. S. T. Stevens, Crewe, and Mr. T. Thompson, Bowdon and Stockport.

Mr. J. Norbury gave an interesting report on the proceedings of the meeting of the Central Council held in London at Whitsuntide.

After a short discussion it was decided to hold the next annual festival at Grappenhall on August Bank Holiday, 1934.

Votes of thanks were accorded to the Dean and Chapter for allowing the use of the Cathedral for the service, the refectory for the tea and the meeting, and for the use of the bells, also to the Lord Bishop for his address, and to all the officials for their work during the past year.

An excellent tea had been arranged by a band of voluntary helpers, and the company numbered more than 100, one of the greatest of recent years.

The bells of the Cathedral, St. Mary's, Handbridge, St. Mary's-within-the-Walls and Christleton were open for ringing during the evening.

BELLS OF ST. NICHOLAS', ABINGDON.**RESTORATION COMPLETED.**

On Sunday afternoon, July 30th, the Church of St. Nicholas, Abingdon, had a crowded congregation at an inspiring service, when the peal of six bells was rededicated by the Lord Bishop of Oxford.

The bells are a light ring of six with a $7\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. tenor in B flat, all cast by Rudhall in 1741. Messrs. Gillett and Johnston have retuned the peal, a remedy that was badly needed, and rehung the bells in a heavy cast-iron frame together with new fittings, which include ball bearings and the last word in modern bell hangers' improvements.

That the bells now 'go like tops' and sound a musical little ring was the testimony of parishioners and ringers alike.

The opening rounds were rung by the St. Nicholas' band, A. E. Lock, Miss D. Stanley-Turner, Mrs. A. E. Lock, F. Juggins, F. Barrett, J. Gerrard, whilst ringers in numbers arrived for the ceremony and subsequent ringing from Appleton, Hagbourne, Harwell, Headington, Isley, Marcham, Miln, Oxford, Reading, Slough, Sutton Courtney, Stevenston, Sunningwell, Wittenham and Wycombe.

At the appointed time in the service the Bishop, accompanied by the Rector and warden, proceeded to the ringing room, where Mr. Cyril Johnston (representing the bell foundry) handed the ropes to the churchwarden (the Hon. A. D. Chetwynd), who requested the Bishop to dedicate the bells.

The civic dignity of the borough was added to the ceremony in this ancient church, for the Mayor, aldermen and councillors attended in their robes, together with Major-General E. J. Cooper (vice-chairman of the Church Council), General Sir Charles Corkram, and other distinguished parishioners.

THE LATE REV. C. W. O. JENKYN'S PEALS.

The late Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn rang exactly 400 peals. He conducted Thurstons' Four-part 40 times. His peals were as follow:—

Minor 3, Grandsire Triples 49, Grandsire Major 1, Grandsire Caters 16, Bob Major 7, Bob Major (on handbells) 1, Bob Royal 2, Stedman Triples 158, Stedman Caters 31, Stedman Cinques 25, Kent Treble Bob Major 21, Kent Treble Bob Royal 7, Kent Treble Bob Maximus 3, Oxford Treble Bob Major 1, Little Bob Major 3, Little Bob Royal 2, Double Oxford Bob Major 1, Double Norwich Court Bob Major 24, Superlative Surprise Major 17, Cambridge Surprise Major 18, Bristol Surprise Major 4, London Surprise Major 5, Washbrook's Caversham Major 1; total 400.

DUBLIN.—At Christ Church Cathedral, on Thursday, June 22nd, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples; A. Cook 1, G. Lindoff 2, G. G. Lindoff 3, H. Richardson 4, J. Davidson (first quarter-peal) 5, F. Stephen 6, W. Lynch (conductor) 7, W. Stephen 8.

SULGRAVE.—On Tuesday, July 25th, the 5th anniversary of the opening of the bells, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles (1,260 changes): G. Shallard 1, L. Parker 2, W. Branson (conductor) 3, J. Mardell 4, L. Wootton 5, W. Wilcox 6. The above are all Sunday service ringers.

VILLAGE RINGERS VISIT LONDON.**A TOUR OF THE CROYDON FOUNDRY.**

Ringers of the village of Great Chishill, with their president (the Vicar), vice-president (Mr. G. W. Tottem), and a few friends, visited the Metropolis for their annual outing last week. Leaving the Cross by coach at 7 a.m., a pleasant run through the country brought them to the city just as teeming thousands were wending their way to work. The party found much to interest them in the sights of Central London, as they passed through on their way to Croydon for a visit to Messrs. Gillett and Johnston's Foundry. Here, having picked up their appointed guide, let the recorder of the company describe their experiences:—

Used as we are to the sounds of nature and the peace of the countryside, it was disconcerting to be amid the din of the 'shop' into which we were shepherd. After a bit, however, we learnt the knack of making our voices heard under the racket.

A volume could be written on the casting of a bell, and it must suffice if we give here just a vignette or two. At the time of our visit the moulds for four large bells were in preparation, as also the metal. There were two and a quarter tons of this being reduced to liquid form, under the watchful eye of 'a little gentleman with a shovel.' He allowed us the privilege of using one of his peep-holes, but he did not allow us to drop a shovelful of coal in the 'right' spot of his precious furnace. Indeed had he suggested such a thing, our refusal would have been very emphatic. We can think of many much cooler jobs. He was no doubt an artist at his job—some day he will be counted one of the old hands; at present he has only been in the foundry some 60 years.

Amongst the many interesting details noted was that of the process of tuning. Obviously a rough cast bell has a note of its own, but before it can take its place in a 'ring' it must be tuned and finally tested and passed by Mr. Johnston himself. The primary tuning is carried out by a young lady member of the staff. At the moment there were no bells under inspection, but she gave us an exhibition of her skill. Within a circle of some 24 bells (standing on their crowns) she manipulated a series of independent hammers of varying weights, the heaviest of which must have turned the scale at a round dozen lbs. Watching her it was a little difficult to decide whether she was performing on the bells or going through a graceful physical exercise, but there was no doubt about her being able to touch a bell in the right spot.

Gillett and Johnston have a high reputation as clock makers as well as bellfounders, and their products can be found in many countries outside the Empire, notably America. The term 'mass production' has not yet entered their vocabulary. Within the last few weeks they have completed the job of recasting and erection of Row bells.

After bidding adieu to Mr. Johnston and our guide we went to the great air-port of Croydon. Mounting to the roof of one of the buildings we had a bird's eye view of the entire aerodrome. Machines were standing around like so many cars in a park. Our attention was centred in the giants, and we were fortunate in seeing one start off for Paris, and the arrival of a machine from Paris.

After lunch we had time to pay a short visit to the Parish Church (St. John's), which we found worthy of a much longer stay. In many respects the church is similar to the Parish Church of Saffron Walden.

Our next 'point' was South Kensington, which provided another run, which brought under view many interesting features of London. As soon as we reached Kensington we had an hour and a half in which to see part of the Science and Art Museum. By a coincidence this section contained models of gliders and flying machines of the past 50 years, as also the actual machines which had helped to make history in recent times, notably Amy's Australian machine. In addition to these there were innumerable models, all of which could be set in motion by pressing a button or turning a handle, and even the oldest of us could not resist the temptation 'to see how it worked.' It was a trying matter to gather the flock together from such fascinating surroundings, but as we had arranged for tea in the Victoria and Albert Museum force had to be used to disengage the youngest of the party from his particular model. After a pretty full day, the homeward journey was made quite without incident, and we reached our destination by nine o'clock. It will be some time ere we finish comparing notes on a most successful outing. G. W. T.

WEDDING BELLS.**DURHAM DISTRICT SECRETARY MARRIED.**

On Saturday, July 29th, at St. Oswald's Church, West Hartlepool, the wedding of Mr. F. Robson and Miss D. Dodsworth took place. While the happy couple were leaving the church the bells were rung to Grandsire Triples. The ringers attended the wedding reception and afterwards returned to the tower and rang a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples.

The bridegroom is well-known as a district secretary of the Durham and Newcastle Association, and rings regularly for Sunday services and practices at the above church.

The ringers were: W. Pillar 1, W. Oxley (Sunderland) 2, T. Stephenson (Sunderland) 3, T. Metcalf (Middlesbrough) 4, H. Robson 5, E. Robson 6, R. L. Patterson (conductor) (Sunderland), 7, S. Breeze 8.

TILEHURST RINGERS' OUTING.

On Saturday, June 24th, the ringers of St. Michael's, Tilehurst, Berks, went by coach for their annual outing. They were accompanied by friends, among whom was Mr. E. G. Foster, the local branch secretary, and the party made a tour through Bucks, stopping to ring at Haddenham, Long Crendon, Thame and Great Milton. Tea was enjoyed at Long Crendon, and the ringers once more thank the Rector most heartily for his generosity in providing it. They wish to thank also the Rector of Long Crendon and his efficient helpers for their splendid catering.

SUNDAY SERVICE TOUCHES.

SOUTHGATE.—On June 25th, for morning service, 1,257 Stedman Caters in 51 mins.: A. R. Glascock 1, W. Pickworth 2, D. Pink 3, J. Armstrong 4, J. E. Miller 5, D. Ovington 6, N. Tomlinson 7, H. Miller 8, S. Wade (conductor) 9, A. G. Crane 10.—For evening service, 1,260 Stedman Triples: Mrs. Tomlinson 1, E. H. King 2, W. Bowden 3, J. E. Miller 4, J. Armstrong 5, W. Pickworth 6, J. G. Nash (conductor) 7, A. G. Crane 8.

SOUTHWELL.—At the Cathedral on Sunday, June 25th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Duffield Major (1,296 changes): H. F. Clulow 1, G. E. Padgett 2, P. C. Hooper 3, G. E. Foster 4, E. H. Clulow 5, E. Foster 6, A. J. Chamberlain 7, J. F. Milner (conductor) 8. First quarter-peal in the method on the bells and by all the ringers. A birthday compliment to Joyce, daughter of the ringer of the 7th.

KINGS NORTON, BIRMINGHAM.—On Sunday, June 25th, for evening service, in 50 mins., a quarter-peal (1,296 changes) of Stedman Caters: A. Chambers 1, C. Webb 2, J. Jaggar 3, C. H. Stanley 4, H. Williams 5, A. S. Downes 6, J. E. Eaton 7, J. Screen 8, G. E. Fearn (conductor) 9, J. Betterton 10. Arranged for Mr. J. Jaggar, of Warley, and Mr. J. Screen, of West Bromwich.

SEDBERGH.—Service touches rung during the last quarter included 1,008 Double Norwich, 784 Double Oxford, 1,008 Stedman Triples, 928 and two 1,024's Superlative Surprise. Ringers taking part: H. Danson, Miss N. Harrison, E. Jennings, E. Pennington, J. Smith, T. Sisson, H. Haresnape, J. W. Pennington, G. Braithwaite and G. F. Woodhouse (conductor).

HOLBORN.—On Sunday, May 14th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples from Carter's Odd Bob peal: J. S. Hawkins 1, H. C. Alford 2, T. Langdon 3, C. J. Choct 4, C. F. Winney (conductor) 5, R. W. Green 6, E. Brett 7, W. J. Norton 8. Rung as a birthday compliment to Mrs. Sevadain, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Hawkins.

WOODBIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR.

BY GABRIEL LINDOFF.

The first peal in this method, which is another by Mr. Gabriel Lindoff, was rung at Helmingham, Suffolk, last April. Here is the method and the composition:—

The Method.	5,024.
12345678	23456 W. M. H.
21354768	52436 —
12537486	45623 — —
21573846	65324 —
25137864	26354 —
52318746	32465 — —
52137864	42563 —
25318746	64523 —
52381764	35642 — — —
53287146	64352 — —
35821764	36245 — —
38527146	43652 — B —
83572416	26435 — — —
85374261	42635 —
58732416	64235 —
57834261	26543 — —
75384621	35264 — — —
73586412	37854621 —
37854621	52364 —
38756412	43526 — — —
83765142	54326 —
87361524	35426 —
78635142	23456 —
76831524	
67813542	
76185324	
76813542	False course ends.
67185324	24365
61758342	32546
16785432	53624
61874523	46253
16847253	65432
16482735	

Bob 18642735

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The cost of the Law James memorial, which consists of two treble bells to make a ring of twelve at Surfleet, where Mr. Jamca was Vicar for more than 30 years, has been £176 0s. 6d. Towards this sum £162 19s. 10d. has been subscribed, and the fund is to be closed on August 31st. All further contributions should therefore be sent in by that date to the Master, Mr. Rupert Richardson, Glyn Garth, Surfleet, Lincs.

Messrs. Mears and Stainbank are shortly dispatching to Canada a very fine carillon of 23 bells, with a bass of four tons. The bells are of wonderful tone and perfect in their harmonic blending. They are to be erected at the new Roman Catholic Cathedral, at Hamilton, Ontario, and the biggest bell is to be hung to swing. Canada is dotted along the banks of the great St. Lawrence river with bells from the Whitechapel foundry, some of which went out over a hundred years ago.

Can any church in the country claim an older complete ring of eight bells than St. Lawrence Jewry, London, the official church of the city Corporation? These bells, which are all intact, and a year or two ago were rehung and greatly improved by tuning, were cast at Whitechapel in 1687.

In the report of the peal of Stedman Triples at Brookfield Church, Gorton, Manchester, on July 24th, the name of the ringer of the 4th should have been Alfred Frost.

THE CARE OF CHURCHES.

VIEWS OF THE S.P.A.B.

The annual report of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, a book of more than 160 pages, which has just been circulated, will be of much interest to antiquarians, but, except that a number of churches are listed among the cases in which the society has given advice, there is nothing this year which immediately concerns the interests of church bellringing.

There is, however, a section on the care of churches generally, in which it is recorded that there is no doubt at all that the parish churches of England are now receiving better care and more thoughtful treatment than they have received for two hundred years. This is due, says the report, to a changed public opinion, an opinion that was largely formed by the society, and which is now expressed by it and by the Diocesan Advisory Committees.

To-day, continues the report, there are two causes at work which too often bring harm to these old buildings. The first of these is the scare about the death watch beetle. It is very rare to find an old oak roof or framework that shows no sign of this insect's activity. This has always been so; and it is not certain that it has not always been equally active. The society finds people prepared to take up the sound covering of roofs so that they may come at and treat timbers that, as yet, show no structural distress. The society views this procedure with alarm where old roofs are concerned, for apart from extravagance of cost where such works are done in this atmosphere of beetle panic, more old worked timbers are discarded than is at all desirable. Most roofs that show no distress are good for another century or two.

The second tendency has much that is theoretically laudable to encourage it. The desire to make a 'permanent' job of repair work is often plausibly brought to the fore and is not uncommonly opposed to proper economy and to common sense. This desire, so apparently well backed by a moral or semi-moral incentive, does cause loss of interest to an ancient building when it is allowed free scope.

What the report advocates in preference to 'permanent' repair in such cases is continual watchfulness and 'daily care.'

May we add that so far as this advice applies to bells and bell frames it is excellent—when the authorities start with bells and frames in perfect order. But when the contents of the tower have passed the stage of usefulness—and in this case we refer particularly to bell frames—'patching' is a wasteful expedient if the bells are to be applied to the purposes for which they were primarily installed, and used in the manner in which they were intended and are expected to be used.

SILCHESTER SURPRISE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I shall be surprised if the Rev. E. B. James, or any other composer, is able to produce a peal in the above method with tenors together, as there are only 21 true plain courses, with eight false course-heads to each course as follows:—

46253	}	related simple transposition rows.
65432		
53624		
32546		
54263	}	related complex transposition rows.
46325		
34562		
62345		

GEORGE BAKER.

2, North Street Quadrant, Brighton.

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.**HOW THE PEAL MAY HAVE BEEN BUILT UP.**

By JOSEPH J. PARKER.

The origin of some of our old peals will always be of interest, and anything calculated to show the mental stages gone through by the early composers should be interesting.

While I was engaged upon my investigation of Grandsire Triples in the year 1888 I built a certain table of lead ends, with a view to trying to obtain a six-part peal with the 6th and 7th never called 'Before.' While experimenting with the table, I noticed that certain passages in the table were similar to some passages in Holt's peal. This set me wondering what suggested to Holt the idea of having two bells never called before, and those two bells the 2 and 6; also why the peal contained so many calls.

To get anything like a feasible answer to these questions, we have to consider what material Holt would have in those days to assist him in producing such a peal. To this last question I will suggest that the Bob and Single peal gave him the idea for a six-part peal, with the 6th and 7th never called before, and I believe this was the kind of peal Holt set out to compose.

Taking the Bob and Single peal to start with, naturally it would occur to Holt to substitute bobs for all the singles, not that that would get him very far.

At this stage a few experiments will have suggested a table of lead ends, similar to the one I built in 1888, at which time I happened to transpose the peal from the row 347526—to see what it would be like with the 6 and 7 taking the place of 2 and 6, I found that it produced a very poor peal, and I took no further interest at the time.

Having recently reproduced the transposition from my table, to see what actually happened in the process, I found the result very interesting. I will here give a description of the table, which is built in three sections.

SECTION A.

This section is built to the six following rows: 236745, 346725, 426735, 327645, 247635, 437625. Bobbing every row, except when the 6 or 7 comes before, will give the whole section in six round blocks, with the 6-7 and 7-6 coming into 4.5 at regular intervals. These rows should be taken as the dominant numbers of 24 Q sets.

SECTION B.

This section is built to the six following rows: 234567, 342567, 423567, 324576, 243576, 432576. If this section is treated as section A, we get six round blocks, with the 6-7 and 7-6 coming behind at regular intervals. Here again we get the dominant members of 24 Q sets.

SECTION C.

This section should contain 24 B-blocks in which the 6th and 7th never come before.

I will now endeavour to show how I believe Holt first composed his peal. In dealing with section A and B by plaining nine Q sets in each case, he got the whole of section A, with nine B-blocks linked together into one round block.

He also got section B, with fourteen B-blocks linked together in the same way. At this stage a certain B-block will appear in both sections, but by omitting two bobs, the three false rows are cut out, and the two sections joined up, giving the peal in its transposed form, with section A at the beginning, and section B, with all the 6-7's and 7-6's at the end of the peal.

We now see that Holt had to transpose in order to get some 6-7's spread about the peal instead of 2-6's, and to get the singles to come in the last four leads.

With regard to the number of calls, I would suggest

(Continued in next column.)

PEAL RINGING.

The following letter has been written to 'The Ringing World' by a well known ringer, whose views on peal ringing seem to have changed with the passing years. While many will disagree with him, his opinions deserve respect. We invite the views of others on the subject. Our own are given in our leading article.

To the Editor.

Sir,—The slow and gradual march of civilisation has witnessed the removal of many abuses, such as slavery (partially), duelling, bull-baiting, cock fighting, etc.

May we hope that the future will see the extension of this list by the inclusion of that gross travesty of music, viz., 'jazz,' and, finally, of 'peal ringing,' and that brutal sport (?) prize fighting.

This may seem an extraordinary view to be taken by one who has rung some hundreds of 5,000's. This aspect of peal ringing has gradually been borne in on me during recent years, and for the following reasons:—

- (1) Peal ringing is futile,
- (2) is a desecration of the bells of the church,
- (3) is a nuisance to many of the parishioners.

(1) It is futile, because unnecessary as a practice. I hold that any progressive band of ringers can become proficient in any method by constant practice on the weekly occasions.

When we consider that we begin all peals from 'rounds,' it stands to reason that of, say, the 40,320 changes of Major the much larger proportion are never heard by human ears. Why not make one of the other bells the 'hunt' bell instead of the treble, and if our talented composers could compose the 40,320 in blocks of 1,260 we would then probably hear some beautiful music hitherto unheard.

(2) The bells of our churches are consecrated instruments to be used to the glory of God and the service of the church.

Can you imagine one of our organists attempting a time record of organ playing? To my mind the ideal belfry would be where all the members were regular communicants of the church and where prayer was offered, at least, on all occasions when divine service followed the ringing.

I would rather see the front pages of your excellent paper filled with the records of first touches in such and such a method for service than all the 5,000's.

Have we not been too liable to forget the main object of our existence as ringers?

(3) I submit that, in the present overpopulated condition of the country, a continual ringing of the bells for three or four hours must be a tax on the nerves of many of our neighbours. If we were not ringers we should perhaps be the first to object.

I know that the above expression of my views will come as a sort of bombshell to many of our brethren, but if it has the least effect of causing them to regard their calling in a more serious light, and if it prompts composers to give us compositions which produce the hitherto unheard music, my suggestions will not have been in vain.

Apologising for the length of this epistle, for which, in your goodness, I trust you may find room,—Yours sincerely,

'ENLIGHTENED.'

SUNDAY SERVICE TOUCHES.

MELKSHAM, WILTS.—On Sunday morning, August 6th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: H. Cockell 1, G. H. Archard 2, A. W. Angel 3, R. H. Legg 4, W. S. Burbage 5, W. C. West 6, A. P. Cannon (conductor) 7, F. Dodimead 8. Arranged for the conductor, who hails from Forest Hill, as part of a week-end's 'tower snatching.' He wishes to thank all members of the Devizes Branch for so kindly giving him such a good time.

CROYDON.—At St. Peter's Church, for evensong, on August 6th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: H. Wills 1, F. Lecks 2, H. Simmons 3, W. Bulpitt 4, H. Young 5, F. Collins 6, E. Denham (conductor) 7, J. Adcock 8. This quarter-peal was rung in honour of the first anniversary of the birth of the son of Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Johnston, of the Bell Foundry, Croydon.

GREAT TOTHAM, ESSEX.—On Sunday, July 30th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Minor (consisting of 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor, 360 Kent Treble Bob Minor and 180 Plain Bob): R. Stirling 1, E. J. Shynn (conductor) 2, H. Seager 3, F. W. Shynn 4, J. Seager 5, P. C. Sayer 6. Rung as a birthday compliment to the conductor.

(Continued from previous column.)

that Holt never selected and bobbed thirty Q sets, but that he adopted the plan of plaining eighteen Q sets.

In building his table, I think we may take it for granted that Holt began with section B, as he would naturally start with the row 752634, when the rest would follow.

DOUBLES.**HOW METHODS MAY BE SPLICED INTO TRUE SIX-SCORES**

Often, when licence is claimed on behalf of the five and six-bell ringers for departure from the accepted standards of ringing, it is on the ground of the need for greater scope and variety. With regard to methods, however, the six-bell ringer has no ground for complaint, now that such a wide field has been introduced by 'splicing.' He, at least, has no more need to break the conventions of method construction because of the limitation of recognised methods at his disposal.

The case is, perhaps, somewhat different with the Doubles ringer. He has not got the scope of the six-bell man and his desire for variety cannot be so easily satisfied. There are, in fact, very few methods which consist of pure doubles changes and the consequence is that, if a number of methods are required in a peal, those coming under the heading of 'irregular' have to be rung.

When the Central Council first defined a 'legitimate' method and published the first edition of the 'Collection of Legitimate Methods' they said, in their preface, 'In dealing with Doubles every possible variation of every method is given because the number of methods is small and the committee wish to give five-bell ringers the greatest possible variety.' After detailing the number of extents obtainable in the methods which they gave, they added, 'It is to be hoped that five-bell ringers will find sufficient variety, without recourse to "Dreams" and other such productions, which are neither worth the paper on which they are written nor the time taken to practice them.'

When the new edition of the 'Collection' was published two years ago the committee, because the number of regular methods on five bells is so very limited, decided to give 'a selection of methods which contain features' (such as irregular lead ends, and bells lying still for more than two blows in one position) 'which should not be tolerated on larger numbers of bells where the scope is much greater.' The result is that five-bell ringers are given a selection of sixteen 'irregular' methods, which it may be taken for granted are, in the opinion of the committee, the best of the bunch. Of pure Doubles they give only Original (forward and backward), Carter's principle and the reverse, Stedman and the reverse, Grandsire and the reverse and Double Grandsire. They have omitted New Grandsire and its reverse, but have included Reading, which, while consisting of pure Doubles, has a plain course of only two leads, and has different work for different bells.

It is surprising how little advantage seems to be taken of the material provided for the five-bell ringers. They will clutch at mongrel compositions of Grandsire for 'the sake of relieving the monotony,' but miss entirely the greater attractions of mixing the methods. Even the ringing of the different variations of Grandsire would add a good deal to the interest of a peal and provide the conductor, as well as the ringers, with something about which to keep alert.

In the last annual report of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association it was suggested the Spliced Doubles might well be rung and that a six-score could be made up of half Grandsire and half Stedman, the methods being coupled together by singles. Any

methods of pure Doubles can be treated in this way, for the reason that in one method is rung all the in-course changes and in the other all the out-of-course changes, between which there can be no risk of repetition. Thus 60 of Original can be spliced to 60 of Stedman or Grandsire; 60 of Stedman to 60 of Carter's principle or Grandsire and so on, and in each case it would be a true six-score.

The splicing together of methods with one hunt, either with other methods of a similar character or with methods of pure Doubles, is not so simple a matter, because the methods themselves produce both in and out of course rows in the plain course, and it is extremely difficult to avoid repetition. Among the methods which can be thus spliced into true 120's are, however, Grandsire and Union Doubles. The latter method (No. 11 in the 'Collection') is as follows:—

1 2 3 4 5	
2 1 3 5 4	
2 3 1 4 5	
3 2 4 1 5	
3 4 2 5 1	
4 3 2 5 1	
4 2 3 1 5	
2 4 1 3 5	Bob
2 1 4 5 3	2 4 1 3 5
1 2 4 3 5	2 1 4 5 3
	1 2 5 4 3

1 4 2 5 3	1 5 2 3 4
-----------	-----------

A six-score of Union can be got by calling a bob at each course end.

4253

5432

3524

— 4352

Twice repeated.

A spliced six-score of Union and Grandsire can be got by ringing alternate leads of these methods.

2345 Union	2345 Union
4253 Grandsire	— 5234 Grandsire
4325 Union	— 3452 Union
2453 Grandsire	5324 Grandsire
— 5324	— 2453

Each twice repeated.

In these illustrations the first lead is rung in Union, the next in Grandsire, and so on, and in the first example the 120 is got by a Grandsire bob at every fourth lead. The second example is bobbed in the first lead of Union in each part and at every lead of Grandsire.

There are two pure, but irregular methods of Doubles, which can be spliced together, and, when rung in alternate leads, will produce the extent of the in-course rows without a bob. The second of the two methods is Reading Doubles (No. 12 in the 'Collection'), but the first is not to be found in the Council's book:—

(Continued in next column.)

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LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**ELLOE DEANERIES BRANCH.**

The quarterly meeting of the Elloe Deaneries Branch was held at Surfleet on Saturday, July 22nd, under ideal conditions. A short service was held in the church, when an address was given by the Vicar, his subject being the Oxford Centenary. The lessons were read by the Rev. E. C. Gee, Vicar of Pinchbeck.

Tea was provided by the Master of the Guild and Mrs. Richardson on the lawn at Glyn Garth, and was very much enjoyed. A short business meeting followed, at which members were present from Donington, Surfleet, Pinchbeck, Spalding, Fleet, etc. Among the visitors were Mr. G. W. Hensman, of Pinchbeck, Mr. C. T. and Mrs. Colos, of London, Mr. F. W. Perrons, of Coventry, and Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Fidler, of Loughborough. The members were pleased to have with them Mr. J. Phillips, the Eastern Branch secretary, after his recent illness.

The Rev. H. Law James memorial fund was mentioned, and the total cost was given as £176 0s. 6d. Subscriptions, etc., up to date, amounted to £162 19s. 10d.

It was decided to close the fund on August 31st, and it is hoped that further subscriptions will be forwarded before that date. Votes of thanks were accorded to the Vicar for the use of the bells and for arranging the service, and to Mr. and Mrs. Richardson for providing the tea and for the use of their lawn.

Afterwards further ringing was indulged in until about nine o'clock. During the evening there were two exhibitions at the local cinema of famous ringers and their doings, which were greatly enjoyed.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT SHEPTON BEAUCHAMP.**

On Saturday last a quarterly meeting of the Crewkerne Deanery Branch was held at Shepton Beauchamp, and ringers to the number of about twenty attended from the following towers: Barrington, Bridgwater, Hinton St. George, Ilminster, Taunton St. James, Taunton St. Mary, Wilton and Yeovil, as well as ringers from the home tower.

Ringing began soon after three o'clock, and continued at intervals till 4.30, when the special ringers' service was conducted by the Rector. After this the party sat down to tea in the schoolroom. At the business meeting which followed, it was resolved to hold the next quarterly meeting at Crewkerne some time in October.

The meeting over, a move was made to the tower again, and ringing continued till about eight o'clock. During the afternoon and evening 'six-scores' of Grandsire Doubles were rung, and touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples, and Double Norwich Court Bob Major, as well as some Bob Minor, were brought round.

SPlicing OF DOUBLES METHODS—(continued)

1 2 3 4 5	1 4 3 5 2
2 1 3 5 4	4 1 5 3 2
2 3 1 4 5	4 5 1 2 3
3 2 4 1 5	5 4 2 1 3
2 3 4 5 1	4 5 2 3 1
3 2 5 4 1	5 4 3 2 1
2 3 5 1 4	4 5 3 1 2
3 2 1 5 4	5 4 1 3 2
3 1 2 4 5	5 1 4 2 3
1 3 4 2 5	1 5 2 4 3
1 4 3 5 2	1 2 5 3 4

The single is made as follows:—

32154
31245
13245
12354

and can be introduced in any lead in the first half so long as the second single is made in the corresponding place in the second half.

Other investigators may like to try their hand at splicing further methods of Doubles, but this article will be sufficient to enable five-bell ringers to break new ground and ring more than one method in a six-score. There has not yet been a peal rung on these lines. What band will be the first to do so?

QUICK SIX.

A NEW MINOR RECORD.**THIRTY-EIGHT METHODS RUNG IN A PEAL.**

A new record was created on Saturday, when a peal of Minor in no fewer than 38 methods, compressed into seven true extents, was rung at Knutsford, Cheshire, by a band who have recently been gradually adding to the number of methods in their peals. It is a truly fine performance and ranks with the greatest achievements in the annals of change ringing. One 720 had eight methods in it, and the others five methods each.

The previous greatest number of methods in a peal was 35, rung for the first time in 1923 at Norbury, Cheshire. Mr. J. Fernley, jun., who took part in that peal, was one of the ringers on Saturday, but the rest of the band was different.

With a different treble man, the band who rang the peal last Saturday rang 35 methods to a peal last April, but the 38 method peal included one 720 with five fresh methods. The Exercise will congratulate the company and particularly the able conductor, Mr. Ernest Bennett.

Of the peal itself the band are content to let the record speak for itself; but the incidents leading up to it are reported below. How many bands, we wonder, would have been in record-breaking form after such an experience? Here is what 'E.B.' writes:—

It was decided by six ringers, all suffering from 'Minormania,' that to attempt a peal of Minor in 38 methods would be a grand way in which to pass the afternoon away last Saturday, and so it was arranged to go to Knutsford and try the fine-tuned peal of six, which are a left-handed ring, so as to make things easier (?). The time for starting was 3.30 p.m., and the 'Bishop of Disley' and his mate (both plumbers) were met at the church by Mr. S. Hough, sen., at 3.10 p.m. There were no signs of the remaining three, and at 3.30 p.m., when the bus came in, 'him' from Grove was not on it, much to the distress of the 'Bishop.' The 'Bishop' and his mate then went to sleep until the next bus came at 4.30 p.m., when 'him' from Grove was on it, much to the Delight of 'Disley,' who said it was quite a Surprise to see him.

Still nothing could be seen of the two from Macclesfield (one of whom was another plumber), and as the band were then three short of being one too many they went to enjoy a nice tea at the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Hough, whom they wish to thank for their hospitality. At 5 p.m. the other plumber of Macclesfield turned up straight from work on a motor bike, whereupon the 'Bishop' gave him orders 'to go to Macc' (a journey of 12 miles each way, i.e., 24 altogether), 'for yon chap called Wilf Stevenson, and to bring him straight back and not call at any place on the way.' The motor bike arrived back with its 'load' at Knutsford Church at 6 p.m. The peal was started at 6.14 p.m., and after 2 hours 58 mins. good ringing the conductor (one of the three plumbers) called, 'This is all' at 9.12 p.m., and a successful conclusion was brought to a day when a band met nearly three hours later than the time appointed.

A JOLLY DAY.

Apsley and Hemel Hempstead ringers had a long day for their annual excursion. They assembled at 7 a.m. and made an early call at Little Munden, the party being welcomed by Mr. W. Lawrence and Mr. S. Carter. Various touches were brought round on this peal of six, Mr. Lawrence delighting the visitors by ringing 1-2 to Bob Minor. Great interest was taken in an old tree in the churchyard, which is known to be at least a thousand years old. Leaving Little Munden after an hour's ringing, many twists and turns of the road and a good many miles were traversed before finally reaching Thaxted. This fine old church was much admired, but the ringing had to be curtailed owing to late arrival. A move was next made to Littlebury. This peal of six, although not exactly musical, were used to the best advantage for three-quarters of an hour. After dinner at Saffron Walden, where the visitors were met by Mr. L. Pitstow, who had helped considerably in the arrangements in this district, the party went on to Ashwell, where the best peal of six of the day was found. A remarkable feature of this tower is its height and the passages that have to be traversed to reach the belfry. Leaving Ashwell shortly after four o'clock, the journey was resumed to Pottun, another peal of six, but considerably lighter, the tenor being only 7½ cwt. It was a pleasure to be welcomed here by the Vicar. The annual photographs—quite an important feature of the day—were duly taken at this spot. After tea at Hitchin the party were met by Mr. Scott and a number of his fellow-ringers, and the beautiful peal of eight were kept going until about 8.30. A short time was then spent in Hitchin before setting out for home, after a very enjoyable day. The methods rung on the trip were Bob Minor, Oxford Bob, Double Court, Kent Treble Bob, Cambridge, Grandsire Triples, Bob Major, and, with the assistance of the Hitchin band, Stedman and Double Norwich. The party wish to take this opportunity of thanking the various incumbents for the use of the bells, and the towerkeepers, etc., for making arrangements, without which the outing could not have been a success.

LONDON.—At St. Giles-in-the-Fields, on June 18th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: R. E. Gearo 1, W. H. Howe 2, *Miss M. Pack 3, *G. A. Parsons 4, A. Hawkins 5, W. E. Troke 6, A. W. Coles (conductor) 7, J. Clifford 8. *First 'inside.'

MIXED GRILL.

The first ingredient of the mixed grill during the holidays has been the weather. It has grilled everybody and everything, and, in case you don't remember, it completes the trio of hot bank holidays this year. It made peal ringing seem a mug's game, and put 'paid' to the good intentions of more than one band. In fact, the wise ones left the said good intentions for another day and did not start. One company met on Monday morning in one of those well lighted towers with three great windows in the ringing room, which let in all the sun. It was already hot; it promised to be hotter. 'Come on, let's get 'em up,' said the conductor. 'Why?' asked the man who had been allocated to the not-so-good-going tenor. And, on contemplation, the wisdom behind that brief question appealed to the good sense of the remainder. The next question in another place was, 'What's yours?' Again the wisdom of it appealed to good sense.

* * *

There are many seekers after antiquities among bells and their belongings. Recently in our columns information was asked for with regard to ringers' mugs, jugs and pitchers. A relic of apparently great importance has reached us. Its age is uncertain, and we have been asked to pass it on to the seeker after knowledge. It is a bell-shaped tablet, and appears to be of gold—on one side. It is about 2½ inches by 2½ inches—where the dimensions are not otherwise—and is covered with inscriptions. It has been autographed by many celebrities, including Cæsar, Nero, Horatio Bottomley and William Pye, but as it is also 'S.P.Q.R., Fecit A.D. 1174,' there seems some doubt as to its authenticity. However, as the sender thinks it might be of priceless value to 'the Royal Hist. S. Fellow,' we shall have great pleasure in passing it on.

* * *

And talking of history, here is a more serious inquiry which we have been asked to make. Can any reader inform us who cast the bells which hung in the tower of Christ Church, Spitalfields, London, before the destructive fire of 1836? In its day it was one of the seven rings of twelve in London, the others being St. Bride's, Cripple-gate, Shoreditch, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Cornhill and Southwark. St. Paul's and Bow did not have twelve till long after. Spitalfields were a peal of ten until 1801, when two trebles were added from the Whitechapel Foundry. The tenor in those days was said to be 44 cwt. After the fire the old bells were replaced with a ring of eight with a tenor of about three-quarters of the weight. They have not been rung for years, and have joined the 'derelict' rings of London, among them St. John's, Horsleydown, and St. Dunstan-in-the-West.

* * *

A well-known ringer, who must be writing from experience, sends us a few hints to husbands whose wives are on holiday:—

Always put the broom out. This is a 'secret sign,' and in any case you won't want it until the last day. A good sweep up then works wonders and saves time.

Don't forget to invest in a bottle of 'liquid sunshine.' This will be useful when listening to the 'weather and news.'

A bed can be slept in for three nights (middle and two sides) before turning the mattress.

Dig a hole at the bottom of the garden to bury your unsuccessful attempts at cooking; to finish burning annoys the neighbours. 'Runners' can be bent to go in the saucepan, but a long pot is necessary if you want to cook a marrow, otherwise you will have to cut it up.

To make a jelly set, don't try, eat it out of the packet; you will get the flavour then, and if you drop it on the floor you can pick it up.

Don't write more than one letter to your wife, and when she comes home tell her what a fine time you have had, and how busy you have been writing letters, but don't say who to.

And, if you do go to a ringing meeting, keep with the party.

* * *

The report of a peal of Minor, the first in seven methods by all the band, has reached us, and with it the following letter: 'I suppose you would call this our first real peal of Minor, being in seven methods. We think that you don't realise what local conditions really are, or you couldn't write such hard things about these Minor ringers. Here it is the exception to find a change ringing band at all, let alone anything progressive. Sorry to add this little growl, but we really think it wonderful to ring Minor at all. Best wishes.'

Have we said hard things about Minor ringers? Certainly not about the struggling bands. We sympathise with them. A peal in seven methods is a thing to be aimed at—that is the highest, we think, at which we have put it. What we complain of are the ringers who ring peals in one or two methods—whether on six or eight bells—and never aspire to anything more. We congratulate this band, who have just rung their first peal in seven methods, and commend their perseverance to those other ringers who prefer to sit down under difficulties and do not try to rise above them.

A 'SURPRISE' OUTING. HUNTING THROUGH HUNTS AND CAMBS.

The Irthlingborough ringers' 'good old annual' had this year to be curtailed to a half-day excursion. A start was made at 1.30 p.m., and Bourn, Cambs, was reached after a very pleasant ride via Kimbolton and St. Neots. The very sweet toned peal were soon merrily ringing to Bristol, London, Yorkshire, and Irthlingborough Surprise, finishing with a course of Stedman. Miss Kitty Willers joined the company and rang a very good course of Irthlingborough Surprise, never having previously struck a blow in the method—an excellent performance.



OVER CHURCH, CAMBS.

A cross-country run through beautiful scenery in lovely weather brought the party to Over, Cambs, where the Vicar and Messrs. Ginn (father and son) gave them a hearty welcome. Courses of Superlative and Cambridge Surprise and Double Norwich were rung. The church, with its quaint carvings and misereres were viewed with great interest by the 'invalid' and the ladies. Once more on the road (very much cross-country), through Swavesey to St. Ives, an enjoyable tea, and on again through St. Neots to Eaton Socon. The magnificent peal of eight were greatly admired, and splendidly struck courses of Bristol, London and Irchester Surprise were brought round—seven Surprise methods in the afternoon and all successfully completed!

A convivial evening at the Sun, with excellent handbell ringing, concluded the very pleasant trip. On arriving home (late) the 'poet' burst out with:

A party from 'ar tarn' one day,
Went ringing out Huntingdon way;
The methods they rang all went with a bang,
And they ne'er lost a touch the whole day.

T. B. H.

SHIRLEY, WARWICKSHIRE.—On July 10th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: John N. Jukes 1, Kathleen Morris 2, Arthur Morris 3, Paul Newell 4, Edgar C. Shepherd (conductor) 5. First quarter-peal for ringers of 1, 2 and 4, whose ages are respectively 18, 13½ and 15 years.

A TWO-DAYS' TOUR. IN THE THAMES VALLEY.

The ringers of St. Mary's, Putney, held their annual outing on July 15th and 16th, and incidentally missed most of the storms which visited many places that week-end. A start was made from Hammersmith about 7 a.m. on Saturday morning, a handy coach for twenty being the mode of travel. After a quick run to Reading it was found that all (or nearly all) were quite prepared for the breakfast provided, and, having 'bruk' the bells at St. Mary's-in-the-Butts were tried out, Dr. Joyce kindly welcoming the visitors. Some touches were rung here, and the party moved on to East Hagbourne, where difficulty was experienced in obtaining keys, but one was found in the Old Boot. Breathe it not—it's a 'pub.' A very nice peal of bells of about 24 cwt. were here made good use of in the restricted time at the party's disposal, and after finding the luggage merchant—not in the Old Boot—they moved off for Sutton Courtney, passing 'The Wharf' of 'wait and see' renown just before reaching the church. Touches on this six, reputed a ton (but the expert said, 'Je ne pense pas'), were rung, a visit paid to Lord Oxford's tomb, a course of Grandsire rung on the churchyard stile on those delightful little handbells well known in the Isleworth region, and the company packed in again for Drayton, famous as the church of the late Rev. F. E. Robinson. One of the touches rung here was judged by Mr. Challis Winney in connection with a competition for which valuable prizes were offered (but not forthcoming). The party were loth to leave this little eight, but time was fleeting, and lunch was waiting at Abingdon, which place had been made headquarters for the week-end. Ringing was resumed after lunch at Banpton, a beautiful eight (about 24 cwt.) being much appreciated by all, especially the crew who rang the faultless course of Bob Major—unfortunately for them not in the contest. Witney was next on the programme, one of the touches rung being in the contest. Operations were brought to a swift conclusion owing to a service. A move was then made to Oxford. On the threshold of 'the tea house of ten thousand joys' the party bumped into the 'bright young people' one reads of up for the Oxford Guild festival, who quickly invited the party to 'ring some.' 'After tea we'll be pleased,' was the rejoinder, and in the evening an enjoyable couple of hours were spent at All Saints' and Christ Church, the Oxonians very kindly giving over some of their own time to the visitors. This was all the more appreciated, as it was entirely spontaneous. Return was made to Abingdon, tunes and touches rung on the handbells, then supper and bed.

Before breakfast, on Sunday, the ducks were in the river, and, after a run out to Appleton, picking up Mr. Lock (whose help in this outing was responsible for most of the pleasure), to ring for morning service. The procession to the church, headed by the Royal Cumberland mace bearer and the venerable College Youth, was quite imposing. Good touches were rung in conjunction with Messrs. Holifield and White, the long peelers having quite a lot of reminiscences to go over. Back to Abingdon to dinner, and after a leisurely afternoon there was the ten at St. Helen's, Abingdon, to conquer. The touches were finished by a splendid course of Double Norwich Major, some of the locals assisting. On the homeward journey a visit was paid to Dorchester Abbey, where the party were welcomed by the Vicar and spent three-quarters of an hour in dispensing sweet sounds on the country air. The archaeologists would have made a longer stay, but the outing secretary wanted everyone home in good time and early for work on Monday. So the party reached Hammersmith soon after ten o'clock, having had a strenuous two days, and having rung about 6,000 changes in five methods in eleven towers. Thanks are extended to all who helped in one way or another to smoothe the path to so much enjoyment.

RINGERS SUMMON FIRE BRIGADE.

AMUSING INCIDENT AT LANCASHIRE MEETING.

As the result of a meeting of the Bolton Branch of the Lancashire Association, held at the village of Blackrod, on Saturday, July 29th, it is hoped to interest the local band in change ringing. At present their limit is a plain course of Grandsire Doubles rung, not by method, but from memory. Practices in change ringing are to be arranged and help given. The six bells (tenor 10 cwt.), cast in 1786, are of good tone and go well.

An amusing incident occurred when the first of the visitors arrived. Not being able to find any of the local ringers, and wishing to draw the attention of someone in authority, a bell was tolled from inside the church with the tolling rope. Now this bell is tolled in a certain manner to give an alarm of fire in the village, and unwittingly it was tolled in this particular way on this occasion, with the result that men were soon running from the cricket field, bowling greens, clubs and inns to their homes to don their uniforms, and eventually gather in the churchyard for information as to the whereabouts of the 'fire.'

The mistake was taken in good part, and the firemen dispersed before the 'village' gathered round.

Touches were rung in Grandsire Doubles and Minor, Stedman Doubles, Bob Minor, and Kent Minor.

The 'Bolton School of Ringers' made the meeting a real success, turning up in good numbers.

MORE ALLIANCE MINOR METHODS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—A little over four years ago a letter from Mr. J. A. Trollope appeared in your columns, in which we were informed that he had worked out the extent of these methods.

Probably most of those who have purchased the 'Collection of Minor Methods' imagine that it contains all the methods possible in this class, but it does not. Nine methods have been omitted, and this appears to have been done deliberately.

Would the Methods Committee please let us know what objection they have, if any, to the nine methods, named and numbered as below, being adopted as an addendum to their 'collection'?—Yours faithfully,

'THE MAD HATTER.'

(66)	(67)	(68)	(69)	(70)
Kilndown.	Tonbridge.	Headcorn.	Hever.	Marden.
123456	123456	123456	123456	123456
213465	213465	213465	213465	213465
231645	231645	231645	231645	231645
326154	326154	326154	326154	326154
362514	362514	236514	236514	362514
635241	635241	325641	325641	632541
653214	632514	352614	352614	365214
562341	365241	536241	536241	356241
652431	635421	563421	352641	532641
564213	364512	654312	536214	523614
546231	365421	645321	563241	256341
452613	634512	463512	352314	526314
425163	643152	643152	562134	562134
241536	461325	461325	651243	651243
214356	416235	416235	615423	615423
124365	146253	146253	165432	165432
P. 142635	164523	164523	156342	156342
B. 142356	164235	164235	156423	156423
S. 142365	164253	164253	156432	156432
O (c)	N (c)	N (c)	M (c)	M (c)

(71)	(72)	(73)	(74)
Snodland.	Farleigh.	Bellring.	Swanscombe.
123456	123456	123456	123456
213465	213465	213465	213465
231645	231645	231645	231645
326154	326154	326154	326154
236514	236514	236514	236514
263541	263541	263541	263541
625314	625314	625314	625314
623541	623541	265341	265341
265341	562431	256431	623541
263514	526413	526413	263514
625341	254631	254631	625341
652314	245613	245613	652314
562134	425163	425163	562134
651243	241536	241536	651243
615423	214356	214356	615423
165432	124365	124365	165432
P. 156342	142635	142635	156342
B. 156423	142356	142356	156423
S. 156432	142365	142365	156432
M (c)	O (c)	O (c)	M (c)

A MUFFLED 'DIRGE.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—A few months ago I was having tea at some 'tea rooms' by the side of the Parish Church of Pinner, where they were ringing a 'muffled peal' for their late Rector.

I thought, at the time, that it sounded particularly solemn and appropriate, but, being with friends, I did not take very great notice.

On thinking it over afterwards I came to the conclusion that there were only six bells out of eight being rung, and that the 'tenor' and the one above were missing. This would make the peal the last six notes of the Phrygian ecclesiastical mode, with the minor second at the end, and would account for the mournfulness of the sequence, say, A flat, G, F, E flat, D flat, C (with slight pauses on the last two notes). Do you ever ring a dirge in this scale? Of course, I may have been mistaken, considering the lapse of time after hearing it and thinking over the matter.

STEPHEN PLUMMER,

Organist of St. Giles-in-the-Fields, W.C.2.

NOTICES.

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

Notices must be received not later than Tuesday.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4/- per quarter.

All communications should be sent to **THE EDITORIAL OFFICE** of 'THE RINGING WORLD,' WOKING, SURREY.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—Meetings for practice will be held at Southwark Cathedral on August 31st, St. Magnus' on the 24th, St. Andrew's, Holborn, on the 17th, and *St. Paul's Cathedral on the 22nd, at 7.30 p.m. *Business meeting afterwards. — William T. Cockerill, Frodingham, 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—A meeting will be held at Brightling on Saturday, Aug. 12th. Tower open 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea 5 o'clock, by kind invitation.—A. C. Pankhurst, Hon. Div. Sec., 12, Bradford Street, Eastbourne.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—A meeting will be held at Chigwell Row on Saturday, Aug. 12th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea to follow. Will all those intending to be present kindly advise me as early as possible?—E. J. Butler, Dis. Sec., 313, Mawneys Road, Romford.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool and Wigan Branches.—A joint meeting of the above branches will be held on Saturday, August 12th, at All Saints', Rainford. Bells ready at 3 p.m. Tea at 5.30. Good bells, excellent bowling facilities, beautiful scenery. All ringers and friends welcome.—Claude I. Davies and Norman Brown, Branch Secs.

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.—A ringing meeting will be held at Turner's Hill on Saturday, Aug. 12th. Tower opened 3 p.m. Tea by kind invitation. All ringers welcome.—G. Lambert, Drummond Hay, Moat Road, East Grinstead.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A meeting of the Western District will be held at Blackhill on Saturday, Aug. 12th. St. Aidan's (8). Benfieldside (6) are available from 2 p.m. for the rest of the day. The bells of St. Mary's (R.C.) from 2 to 6. Those requiring tea please notify Mr. H. Tyson, Sec., 23, Bungalow, Tanfield Lea.

ELY ASSOCIATION.—Huntingdon Branch.—A meeting will be held at Warboy on Aug. 12th. Bells available 3 p.m. Tea 5 o'clock.—H. Parker, Dis. Sec., Great Staughton, St. Neots.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Lancaster Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Morecambe on Aug. 12th. Bells at 2 p.m. Meeting in the National Schools at 5.45 p.m. Tea, 1s. 3d., to all who notify Mr. H. Palmer, 14, Oxford Street, Morecambe.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—A meeting of the Grimsby district will be held at Mablethorpe on Saturday, Aug. 12th. Bells (6) ready early. Service 4 p.m. Business meeting in the belfry afterwards. Will members please make own arrangements for tea? A good meeting hoped for.—H. Mingay, Hon. Dis. Sec., 394, Wellington Street, Grimsby.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—A meeting will be held at Barkway on Saturday, August 12th. Bells ready 3 p.m. Tea 5.30 at Wheatsheaf. All welcome.—Don Mears, Hon. Dis. Sec., Offley, Hitchin.

CLOVELLY.—The ring of six bells (tenor 12 cwt.) at All Saints' Church, Clovelly, recast by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, and installed in a new frame and fittings, will be dedicated by the Lord Bishop of Exeter on Monday, Aug. 14th, at 7 p.m. All ringers welcome.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District.—A bye-meeting will be held at Deal on Saturday, Aug. 19th.—Percy W. Smith, Hon. Dis. Sec.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—(Southern Branch).—The summer meeting meeting will be held at Bredon's Norton on Saturday, Aug. 19th. Service with an address at 5 p.m. The Rector, the Rev. W. H. B. Yerburch, will provide tea for all those intending to be present. Please oblige by letting me know who is coming by the Tuesday previous.—J. Hemming, Branch Sec., 29, Church Bank, Hampton, Evesham.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The Bolton Borough Police again invite all ringers and their wives and friends to their Athletic Ground, Bromwich Street, on Saturday, August 19th. Usual arrangements. Names by Wednesday, Aug. 16th, to Peter Crook, 203, Devonshire Rd., Bolton.

NORTH STAFFS AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Brown Edge on Saturday, Aug. 19th. Tea will be provided for all who notify Mr. G. Hall, Brown Edge, Stoke-on-Trent, not later than Aug. 16th.—C. S. Ryles, Hon. Sec.

ABBOTS LANGLEY.—Meet there Saturday, Aug. 19th, for six-bell practice, tea and a gossip. Bells open 3.30. Tea 5.30. Travel any way you choose, rail, coach, bus, etc.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey. Tel. City 4270.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND NORTH SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern District.—A pleasant afternoon will be the result of attendance at the next meeting on Saturday, Aug. 19th, at St. Mary's, Woodford. Bells from 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea 5.30. A postcard from prospective visitors will greatly assist tea arrangements.—James G. Prior, Hon. Dis. Sec., 77, Anthony Street, St. George-in-the-East, London, E.1.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wirral Branch.—A meeting of the Wirral Branch will be held at Bebington Parish Church (8 bells) on Saturday, Aug. 19th. Tower open at 3 o'clock. Ringers requiring tea, please send word not later than Tuesday, 15th inst. A good meeting is requested.—Harry S. Brocklebank, Hon. Sec., 3, Ridley Street, Birkenhead.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Dorchester Branch.—A meeting will be held at Milton Abbey on Saturday, Aug. 19th. Bells from 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30, tea to follow, at the Hambro Arms. The bells of Bere Regis, Hilton and Puddletown also available. Permission has been given to visit the Abbey gardens and grounds.—C. H. Jennings, Hon. Sec., Sunnyside Road, Wyke Regis, Weymouth.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Eynsford on Saturday, Aug. 19th. Bells available 3 p.m. Service at 5 p.m. Tea at Boyne Tea Rooms at 1s. 3d. per head. Will members requiring tea notify me not later than Tuesday, Aug. 15th? Half fares up to 2s. will be paid to members attending this meeting.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 24, Stanmore Road, Belvedere, Kent.

ROMNEY MARSH AND DISTRICT GUILD.—The next meeting will be held at Biddenden on Saturday, Aug. 19th. Bells ready 2.30. Tea 5 p.m.—P. Page, Hon. Sec., 110, Canterbury Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch.—The monthly meeting will be held at South Marston on Saturday, Aug. 19th. Bells (6) available 3 p.m. Names for tea, please, by Aug. 16th.—W. B. Kynaston, 3, Dumbarton Terrace, Victoria Road, Swindon, Wilts.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—The next meeting is to be held at Exhall, near Coventry, on Saturday, Aug. 19th. Bells (6) available at 3 o'clock. Tea at 5 o'clock, 1s. a head.—Mrs. D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., Green Ways, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—A meeting will be held on Saturday, August 19th, at St. Martin's, Ruislip. Bells (8) from 3.30 p.m. Tea at Fabb's Restaurant, High Street, at 5.30 p.m., at 1/- each. Book these dates please, and come to Staines on September 9th and Hillingdon on October 14th.—F. W. Goodfellow, Hon. Sec., 108, Pole Hill Road, Hillingdon Heath.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—A meeting will be held at Staindrop on Saturday, August 19th. Bells (8) available from 2 p.m. Ringers for tea please notify me 17th inst. All ringers welcome.—J. T. Titt, Hon. Dis. Sec., 54, Newlands Road, Darlington.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Loughborough District.—The next meeting will be held at Woodhouse Eaves on Saturday, August 19th. Bells (6) will be available 3.30 p.m.—D. S. Collins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 145, Paget Street, Loughborough.

LADIES GUILD, ESSEX, HERTS AND MIDDLESEX ASSOCIATIONS.—Joint meeting at Enfield (St. Andrew's) on Wednesday, Aug. 23rd. Bells (8) available from 3 o'clock. Service at 5. Tea, 1s. each, at 5.30. All attending should advise Mrs. E. K. Fletcher, 45, Walsingham Road, Enfield, by Aug. 21st.—M. L. Cross, E. J. Butler, W. Lawrence, C. T. Coles, Hon. Secs.

DEVON GUILD.—Aylesbeare Deanery Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Colaton Raleigh on Aug. 26th. Service 4 p.m. Tea and business meeting to follow. Election of a new secretary takes place at this meeting. Bells at East Budleigh and Otterton available. Numbers for tea by Aug. 21st to M. Powell, Clyst St. George Rectory, Exeter.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rossendale and Manchester Branches.—A joint meeting of the above branches will be held at St. Mary's Church, Radcliffe (8 bells) on Saturday, Aug. 26th. Tower open for ringing at 3.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea (moderate charge) and business meeting to follow. For tea notify Mr. W. Emerson, 75, Knowles Street, Radcliffe, not later than Wednesday, 23rd inst. It is hoped that members of both branches will make a special effort to attend.—J. Bracewell and D. Brown, Branch Hon. Secs.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—Preliminary Notice.—A dinner to commemorate the jubilee of the society will be held at the Victoria Hotel, Wolverhampton, on Saturday, Nov. 4th. The Lord Bishop of Lichfield has promised to preside. Details later. Please book the date.—H. Knight.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preliminary Notice.—The Jasper Whitfield Snowdon Commemoration Dinner will be held this year at York on Saturday, Oct. 14th. Further particulars later.—J. E. Cawser, Grange Villas, Ravenfield Common, near Rotherham.

APARTMENTS.

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