

No. 1,481. Vol. XXXIV.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11th, 1939.

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IMPORTANCE OF NEW CONDUCTORS

There are often complaints and regrets at the lack of ringers in many places and we hear a good deal of the difficulties of obtaining recruits. There is frequently good ground for the apprehension that, in some centres, there is a risk of the art of ringing suffering a severe set-back when the present generation of ringers is no longer able to carry on. It is one of the problems which have to be faced, although we do not believe it is any matter for despair. Bad times alternate with good in most things, and in ringing it is particularly so. Bands spring into prominence, flourish for a time, and then fade out; and their place in the forefront of the Exercise is taken by others. This has happened throughout the history of ringing, not only among the leaders in the art, but also among the lesser lights, who are not so conspicuous in what counts in peal ringing, but who zealously carry out their duties Sunday by Sunday in ringing for service. For a time they maintain their strength. Then come losses and gradually, as the band dwindles, interest decays and eventually the bells are only occasionally heard. Obviously the remedy is a constant acquisition of new blood. Too often a band is satisfied to go on without recruiting. They have men sufficient and competent for the time being, and do not bother to provide for 'the rainy day.' They are content to go on by themselves, never counting the time when inevitably their ranks will be reduced.

There is also another angle to this subject, and that is the encouragement of new conductors. There must be a leader in every band, but, unfortunately, some leaders have the idea that, while they are in command, the conducting in the tower is their monopoly. They cannot make a greater mistake. They may have all the confidence of their company, they may possess all the talents, but sooner or later the band with only one conductor is likely to strike the rocks and founder, or be saved only with the greatest difficulty. Every ringer with any aptitude should be encouraged to study and practise conducting. It makes the ringer himself more proficient, it increases the interest of the band and the leader need lose none of his prestige—he is still in the tower to command, and it rests with him to choose the conductor for any touch or occasion.

The strength of this policy can be seen in any tower where it is practised. We could mention several instances, but two will suffice. St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, is one. The results there are apparent for all to see. Another is at Rock Ferry, in Cheshire, where the older hands have built up a young band and, from

(Continued on page 506.)

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the report of a peal which we publish this week, we learn that no fewer than five of them have called a peal, and the enthusiasm of this band is immense. That there is need for the encouragement of more conductors the figures of the Peals Analyses Committee are proof. True, peals are only one indication of what is happening in the Exercise generally, but they are symptomatic of other activities. The number of new conductors does not keep pace with the increase in the number of peals. Last year, for example, there was only one new conductor to every 30 peals rung, in 1937 there was one to every 26, and in 1935 one to every 23. The figures for 1936 were slightly worse than last year, but the improvement in 1937 was not maintained. A good deal of the future progress of ringing depends not merely upon the number of new ringers, it depends almost as much upon the new conductors. Leaders of bands should therefore feel it a duty to get as many of their ringers as possible to take up this important part of the art and encourage and help them to master it.

TWELVE BELL PEALS.

IPSWICH, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

(St. Mary-le-Tower Society.)

On Saturday, August 5, 1939, in Three Hours and Forty Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary-le-Tower,

A PEAL OF YORK SURPRISE MAXIMUS, 5280 CHANGES;

Tenor 32 cwt.

CHARLES A. CATCHPOLE ... Treble	*FREDERICK W. ROGERS ... 7
SYLVIA R. E. BOWYER ... 2	*C. ERNEST SMITH ... 8
WILLIAM J. G. BROWN ... 3	FREDERICK J. SMITH ... 9
HOBART E. SMITH ... 4	*JOHN W. WARD ... 10
GEORGE A. FLEMING ... 5	GEORGE E. SYMONDS ... 11
*LEWIS W. WIFFEN ... 6	CECIL W. PIPE ... Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE E. SYMONDS.

* First 'touch' of York Maximus. Rung in honour of the wedding of Miss Alma D. Symonds, daughter of the conductor.

SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, August 5, 1939, in Three Hours and Forty Minutes,

At the Church of St. Laurence,

A PEAL OF LITTLE BOB MAXIMUS, 5016 CHANGES;

Tenor 12 cwt. 9 lb.

MRS. R. RICHARDSON ... Treble	ALBERT H. WARD ... 7
JOHN HOLMAN ... 2	JOHN S. GOLDSMITH ... 8
ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 3	CHARLES MCGUINNESS ... 9
JOHN FREEMAN ... 4	GEORGE F. SWANN ... 10
GEORGE R. PYE ... 5	ALBERT WALKER ... 11
CHARLES T. COLES ... 6	RUPERT RICHARDSON ... Tenor

Composed and Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

First peal of Little Bob Maximus by all the band. E. C. S. Turner's 100th peal as conductor.

CAMBRIDGE.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, August 7, 1939, in Three Hours and Thirty-Nine Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary-the-Great,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor 28 cwt.

MRS. R. RICHARDSON ... Treble	ERNEST G. HIBBINS ... 7
ALBERT WALKER ... 2	GEORGE F. SWANN ... 8
JOHN S. GOLDSMITH ... 3	ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 9
GEORGE R. PYE ... 4	T. REGINALD DENNIS ... 10
CHARLES T. COLES ... 5	FRANK E. HAYNES ... 11
SIDNEY O'C. HOLLOWAY ... 6	RUPERT RICHARDSON ... Tenor

Composed by J. CARTER.

Conducted by ALBERT WALKER.

STEPNEY.—A quarter-peal of Bob Royal was rung at St. Dunstan's on July 30th for evening service: *J. Boomsma 1, T. Burns 2, T. G. Fox 3, H. E. Thompson 4, G. W. Debenham 5, *S. Foskett 6, *A. A. Jarvis 7, L. J. Fox 8, E. G. Cousins 9, *G. W. Cecil (conductor) 10.
* First quarter-peal of Bob Royal. Specially arranged for S. Foskett.

GREAT YARMOUTH, NORFOLK.
THE SUFFOLK GUILD.
(ST. MARY-LE-TOWER SOCIETY.)

On Monday, August 7, 1939, in Three Hours and Fifty Minutes,
At the Church of St. Nicholas,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAXIMUS, 5280 CHANGES;
Tenor 30½ in C sharp.

GEORGE A. FLEMING ... Treble	WILLIAM J. G. BROWN ... 7
CHARLES J. SEDGLEY ... 2	LEWIS W. WIFFEN ... 8
SYLVIA K. E. BOWYER ... 3	FREDERICK J. TILLET ... 9
HOBART E. SMITH ... 4	FREDERICK J. SMITH ... 10
*C. ERNEST SMITH ... 5	FREDERICK W. ROGERS ... 11
JOHN W. WARD ... 6	CECIL W. PIPE ... Tenor

Composed and Conducted by CHARLES J. SEDGLEY.

* First peal of Cambridge Maximus. First peal of Surprise Maximus on the bells.

TEN BELL PEALS.

BEDDINGTON, SURREY.
THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, August 5, 1939, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,
At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5019 CHANGES;
Tenor 18 cwt. 1 qr. 20 lb. in E flat.

DAVID WRIGHT ... Treble	CHARLES POTHECARY ... 6
CHARLES H. KIPPIN ... 2	CHARLES W. R. GRIMWOOD ... 7
JAMES E. DAVIS ... 3	AMOS W. CLARK ... 8
MRS. CHAS. H. KIPPIN ... 4	FRANK E. DARBY ... 9
REUBEN CHARGE ... 5	DANIEL D. COOPER ... Tenor

Composed and Conducted by FRANK E. DARBY.
BEDFORD.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, August 7, 1939, in Three Hours and Thirty Minutes,
At the Church of St. Paul,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5000 CHANGES;
Tenor 28 cwt. 3 qr. 6 lb. in D.

*NORMAN INSKIP ... Treble	HARRY GAYTON ... 6
ERNEST C. LAMBERT ... 2	*REGINALD H. HOWSON ... 7
CHARLES W. CLARKE ... 3	HERBERT L. HARLOW ... 8
GEORGE W. DEBENHAM ... 4	†SYDNEY FOSKETT ... 9
*PERCY W. TOMPKINS ... 5	*LEWIS H. BYWATERS ... Tenor

Composed by REV. H. LAW JAMES. Conducted by G. W. DEBENHAM

* First peal on ten bells. † First peal of Royal. E. C. Lambert's 200th peal.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

BUSHEY, HERTS
THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, July 27, 1939, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,
At the Church of St. James,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

J. J. PARKER'S FIVE-PART, No. 12.	Tenor 13 cwt.
FRANCIS KIRK ... Treble	FRANCIS A. SMITH ... 5
EDWARD P. ASHEY ... 2	HAROLD G. CASHMORE ... 6
JOHN E. ROOTES ... 3	EDWIN JENNINGS ... 7
*HENRY F. SOUTBALL ... 4	CECIL C. MAYNE ... Tenor

Conducted by H. G. CASHMORE.

* First peal in the method away from the tenor.

MOORSIDE, LANCS.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION
AND OLDHAM AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

On Monday, July 31, 1939, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,
At the Church of St. Thomas,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THEURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

JOHN MEADOWCROFT, IN... Treble	HARRY BYROM ... 5
*HAROLD ARMSTEAD ... 2	ISAAC GARTSIDE ... 6
*CLEMENT B. TAYLOR ... 3	IVAN KAY ... 7
FRANK LAWTON ... 4	JOHN W. TRUELOVE ... Tenor

Conducted by I. KAY.

* First peal. A first birthday compliment to Mary, daughter of the third ringers.

NEWCASTLE, STAFFORDSHIRE.
THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Monday, July 31, 1939, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,
At the Church of St. Giles,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

REEVES' VARIATION OF HOLT'S TEN-PART.	Tenor 17 cwt.
FREDERICK A. FOSTER... Treble	KENNETH THACKER ... 5
DOUGLAS R. WHALLEY ... 2	EDWARD STEELE ... 6
MRS. BERYS V. MILES ... 3	CHARLES H. PAGE ... 7
GEORGE E. KETTLE ... 4	SIDNEY THOMPSON ... Tenor

Conducted by DOUGLAS R. WHALLEY.

Rung in celebration of the wedding of Mr. A. Thompson, hon. secretary of the association, and Miss Ada Bourne.

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

On Wednesday, August 2, 1939, in Two Hours and Forty-Nine Minutes,
At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;
Tenor 12 cwt. in F sharp.

FRED WATKINSON ... Treble	JOHN J. L. GILBERT ... 5
MISS LUCY KELLY ... 2	JACK BROTHWELL ... 6
JOHN HOLMAN ... 3	JOHN H. BROTHWELL ... 7
RONALD BIRCH ... 4	TOM BROTHWELL ... Tenor

Composed by C. CHARGE.
Rung as a farewell to Dr. Leonard Hedley Burrows, who left Sheffield the same day to live in retirement after having been Bishop of Sheffield for 25 years.

CHESTER.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD

On Saturday, August 5, 1939, in Three Hours,
At the Church of St. Mary, Handbridge,

A PEAL OF CONVILLE BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;
Tenor 20 cwt. in E.

WILLIAM E. FLETCHER ... Treble	JAMES SWINDLEY ... 5
FRED HARTMAN ... 2	RALPH G. EDWARDS ... 6
GEORGE R. NEWTON ... 3	PERCIVAL W. CAVE ... 7
PERCY SWINDLEY ... 4	JAMES C. E. SIMPSON ... Tenor

Composed by J. A. TROLLOPE. Conducted by J. C. E. SIMPSON.
The first peal in the method.

NORTHOWRAM, HALIFAX.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
(LEEDS AND DISTRICT AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, August 5, 1939, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,
At the Church of St. Matthew,

A PEAL OF AIREDALE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES;
Tenor 15 cwt. 3 qr. 16 lb. in E.

ALFRED SMITH ... Treble	HARRY DAVISON ... 5
MISS MARY WHITE ... 2	HERBERT DAVENPORT ... 6
KENNETH SIMPSON ... 3	GEORGE ROBINSON ... 7
JAMES F. HARVEY ... 4	LESLIE W. G. MORRIS ... Tenor

Composed by G. LEWIS. Conducted by LESLIE W. G. MORRIS.
The first peal in the method.

ROTHERFIELD, SUSSEX.
THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

THE EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.

On Saturday, August 5, 1939, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,
At the Church of St. Denys,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;
Tenor 23½ cwt.

*CHARLES A. BASSETT ... Treble	ARTHUR F. LEWRY ... 5
WILLIAM A. KITCHENSIDE ... 2	LESLIE W. JARVIS ... 6
GEORGE BEENY ... 3	ALBERT RELFE ... 7
HUGH MACKINDER ... 4	FRANK H. HICKS ... Tenor

Arranged and Conducted by ALBERT RELFE.

* First peal on eight bells. Rung as a 21st birthday compliment to F. H. Hicks.

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NORTH MIMMS, HERTFORDSHIRE.
THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, August 5, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt.

ALBERT W. COLES Treble	JOHN T. KENTISH 5
THOMAS J. LOCK 2	WILLIAM BOTTRILL 6
HAROLD V. FROST 3	JAMES BENNETT 7
*EDWIN A. BELSON 4	ERNEST W. PYE Tenor

Composed by N. J. PIXSTOW.

Conducted by J. BENNETT.

* First attempt for a Surprise peal.

LEISTON, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Saturday, August 5, 1939, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 20½ cwt. in E.

PHILIP C. BICKNELL Treble	*JAMES E. BAILEY 5
LEONARD P. BAILEY 2	FRANK L. FISHER 6
CHARLES E. FISHER 3	JAMES M. BAILEY 7
ERNEST S. BAILEY 4	JAMES G. RUMSEY Tenor

Composed by T. B. WORSLEY.

Conducted by JAMES M. BAILEY.

* First peal in the method. First peal in the method as conductor. J. G. Rumsey's 300th peal.

BROUGHTON-IN-FURNESS, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(FURNESS AND LAKE DISTRICT BRANCH.)

On Saturday, August 5, 1939, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 10 cwt.

FRED WALKER Treble	JOHN BAGNALL 5
WILLIAM T. CLARKE 2	JAMES E. BORLES 6
FRED C. LIME 3	*ALAN CAPSTICE 7
FRANK RAYMENT 4	NICHOLAS M. NEWBY Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD.

Conducted by N. M. NEWBY.

* First peal of Major. First peal of Major as conductor. Rung as a birthday compliment to the mother of W. T. Clarke, who was 90 on July 28th.

CLAINES, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, August 5, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

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

Tenor 14 cwt.

*FREDERICK FLUCK Treble	*ALFRED W. GLAZZARD 5
ERNEST WILSON 2	JOHN J. JEFFERIES 6
JAMES WOODYATT 3	ALLEN MORGAN 7
GEORGE E. LARGE 4	FREDERICK G. YATES Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE E. LARGE.

* First peal of Grandsire Triples. A wedding compliment to Mr. Ralph W. Sayers and Miss Winifred Smith.

STOWMARKET, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Saturday, August 5, 1939, in Three Hours and Eighteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND MARY,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 24 cwt.

ARTHUR GRIMWOOD Treble	HARRY D. LISTER 5
SHELFORD SPARROW 2	GARNHAM A. BLAXCELL 6
KEITH W. WHITTELL 3	*EDWARD E. DAVEY 7
EDWIN A. CRACKNELL 4	URBAN W. WILDNEY Tenor

Composed by C. MIDDLETON. Conducted by HARRY D. LISTER.

* First peal of Cambridge Surprise Major.

NORBURY (HAZEL GROVE), CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, August 5, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt, 3 qr. 21 lb.

WILLIAM FERNLEY Treble	C. KENNETH LEWIS 5
JOSEPH WHITTAKER 2	JOHN WORTH 6
JAMES FERNLEY 3	JAMES A. MILNER 7
*WALTER SHAW 4	†JACK L. MILLHOUSE Tenor

Composed by C. MIDDLETON.

Conducted by J. L. MILLHOUSE.

* First Surprise peal. † First peal of Cambridge Major.

UFFORD, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

(ST. MARY-LE-TOWER SOCIETY.)

On Sunday, August 6, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt. 1 qr. 8 lb. in F sharp.

WILLIAM J. G. BROWN Treble	JOHN W. WARD 5
GEORGE A. FLEMING 2	C. ERNEST SMITH 6
SYLVIA R. E. BOWYER 3	FREDERICK W. ROGERS 7
LEWIS W. WIFFEN 4	CECIL W. PIPE Tenor

Composed by F. BENNETT.

Conducted by FREDK. W. ROGERS.

MALVERN LINK, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(WESTERN BRANCH.)

On Monday, August 7, 1939, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MATTHIAS,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

FRITCHARD'S FOUR-PART.

Tenor 16½ cwt.

ROBERT G. KNOWLES Treble	ALLEN MORGAN 5
JAMES WOODYATT 2	JOHN J. JEFFERIES 6
GEORGE E. LARGE 3	WILLIAM LEWIS 7
*WILLIAM H. A. COMPTON 4	CHARLES CAMM Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE E. LARGE.

* First peal of Major.

SIX BELL PEALS.

COUND, SHROPSHIRE.

THE SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, July 2, 1939, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores, 10 callings.

Tenor 12 cwt.

THOMAS ROBERTS Treble	HAROLD WATKINS 4
ALFRED BENBOW 2	CHARLES E. EDWARDS 5
WILLIAM MORRIS 3	*HERBERT WOODHOUSE Tenor

Conducted by C. E. EDWARDS.

* First peal.

LLANELLY, CARMARTHENSHIRE.

THE SWANSEA AND BRECON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, July 29, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ELLI,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven different extents.

G. E. PARMENTER Treble	J. T. WILLIAMS 4
MRS. G. E. PARMENTER 2	W. J. COLE 5
D. LLEWELLYN 3	C. H. HAWKINS Tenor

Conducted by C. H. HAWKINS.

Rung as a birthday compliment to Mrs. G. E. Parmenter.

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HOLBROOK, SUFFOLK. THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Sunday, July 30, 1939, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

At the Church of All Saints,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE COURT BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Consisting of seven extents.

Tenor 8 cwt.

*FRANCIS SAGE Treble	JAMES W. JENNINGS 4
JOHN PENNELL 2	GEORGE A. FLEMING 5
SYLVIA R. E. BOWYER ... 3	ALAN R. ANDREWS Tenor

Conducted by ALAN R. ANDREWS.

* First peal and first attempt. First peal in the method on the bells.

AYLESBEARE, DEVON. THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

On Monday, July 31, 1939, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes.

At the Church of St. Mary.

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 720's called differently. Tenor 15 cwt. in F (approx.).

JOHN DEEM Treble	BRIAN PIDGEON 4
CHARLES R. LILLEY 2	EDWARD MARKS 5
A. E. CHEESMAN 3	JOHN L. GLANVILL Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES R. LILLEY.

First peal on the bells.

APSLEY END, HERTS. THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, July 31, 1939, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven 720's in 14 methods: (1) Bourne and Netherseale; (2) Norfolk and Primrose; (3) Cambridge and Ipswich; (4) York and Durham; (5) London and Wells; (6) Rossendale and Stamford; (7) Lightfoot and Wearmouth. Tenor 14½ cwt.

WILLIAM FRASEY Treble	*FRANCIS TOMPKINS 4
WILLIAM J. PUDDIFOOT ... 2	WILLIAM J. RANDALL 5
AUGUSTIN V. GOOD 3	WALTER AYRE Tenor

Conducted by WALTER AYRE.

* First peal in 14 Surprise methods. The conductor's 500th peal.

RODMERSHAM, KENT. THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, August 2, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,

At the Church of St. Nicholas,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one extent of Cambridge Surprise, and two each of Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 9½ cwt. in G.

GEORGE A. NAYLOR Treble	*JAMES WEBB 4
DORIS G. DOBBIE 2	GEORGE H. SPICE 5
JOHN E. SPICE 3	WALTER H. DOBBIE Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE A. NAYLOR.

* First peal. Rung as a farewell peal to the Vicar, the Rev. Pierce.

ROCK FERRY, CHESHIRE. THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, August 3, 1939, in Two Hours and Thirty-One Minutes,

At the Church of St. Peter,

A PEAL OF SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Beverley, Chester, Cambridge, Carlisle, Canterbury, London and York. Tenor 10 cwt. in G.

*HAROLD ANDREW Treble	JOSEPH LESLIE 4
GEORGE A. NAYLOR 2	ALEXANDER J. MARTIN 5
*CHARLES C. HULSE 3	FRANK T. PARRY Tenor

Conducted by JOSEPH LESLIE.

* First peal and first attempt. First peal as conductor. Rung as a wedding compliment to the Rev. H. P. Williams (curate at St. Peter's) on the occasion of his marriage to Miss F. M. Lythgoe.

SHENFIELD, ESSEX. THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, August 4, 1939, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary-the-Virgin,

A PEAL OF SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of York, Durham, London, Wells, Ipswich, Beverley and Cambridge.

*WILLIAM T. FORRESTER ... Treble	JOHN SITCH 4
EDWARD T. SITCH 2	*ROBERT C. HEAZEL 5
CHARLES HARRINGTON ... 3	*HARRY TURNER Tenor

Conducted by H. TURNER.

* First peal in seven Surprise methods. Rung to mark the silver jubilee of the Diocese of Chelmsford, the diamond jubilee of the Essex Association and the 690th anniversary of the dedication of the church.

THORINGTON, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, August 5, 1939, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,

At the Parish Church of St. Mary Magdalene,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Consisting of an extent each of St. Clement's, Oxford Bob, Double Court, Cambridge Surprise, Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Treble Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 9 cwt. 22 lb. in G.

GEORGE E. JENNINGS Treble	MISS VIOLET A. FROST ... 4
WILLIAM J. NEVARD 2	HARRY J. MILLATT 5
ALAN R. ANDREWS 3	GEORGE A. ANDREWS Tenor

Conducted by ALAN R. ANDREWS.

Arranged to celebrate the wedding of Mr. W. J. Nevard's grandson to Miss M. Ainger, of Brightlingsea, which took place earlier in the day.

RETTENDON, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, August 5, 1939, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,

At the Parish Church,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 of Cambridge Surprise and two 720's each of Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob.

*WILFRED P. OCKENDON ... Treble	GERALD FROST 4
WILLIAM PERRY 2	FRANK C. MAY 5
WILLIAM S. MAY 3	FRANK B. LUFKIN Tenor

Conducted by FRANK B. LUFKIN.

* First peal of Minor.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BRASTED, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, August 3, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

At Moorcocks,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor, size 14 in D.

MISS M. J. F. RICHARDSON 1-2	MISS B. M. RICHARDSON ... 5-6
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 3-4	*MISS D. T. RICHARDSON ... 7-8

Composed by G. LINDOFF.

Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

* First peal.

SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, August 6, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

At Glyn Garth,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATER, 5067 CHANGES;

Tenor, size 18 in A.

GEORGE F. SWANN 1-2	ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 5-6
ALBERT WALKER 3-4	ROBERT RICHARDSON 7-8
CHARLES T. COLES 9-10	

Composed by J. E. GROVES.

Conducted by A. WALKER.

Umpires—J. S. Goldsmith and G. R. Pye.

SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, August 6, 1939, in Two Hours and Twenty-Seven Minutes,

At Glyn Garth.

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor, size 15 in C.

JOHN S. GOLDSMITH 1-2	ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 5-6
ROBERT RICHARDSON 3-4	GEORGE F. SWANN 7-8

Composed by F. BENNETT.

Conducted by ROBERT RICHARDSON.

Umpire—G. R. Pye.

J. A.
TROLLOPE'S

'COLLEGE YOUTHS'

A History of the Society

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'THE RINGING WORLD'

LOWER PYRFORD ROAD,
WOKING, SURREY.

A WEEK-END AT SURFLEET.

NO REST AT THE REST-HOME.

Some half-dozen ringers, of various vintages, went last week-end to the Lincolnshire Home of Rest, for the purpose of recuperation, but, as events proved, they were given very little rest and no greater amount of peace. The prearranged programme had included just a couple of peals spaced out for Saturday and Monday, but they reckoned without the weather and their host. Usually these rest cures carry with them a certain amount of exercise by way of tennis and bowls, but the wet weather prevented this form of recreation and there seemed more opportunity of relaxation. But this they were not allowed.

Various oddments were collected by the host at Peterborough on Friday evening, and in the dreamland of Glyn Garth, Surfleet, they expected to laze for the better part of the next three days.

But on Saturday morning these views were brought up with a jerk. There was a newly acquired set of handbells to be tried out. These had been picked up at a metal merchant's, but, not having been trained in Stedman Triples, they refused to go the whole distance—which was perhaps fortunate for the next addition to the party, who would otherwise have had to carry his portmanteau the long mile from the railway station. As things turned out the charabanc arrived just in time to meet him.

By dinner time the dining room table had stretched in tell-tale fashion, and when the tea interval arrived there were more than a dozen round it in a happy reunion. Afterwards a peal of Little Bob Maximus, on the world's lightest ring of twelve, proved more than the joke that some of the even lighter hearted expected it would be. They found that Maximus is not the easiest thing to ring at Surfleet. However, the peal done, nothing remained but to eat, drink and be merry—and this proved a lot easier than ringing Maximus, even though it was only Little Bob.

Then, the Lincoln and Derby contingents having departed, peace fell upon the Home of Rest, and Sunday was anticipated as a day of repose. But not a bit of it. The morning was devoted to service ringing and church attendance, but before the clock hands pointed to 1.30 the handbells that once visited Australia were knocking off Stedman Caters. The umpires had the best of the bargain. One heard the start and the finish, the other heard enough between times to put down the course ends. For the rest, they were in the land of nod, or very near it.

But that was not the worst of it. After an hour's ringing at the church before evening service the host commanded three of the rest to christen the new bells, and a peal of Bob Major was the result. The only consolation they had was that their friends realised that, if successful, they would not finish while it was 'light,' and made provision accordingly.

WHAT HAPPENED AT CAMBRIDGE.

On Monday a journey had to be made to Cambridge, where, through the kindness of the Vicar and local ringers, the bells of Great St. Mary's Church were available for a peal of Stedman Cinques. Great St. Mary's, which is the University Church, has many points of interest, and its bells, too, have a history. Fabian Stedman rang on the bells that were in the tower in his day, and during his time they were augmented from six to eight. They were increased to ten in 1722 and have been a peal of twelve since 1770.

The Cambridge Youths was a society founded over two hundred years ago, for 'promoting and carrying out the art of change ringing in the tower of Great St. Mary's Church, where the books, handbells and club box shall be kept.' The peal boards, still in the ringing room, testify to the prowess of the ringers there in the latter part of the 18th century: 6,600 of Bob Maximus in 1788, 6,000 of Oxford Treble Bob Royal in 1790, and 7,002 of Grandsire Quaters in 1791.

More recent performances are still in the memory of some of those who were in the tower last Monday, for they formed part of a band that rang two peals of Stedman Cinques on the bells on August Bank Holiday, 1912, in one of which, for the first time, a Vicar and his curate (the late Rev. A. H. F. Boughey and the late Rev. H. S. T. Richardson) rang a twelve-bell peal together in their own tower; and a year later when some of the same band rang in a peal of Cambridge Maximus in the morning and of Stedman Cinques in the afternoon—four twelve-bell peals on the same bells in two visits.

The bells at Great St. Mary's run backwards, and this makes it not a little difficult to get the hang of things. It caused a bit of trouble at the start of Monday's peal, which had to be begun a second time, but this was nothing to the trouble caused by an alleged 'brass hat' just before the start. He tested the length of the rope and, as he thought, set the bell. He was contemplating the rope end, where there was a tuck in an inconvenient place, when it disappeared from his hand and vanished through the hole in the ceiling. The bell had gone over. He has lost his 'brass hat' and been degraded to the ranks as a result. Someone, of course, had got to suffer for the cracking of the stay. The conductor afterwards chose to ring the bell without the contraption, but, then, in Stedman's days they did not bother about stays or sliders, so why bother now? Had these been Stedman's days the culprit might have been mulcted in a fine of fourpence, which seems to have been the usual forfeit; the price might have been even more if they had used stays.

(Continued in next column.)

PEAL NOTES.

MR. WALTER AYRE'S 500th PEAL.

Although there are now quite a number of ringers who have rung 500 peals, it is a noteworthy achievement in a ringer's career to reach this total. Mr. Walter Ayre, a former president of the Hertford County Association and one of its district secretaries, has joined the ranks of this distinguished company. His 500th peal (which was also his 25th on the bells at Apsley End) was rung on July 31st, when he called a peal of Spiced Surprise Minor in 14 methods.



MR. WALTER AYRE,
who has just completed 500 peals.

Mr. Ayre's 'collection' of peals is of a very varied character and many of them have been notable performances, among them the first peal of Eyrie, Bushey and Aldenham Surprise Major, Double Court Royal and Shipway's Court Major.

Handbell peals, too, have formed a large proportion of his total, nearly a hundred and seventy of them, and they have included the first peals of Spiced Plain and Little Bob Maximus, Wellington Little Court, Little Oxford Bob and Richmond Bob Major, all of which he called.

Mr. Ayre rang his first peal in 1911 at Barton-on-Humber, where he was born, and his first as conductor in 1912.

He came to London after being discharged from the Army in 1917, and went to live in Hertfordshire in 1922. He has been a member of the band at Apsley End, where he rang his 500th peal, since 1932.

TWO NEW METHODS.

Peals in two new methods were rung on Saturday. One, a Surprise method, the product of Mr. George Lewis, of Sheffield, was rung at Northowram, Halifax. It was named Airedale.

The first peal of Gonville Bob Major (No. 36 in the C.C. Collection) was rung at Handbridge, Chester. It is one of the Plain methods, the value of which seems only just beginning to be generally recognised.

Leiston is not as prominent in the peal news to-day as it was some years ago, when the Bailey family had more than enough ringers to make up an eight-bell band. But there are still some of the brothers left in the Suffolk town, and last Saturday four of them took part in a peal of Bristol Surprise rung on St. Margaret's bells.

It was Mr. J. G. Rumsey's 300th peal and it was good to see him on the tenor box again. His activities at the 'back end' have been seriously curtailed since he broke a wrist three years ago. Out of these 300 peals, Mr. J. M. Bailey, the conductor on Saturday, has shared in 193.

Saturday's peal was rung in honour of the birth of a daughter to the Rev. A. H. and Mrs. Waller, of Leiston Rectory. The baby is the first child born to a Leiston Rector for 22 years.

Mr. Ernest Lambert, of Cosgrove, Northants, rang his 200th peal on Monday, when he rang in a peal of Bob Royal at St. Paul's, Bedford.

Mr. Ralph W. Savers, a much respected member of Claines tower, and Miss Winifred Smith were married on Saturday, and as a compliment to them a peal of Grandsire Triples was rung.

In honour of the 90th birthday on July 28th of the mother of Mr. W. T. Clarke, a peal of Bob Major was rung on Saturday at Broughton-in-Furness, Lancs.

(Continued on next page.)

(Continued from previous column.)

But eventually the peal was rung and the conductor returned to complete his holiday at Surfleet, having, as he said, rung one more towards his two thousand.

In the peal at Cambridge nobody got a mark of distinction, but in the Maximus at Surfleet everyone earned a 'star.' It was their first peal of Little Bob Maximus and only two or three had rung a peal in the method before, and that was on eight bells. The peal was also notable for the fact that it was Mr. Ernest Turner's one hundredth as conductor. It seems expensive to call one's one hundredth peal.

Although the Birmingham contingent returned to Surfleet, the break up of the party came after the peal at Great St. Mary's, with warm expressions of thanks to the host and hostess (Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Richardson) for another enjoyable time and lavish hospitality showered upon their guests.

PEAL NOTES.

(Continued from previous page.)

Mr. W. J. Nevard rang in a peal of Minor at Thorington, Essex, on Saturday, specially arranged to celebrate the wedding, which took place earlier in the day, of his grandson—also W. J. Nevard—and Miss M. Ainger, of Brightlingsea. After the peal he very kindly extended hospitality to the band.

Messrs. F. W. Rogers (hon. secretary of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild) and C. E. Smith (Ringing Master of the Guildford District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild) spent an interesting and successful week-end with the Ipswich ringers, who gave them an exceedingly cordial welcome.

There was a peal of York Surprise Maximus at Ipswich on Saturday (incidentally Mr. Smith's first peal of Maximus), a peal of London Surprise Major on Sunday at Ufford and a peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus at Great Yarmouth on Monday. An excellent bag for three days. The peal at Great Yarmouth was the first of Surprise Maximus on the bells of St. Nicholas' Church, reputed to be the largest church in the country.

The peals were arranged for the visitors from the South and they desire to express their thanks for the kindness extended to them.

The peal of York Surprise Maximus at Ipswich was a remarkable performance in more ways than one. Messrs. Rogers, C. E. Smith and Wiffen had not previously struck a blow in the method, and it was also the first touch of York Maximus by Mr. Ward.

It makes the fifth method of Surprise Maximus that Mr. L. W. Wiffen has rung without any previous practice before starting for a peal, viz., Superlative, Yorkshire, Pudsey, Rochester and York.

York Surprise is one of the methods which should be taken up by all towers, specially those with 10 and 12 bells. It extends perfectly from Minor upwards and is very easy; in fact, one member stated that it was only one degree in advance of Treble Bob. It far exceeds Cambridge in musical qualities.

The peal was rung in honour of the wedding of Miss Alma D. Symonds, daughter of the conductor, Mr. G. E. Symonds.

A YOUNG BAND'S PROGRESS.

At Rock Ferry, Cheshire, there is a company of eleven who ring the six bells regularly for Sunday services. On August 3rd six of them rang a peal of Minor in seven Surprise methods on the occasion of the marriage of the Rev. H. P. Williams (curate at St. Peter's) and Miss F. M. Lythgoe, which had taken place earlier in the day.

The conductor was Joseph Leslie, who is the fifth member of the band to call a peal, and two of the ringers scored their first peal at the first attempt. Most of the band are young people, the average age of the ringers of the treble, 2nd, 3rd and 5th in the peal being

16 years 3 months. Rock Ferry is to be congratulated on the enthusiasm of its youngsters and the successful way in which the leaders have built up this competent band. It is a lesson to many other towers.

With the merry pealing of bells, the wedding of Mr. Andrew Thompson, hon. secretary of North Staffordshire Association, to Miss Ada Bourne was solemnised at St. Giles' Church, Newcastle, Staffs, on Sunday, July 30th. On the following day a peal of Grandsire Triples was rung in honour of the event.

The daughters of the late Rev. H. S. T. Richardson, who was a prominent member of Cambridge University Guild and did such valued work for the Central Council and the Hereford Diocesan Guild, rang in a handbell peal of Bob Major at the home of their uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Lewis, at Brasted on August 3rd. The peal was conducted by another member of the C.U.G., Mr. C. W. Woolley.

After 25 years as Bishop of Sheffield, Dr. L. H. Burrows has retired, and on the day he left the See a peal of Bob Major was rung as a farewell at Handsworth.

A peal of Surprise Minor at Shenfield, Essex, on August 4th, was a triple celebration. It was rung to mark the silver jubilee of the Diocese of Chelmsford, the diamond jubilee of the Essex Association and the 690th anniversary of the dedication of Shenfield Parish Church.

Mr. Albert Relfe, of Lamberhurst, Kent, has now rung all the bells at Rotherfield, Sussex, to a peal. He completed the circle with a peal of Bob Major last Saturday.

Members of the local band at Cound, Shropshire, rang a peal of Grandsire Doubles on July 2nd.

A peal of Double Court Minor on July 30th at Holbrook, Suffolk, enabled G. A. Fleming, of Ipswich, to complete peals in Court methods on 6, 8, 10 and 12 bells. We believe he is the first to do this.

The first peal on the bells at Avlesbeare, Devon, was rung on July 31st. One of the band was Mr. A. E. Cheesman, of Banstead, Surrey.

Mr. Francis Kirk, of St. Albans, rang his 150th peal for the Hertford County Association on July 27th, when a peal of Stedman Triples was rung at Bushey.

LEYTON.—On the occasion of the annual battalion parade of the Boys' Brigade at St. Mary's Parish Church, on Sunday, July 16th, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples was rung by G. Dawson 1, F. W. Housden 2, Mrs. F. W. Housden 3, C. A. Hughes 4, J. Moule 5, A. Prior 6, E. D. Smith (conductor) 7, A. W. C. Ball (first quarter-peal) 8.

HOLCOMBE ROGUS, DEVON.—On July 12th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles (1,280 changes, 10 callings): W. Wright (first quarter-peal) 1, S. N. Bristow 2, C. W. J. Tarr 3, W. Stevens 4, W. C. Newberry (first quarter-peal as conductor) 5, D. M. Bellamy (first quarter-peal) 6.

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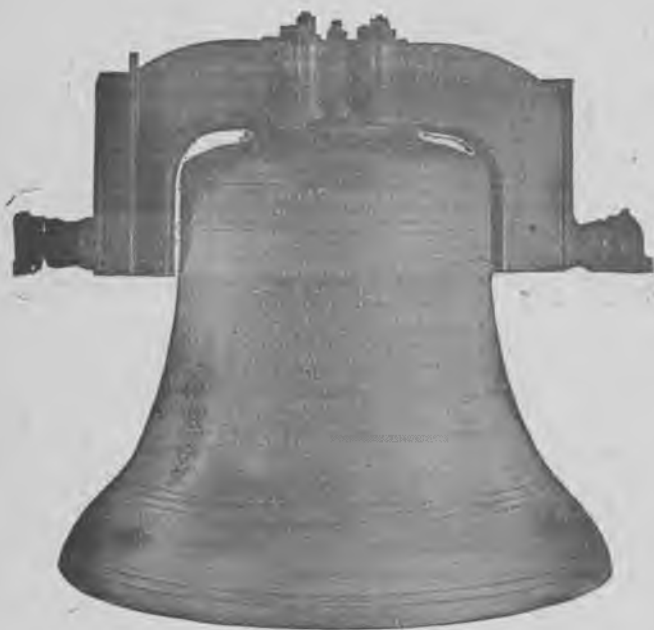
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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The first meeting of the recently re-formed Chesterfield District of the Midland Counties Association is to be held at Eckington on Saturday week.

There are already reminders of the 'dinner season.' The Worcestershire Association will kick-off on September 30th, the Yorkshire Association hold their gathering at York on October 14th, while the Lancashire Association dinner is fixed for October 21st at Liverpool.

Another dinner which is being arranged for this year will have special interest for Sussex ringers. It is to be held at Lewes on October 28th on the one hundredth anniversary of the opening of the bells at Southover, then a newly-cast peal of eight.

Many happy returns of the day to Mr. William Willson, of Leicester, whose birthday is to-morrow. Mr. Willson was born in 1868.

Next Tuesday is the anniversary of the first peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus, which was rung at Ipswich on August 15th, 1908.

The peal ringing tours begin next week. On Saturday, the 19th, a party will invade Lancashire, making Liverpool their headquarters. At the beginning of September another company of tourists go to Bedfordshire, while Yorkshire is to be the hunting ground of another party, who will be numerous enough to put on three peals in a day sometimes.

Many congratulations have reached the hon. secretary of the Royal Cumberland Youths (Mr. G. W. Steere) upon the birth of a son and heir. There was an error in Mr. Steere's address given in the notice in our last issue. It should have been 46, Milton (not Mitson) Avenue, Sutton, Surrey.

CHESHIRE 'CENTURIES.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Messrs. J. and P. Swindley were not the first father and son among Cheshire ringers to ring a hundred peals together. A hundredth peal together, by father and son, was rung at Frodsham on September 10th, 1928. This was a peal of London Surprise Major by the local band, in which the father rang the 6th and the son rang the 4th and conducted the peal.

Even this may not have been the first of its kind. Quite a few fathers and sons have been active peal ringers in Cheshire, the Gordons, Holdings, Langfords and Fearnleys, just to mention a few.

W. BIRBY.

THE BRISTOL GUILD TOURS.

No effort is being spared to make a success of next week's tours arranged by Bristol United Guilds. Some forty or more towers will be visited, and all those taking part have been provided with a most interesting 'Preview,' compiled by 'M. J. G.,' which not only gives the routes for each of the six days, but particulars of the places and churches, so that the participants will know exactly what to look for. This Preview must have been prepared at the expense of much labour and care, but it will add immensely to the interest of the various trips which will be made each day from Bristol.

The first day (Monday) will take in the country via Gloucester, Tewkesbury, Pershore and Cirencester.

Tuesday's expedition goes to Wiltshire, including Warminster, Amesbury, Devizes and Bradford-on-Avon.

On Wednesday the route lies to Shepton Mallet, Taunton, Minehead and Bridgwater.

Wiltshire will be invaded again on Thursday, Chippenham, Swindon and Calne being included in the run.

On Friday the places included are Wells and Wookey Hole.

Saturday's itinerary takes the party to Glastonbury, Yeovil, Crewkerne, Weymouth, Dorchester and Sherborne.

RAMPTON BELLS.

RINGERS' OPPORTUNITY.

All Saints' Day, November 1st, has been fixed for the dedication of the new treble bell, or bells, at the little village of Rampton, Cambridgeshire. Whether it is one or two bells depends upon the result of efforts made before the end of this month.

At present there are four bells; the fifth is assured, and, if £50 can be raised by the end of August, the ring of six will be completed. 'There are,' writes the Rector, 'still many bell books on the mantelshelves of the misrememberers—at least I am optimist enough to refuse to believe they are basketed or burnt; so perhaps another Rampton reminder will have a remedial ring about it.'

There are already 14 ringers at Rampton, half of them ladies, ready to come to grips with six bells, and it is now up to ringers beyond the village to help secure them.

The local ringers hope to utilise the four bells in a 'wedding peal' on the occasion of the marriage of the Rector's brother on August 12th.

Contributions to the fund should be sent to the Rev. T. L. Havers, Rampton Rectory, Cambridge.

ANOTHER RING OF TWELVE. ST. WOOLOS' CATHEDRAL, NEWPORT.

Another addition is to be made to the rings of twelve bells. Messrs. Gillett and Johnston are to augment the present ten at St. Woolos' Cathedral, Newport, Monmouthshire, with two trebles.

Wales has no peal of twelve, but this will be the next best thing, for Newport is in the area of the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association.

The present bells have a tenor of 21 cwt. 2 qr. 26 lb. in E. Originally they were a ring of six, by Bayley, of Bridgwater. They were increased to eight by Mears and Stainbank in 1894, and in 1913 all were recast and made into a peal of ten by Taylor and Co.

There are two other rings of ten in the area of the Llandaff and Monmouth Association, namely at Llandaff Cathedral, and St. John's, Cardiff, both in the county of Glamorgan.

RINGERS' RALLY.

BANK HOLIDAY AT LEATHERHEAD.

'A highly successful gathering, which only goes to show that those who contend that ringers do not want meetings arranged for a Bank Holiday may not always be right.' Such was the comment made to the writer at the conclusion of the rally at Leatherhead on Monday.

The gathering was the outcome of a resolution adopted at a previous meeting of Surrey ringers, when the proposer drew attention to the fact that for years, over a very wide area in Southern England, there had been nowhere a man could go if he wanted to do any ringing on August Bank Holiday, and suggested that the defect be remedied.

The result certainly justified the making of the experiment. In spite of the unsettled weather, between 60 and 70 ringers put in an appearance during the afternoon and evening, and there is little doubt that, had the weather been fine during the morning, the attendance would have been even greater, with catering capacity taxed to the utmost. Fifty-six sat down to tea, representing the following 30 towers: Banstead, Beddington, Bexley (Kent), Beckenham, Bishopsgate, Camberwell, Carshalton, Clandon, Chelsea, Ealing (both towers), Epsom, Ewell, Guildford (St. Nicolas'), Holborn, Hounslow, Kingston-on-Thames, Leatherhead, Mitcham, Putney, St. Neots (Hunts), St. Lawrence Jewry, Stepney, Southgate, Tempsford (Beds), Twickenham, Woodford, Wimbledon, Westerham (Kent), Yardley (Northants).

The Vicar (the Rev. G. H. B. Coleridge) conducted the service and gave a short address, in the course of which he welcomed the meeting to Leatherhead Church. Basing his remarks on the subject of the Prayer Book Lesson for August 7th, 'The Name of Jesus,' he said that there was probably never a time when superstition was more rife than it is to-day, even in the Dark Ages. People put their faith in all kinds of silly and superstitious things, such as Plans with the Planets, permutations with the number 13, etc., rather than in the sacred name of Jesus. He hoped that some people would hear and understand, even on a Bank Holiday, the message of the bells, and put their faith, not in superstitious beliefs, but in Christ's teaching.

Tea was served at the Duke's Head, at which the Vicar presided. On behalf of the ringers of Leatherhead he again extended a hearty welcome to the visitors, and after reading out the names of a few of the places whence they had come, expressed the hope that they would thoroughly enjoy their visit.

It was a matter of regret to some of the older ringers that Mr. Arthur Dean, who was always closely identified with ringing at Leatherhead in former years, was now incapacitated by illness from further ringing and quite unable to get either to the church or to the Duke's Head to meet his friends. In the circumstances, therefore, only one thing could be done. If he could not get to them, they must go to him. So at intervals during the afternoon and evening Mr. Dean held a veritable levee of old pals who called to pay their respects and talk over old times. All were pleased to find him so cheerful in spite of a painful malady.

The ringing throughout the day comprised all kinds of methods, from Grandsire to London Surprise, to suit everybody. At 9 o'clock the bells were lowered and the meeting dispersed. Then to the station by way of the Duke's Head. All seemed happy. Judging by the harmonious and vociferous sounds emitted from a compartment of a train making its way towards London about 11 p.m., a certain section of the crowd was very happy indeed.

W.

MARRIAGE OF YORKSHIRE LADY RINGER.

The marriage took place very quietly on Tuesday, August 1st, at St. Michael's Church, Headingley, of Miss M. Fisher, only daughter of Mrs. and the late Mr. Alfred Fisher, and Mr. Harry Booth, son of Mr. J. R. and the late Mrs. Booth, both of Leeds. The ceremony was performed by the Vicar (the Rev. R. J. Wood).

The bride, who is a member of the Ladies' Guild and the Yorkshire Association, has given valued help to the St. Michael's band, where she learned to ring about four years ago. The remainder of the band, together with two or three friends, voiced their good wishes on the bells as the bride and bridegroom left the church.

The happy couple left later in the day for Oxford, where they are to take up residence, Mr. Booth being the Professional Reader for the National Institute for the Blind.

DEATH OF MR. JOHN OVERTON.

DOYEN OF SHROPSHIRE RINGERS.

For 64 years leader of St. Leonard's, Bridgnorth, Mr. John Overton passed peacefully away at his home, 31, West Castle Street, on July 29th, at the advanced age of 88 years. Well known, honoured and greatly respected by many ringers and other friends, Mr. Overton, by his wonderful skill as a teacher of correct change ringing, proved himself to be one of the great pillars of the Exercise. His kindly manner had won for him a position in the county of Shropshire and also in the Hereford Diocese that no other ringer had ever held. He was an honorary vice-president of the Hereford Diocesan Guild and had been Ringing Master of the Bridgnorth District since its formation in 1919. He introduced change ringing to Bridgnorth and rang upwards of 100 peals in various parts of the country.

About 30 years ago Mr. Overton and his Sunday service team rang nine peals of Stedman Triples in one year, conducted by his son, Wilfred. Five of these peals were rung on five different peals of eight, St. Leonard's, Bridgnorth, Coalbrookdale, Shifnal, Ludlow and Pattingham. They also rang peals of Kent Treble Bob Major at St. Leonard's. Soon afterwards he trained his colleagues and took part in and rang within a few changes of a peal of Double Norwich Major, which would have been the first for a local band in the county of Salop or the Hereford Diocese. However, a few years ago it was a great joy to him to listen to the first peal actually rung by St. Leonard's ringers, two of his sons, Horace and Wilfred, the latter conducting, taking part. Wherever they entered the competition for the Hereford Guild Shield the Bridgnorth ringers won it. It is now in St. Leonard's Church.

In 1925, to mark his 50 years as foreman of St. Leonard's, Mr. Overton was presented with an illuminated address, and in honour of the occasion a peal of Stedman Triples was rung at Bridgnorth. Mr. Overton rang the treble, the peal was conducted by his son Wilfred and his sons, Horace and Harry, also took part. A solid bronze peal tablet was placed in St. Leonard's Church recording the peal.

Mr. Overton was very musical. In his younger days he played in a local drum and fife band and also with the Town Brass Band. He trained a very clever handbell tune ringing team, which used to be in great demand at various functions.

The last time Mr. Overton rang at St. Leonard's was in 1935, when he was 84. About that period his legs began to fail him, the result, no doubt, of so much standing during his employment at the local carpet works. He began work at 11 years of age and retired in 1928, after working 66 years. He is survived by four sons, who are all ringers, and two daughters. His wife died some years ago.

The funeral took place at St. Leonard's Church on Wednesday of last week. Six of St. Leonard's ringers acted as bearers, and visiting ringers present included Messrs. William Saunders, Coalbrookdale (Ringing Master of the Hereford Diocesan Guild); James P. Hyett, Hay, Hereford (assistant secretary and peal recorder of the Hereford Guild); Joseph Stanier, Madeley, Salop (representing the Shropshire Association); and George Oliver, Lichfield. Wreaths were sent from the Hereford Guild, 'in faithful remembrance of John Overton for his service to bellringing'; from St. Leonard's tower, 'in grateful memory'; one from the Bridgnorth district, and one from St. Mary's, Bridgnorth.

After the interment at the cemetery a well-struck 720 of Bob Minor was rung at St. Mary's on the back six bells with half-muffled clappers by W. Saunders 1, G. Oliver 2, J. P. Hyett 3, H. O. Baker 4, W. Hayward (conductor) 5, J. L. Stanier 6. St. Leonard's bells were rung half-muffled during the evening.

WEDDING OF NORTH STAFFS SECRETARY.

The wedding took place at St. Giles' Church, Newcastle, Staffs, on July 30th of Mr. Andrew Thompson and Miss Ada Bourne.

Mr. Thompson is hon. secretary of the North Staffs Association and its representative on the Central Council. He is also Tower Master at St. Giles' Church, and the bells rang a merry wedding peal after the ceremony.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, Mr. John Bourne, wore a gown of white lace, trimmed with silver, and carried a bouquet of red roses. She was attended by two bridesmaids, Miss Doris Bourne (sister) and Miss Nancy Thompson (sister of the bridegroom), with Master Andrew Roy Bevan (nephew of the bridegroom) as page. Mr. Bertram Durber was best man.

The choral service was conducted by the Rector of Newcastle (the Rev. C. J. Watkins), and the hymns, led by the choir, were 'The Voice that breathed o'er Eden' and 'O perfect love.'

On the following evening a peal of Grandsire Triples in honour of the event was rung at St. Giles' Church by members of the North Staffs Association.

A FAREWELL.

At St. George's, Stockport, Cheshire, for evening service on Sunday, June 11th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters (1,259 changes): J. Barker (first quarter-peal) 1, A. F. Bailey 2, T. Simpson (first quarter-peal 'inside') 3, A. E. Jackson 4, H. Meakin 5, F. Twigg 6, W. Jackson 7, H. Jackson 8, H. Ashton (first quarter-peal of Caters as conductor) 9, P. Laffin 10. This was rung as a farewell to Mr. Harry Ashton on leaving Stockport for Sowerby Bridge, Yorkshire.

ANTIENT SOCIETY OF ST. STEPHEN'S BRISTOL'S OLD GUILD AND ITS RULES.

An Analysis and a Comparison.

In our issue of December 30th last, Mr. J. Armiger Trollope wrote of Bristol's old Guild, and the myth of a Royal Charter. Here he discusses further the ancient body and its rules.

The men who did the 'pleasure' ringing in the seventeenth century belonged to all classes of society. Some were gentlemen at the universities and Inns of Court, and some were of the lowest of the people. In the towns they were often good-class townsmen—tradesmen and members of the lesser professions—and such most likely were the members of the Society of St. Stephen's Ringers.

The earliest extant copy of the rules (or, as they are sometimes called, the ordinances, or the Charter) is dated 1693, but it purports to have been transcribed at second hand from a manuscript dated 1620, and substantially it is the same code as was agreed to when the company was founded.

There is nothing unique about these rules. They are similar to those of the other ringing societies which existed in early times. In the British Museum among the Sloane MSS. is the original manuscript with the rules of the Schollers of Cheapside, dated 1603. A copy of these rules (late 17th century) is in the library of All Souls' College at Oxford, a copy of the rules of the Society of St. Hugh, 1612, is in the muniment room at Lincoln Cathedral. The original set of rules of the Esquire Youths, 1662, is at Bloomsbury. And there are one or two similar documents in the Bodleian Library.

All these codes were strongly influenced by the tradition of the guilds, but there is nothing in them which does not belong to the early 17th century and nothing that necessarily carries their dates back to the 14th or 15th centuries.

The government of each society was entrusted to a supreme officer elected for one year and called sometimes the General and sometimes the Master. To assist him were two other officers, called Stewards or Wardens, also elected annually. Generally there was a permanent official called the Beadle and sometimes a Treasurer and a Warner.

The members were graded according to their status and standing in the company. When first elected they were apprentices; in due time they became freemen; and when they had passed the chair they were assistants of the company. The organisation was that of the trades guilds, the City Companies and the social clubs of the period.

In all there was an elaborate system of fines, graduated according to the nature of the offence. They relate to such things as refusal to take office, disobeying the Master's orders, misconduct in the belfry or club room, bad language, neglect of duty, non-attendance and such like. Since the social life was as prominent as the ringing, the rules relate as much to the club room as to the belfry.

THE ANNUAL FEAST.

The chief event in the society's life was the annual feast. It was held on the anniversary day, and every member not being let by sickness was bound to attend on pain of being fined. The St. Stephen's rules make no mention of the annual dinner, but it is quite certain that it was held and on the 17th November.

Another rule, like the last inherited from the guilds, was the obligation to attend the obsequies of a deceased member; and after the funeral it was customary 'to ring one knell peal either at the church where the burial took place, or else at the next parish church at which the company could conveniently be got together.' In pre-Reformation times it was an ordinary thing to ring at a man's obit, or the anniversary of his death, and money was often left for that purpose. The St. Stephen's rules contain references to direct survivals of that custom.

The Bristol rules have been transcribed several times and by men who did not understand them, and it is likely that some of them have become corrupt. No. 9 subjects the Master to a fine of one shilling if he 'neglect or forget to warn the company once within every 14 days for to ring a Bissit sett peale.' The scribe evidently did not know what a Bissit sett peale was and so did not try to modernise the spelling as with the other words. Probably he thought it was a technical expression and Bissit perhaps the name of some man.

But Bissit (which should not have been spelt with a capital B) is only a variant of 'beet,' which, in turn, is an inflection of the very common English word 'set.' A Bissit sett peale only meant the properly arranged ringing which the company did once a fortnight.

Rule No. 16, as usually printed, is also obviously corrupt. It reads: 'If any of the said Company shall take a rope out of a fellow's hand when the bells do ring well, and do make a fault to fly off and come too near, he shall pay for his offence one penny to the Company.' The reading given in 'The Bristol Mirror' of December 7th, 1822, is (except for the spelling) probably much nearer the original of 1620. It is: 'If anie one touche a rope in hisse felowes hande whenne the Belles do welle ring soe asse to make them fly offe or come too neare he shalle forfeit a pennie.'

This rule cannot mean what at first sight it seems to say. It cannot mean that when ringing was going on no one was to walk up to one

of the ringers and grab the rope out of his hand. Conduct like that would not need a rule, and would have led not to a fine but to hot words and, like as not, a blow. To understand we must realise how the bells were rung.

The general principles of bell hanging were the same as at present, but the fittings were much rougher and cruder, requiring the outlay of much more muscular strength, and there were no stays and sliders and but half wheels. The bells could not be raised and set before ringing as at present.

RULE TO SET A HIGH STANDARD.

When the ringers began the bells were hanging mouth downwards and the object was 'to raise the bells as quick as may be,' but keeping perfect time and concord. It is not, I think, known how many bells there were at St. Stephen's in 1620, but probably there were five or perhaps six. One man would be put to the treble, three or four to the tenor, and two to each of the others. At the start all the hand had to exert their utmost strength, but as soon as the bells were raised high enough to clapper properly on both sides there was no need for more than one man to each rope. It was the duty, therefore, of the assistant ringer to leave the bell to 'his fellow,' for if 'he touched the rope in his hand' now that the 'bells do well ring,' he might upset the striking.

This rule was intended to set a high standard of technical skill in the ringing and so was the one which reads as follows: 'If any of the Company shall miss to strike his bell at the second sway in the raising of a peale he shall for his offence pay one penny to the company.'

We get a full explanation of this rule in Stedman's 'Campanalogia': 'In raising a peal of bells all the notes ought to strike round at one pull, but mistake me not; I do not mean at the first pull, for at small bells 'tis usual to sway them all round at the first pull without striking, at the second pull to strike them at the fore stroke, and at the third pull at the back stroke. In raising a peal of more weighty bells 'tis usual to strike them double at the fourth pull.'

To carry out this rule required a good deal of skill and the outlay of a very great deal of physical strength. It would be an almost impossible feat with a modern hung ring of eight where the big bells are tucked up into the stocks and the clappers of the little bells swing freely, unless the bells were very light.

For a hundred years or so the St. Stephen's Society existed as a body of men interested in bellringing and meeting at regular intervals for social intercourse. No actual account of its doings during the first 60 years survives, but the fact that it did exist tells us sufficient.

Meanwhile ringing had altogether altered in character. The invention of the Sixes about 1610 had introduced the art of change ringing, which, aided by the publication of Richard Duckworth's 'Tinnalogia' in 1668, and Fabian Stedman's 'Campanalogia' in 1677, after the Restoration monopolised the attention of the more advanced ringers. Instead of the athletic fascination of raising and ceasing and round ringing there was the intellectual fascination of ringing changes.

But this development took place slowly and only in parts of the country. The new art was born among the students at the two universities and the Inns of Court and was developed by the ringers of London and Oxford and Cambridge, Nottingham and Reading and the Eastern Counties. In some districts ringers still clung to the old style which even yet lingers among the round ringers of Cornwall.

SOCIAL LIFE AN IMPORTANT FEATURE.

For all the number of its bells, Bristol took no part in the early development of change ringing, and that was probably the ultimate cause of the great alteration which at the close of the 17th century or the beginning of the 18th took place in the character of the St. Stephen's Company. It ceased to be a society of ringers and became an ordinary social club.

We must remember that in the old societies the social life was as prominent and almost as important a feature as the ringing. The ringers were naturally sociable, convivial and clubbable persons, so much so that, in the opinion of many of the straiter sort of people, they were a dissolute, disorderly and drunken lot. The reign of Queen Anne was a great time for clubs. All over the country in every rank of society men were joining together, appointing officers and drawing up rules and scales of fines. The ringers had their organisation ready made, and when the interest in ringing waned among the members they could still carry on as a club and admit recruits who cared nothing for bells.

And interest in ringing did in some cases wane. Round ringing was ceasing to be a sport for gentlemen and the newer change ringing was far more difficult and technical and appealed to a smaller and more select number of devotees. Had the St. Stephen's men taken to change ringing the fascination of it might have kept the society in touch with the belfry; but that did not happen, and after a while the company ceased to be ringers in everything but name.

The alteration, of course, did not take place all at once. When the society started it consisted of men of much the same social status, but there are signs that, in time, it was found necessary to introduce men of a lower class, so as to find enough ringers to man the ropes. In the lists of names in the minute books, which date from 1682, a few members are entitled 'esquire,' the majority are entitled 'Mr.' and the rest have no title at all. The division is not (as has been suggested) into professional and amateur ringers, for that distinction has never, at any time, been recognised in the Exercise. In olden times

class distinctions were very much more marked and insisted upon than they are now. A man was not called an esquire unless he actually was an esquire, nor entitled Mr. unless he was a man of some position and standing.

When the final link with the belfry was broken we cannot say, but throughout the greater part of the 18th century the Society of St. Stephen's Ringers was an ordinary club, whose main concern was the periodical dinners. But that it still continued to exist and, on the whole, to prosper is a tribute to its good fortune and the character of its members.

The life of any one of these societies, whether a company of ringers or a social club, was usually not a very long one, and hung on a rather slender thread. It did not take much—a quarrel, the death of some of the members, waning interest or failure to secure new members—any one could easily wreck the society.

There are signs that the Society of College Youths to some extent went through the same experience as the St. Stephen's Society, only, with them, there never was a complete break with the belfry, and at the critical time the influx of a number of young and enthusiastic new members saved the society for the Exercise.

SOCIETY BECOMES A DINING CLUB.

In the early years of the 19th century the St. Stephen's Company of Ringers was a dining club, whose annual feast was attended by a number of the principal citizens of Bristol.

This was the time when what the newspapers call 'the quaint customs of its early days' were invented; when a few vague rumours were crystallised into traditions, and the proceedings given a veneer of sham antiquity. The pageant called 'The Don' and the singing of the song about the Golden Days of Good Queen Bess date probably from about this time. During the dinner one of the members dressed up like a Spanish Grandee, with a big red nose, headed a procession carrying lighted candles, which escorted the newly-elected Master to his seat, and the old code of rules was solemnly read.

This ceremony is still, I believe, carried out under the impression that it was part of the ancient and original ritual of the company. But the whole thing is evidently a fake. It may be objected that these men would not have been guilty of a deliberate fraud, but that is to look at the matter in an entirely wrong light. They were not antiquarians and they were not engaged in any serious business. They were a number of worthy gentlemen, met together to eat a dinner and have a jolly time, and they played a game of let-us-pretend. For the whole thing, even where it was a genuine survival was a pretence. They pretended that they were 16th century ringers that they were bound by a set of rules they did not in the least understand; that they derived in some mysterious way from Queen Elizabeth. It was natural, almost inevitable, that they should seek to heighten the illusion by fictitious details and the Don, with his big red nose, gave a touch of fun and burlesque which was appropriate to the occasion.

DELIBERATE FAKING.

That there was deliberate faking is shown by the account of the company, published in 'The Bristol Mirror' of December 7th, 1822, evidently by a leading member.

The writer gives the tradition about Queen Elizabeth and her promise, states that a Charter was obtained from James I. and proceeds to quote a number of the rules. In doing so he does not copy the spelling of one of the genuine manuscripts, but adopts an imitation of 15th century orthography to give the thing an extra antique flavour. It is rather clever, but altogether overdone. If genuine, it would prove that the 'Charter' was not the grant of King James, but 200 years older. But actually it does not take much study to see that the thing is not genuine, and the writer gives himself away by adding a couplet of his own:—

Maye theyo ringge peales offe tripple bobbes grandsires
Tille the worlde ends in alle-consuming fiere.

'Tripple bobbes grandsires' is nonsense, and by the time that there were such things as Treble Bob and Grandsire English spelling had become much the same thing it is now. Also the ringers' traditional pronunciation of the word Grandsire has a silent 'a' and a very short 'i.' It rhymes with cancer, not with fiere.

There was no need and no room for such things as the Don in the old St. Stephen's Company. Like other similar bodies they adopted this ritual and their rules because they wanted to hold their meetings and transact their business in proper form, not because they wanted to be 'quaint.' The rule about not striking a bell at the second sway once meant something, but we may be sure that it was not read out at the annual dinner. It was only when it had long since meant nothing that it became 'quaint' and so of value in a pageant.

It is instructive to compare the only two early 17th century ringing societies which still survive—the Society of College Youths and the Society of St. Stephen's Ringers. The first is what it always has been, a company of ringers. It has kept its original objects, its original organisation, and its original routine. It obeys, for the most part, its original rules, but those rules adapted to the changing years. There is nothing 'quaint' about the Society of College Youths, but we may be quite sure that it is far nearer to what the Society of St. Stephen's Ringers was in 1620 than that society is now.

The St. Stephen's pageantry is interesting and worth while, but it has no remote connection with a ringing society of the early 17th century.

J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

FIRST MEETING AT SOMERLEYTON.

East Norfolk Branch held a meeting at Somerleyton on Saturday, July 29th. It was the first meeting that the association had held at Somerleyton, and it was well appreciated by the Rector (the Rev. Gerald Halsey) and the local company, who have recently started ringing and are keen to progress. After ringing in the afternoon service was conducted by the Rector and tea was served in the Rector's room.

The Rector was supported by Mr. W. Lee (branch chairman), Mr. J. G. W. Harwood (branch secretary) and Mr. H. Tooke (North Norfolk secretary), and 26 ringers were present.

A short business meeting was held, at which it was proposed to hold the next meeting at Loddon on Saturday, October 21st, and the belfry election prior to a peal of Mr. E. R. Brown, of Somerleyton, was ratified.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Rector, who presided at the meeting, for the use of the bells and all the help he had rendered to make the meeting a success.

In reply, the Rector thanked the association for coming to Somerleyton and also for the loyal support given at the rededication of the bells after the rehanging just after Easter. He hoped there would be more meetings held there.

Ringing was resumed after tea and carried on till 9 p.m., more ringers turning up during the evening. Members attended from Norwich, Yarmouth, Gorleston, Wymondham, Reedham, Acle, Fornsett, Kessingland, Sudbury, Mulbarton, Halvergate, Ranworth, Haddiscoe, Norton, Bungay and the local company. The methods rung were London, Ipswich, Cambridge, Oxford and Kent, Double Court, Plain, St. Clement's and Double Oxford Minor.

SOUTH NORFOLK BRANCH.

The summer meeting of the South Norfolk Branch of the Norwich Diocesan Association took place on Saturday, July 29th, at the beautifully situated Church of SS. Peter and Paul, Brockdish. Fifty-one members and ringers were present from 27 different parishes, viz., Attleborough, Brockdish, Bressingham, Bergh Apton, Caston, Diss, Garboldisham, Gressenhall, Pulham Market, Redenhall, Saxlingham, Shelfanger, Starston, Scole, Winfarthing, Watton and Wroxham. Suffolk ringers were present from Hotesdale, Exning, Fressingfield, Ipswich, Mendlesham, Rickingham, Wilby and Yaxley, while Mr. and Mrs. Hurry, from Sawston, Cambridge, and Mr. Tony Price, of Feltham, Middlesex, were also present.

The Rev. A. J. Nixseaman (Rector) conducted the association's special service and gave an address. The lesson was read by the Rural Dean (the Rev. T. A. Nock).

Forty-five sat down to tea in the Village Hall and Mr. William L. Duffield presided at the business meeting which followed. He was supported by the Rev. A. St. J. Heard (hon. member), the Rev. A. J. Nixseaman, the Rev. E. V. Cotton (Rector of Rickingham), Mr. A. G. Harrison (Diss, branch secretary), Messrs. E. Whiting, E. G. Bennett and C. E. G. Banham (members of the committee).

The Rev. A. J. Nixseaman was elected an honorary member and Mr. W. Whiting a ringing member.

Mr. Duffield proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Rector for his fine address and for the use of the bells, also to the organist and the large number of Suffolk ringers who were present.

The Rector, in reply, thanked the members for electing him an honorary member and said he hoped now to restart the Brockdish company of ringers.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Banham on Saturday, October 14th.

THE CANON ELSEE MEMORIAL.

WINDOW PLACED IN ST. GEORGE'S, BOLTON.

A committee meeting of the Lancashire Association was held at Leyland Parish Church on July 22nd. The occasion was also the monthly meeting of the Preston Branch. The ringers were welcomed by the Vicar of Leyland and entertained to tea.

The president (the Rev. A. Scott) presided at the committee meeting, when the arrangements for the annual meeting at Blackpool on Saturday, September 30th, were discussed. A service, at which it is hoped the Lord Bishop of Blackburn will preach, will be held in St. John's Church at 4 p.m., followed by tea at 5 p.m. and the meeting at 6 p.m.

The annual dinner is to be held at Liverpool on Saturday, October 21st.

Deep concern and regret were expressed that no account of the dedication of the Elsee Memorial Window had appeared in 'The Ringing World.' This window is a memorial to the memory of the late Canon H. J. Elsee, for 46 years president of the association and a member of the Central Council from its inception.

It was dedicated on June 10th by the Rev. A. Scott in the presence of a representative congregation.

The window is on the north side of St. George's Church, Bolton, where Canon Elsee was Vicar, and depicts the Abbot of Abbatrook dedicating the Incheape Bell. Ringers from every part of the country subscribed towards the erection of this memorial.

RINGERS' OUTINGS.

SUCCESS OF BEXLEY'S FIRST OUTING.

The ringers of St. Mary's, Bexley, went through their own county of Kent for their first annual outing. They first made for Marden, via Wrotham, where three quarters of an hour was spent in ringing and looking over the church. The journey continued through ideal Kentish scenery to Tenterden, where on arrival the company were delighted to have the opportunity of hearing the tune played on the bells by the clock apparatus after striking the hour of twelve, after which this glorious peal were made good use of in various methods and the ringers were delighted to meet such old ringing friends, Messrs. C. Tribe and R. Edwards, of the local band. Mr. Frank Mitchell, of St. Mary's band, learned to ring at Tenterden under Mr. Tribe, so it was a very happy reunion after 20 years. After lunch the party went on to Appledore, where they were welcomed by the Vicar. Both learners and experts had a good time with this handy ring, while the non-ringing friends enjoyed themselves looking over the very interesting church. The next stage was to New Romney with its grand old church and splendid peal of bells. Here naturally the ringers were content to remain in the tower and get as much ringing as possible. Here they enjoyed the company of Mr. H. S. Humphrey, of the local band. There was a little guessing going on when the 'father' of the company realised that he had met this gentleman somewhere before, but where? After a little mental struggle it proved to be at Woolwich, where they had seen a good deal of each other, for Mr. Hoskins, of course, hails from Greenwich. The non-ringing section of the party in search of ozone proceeded to walk to Littlestone-on-Sea, but, alas, those Kentish miles were too much for some. Others bravely went on and enjoyed a short time by the sea. One gentleman came prepared for the possibility of a swim, which he had and enjoyed. One lady on her return journey somehow got the roads mixed up and was late for tea. However, all ended well. Getting away on time to the last tower, the party arrived at Mersham, where owing to the long draught of rope not many were very happy for a time, but nearly all had a pull. Here everyone enjoyed the company of the verger, whose intimate knowledge of the church made an inspection of the building extremely interesting, and the best thanks of the company are extended to him. The homeward journey was made via Ashford and Maidstone. Thanks are extended to the incumbents and ringers of the several churches for their help in making St. Mary's first ringers' outing an outstanding success. The methods rung during the day were Grandsire, Stedman, Plain Bob, Kent Treble Bob, Double Norwich and rounds, etc., for the beginners.

A 'MAJOR' OUTING IN ESSEX.

As might be imagined, Major methods were predominant during the day's outing on July 29th of a party of Suffolk ringers from Leiston, Ufford and Woodbridge, although, strangely enough, Stedman Caters at Saffron Walden was probably the best touch of the day.

The smooth running peal of eight at Hatfield Broad Oak (tenor 20 cwt.) went well to an assortment of methods, including Cambridge and Bristol. Stansted was the next stop, and a swarm of bees along the church path meant proceeding with caution, but without casualties. The well-furnished ringing chamber contains many records of past performances. The left-handed ring (tenor 13 cwt.) were a little difficult to get used to, but London, Bristol and Superlative were successfully brought round.

After lunch the wonderful churches at Thaxted and Saffron Walden were visited; both of these noble buildings are worth a visit apart from the ringing. At Thaxted the bells were very quiet inside, although outside the reverse was the case. The tenor of about a ton went very well, but one or two of the others were a little tricky to ring. Rounds was all that could be managed on the twelve at Saffron Walden, but Treble Bob Royal and Stedman Caters were enjoyed. A course of Bristol on the grand back octave was not so successful and a 'post-mortem' failed to reveal the cause of failure.

The last call was at St. Mary's, Radwinter, where a nice little peal of eight, with a tenor of doubtful weight, were spoilt by rumblings from above, making it difficult to hear the bells. A concluding course of London and three leads of Bristol brought the day's ringing to a close, although one or two 'bearings' had to be oiled en route for home, which was reached about midnight.

A LONG DAY.

A seventeen-hour outing was enjoyed by the ringers of St. Barnabas', Great Tey, Essex, on July 29th. A party of 35 started at 7.30 a.m. and did not reach home again until 12.30 a.m. They first rang at St. Mary's, Harlow, and then went on to St. Michael's, St. Albans. They had lunch at Luton and afterwards rang for a wedding at the Parish Church. It is reported that here two of their own party nearly got married, but further details are lacking. From Luton the journey was continued to Bedford, where they rang at St. Peter's and had tea before going on to ring at Bromham, where the church is prettily situated in a park. The ringers desire to thank all who helped towards the successful day, and especially the ringers who met them at the various towers.

'YOUTHS' HALF-DAY EXCURSION.

Willesborough and District Youths set forth on their ninth annual half-day run on July 29th. At Wanborne the Rector welcomed them and good use was made of the bells for 50 minutes. Northiam was reached a bit on the late side, but Mr. Kemp had everything ready and 50 minutes' good ringing was enjoyed before setting off for Brede, where Mr. Apps received the party. These bells are another fine lot and were soon going to various methods spliced and unspliced. At Sedlescombe everything was ready for tea; so were the Youths. Then back up the hill to the church, the Rector giving a hearty welcome. With this handy little six another enjoyable hour was spent before going on to Hawkhurst, where the bells are quite all right, but there was nothing to telephone to father about with regard to the ringing. A half-hour's spin brought the party to Woodchurch, with six decent bells in need of hanger and bell rope maker. However, a few short touches were brought round. At 9.40 the party were back at the starting place, the Fox still running. Glorious weather, a 70 miles run through delightful scenery, good tea, six towers, bells all in good going order with exception of the last lot, methods ranging from rounds to Cambridge, and all in 9½ hours, is not too bad for Youths from 16 to well nigh 80. They wish to thank the incumbents, tower-keepers and all who helped to give them such an enjoyable time.

SAFFRON WALDEN SOCIETY IN SUFFOLK.

The Saffron Walden Society's annual outing took place on Monday, July 3rd, in fine weather. At Long Melford the visitors were met by Mr. H. Richold, a very old friend of the society. On the bells were rung touches of London and Cambridge Surprise and Stedman Triples. After a look round this beautiful church the party proceeded to Lavenham, where they were met by Mr. Stedman Symonds. The bells were soon going to London Surprise, after which Cambridge, Superlative and Stedman Triples were rung. A hot lunch was served at the Swan Hotel, which possesses a peal of handbells, on which plain courses of Grandsire Triples and Caters were rung. After taking a look round some of the old houses of Lavenham of much antiquarian interest, the party moved on to Sudbury, where Mr. H. Herbert was waiting for them. The first pull was at St. Peter's, the methods being London Surprise and Stedman Triples. Then on to St. Gregory's, where London Surprise and Stedman Triples were rung. It had been intended also to ring at All Saints', but as the party were behind schedule and the eight chiming ropes would have had to be removed before they could ring, they decided to go on to Hadleigh. On this fine peal of eight London, Cambridge, Superlative and Stedman Triples were rung.

The last calling place was Ipswich, where several of the local band were waiting to meet them. Here was rung a course of Cambridge Royal, half a course of Cambridge Maximus and a touch of Stedman Cinques. Home was reached at 11.45 p.m. The society would like to thank the incumbents for the use of the bells and the local ringers who met them and thus helped to make the day such a success.

WOODFORD AND WANSTEAD RINGERS COMBINE.

The ringers of Woodford and Wanstead (Essex) had an excursion into Suffolk for their annual outing. It was a Sunday trip and they were able to ring for morning service at Hadleigh and for evening service at Radwinter. In between they rang at Hintlesham after morning service, had dinner at Hadleigh and visited Monks Eleigh.

The ringers attended service after ringing at Radwinter, and the Vicar (the Rev. C. Gore) gave an inspiring address. The sermon dealt in the main with the use of the bells, and the vital part played by the ringers in calling together the people for divine worship.

At Radwinter the company were entertained to a meat tea in the Parish Hall by the Vicar and his staff of helpers. When justice had been well and truly done to the full tea set before them, the captain, Mr. C. Morss, presented the driver of the coach with a silver cigarette case, the gift of the United Guild of Wanstead and Woodford Ringers, for the care and consideration he has always shown them.

Mr. J. Chalk, Master of the South-West District of the Essex Association, thanked the Vicar and his helpers, also Mr. Frank Corney, who ably arranged the outing. Mr. S. Webb, Mr. C. Morss and Mr. J. Crampion were also mentioned. After a few tunes on the handbells the journey homewards was made via Thaxted, Dunmow, Chelmsford and Brentwood, Woodford being reached at 11.45 p.m.

A LONG DAY IN HERTFORDSHIRE.

Hertfordshire towers were the objective of the Helmingham (Suffolk) ringers on the occasion of their annual outing, and, believing in an early start, they were on the way before 6 a.m. The first stop for ringing was at Bengoe and then they went on to Hatfield, where they were welcomed by Mr. A. Lawrence. At North Mimms they were greeted by Mr. W. Nash and rang before going on to Watford, where they were met by Mr. S. H. Hoare, and then had lunch at the King's Head Hotel. Afterwards they rang at Bushey and Watford, and with the help of Mr. Cashmore and other Bushey friends who had met them, four of the visitors had their first touch of Spliced Surprise. The homeward journey was made through Epping Forest, and Helmingham was not reached until after midnight. The ringing during the day included the four standard Surprise methods, Stedman Triples and Caters and Treble Ten. The party would like to thank all the incumbents for the use of the bells, also all who met them and had the bells ready, and last, but not least, Mr. S. H. Hoare.

A SURREY HIGH SPOT.**SUCCESSFUL MEETING AT RANMORE.**

A meeting at Ranmore Common, one of the high spots of Surrey, always seems a bit of a gamble for the organisers, the chief attractions—a fine peal of eight, in a lovely church, amid beautiful surroundings—being offset by the long climb to get there from the railway or bus, with a steep climb to the badly lit and badly ventilated heltry, for those inclined to ringing, while this year was added a very threatening sky for those who prefer to enjoy the scenery and listen.

In spite of all this a good meeting was enjoyed on Saturday week, when the North-West District of the Surrey Association and the Leatherhead District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild held their usual joint meeting there. Among the visitors was Mr. Walter Charman from Sussex, one of the district masters, and Mr. J. Corbett, hon. treasurer of the Guildford Diocesan Guild, with others from Bagshot, and, later in the day, Mr. C. Edwards from Cheshire, a past Master of the Herford Association and remembered in Surrey by some of the 'old 'uns' for his pre-war activities around Farnham.

Ringing commenced soon after 3.30, and Mr. A. Harman, the Ringing Master of the Leatherhead District, being on holiday, the full duties fell to Mr. Dan Cooper.

A break was made at 5 o'clock, when the Rector, the Rev. N. G. Davies, after first welcoming the visitors to Ranmore, and hoping they would enjoy their visit, conducted a short service with a short address.

Tea was provided at the Post Office, to which 39 ringers and friends did full justice. As usual on this occasion there was no business to transact, but Mr. Cooper reminded members of forthcoming meetings and proposed hearty votes of thanks to the Rector for the use of the bells and for taking the service, also to Mr. A. H. Smith (district secretary of the Guildford Guild) for making the necessary arrangements.

Ringing was then resumed until about 8.30, a variety of methods from Triples to Bristol Surprise, with rounds, meeting everyone's requirements. It is hoped that all enjoyed themselves and made a resolve to come again next year.

FIRST QUARTER-PEALS.

KINGSTON-ON-THAMES.—At All Saints' on Sunday, July 16th, a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1,280 changes): E. Parker 1, E. W. Brown 2, C. C. Raynor 3, W. A. Peck 4, H. W. Barrett 5, G. C. Goodman 6, H. G. Andrews 7, F. E. Hawthorne (conductor) 8. First quarter-peal of Major for ringers of treble and 2nd. The latter was on a visit from Somerleyton, Suffolk.

NEW ALRESFORD, HANTS.—At St. John the Baptist's Church on July 9th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: S. McCutcheon (first quarter-peal) 1, H. Shaw 2, E. Lane 3, A. Tremear 4, W. Wearing (first quarter-peal of Triples 'inside') 5, H. Newnham (conductor) 6, L. Tremear 7, W. Smith (first quarter-peal of Triples) 8.

RINGERS' OUTINGS.

(Continued from previous page.)
IN THE PEAK DISTRICT.

St. Peter's, Nottingham, ringers paid a visit to the Peak District on Saturday, July 1st, the party of ringers and friends numbering 25. The weather was glorious and the route lay through some of the loveliest countryside in England. The first stop for ringing was at Dore, which was reached via Matlock, Darley Dale, Chatsworth Park and Baslow. At Darley Dale, where a stop was made for a snack, a course of Grandsire Caters was rung on handbells. A pony in an adjoining field seemed greatly impressed by the music, for it kept pushing its head over the fence as if interested. At Dore the handy ring of eight (tenor 11½ cwt.) was raised in peal, and several touches of Grandsire, Stedman and a course of Cambridge rung. At Hathersage, the burial place of Little John, one of Robin Hood's famous band, a sumptuous lunch was served at the George Hotel. Then the drive was resumed through Glossop, Hayfield, Chapel-en-le-Frith, Buxton, Newhaven and on to Ashbourne for tea. Handbells were again brought into use and a course of Grandsire Caters were rung in the courtyard of the Green Man, much to the delight of visitors at the hotel. Later on, at Wirksworth, on another good peal of eight, the visitors rang touches of Grandsire, Stedman, Kent and a course of Double Norwich. Incidentally they rang for evensong and then after the service. Nottingham was eventually reached at 10 p.m. The Ringing Master (Mr. H. R. Cobbin) and all the ringers wish to express their sincere thanks to the incumbents of Dore and Wirksworth for granting permission to ring, and also the captains of these towers for meeting the party and having everything in readiness.

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.

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ABBOTT'S ANN, NEAR ANDOVER, HANTS. — Ring of 5. Nos. 1, 2 and 3 recast and the peal rehung with modern fittings by Gillett and Johnston. Bells will be re-dedicated by the Lord Bishop of Winchester at 7 p.m., on Aug. 11th.

ST. COLUMB MINOR, NEWQUAY, CORNWALL. —The ring of 6 bells rehung and augmented to eight by John Taylor and Co. will be dedicated by the Archdeacon of Cornwall on Saturday, Aug. 12th, at 3 p.m.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan and Liverpool Branches.—Joint meeting will be held at Rainford on Saturday, August 12th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m., for which please notify Mr. S. Cadwallender, 103, Church Rd., Rainford, near St. Helens. —S. Forshaw and G. R. Newton, Branch Secs.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Hitchin, Aug. 12th, at 3 p.m., just rehung by Messrs. Taylor and Co. Make this best meeting of year. All welcome. Tea at 5 p.m., followed by service.—R. T. Newman, Salisbury Road, Baldock.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Sonning Deanery Branch.—A practice will be held at Waltham St. Lawrence (6 bells) on Saturday, August 12th. Bells available from 4 p.m. All welcome.—W. J. Paice, Hon. Sec., Merrel, California, Wokingham.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting of the Southern District will be held at Heighington on Saturday, Aug. 12th. Bells (6) available from 2.30 p.m.—J. T. Titt, Hon. Dis. Sec., 54, Newlands Road, Darlington.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD. — A meeting will be held at Mayfield on Saturday, Aug. 12th. Bells (8) available 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Please notify for tea —C. A. Bassett, 3, Pendrill, Place, Wadhurst, Sussex.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Maulden on Saturday, Aug. 12th. Bells (6) available at 3 p.m. Tea at 5. A good company is requested. All ringers welcome. Please come.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Darfield on Saturday, Aug. 12th. Bells (8) ready 2.30 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. in Church Schools. Doncaster to Huddersfield and vice versa, Bus No. 14, passes through. All are welcome. — D. Smith, Rock Cottages, Shafton, near Barnsley.

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GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The monthly meeting of the Gloucester Branch will be held at Sandhurst on Saturday, Aug. 12th (usual procedure). Special bus from Worcester Street at 2.45 p.m. (will members please note).—W. H. Harris, Branch Hon. Sec., 4, G.W.R. Terrace, Lydney Dock, Lydney.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—There will be ringing for evensong at St. Leonard's Church, Shoreditch, on Sunday, Aug. 13th, at 5.30 p.m.—G. W. Steere, Hon. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—Meetings for practice during August: *St. Paul's Cathedral, 15th; St. Magnus the Martyr, 17th and 31st; Southwark Cathedral, 22nd; St. Clement Danes, 24th; *St. Mary-le-Bow, 29th. *Business meeting afterwards. — A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Michael's, Flixton, on Saturday, Aug. 19th. Tower open for ringing at 5.30. Business meeting at 7 o'clock. Members and non-members are cordially invited to attend.—J. H. Ridyard, Branch Sec.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—The next meeting is to be held at Monk's Kirby on Saturday, Aug. 19th. Bells (8) available from 3 o'clock. Tea at 5 o'clock at the Denbigh Arms.—Dorothy E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton District.—Ideal spot. An historic village and eight beautiful bells for the summer meeting of the above district at Repton on Saturday, Aug. 19th. Bells available at 3 p.m., and usual tea arrangements. Open to all ringers and friends. — J. W. Cotton, Hon. Dis. Sec., Overseal, Burton-on-Trent.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The Chertsey and Leatherhead districts are holding a joint meeting at Cobham on Saturday, Aug. 19th, when everybody will be welcome. Ringing from 3 o'clock. Service at 5, with tea at 6, in the Church Room. Please notify Mr. W. James, 18, Freeland Road, Cobham, for teas by the 17th.—A. H. Smith and F. E. Hawthorne, Dis. Secs.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Kettering Branch.—A special meeting will be held at Dingley (5) on Saturday, Aug. 19th. Catering difficult, so please send your names. Brampton Ash (6) after tea. — H. Baxter, 21, Charles Street, Rothwell, Kettering.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—The next meeting is at Stoney Stanton on Aug. 19th. Usual times. Names to me by Friday, Aug. 18th, for tea, please. Also please note that on Aug. 23rd there will be a bye-meeting at Broughton Astley. An extra attraction will be the local Wakes. Ringing at usual times. The Rector will arrange tea on the lawn, if fine, otherwise in the Rectory. Price will be 'a bob a nob.' Come and have a crack at Mr. Bird's Doubles while the lady friend has a crack at the nuts. Badges will be on sale. Names to Mr. Bird or to W. A. Wood, Local Sec., Fosseway, Croft, Leicester.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Rutland Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Empingham on Saturday, Aug. 19th. Bells (6) available 3 p.m. Notify for tea.—S. Towell, 27, West Road, Oakham, Rutland.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—A meeting of the Western Division will be held at Chichester on Saturday, Aug. 19th. Tower open 3 p.m. Tea, price 1s., 5.15, at the Tower Café. Half rail fares, maximum 1s. 6d., allowed to members.—F. H. Meeten, Hon. Div. Sec., 22, North Street, Worthing.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Chesterfield District.—The first meeting of the re-formed district will be held at Eckington on Saturday, Aug. 19th. Will all members and local friends please note and attend to show appreciation of the new Rector's cordial invitation? Bells (8) from 3 o'clock. Tea at 5 o'clock. Names, please, to Mr. P. Jervis, Stead Street, Eckington.—S. Scattergood, Hon. Dis. Sec., 797, Sheffield Road, Chesterfield.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—A meeting of the above district will be held at Tanfield on Saturday, Aug. 19th. The bells (8) will be available at 3 p.m. Tea cannot be guaranteed unless ringers notify Mr. H. Tyson, 9, Crescent, Tanfield Lea, Newcastle-on-Tyne, of their requirements as soon as possible.—J. A. Brown, Hon. Dis. Sec., 7, Finchdale Terrace, Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Draycott (bells 6) on Saturday, Aug. 19th, from 3 p.m. Committee meeting after tea. Will those requiring tea kindly notify Mr. W. Shelley, 'The Wentlow' Tean, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, not later than Wednesday, 16th?—Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec., 55, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wirral Branch.—A meeting will be held at Eastham (bells 6) on Saturday, Aug. 26th. Tower open at 3 o'clock. Tea at 5.30 p.m. No service. Please let me know if you intend to be present.—Harry S. Brocklebank, Hon. Sec., 30, South Hill Road, Birkenhead.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District. — The next meeting will be held at Ingatestone on Saturday, Aug. 26th. Bells (6) available 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting to follow. Numbers for tea by Wednesday, Aug. 23rd, please. — H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 7, Upper Arbour Lane, Springfield, Chelmsford.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Kingswinford on Saturday, Aug. 26th. Bells from 3 o'clock. Service in church at 4.30. Those requiring tea please notify me not later than Tuesday, Aug. 22nd, stating how many will require tea. Business meeting afterwards. — Herbert Sheppard, 17, Grange Road, Dudley.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston and Fylde Branches.—The joint meeting will be held at Preston Parish Church on Saturday, Aug. 26th. Tower open 3 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Bells (10). All ringers welcome.—A. Blogg and C. Sharples, Branch Secs.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD.—East Devon Branch.—A meeting will be held at Luppitt, near Honiton, on Saturday, Aug. 26th. Bells (6) available at 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5.15, followed by meeting. All ringers welcome.—John H. Godfrey, Silver Street, Ottery St. Mary, Devon.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 2nd, at Aidenham (8 bells). Herts Association.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Preliminary Notice.—The eighth annual dinner will be held at the Star Hotel, Foalgate Street, Worcester, on Saturday, Sept. 30th, at 6 p.m. A large room has been reserved and ample seating accommodation is available. Garage on premises. This is the first dinner of the season; book the date and so help justify the optimism of the committee. Tickets (3s. each) shortly available, and obtainable from branch officers, Dinner Committee, etc.—J. D. Johnson, Hon. Gen. Sec.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—The address of Mr. Andrew Thompson, the honorary secretary and Central Council representative of the North Staffordshire Association, is now 55, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs.

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Printed for the Proprietor by the Woodbridge Press, Ltd., Guildford, and Published by the Royal House Publishing Co., Ltd., Breams Buildings, London, E.C.4.