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LONDON'S RINGING PROBLEMS.

Two interesting letters on the subject of ringing in London are published in this issue, one from Mr. J. A. Trollope with an historical survey of the conditions which have prevailed in the metropolis for three hundred years; the other from Mr. P. A. Corby, traversing the speech of Mr. J. E. Bailey made at the Royal Cumberland Youths' dinner. The position of the two old societies is something quite apart from the territorial and diocesan associations and guilds. They have in essence each been, from their foundation, just a single company, practising at different churches, and have never, like the modern societies, had as one of their main objects the drawing together of the companies of ringers of a number of churches into a united whole. That is an essential difference, and has been one of the stumbling blocks in the expansion of service ringing in London. The recruitment and teaching of new ringers for the purpose, primarily, of service ringing, is not, and never has been, their object, although just a few Sunday service bands have from time to time sprung up and have been composed of members of one or other of the societies, but their formation has had very little to do with the societies themselves.

It is perhaps true, as Mr. Corby points out, that the London County Association is using every endeavour to get bells in and around the metropolis rung for Sunday services, but it is not being wholly done by the establishment of new bands. Where ringers are not drafted from other churches for this purpose, to the detriment of their own company, the bands consist of a comparatively small body of 'free lances' who, having no ties, can go from tower to tower where their services may be desired or fancy dictates. We do not deny that it is better to have bells rung for service occasionally than not at all, but this is no solution to the real problem unless it is going to raise a local interest which will eventually result in the formation of new bands at the churches concerned.

And on this point we feel compelled to say that the difficulties with regard to ringing at the silent twelve-bell towers, raised by Mr. Waugh in his speech, are scarcely obstacles to prevent effort being made to establish Sunday ringing at these churches. All that he says about the task involved in training twelve-bell bands on the heavy rings in the city may be perfectly true, but it is not essential, in order to establish service ringing, that twelve-bells shall always be rung. A smaller number, even six, is sufficient for service ringing, at any rate as a beginning; then, as the company grows in ability, it can reach out to the higher numbers. And even the apparently prohibitive weights need be no real deterrent, for if a

(Continued on page 206.)

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band, as has been done, could be taught to ring at Jewry, or at Stepney, where the bells are on the heavy side, the lighter sixes among the unringed twelves should offer no obstacle. The full peals would still be available for those who wanted to ring the twelves, and, moreover, would be an incentive to beginners to reach a higher standard. Indeed, the best thing for the future of twelve-bell ringing in London would be to make a beginning in the now silent towers with bands taught to ring six or eight bells properly. But the first essentials are for the London ringing organisations to get together in the right spirit and then make a serious endeavour to interest the clergy.

TEN BELL PEALS.

LOUGHBOROUGH.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, March 24, 1938, in Two Hours and Fifty Six Minutes,

AT THE BELL FOUNDRY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5001 CHANGES;

Tenor 6½ cwt.

JOHN OLDHAM Treble	*HARRY WAYNE 6
WILLIAM SMITH 2	DR. F. S. POOLE 7
JOSEPH A. FENTON 3	SIDNEY CHENRY 8
JOHN SADDINGTON 4	FREDERICK H. DEXTER 9
COLIN HARRISON 5	JOHN P. FIDLER Tenor

Composed by F. H. DEXTER.

Conducted by COLIN HARRISON.

* First peal of Stedman Caters.

WEDNESBURY, STAFFS.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Saturday, March 26, 1938, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5065 CHANGES;

Tenor 24 cwt.

HOWARD HOWELL Treble	*THOMAS HILL 6
BARNABAS G. KEY 2	HAROLD SMITH 7
HERBERT KNIGHT 3	WILLIAM FISHER 8
J. DENNIS HOLDEN 4	THOMAS J. ELTON 9
EDGAR T. SMITH 5	ALBERT J. HUBBLE Tenor

Composed by F. W. PERRENS. Conducted by HOWARD HOWELL.

* First attempt for a peal on ten bells. First ten-bell peal as conductor. A 73rd birthday compliment to Mr. Walter E. Brittan, also a birthday compliment to A. J. Hubble.

WORSLEY, LANCASHIRE.

THE NATIONAL POLICE GUILD
AND THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 26, 1938, in Three Hours and Thirty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5021 CHANGES;

Tenor 24 cwt.

P.C. JOHN MULLINER Treble	SUPT. RALPH F. WILLIAMS 6
P.C. WILLIAM PYE 2	P.C. FRANK YATES 7
P.C. ALBERT FLOYD 3	P.C. RICHARD BENSON 8
P.C. GEORGE PYE 4	EX-P.S. PETER CROOK 9
P.C. PETER CROOK 5	EX-P.C. JAMES TURNER ... Tenor

Composed by J. Cox. Conducted by EX-P.S. PETER CROOK.

Rung to celebrate the retirement of the conductor, after 30 years with the Bolton Borough Police Force.

DUDLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.

On Saturday, March 26, 1938, in Three Hours and Sixteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5057 CHANGES;

THOMAS D. WHORTON Treble	ALFRED ROWLEY 6
JOHN GOODMAN 2	WILLIAM GREEN 7
HAROLD SHUCK 3	HENRY HUBBALL 8
HERBERT SHEPPARD 4	GILBERT GUEST 9
RONALD GOODMAN 5	SAMUEL WEBB Tenor

Composed by WM. MICKLEWRIGHT. Conducted by JOHN GOODMAN

Rung to celebrate the 74th birthday of Mr. W. Green and as a birthday compliment to Mr. B. Gough.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

ENDERBY, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, March 17, 1938, in Two Hours and Forty-Four Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5168 CHANGES;

Tenor 11 cwt. 2 qr. 11 lb.

*HAROLD KILBY Treble	*W. ARTHUR RIDDINGTON ... 5
J. LESLIE WILLIAMS 2	*GEORGE SPENCER 6
JOHN E. CLARKE 3	EDWARD R. WHITEHEAD ... 7
WALTER P. WHITEHEAD .. 4	*CHARLES MARSHALL ... Tenor

Composed by W. P. WHITEHEAD. Conducted by CHAS. MARSHALL

* First peal in the method. First peal of Major as conductor.

LYTHAM, LANCs.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(PRESTON & FYLDE BRANCHES.)

On Saturday, March 19, 1938, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. CUTHBERT,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt.

*BERNARD H. HALL Treble	CYRIL CROSSHWAITE ... 5
ROBERT PARKINSON 2	*JOHN H. FOSTER... .. 6
KENNETH HALL 3	CHARLES SHARPLES 7
BENJAMIN A. KNIGHTS ... 4	ALFRED BLOGG Tenor

Composed by A. P. KNIGHTS. Conducted by ALFRED BLOGG.

* First peal in the method. First peal of Oxford Treble Bob in the Fylde.

PULHAM, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 19, 1938, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5058 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt. 1 qr. 22 lb.

WALTER ELSEY Treble	FREDERICK C. GUNTON ... 5
STANLEY W. COPLING 2	FREDERICK C. ROPER 6
CHARLES BAKER 3	FREDERICK ROOPE 7
CHARLES W. LOOME 4	ERNEST WHITING... .. Tenor

Composed by C. MIDDLETON. Conducted by ERNEST WHITING.

GREAT TEY, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 19, 1938, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BARNABAS,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 15½ cwt.

FREDERICK RIDGWELL ... Treble	LEWIS W. WIFFEN 5
ALBERT WIFFEN... .. 2	WALTER ARNOLD 6
FRANK CLAYDON 3	*VICTOR E. KERRIDGE ... 7
*WILLIAM CHALK 4	EDWARD P. DUFFIELD ... Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF. Conducted by E. P. DUFFIELD.

* First peal in the method.

COSELEY, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.

On Saturday, March 19, 1938, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT CHRIST CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

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

LEONARD HOLDEN Treble	WALTER GRINSELL 5
WILLIAM FISHER 2	SAMUEL BAKER 6
DENNIS HOLDEN 3	JOHN GOODMAN 7
WALTER FARLEY 4	BENJAMIN FULLWOOD ... Tenor

Conducted by JOHN GOODMAN.

HELMINGHAM, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Saturday, March 19, 1938, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 19½ cwt.

JOHN ARBON Treble	GEORGE BENNETT 5
LESLIE C. WIGHTMAN 2	GEORGE WHITING 6
JAMES BENNETT 3	JAMES BENNETT, JUN... .. 7
LESLIE G. BRETT... .. 4	T. WILLIAM LAST... .. Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by L. G. BRETT.

First peal in the method as conductor.

WOODBIDGE, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Saturday, March 19, 1938, in Three Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

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

Tenor 25 cwt. in D.

*A. STANLEY WOODARD ... Treble	FRANK L. FISHER... .. 5
†HOBART E. SMITH 2	WILLIAM J. G. BROWN ... 6
CHARLES A. CATCHPOLE ... 3	FREDERICK J. SMITH 7
CHARLES J. SEDGLEY 4	CECIL W. PIPE Tenor

Composed by H. W. WILDE. Conducted by CHARLES J. SEDGLEY.

* First peal in the method. † First peal in the method 'inside' to Major. First peal in the method as conductor.

BROUGHTON, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 19, 1938, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 15 cwt. 2 qr. 18 lb.

*KENNETH HILL Treble	WILLIAM SAUNDERS 5
G. LEONARD HEWITT 2	EDWARD V. RODENHURST ... 6
THOMAS PRICE 3	ARTHUR PRITCHARD 7
WILLIAM WEATHERBY ... 4	WILLIAM J. CHESTER ... Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by ARTHUR PRITCHARD

* First attempt for a peal.

HINDLEY, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(WIGAN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, March 19, 1938, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

A. KNIGHTS' NO. 22.

Tenor 14½ cwt.

*MISS SUART... .. Treble	JOHN BOOTH 5
*JAMES BLACKBURN 2	*GEORGE T. JENKS 6
*SYDNEY FORSHAW 3	JAMES W. GROUNDS 7
ALAN CARPENTER 4	JOSEPH RIDYARD... .. Tenor

Conducted by JOSEPH RIDYARD.

* First peal of Treble Bob Major.

BAMPTON, OXON.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 19, 1938, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.

Tenor 26 cwt.

FRANCIS A. WHITE Treble	FREDERICK MESSENGER ... 5
FREDERICK C. WHITE 2	GEORGE HOLIFIELD, JUN. ... 6
CUTHBERT G. WHITE 3	RICHARD WHITE 7
ARTHUR H. WHITE 4	FRED WHITE... .. Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE HOLIFIELD, JUN.

WEST MALLING, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION

On Saturday, March 19, 1938, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 12 cwt. in G.

CHARLES H. SONE Treble	LUTHER J. HONESS 5
LESLIE W. JARVIS 2	THOMAS E. SONE... .. 6
HARRY BAKER 3	A. PATRICK CANNON 7
TOM SAUNDERS 4	PHILIP A. CORBY Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by THOMAS E. SONE.

The composition, No. 423, is rung for the first time.

ERITH, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, March 22, 1938, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF OAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 15 cwt.

HARRY HOSKINS Treble	ALBERT E. NORTH 5
EDWIN A. BARNETT 2	DEREK M. SHARP... .. 6
HERBERT A. HOLDEN 3	HARRY HOVERD 7
FRANK B. LUFFKIN 4	FREDERICK J. CULLUM ... Tenor

Composed by A. J. PITMAN. Conducted by FREDK. J. CULLUM.

A birthday compliment to the conductor.

BOLTON, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Friday, March 25, 1938, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 17½ cwt. in E.
JAMES WILLIAM KAY Treble | FRANK REYNOLDS 5
ALBERT FORE 2 | RICHARD BENSON... .. 6
MISS G. ANNIE CROOK 3 | PETER CROOK, SEN. 7
WILLIAM PYE 4 | RICHARD WILLIAM MOSLEY Tenor
Composed by J. Cox. Conducted by MISS G. ANNIE CROOK.
Rung to celebrate the retirement of Mr. P. Crook, sen., from Bolton Borough Police Force.

BRIERLEY HILL, STAFFORDSHIRE.
THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, March 26, 1938, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,
**A PEAL OF SPLICED LONDON, BRISTOL, CAMBRIDGE, SUPERLATIVE
AND LINGOLNSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;**

Tenor 14½ cwt.
*JOHN LLOYD Treble | SIDNEY T. HOLT 5
WILLIAM B. CARTWRIGHT 2 | C. HOWARD STANLEY 6
CLIFFORD SKIDMORE 3 | ROBERT MATTHEWS 7
THOMAS HEMMING 4 | CHARLES CAMM Tenor
Composed by RRV. H. LAW JAMES. Conducted by SIDNEY T. HOLT
* First peal of Spliced Surprise. † First peal in five methods. This peal contained 3,072 London, 640 Cambridge, 576 Bristol, 576 Superlative and 320 Lincolnshire, with 124 changes of method. Rung with the bells half-muffled as a tribute to the late Capt. A. W. Higgs, a prominent townsman of Brierley Hill.

BEACONSFIELD, BUCKS.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Saturday, March 26, 1938, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH,
A PEAL OF BEACONSFIELD SURPRISE MAJOR, 5038 CHANGES;

Tenor 21½ cwt.
JESSE HARRISON... .. Treble | GEORGE MARTIN 5
MISS KATH. E. FLETCHER 2 | WILLIAM HENLEY 6
MISS DOROTHY R. FLETCHER 3 | *CECIL C. MAYNE 7
*REV. R. F. R. ROUTH 4 | HARRY WINGROVE Tenor
Composed by G. LINDOFF. Conducted by HARRY WINGROVE.
* First peal in the method. 100th peal as conductor.

CURRY RIVEL, SOMERSET.
THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, March 26, 1938, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW.
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor 19½ cwt.
JAMES HUNT Treble | *SYDNEY DABINETT 5
ALFRED J. WYATT 2 | JACK ROY 6
WILLIAM G. GIGG 3 | *J. THOMAS LOCKE 7
*PERCY H. LOCK 4 | *EDWARD STEVENS Tenor
Conducted by JAMES HUNT.
* First peal on eight bells and belong to adjoining parish of Drayton.

STANDISH, LANCs.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, March 26, 1938, in Three Hours,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. WILFRID,
A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES;

Tenor 12 cwt.
*GEORGE T. JENKS Treble | WILLIAM TAYLOR... .. 5
*JOHN BOOTH 2 | E. ROGER MARTIN 6
FRED RIGBY 3 | WILLIAM SHARPLES 7
*CYRIL CROSSTHWAITE 4 | JAMES W. GROUNDS Tenor
Composed by EDWIN TIMBRELL. Conducted by E. R. MARTIN.
* First attempt for Double Norwich. Specially arranged as a 60th birthday compliment to Mr. J. Booth.

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SIX BELL PEALS.

GREAT FINBOROUGH, SUFFOLK.
THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Saturday, March 12, 1938, in Three Hours,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,
A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Consisting of 720 each of Double Court, Double Oxford, St. Clement's, Plain Bob, Cambridge Surprise, Oxford Treble Bob and Kent Treble Bob.

CLERM W. CRACKNELL... .. Treble | R. JOHN STEED 4
ARTHUR GRIMWOOD 2 | EDWIN A. CRACKNELL... .. 5
HARRY D. LISTER 3 | FRANK W. J. ROPER Tenor
Conducted by FRANK W. J. ROPER.

BURGH, SUFFOLK.
THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Friday, March 18, 1938, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF SS. ANDREW AND BOTOLPH,
A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 720's each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and three 720's of Plain Bob. Tenor 9 cwt.

RONALD W. STEWARD Treble | CHARLES A. CATCHPOLE 4
MISS DAISY M. ANDREWS 2 | JAMES BENNETT, JUN. 5
MISS SYLVIA R. E. BOWYER 3 | URBAN W. WILDNEY Tenor
Conducted by URBAN W. WILDNEY.

EGGBUCKLAND, DEVON.
THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.
(SOUTH-WEST BRANCH.)

On Friday, March 18, 1938, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten callings. Tenor 9 cwt. in A.

*HILDA PARNELL... .. Treble | WILLIAM F. OATWAY 4
ALLEN WEATHERLY 2 | WILLIAM HAMLYN 5
HARRY T. CHANDLER 3 | FRANCIS PURSE Tenor
Conducted by W. F. OATWAY.

* First peal at first attempt.

TENDRING, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 19, 1938, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. EDMUND,
A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one extent of Cambridge Surprise and two each of Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Treble Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 7½ cwt.

RONALD W. STEWARD... .. Treble | GEORGE E. JENNINGS 4
VIOLET A. FROST... .. 2 | JAMES W. JENNINGS 5
CHARLES A. ANDREWS... .. 3 | ALAN R. ANDREWS Tenor
Conducted by ALAN R. ANDREWS.

SHARNFORD, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

(HINCKLEY DISTRICT.)

On Saturday, March 19, 1938, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. HELEN,
A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being an extent each of Cambridge Surprise, Double Oxford, Oxford Bob, Double Court, Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 10 cwt. 2 qr.

*J. EDWARD CLOUGH Treble | *CECIL E. CARR 4
*JOHN H. BAILLSS 2 | WILLIAM A. WOOD 5
ALFRED BALLARD 3 | FRANK K. MEASURES... .. Tenor
Conducted by FRANK K. MEASURES.

* First peal in seven methods. First peal as conductor in seven methods.

PIPE-CUM-LYDE, HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, March 20, 1938, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores, 10 callings. Tenor 10 cwt.

WILLIAM E. KINSEY Treble | GEORGE T. COUSINS 4
AUSTIN T. WINGATE 2 | ERNEST F. SALMONS 5
ERNEST WILLIAMS 3 | JOHN WILLIAMS Tenor
Conducted by E. F. SALMONS.

A birthday compliment to Miss Lucie Williams, daughter of Mr. E. Williams.

PRISTON, SOMERSET.
THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Sunday, March 20, 1938, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LUKE,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;
Forty-two six-scores, with ten callings. Tenor 14½ cwt.

CHARLES HARVEY Treble	WILLIAM BAILEY 4
LESLIE B. COLES... .. 2	FRANCIS C. MOGFORD... .. 5
WILLIAM ROSEWELL 3	LEE BATES Tenor

Conducted by W. ROSEWELL.
Rung for the induction of the Rev. N. Rutter.

SADDLEWORTH, YORKS.
THE HALIFAX AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.
On Tuesday, March 22, 1938, in Three Hours and 1 en Minutes,

AT CHRIST CHURCH, FRIEZLAND,
A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;
Seven 720's called differently. Tenor 15 cwt.

LESLIE DAWSON Treble	*ARTHUR FARRAND 4
*FRANK WHITE 2	ALFRED J. BENNETT 5
HARRY NUTT 3	JOHN E. FIELDING Tenor

Conducted by LESLIE DAWSON.
* First peal. Rung with the bells fully muffled for the late Mr. Fred Gartside, conductor of the above company.

STRETTON, CHESHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Friday, March 25, 1938, in Two Hours and 1 thirty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW,
A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;
Consisting of three extents of Plain Bob and two extents each of Kent and Oxford Treble Bob. Tenor 9½ cwt.

STANLEY N. HARRISON ... Treble	*WALTER ALLMAN 4
HARRY PARKER 2	CECIL RADDON 5
*HAROLD WORRALL 3	HARRY W. HOWARD Tenor

Conducted by H. W. HOWARD.
* First peal in three methods. Rung as a birthday compliment to Mrs. H. Parker, and on the wedding anniversary of the conductor's parents.

SUTTON, CHESHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Saturday, March 26, 1938, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,
A PEAL OF SPLICED TREBLE BOB MINOR. 5040 CHANGES ;
Being seven extents in 39 methods:—

- (1) Chepstow, Balmoral, Skipton, Fotheringay and Dover Delight.
- (2) Rostherne, Wilmslow, Knutsford, Bogedone and Ely Delight.
- (3) Crowland, Combermere, Vale Royal, St. Werburgh, Abbeyville and Canterbury Delight.
- (4) Newdigate, Old Oxford, College Bob IV., Willesden, Marple and Taxal Delight.
- (5) Charlwood, Neasden, St. Albans, Wragby, Braintree and Humber Delight.
- (6) Ockley, Duke of Norfolk, College Exercise, Norbury, Morning Star Treble Bob and Disley Delight.
- (7) Chapel, Sandal, London Scholars' Pleasure, Kingston and Oxford Treble Bob.

Tenor 12½ cwt.

JAMES A. MILNER Treble	†C. KENNETH LEWIS 4
JOHN WORTH 2	*JOSEPH WHITTAKER 5
*THOMAS TAYLOR 3	*ERNEST BENNETT Tenor

Conducted by C. K. LEWIS.
* First peal in 39 methods. † 100th peal and 25th as conductor. One hundred and ten changes of method. A 21st birthday compliment to J. Whittaker.

SCOTTOW, NORFOLK.
THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, March 26, 1938, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,
A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;
With four variations of calling. Tenor 10½ cwt.

*G. T. BELL Treble	*E. DURRANT 4
*W. C. DUFFIELD 2	*W. C. MEDLER 5
H. C. READ 3	G. BAILEY Tenor

Conducted by G. BAILEY.
* First peal of Cambridge Surprise Minor. First peal of Surprise Minor on the bells.

DEATH OF MR. W. T. COCKERILL.

SECRETARY OF THE COLLEGE YOUTHS FOR 46 YEARS.
We deeply regret to announce the death of Mr. William T. Cockerill, who passed away on Tuesday morning at his residence, 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, London, after a short illness.

Mr. Cockerill rang as usual at St. Paul's Cathedral on Sunday week, but on the way home he had a slight fall. He did not appear to have injured himself in any way, but after reaching home he became unwell. Last week, however, he appeared to be holding his own, but suddenly collapsed during Monday night and died early on Tuesday morning.

Mr. Cockerill would have been 79 years of age had he lived to the 13th of this month. Two sons and a daughter are left in bereavement, Mrs. Cockerill having died in 1931.

Born at Frodingham, Yorks, Mr. Cockerill came to London in his youth in the teaching profession. For many years he was headmaster of a L.C.C. school in the Victoria district, retiring about 13 years ago.

It was only in November that he retired from the office of hon. secretary of the Ancient Society of College Youths after 46 years' service, and as recently as March 1st received the second part of a testimonial in appreciation of his great work for the society. Following upon a cheque for £50 presented to him at the tercentenary dinner, he was the recipient of a gold watch.

Mr. Cockerill's services to the Ancient Society were not only long and honourable, but an example of loyalty and devotion to duty. For two generations he has been an outstanding figure in London ringing circles, and, although his death has come at a ripe age, it will be mourned by many friends. He was for a long period a member of the St. Paul's Cathedral company, and many years ago succeeded the late Mr. James Pettit as conductor. He was the first to ring the tenor of St. Paul's single-handed, which he did in 1896 when he turned this 52 cwt. bell in to a peal of Kent Treble Bob Maximus, one of the greatest ringing feats of all time. In 1907 he was the first man to turn in the 53 cwt. tenor at Bow Church, Cheapside. Among other celebrated performances in which he took part was a non-conducted peal of Stedman Cinques at Cornhill in 1913, and in 1917, at his own home, he rang the tenors to Carter's Odd Bob peal of Stedman Triples non-conducted on handbells.

Mr. Cockerill had represented the Ancient Society of College Youths on the Central Council continuously since 1893, and was a member of the Standing Committee.

The funeral service will be held on Monday. The time and place will be announced in the 'Daily Telegraph' to-morrow (Saturday).

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

CHANGE IN GUILDFORD DISTRICT SECRETARYSHIP.

A very successful meeting of the Guildford District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild was held at Godalming on Saturday, March 26th, and was attended by 35 ringers. The members made the acquaintance of Canon Hone, the new Vicar, who was formerly president of the Barnsley and District Association, and, at the customary service, he gave the Guild a warm welcome. With Mrs. Hone he joined the members at tea, and afterwards presided at the business meeting.

Mr. George Grover, who is shortly taking over the duties of hon. secretary of the Guild, relinquished the office of district secretary and is succeeded by Mr. Cope, of Guildford, who was unfortunately prevented from being present, having been called away by illness in his family.

Thanks to Canon Hone, the organist, Mr. C. Childs and the Godalming ringers were proposed by the Master (Major J. H. B. Hesse).

The ringing during the afternoon and evening was under the able direction of the District Ringing Master (Mr. C. E. Smith), and ranged from rounds to Cambridge Surprise Major.

HANDBELL PEALS.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, March 20, 1938, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT WAYSIDE, NARBOROUGH ROAD.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

HAROLD J. POOLE... .. 1-2	ALFRED BALLARD... .. 7-8
FRANK W. PERRENS 3-4	FREDERICK E. WILSON 9-10
FRANK E. PERVIN... .. 5-6	JOSIAH MORRIS 11-12

Composed by J. CARTER. Conducted by FRANK W. PERRENS.

NOTTINGHAM.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, March 25, 1938, in One Hour and Fifty-Two Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

ANGUS W. ROBSON 1-2	ALBERT FRANCIS SERGENT 3-4
RALPH NARBOROUGH 5-6	

Conducted by RALPH NARBOROUGH.

Witnesses—P. J. Boulsover and M. H. Mosley.

(Other peal reports are unavoidably held over.)

IRISH ASSOCIATION.

FORTY YEARS AS HONORARY SECRETARY.

Presentation to Mr. Gabriel Lindoff.

Eighty ringers from all over Ireland attended the annual meeting of the Irish Association, held in the White Horse Hotel, Drogheda, on St. Patrick's Day, when, in recognition of his long and devoted service, a gold watch and an illuminated address were presented to Mr. Gabriel Lindoff, who has been the hon. secretary of the association since its foundation 40 years ago. The president, Mr. R. S. F. Murphy, P.O., in making the presentation, paid a very high tribute to Mr. Lindoff for his untiring work in holding the association together.

Mr. F. E. Dukes, M.I.E.T., hon. secretary of the Presentation Committee, read a few of the many letters of praise received from Ireland and England.

Mr. Lindoff heartily thanked all for their great kindness to him in making such a presentation. He said it was the greatest of pleasure for him to work for the interest of bellringing as a whole.

The address was worded as follows:—

TO GABRIEL LINDOFF, ESQ.,

To mark the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the foundation of the Irish Association of Change Ringers, of which you are one of the founders, we, the members and friends of the association, take this opportunity of expressing our appreciation and esteem of your untiring work and devotion in the office of hon. secretary, an office held by you since its inception.

It is our earnest prayer and wish that you may be spared for many years still to carry on the office which you have so ably filled.

We ask you to accept the accompanying gold watch as a small token of our admiration and regard.

We are, on behalf of the subscribers,

R. S. F. Murphy, P.C., President.
J. C. Cherry, F.R.C.S.I., Chairman.
F. E. Dukes, Hon. Secretary.
T. McMorran, Hon. Treasurer.

Then follow the names of the subscribers.

In the course of the business which followed the accounts were adopted. They showed a satisfactory balance on the right side of over £7, while the Bell Restoration Fund showed a balance in hand of £61.

THE ATTENDANCE SHIELD.

The annual report noted a certain amount of slackness in the competition for the attendance shield. Very few attendance sheets were received, and it was hoped there would be an improvement in the coming year, Sunday service ringing being one of the principal objects of the association.

Peal ringing also had been very slack during the past few years, and were it not for the Northern Branch and visitors there would have been nothing to report in that way. As it is, some 14 peals were added to the list, three by the Northern Branch, on which congratulations were offered, and eleven by visiting ringers.

Before this association started only two peals had been rung in Ireland previously; both at Waterford. Now the total is well over 150, of which the association claimed 144. Surely a sign that the association had been the cause of great improvement in ringing throughout the country. There was room for greater improvement, and the report asked members to put their shoulders to the wheel.

During the past year Lurgan bells had been rehung in a new steel frame by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, of Croydon, the ringing room greatly improved, and the ringers had joined the Northern Branch. The bells of St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick, are at present under repair by Taylor's, of Loughborough, and should be ringing again shortly.

The total number of members on the books is 315.

A report from the Northern Branch said:—

Where the towers are far apart it is very difficult to arrange dates for practice or meetings that are convenient and this is the primary cause for the few peal attempts.

Service ringing is very good and there change ringing has played a big part. In most of the churches Sunday service ringing is near 100 per cent.

Good bands at Lurgan and Enniskillen are making progress in the art, and though to them it may sometimes seem slow, and must necessarily be so without professional assistance, yet when they look back they will find that steady improvement is being made.

There are a number of towers still where change ringing should be practised, but this will come as other bands progress.

They were particularly fortunate that nearly all the bells in the North were in good condition, even though they were widely spaced. During recent years the bells at Ballymena (8), Derry (10), Enniskillen (10) and Lurgan (8) had been put in good condition. At Carrickfergus also the bells go well.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

The election of officers resulted as follows: President, Mr. J. C. Cherry, F.R.C.S.I.; hon. secretary, Mr. Gabriel Lindoff; assistant hon. secretary, Mr. F. E. Dukes, M.I.E.T.; hon. treasurer, Mr. D. Gibson; Ringing Master, Mr. R. S. F. Murphy, P.C.

The new office of assistant hon. secretary was created at the request of Mr. Lindoff. He was desirous to have a young man for the position, so that in the event of Mr. Lindoff having to give up there would be somebody already trained to be able to step into the position

(Continued in next column.)

PEAL NOTES.

A REMARKABLE 'CENTURY.'

Thirty-nine methods were spliced into a peal of Treble Bob Minor, rung at Sutton, Cheshire, on Saturday. It was Mr. C. Kenneth Lewis' one hundredth peal and his twenty-fifth as conductor. It was a 'coming of age' compliment to one of the band, Mr. Joseph Whittaker.

Mr. Lewis' 'century' is a remarkable one. His 44 peals of Minor have been rung in 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 17, 18, 19, 21, 23, 25, 30, 35, 36, 39, 40, 42, 46, 52, 66, 68 and 73 methods. Of these he has conducted 19, including the peal in 73 methods.

He has rung only three peals of Triples and two of Caters, but the 44 peals of Major include 13 of Bristol Surprise, 11 of Cambridge and seven of London. The total is completed by one peal of Doubles and six of Royal.

A peal of Cambridge Surprise Minor, the first on the bells at Scotton, Norfolk, was Mr. H. C. Read's 40th peal.

Mr. T. E. Sone, who makes quite a hobby of calling new compositions, on March 19th conducted a peal of Treble Bob by Mr. Arthur Knights, the 70th by that composer which he could claim was 'rung for the first time.' It was a 6,144, reduced to 5,056, and was the 98th one-part peal that he has called.

The induction of the Rev. N. Rutter, at Priston, Somerset, was celebrated by a peal of Grand sire Doubles on March 20th, and after the peal the new incumbent went to the tower to thank the ringers.

The first peal on the bells at Bampton, Oxfordshire, since they were overhauled by Mr. R. White, of Appleton, was rung on March 19th by an Appleton band. Six members of the White family took part in the peal, and the method was Grand sire Triples.

Prior to taking part in a peal of Minor in three methods at Burgh, Suffolk, on March 18th, Miss Daisy Andrews had not rung a 720 of Kent Treble Bob, two extents of which were among the seven included in the peal.

BEACONSFIELD VICAR RINGS BEACONSFIELD SURPRISE.

Five Beaconsfield ringers, including the Vicar and two ladies, took part, in their own tower, in a peal of Beaconsfield Surprise Major on Saturday. It was Mr. Harry Wingrove's one hundredth peal as conductor, and his total includes 15 different Surprise Major methods.

Mr. Charles Marshall rang his first peal of Major as conductor at Enderby, Leicestershire, on March 17th, as well as his first peal of Bob Major. It was really an achievement, for he has had little practice at calling, and he only received the figures of the composition by telephone 24 hours before the peal.

It is interesting to note that the two 'colts' in the band, Messrs. J. L. Willars and J. E. Clarke, rang their first peal of Bob Major together 29 years ago.

A birthday compliment to Messrs. Allen Weatherly and Harry T. Chandler was offered in a peal of Grand sire Doubles in which they took part at Egguckland, Devon, on March 18th.

A peal in five Spliced Surprise Major methods was rung at Brierley Hill, Staffs, on Saturday. The bells were half-muffled as a tribute to the late Capt. A. W. Higgs, a prominent townsman and Deputy Coroner for South Staffordshire.

Two members of the students' company at Kelham Theological College have, with Mr. R. Narborough, rung another peal of Bob Minor on handbells. It was accomplished on Friday, March 25th, and the two witnesses are also students. One of the latter, Mr. M. H. Mosley, is son of the Lord Bishop of Southwell. After the peal, Bob Major, Grand sire and Stedman Triples were rung, with the assistance of Mr. F. A. Salter.

(Continued on next page.)

IRISH ASSOCIATION.

(Continued from previous column.)

of hon. secretary. Mr. F. E. Dukes was selected by a majority over the only other candidate, Mr. W. H. Wilson.

It was agreed, on the recommendation of the committee, to raise the annual subscription from 1s. to 1s. 3d. per member in order that the annual report may be printed in book form for distribution to members.

Mr. Lindoff promised to have ready for publication next autumn a pamphlet containing 'Hints on Bellringing, Good Striking and Change Ringing,' to be sold to members.

The Murphy Striking Cup was presented to Mr. J. C. Cherry, who received it on behalf of St. Patrick's Cathedral team, winners of the striking contest held prior to the meeting. Other competing teams were Christ Church Cathedral, St. George's 'A' and 'B' and St. Saviour's (Arklow).

Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, were winners of the Attendance Shield for 1937, with 100 per cent. attendance marks.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Rev. Stewart, M.A., Rector, for his kindness in placing the bells at the disposal of the visitors, to which he suitably replied.

A luncheon had been held prior to the meeting, at which the attendance included Mr. R. S. F. Murphy, P.C., Mr. J. C. Cherry, F.R.C.S.I., the Rev. Stewart, Mrs. G. Dukes, Messrs. W. Pratt (secretary, Northern Branch), D. Gibson, J. Henly, F. E. Dukes, M.I.E.T., D. Kennedy, J. B. Tough, R. Kieran, W. Lynch, T. McMorran, H. Collins, W. Wilson, J. Atkinson, R. Tait, etc.

During the day the bells of St. Peter's Parish Church were at the disposal of the ringers and were made great use of until a late hour.

PEAL NOTES.

(Continued from previous page.)

The work which Mr. Sargent is putting in among his fellow-students at Kelham is having an effect, also, among the ringers in Nottingham, where handbell ringing is being taken up at both towers.

A peal of Grandsire Triples was to have been attempted at Drayton, Somerset, on Saturday, to enable some of the local men to score their first peal on eight bells. A serious case of illness, however, prevented the bells being rung, but the Vicar of the adjoining parish of Curry Rivel kindly came to the rescue and gave permission at short notice for the peal to be rung at his church. The attempt was successful and the thanks of the band are extended to the Vicar of Curry Rivel and Mr. W. Proles for their kindness.

A peal of Grandsire Triples to celebrate the retirement of Police-Sergeant Peter Crook from the Bolton Borough Police Force was rung at Holy Trinity, Bolton, where Mr. Crook is leader, on March 25th. On Saturday his police colleagues paid him a compliment by ringing a peal of Grandsire Caters in his honour at Worsley.

The peal at Bolton was also a 21st birthday compliment to the treble ringer, Mr. J. W. Kay's, fiancée.

On Saturday, the 73rd birthday of Mr. Walter E. Brittan was celebrated with a peal of Stedman Caters at Wednesbury, Staffs, and the 74th birthday of Mr. William Green was honoured with a peal of Grandsire Caters at Dudley. The latter was also a birthday compliment for another Staffordshire veteran, Mr. Ben Gough, of Coseley. It was, too, Mr. Henry Hubball's fiftieth peal.

Another interesting birthday peal was rung at Standish, Lancs, on Saturday, as a compliment to Mr. John Booth on reaching the age of 60 years. At the conclusion of the peal the bells were 'fired,' and afterwards Mr. and Miss Booth entertained the ringers and their wives to tea.

The first peal of Oxford Treble Bob in the Fylde—that part of Lancashire in which Blackpool is situated—was rung at Lytham on March 19th.

Mr. Leslie G. Brett called a peal of Yorkshire Surprise Major for the first time on March 19th. It was arranged for Mr. James Bennett, of London, and rung as a compliment to Mr. and Mrs. George Whiting on the 30th anniversary of their wedding. The two James Bennetts in the peal are uncle and nephew.

The quarterly peal of the Dudley and District Guild was rung on March 19th at Coseley, as a 68th birthday compliment to Mr. Ben Gough, who has been a ringer at Coseley for a number of years, but who, through ill-health, was not able to take part.

The Saddleworth company, Yorkshire, have lost by death their treble ringer and conductor, Mr. Fred Gartside, and they rang a peal of Oxford Treble Bob Minor in his memory on March 22nd.

SUFFOLK'S LATEST ACQUISITION.

A GRAND OCTAVE AT HOLLESLEY.

For many centuries the fine-looking tower of Hollesley Church, Suffolk, has housed three bells, one, a pre-Reformation bell, having been cracked for a long time. These have now been replaced by a noble octave with a tenor of 17 cwt., the gift of Sir John and Lady Jervis-White-Jervis, in commemoration of their golden wedding on August 9th, 1937. The bells were cast by Messrs. John Taylor and Co., Loughborough, who have produced a magnificent peal. Sir John and Lady Jervis-White-Jervis also undertook the complete restoration of the tower, which work has been thoroughly carried out by Mr. Charles Mee, of Sproughton, one of Suffolk's veteran ringers.

The complete work was dedicated by the Lord Bishop of St. Albans on Saturday, March 26th. Sir John and Lady Jervis-White-Jervis were present at the ceremony, and a shortened evensong was conducted by the Rector (the Rev. A. E. Wicks). The church was packed to overflowing and over 50 ringers came to share in the day's festivities in their traditional manner. They enjoyed themselves to the full and Sir John kindly provided refreshments.

The opening touch of 168 Grandsire Triples was rung by C. Mee (conductor) 1, A. Nichols 2, F. Fisher 3, W. Ward 4, E. Rivers 5, C. J. Sedgley 6, F. Rolfe 7, C. Fisher 8.

In the unavoidable absence of Mr. E. D. Taylor, the founders were represented by Mr. J. P. Fidler.

It will not be surprising if these bells are in demand for peal ringing, the new ringers' room is ideal and the band which cannot strike these bells cannot strike any. Outside the sound is nice and level, demonstrating in no small manner one of the advantages of placing the bells well below the window openings.

Later in the evening the visitors met for a convivial hour, the handbell ringing creating quite an interest amongst the locals.

VETERAN ESSEX RINGER'S DEATH.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Walter Clark, of Loughton, Essex. He passed away on March 14th at the age of 82 years, after only a few days' illness. It was Mr. Clark who introduced change ringing to St. John the Baptist's Church, Loughton, over 50 years ago, and, except for the war period, it has continued ever since. He rang over 20 peals, his first at St. Mary's, Walthamstow, in 1887.

He was a member of the Royal Cumberland Youths as well as of the Essex Association.

On Thursday, March 17th, the Loughton bells were rung half-muffled. The funeral took place in Loughton Cemetery on Friday, March 18th, when handbells were rung at the graveside by four of deceased's fellow-ringers.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH.

.....

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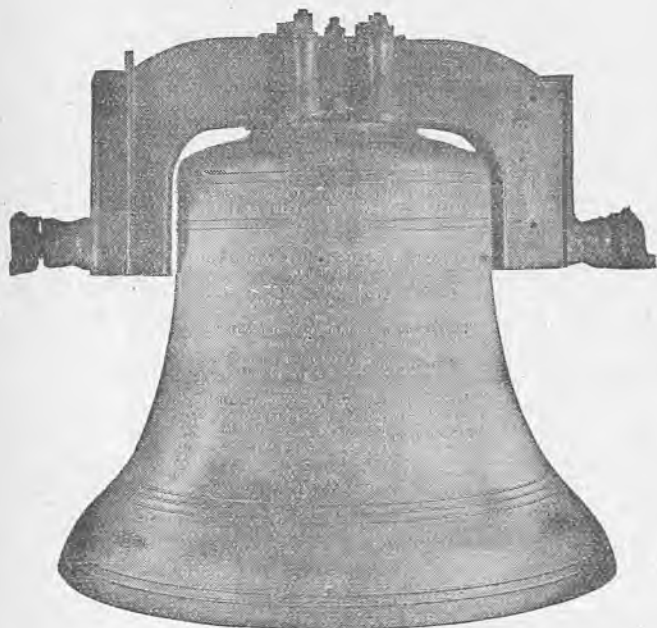
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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Heartiest congratulations are extended to Mr. George Henry Coombes, of 25, Swanmore Road, Ryde, I.O.W., who celebrated his 95th birthday on Monday last, March 28th. The veteran of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild is still on the active service list at All Saints' Parish Church, Ryde.

The Rt. Rev. Dr. J. H. Greig, first Bishop of the new Diocese of Guildford, died on Monday at the age of 73. He retired in 1934. He was the first president of the Guildford Diocesan Guild.

Mr. Peter Crook, who has just retired after completing 30 years in the Bolton Borough Force, holds the Long Service and Jubilee decorations. He can also boast of the interesting record of not having been late for duty on a single occasion. It would be well if some ringers would emulate this example in connection with their ringing. Mr. Crook has been for some years hon. secretary of the Bolton Branch of the Lancashire Association.

We understand that the 'Pipe and Fiddler' at Hollesley, Suffolk, is not a place 'within the meaning,' but a meaning within the place where a pretty dart is thrown.

An error crept into the report of the annual meeting of the Dudley and District Guild last week. Mr John Goodman was re-elected hon. treasurer and not Mr. Herbert Sheppard, who was re-elected hon. secretary.

CANON ELSEE MEMORIAL.

In order to perpetuate the memory of the late president of the Lancashire Association (Canon H. J. Elsee, M.A.), it has been decided to open a fund for the purpose of erecting a stained glass window, of suitable design, in St. George's Church, Bolton, where he was Vicar for so many years. The window is to be fixed over the font near the parish memorial.

It is hoped that generous support will be accorded to this appeal and so show appreciation of all that Canon Elsee did for the association in particular and the Exercise in general.

The fund will be closed on July 31st, and contributions will be thankfully received and acknowledged by the Rev. Arthur Scott, President, St. Luke's Rectory, Miles Platting, Manchester, 10.

THE OLDEST COMPLETE RING.

IPSWICH PRE-REFORMATION BELLS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—In your report of the Cumberlands' dinner, the president of the Central Council appears as saying that the bells of St. Bartholomew, Smithfield, are the only complete ring of five pre-Reformation bells in the country. But in St. Lawrence's Church, Ipswich, we have five pre-Reformation bells in excellent order, which are still rung in changes every Sunday and practice day.

The second bell is the oldest, and was cast by Henry Jordan, of Loughborough, who lived in Bishopsgate, London, where his will, dated 1468, was proved.

The third, fourth and tenor were cast by the Brasvers, a family which came from Nottingham, and settled in Norwich, where they were bellfounders from about 1450 to 1513.

The latest bell is, as we might expect, the treble. This was cast at the Bury Foundry, which flourished in this county from about 1451 to 1533.

I do not know if this ring is older than those at Smithfield, Cambridge or Crowland. I fancy that it dates from the fifteenth century, while the others only date from the sixteenth. But it certainly is the only pre-Reformation set of bells now ringing the changes it was made for over 400 years ago.

UFFORD, SUFFOLK.

HERBERT DRAKE.

DEATH OF MR. GEORGE J. SMITH.

AN OLD COLLEGE YOUTH.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. George J. Smith, of Highbury, on Thursday, March 24th, after a short illness. After having undergone an operation in the Royal Northern Hospital, he was removed to a nursing home, where he remained for a fortnight slowly sinking. Mr. Smith died of cancer of the pancreas.

Born at Hackney on August 31st, 1866, Mr. Smith came of a bell-ringing family, and he had been a ringer himself for nearly 50 years.

His brother, Mr. William D. Smith, was a ringer at the Parish Church of St. John-at-Hackney from 1871 until he left London a few years ago; his father had been a ringer for about 30 years, and his grandfather had been one for a period of over half a century. A remarkable succession of service by members of the same family.

Mr. George Smith took part in one of the early peals at St. Paul's Cathedral and was a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths for 50 years.

He was a member of the band of ringers who rang a bachelors' peal of Stedman Cinques, 5,019 changes, on February 7th, 1891, at St. Bride's, Fleet Street, which was conducted by Mr. Francis E. Dawe. He leaves a widow and two daughters in bereavement.

The funeral took place on Monday, March 28th, the interment being at Highgate Cemetery.

LEADING CONDUCTORS—12.

WILLIAM BARTON.

One of the features of Yorkshire peal ringing is the 'spread over' of the conducting. In the last year of the Yorkshire Association's records, for instance, 41 conductors shared 89 peals. It is an encouraging sign. Among those, however, who in recent years have stood out conspicuously among Yorkshire conductors has been Mr. William Barton, of Pudsey, who was elected first Peal Secretary of the Yorkshire Association 17 years ago and still fills the office.

Mr. Barton was born at Pudsey and began ringing there just prior to the war. At that time Pudsey had a good band, which, under the leadership of Mr. Pratt Cordingley, had progressed beyond the conventional Treble Bob of the West Riding, and which afterwards became famous, not so much for prolific peal ringing, although peals were scored in all the standard Surprise Major methods, as for the regular ringing of Surprise methods for Sunday services and for the help they gave in popularising Surprise ringing in the district. Mr. Barton, who rang his first peal in February, 1916—Superlative Surprise on an 'inside' bell—showed an early aptitude for conducting, and Mr. Cordingley, a good conductor himself, gradually, such is his nature, let his understudy take the reins.

After the war, Mr. Barton was the appointed conductor of the band and called his first peal, Kent Treble Bob Major, on Nov. 1st, 1919. He followed this up by calling a peal of Superlative from an 'inside' bell. Altogether he has rung 175 peals and conducted 101, but he has not yet rung a peal of Minor or Doubles. He called the first peals of Bristol and Pudsey Surprise in Yorkshire.

Mr. Barton is a skilful handbell ringer, and among the 36 peals 'in hand' which he has called were the first of Spliced Double Norwich and Plain Bob Major for the Yorkshire Association. He also took part in 'silent' handbell peals of Double Norwich Major and Kent Treble Bob Royal, both of which are believed to be the first in the methods ever rung non-conducted double-handed. Except for a peal of Spliced Double Norwich and Plain Bob, called at Bushey, for the Hertford County Association, all Mr. Barton's peals have been rung for the Yorkshire Association.

Throughout his ringing career Mr. Barton has been attached to St. Lawrence's tower, Pudsey, and for a period during the war he was hon. secretary of the Leeds and District Society.

Next Week : Mr. George F. Swann.

A WARWICKSHIRE RESTORATION.

LINK WITH 1874 OPENING.

Situated three miles from Southam, which lies on the main road from Rugby to Banbury, is the Warwickshire village of Bishop's Itchington, quiet and unspoiled by the march of civilisation. The church, dating from 1300, possesses a peal of five bells installed by Taylors, of Loughborough, in 1874. Having given over 60 years of service, the bell fittings had become the worse for wear, and it was decided to have the peal rehung, the bells quarter-turned and tuned and the framework strengthened. The work included entirely new fittings.

The bells were rededicated by the Lord Bishop of Coventry on Saturday, March 26th, the local ringers taking on the pleasurable duty of ringing during and immediately after the service. Mr. Cowley, father of one of the churchwardens, rang on the bells at their installation in 1874; at the advanced age of 93 years he was a very proud listener on this more recent occasion.

The Rev. E. S. Powell and Mrs. Powell, the Rev. H. G. Benson, Mr. C. Harrison (representing Messrs. Taylor and Co.), his offspring, Geoffrey, and a few other visitors had the pleasure of ringing on the bells, now so much improved both in tone and 'go.' The local band are delighted at the ease with which the bells can now be rung.



MR. WILLIAM BARTON.

**THE STATE OF LONDON RINGING.
SOME OF THE REASONS FOR EXISTING
CONDITIONS.**

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It is a good thing that the question of the state of London ringing has been raised, and it would be a good thing, also, if the men who are leaders and influence other people would study the history of the London Exercise and try and understand the causes of things being what they are. There are many and some of them go back through the ages, even to pre-Reformation times. I will mention one or two.

(1) Ringers have never been given a recognised position in the Church's organisation. The clerk was supposed to see after the ringing and he employed whom he would. The ringing societies were purely secular, independent bodies, not connected with any particular church.

(2) Service ringing is a modern innovation. Until comparatively recent times ringing (as distinct from chiming) was considered a secular thing and unsuited for ordinary Sunday use.

(3) The reform movement of the last century, which gave us our territorial associations, completely failed in London. The reason was partly because it had no leaders there, but chiefly because it was strongly opposed by the old societies. They considered (with some justification) that they had no need of reformation and held to their old traditions.

We have had lately a good deal of talk about these old traditions, but I wonder how many people have stopped to think what they actually are, good and bad. One is that the members owe their loyalty to their society, not to any church or local band. If you were a College Youth you had to be first and last a College Youth. So far as the society could do it, you were prevented from having anything to do with outside ringers, and any band within the society who met at a particular tower by themselves was looked upon as a clique and the thing was discouraged.

Mr. Lewis tells us that the College Youths are not exclusive, but, so far as they are true to their traditions and their past, they are exclusive and must be so.

The territorial associations ask for no such loyalty from their members, and they would not get it if they did. They are federations of a number of independent bands, and the member's loyalty is first to his own band and church and, through them, to the association.

Which is the better—a number of independent, more or less weak and struggling bands, or a strong centralised society which controls several towers and can visit them in turn, always sure of having a full band and good ringing? There is much to be said for both, but the two are opposites. You will get better ringing with a centralised society, but you won't get the bells rung regularly for church services. Making up a band to visit a tower one Sunday evening a month does not meet the case and does nothing towards that recognition of 'ringers as churchworkers' which all the associations profess to have as their object; and not seldom it weakens other bands.

In judging what I have written you must remember two things. One is the large number of what, for want of a better word, I call nominal members of the old societies, who are men who imperfectly share the societies' traditions. The other is the fact that you can get a band for a tower under any ordinary conditions if you pay them, but that proves nothing about what you can do if you don't pay them.

J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

A SOCIETY FOR ALL LONDON.

CRITICISM OF MR. J. E. BAILEY'S SPEECH.

Dear Sir,—Although I am very reluctant to trespass upon your columns, I cannot neglect to say how very distressed I am that Mr. J. E. Bailey should consider it necessary to insult an old-established ringing association, of which I am proud to be an officer, in his speech at the Cumberland Youths' dinner.

The London County Association and North Southwark Diocesan Guild was originally formed to provide a common meeting ground for members of both the Cumberland and the College Youths. Its area of operation and influence embraces the whole of the administrative county of London within a radius of ten miles from headquarters (the Church of St. Clement Danes, Strand). The Northern District comprises the N.W., N., E.C. and E. postal districts, and the Southern District the S.E., S.W., W. and W.C. postal districts. It seems to me, therefore, somewhat superfluous to talk of forming a society that would embrace the whole of London for ringing purposes.

If I may be permitted a rather strong expression, I consider that Mr. Bailey appears from your report of the proceedings to have talked generally from the back of his hat about matters with which he is none too well acquainted. What on earth does it matter how many societies a ringer joins, or what concern is it of anyone if he (or she) rings a peal every evening of the week in six different counties? Such a state of affairs would certainly show enthusiasm, and surely the most that can be demanded of any ringer is that he (or she) satisfies his (or her) own conscience regarding Sunday ringing.

I feel that the Exercise should be informed that, in the neighbourhood in which Mr. Bailey resides, there is a very great deal of bitter feeling between certain individual ringers and the companies of certain towers as a whole. Let that neighbourhood first put its own

(Continued on next page.)

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION. SOUTHERN DIVISION SECRETARY WITHDRAWS RESIGNATION.

The annual meeting of the Southern Division of the Yorkshire Association was held at Handsworth, Sheffield, on March 19th, and was a very enjoyable and successful gathering. Members were present from Sheffield Cathedral, St. Marie's and Ranmoor, Eastwood, Doncaster, Arksey, Rawmarsh, Rotherham, Felkirk, Wath, Leeds, Norton, Bolsover and Eckington, and it is worth recording that, of 45 present at tea, 41 names were sent in. A very welcome visitor whom everyone was pleased to see was the president of the association, Canon C. C. Marshall. Owing to other engagements, he had to leave before the business meeting was held, and, in reply to a welcome extended to him by Mr. G. Lewis (vice-president), he said how very much he had enjoyed being with them, if only for a few hours. He especially thanked the officers of the Southern Division for all they did on behalf of the association.

At the business meeting, held after tea, the Rector of Handsworth (the Rev. Canon Baker) kindly took the chair, and, later in the meeting, the members had the pleasure of electing him an honorary member of the association, and Miss Trezise, of Rawmarsh, and Mr. G. P. Felstead as performing members.

For the annual joint meeting of the societies in the Southern Division an invitation was given by the Rector of Barnsley to hold the meeting at that place, and this was gratefully accepted. The date was fixed for June 18th next.

Previous to the election of officers, the vice-president said how pleased they all were to see the secretary (Mr. F. Clark) back in his usual place. They hoped he had fully recovered from the illness which kept him away from the previous meeting. It was his privilege to tell them that the secretary had withdrawn his decision to retire from his position, and he had great pleasure in proposing that he be re-elected, with the best thanks of them all for the services he had given them during his 17 years as secretary.—This was seconded and carried with applause.

In reply, the secretary thanked them all very sincerely for all the kind things said about him. He hoped he would still have the generous support and friendship which had been extended to him for so many years, and which made his position such a happy one.

OLD MEMBERS RESIGN OFFICE.

It was with very great regret that the resignations of two old members of the committee, Mr. G. Holmes, of Sheffield, and Mr. G. Halksworth, of Doncaster, were received, Mr. Holmes on account of ill-health and advancing years, and Mr. Halksworth on account of removing from Doncaster to Scarborough. High tribute was paid to both these old and valued members for the many years of service to the association, Mr. Holmes for 37 years and Mr. Halksworth as Ringing Master of the Southern Division for 20 years and on the General Committee for four years.

It was decided to record on the minutes the very deep appreciation of the members for all they had done for the association over a period of so many years, and the secretary was asked to convey this expression to them, with the hope that although they had retired from office, the members would still have the pleasure of seeing them at some of the meetings and continuing the old friendship which had extended over so many years.

Mr. A. Gill (Wath), Mr. C. D. Potter (Barnsley) and Mr. J. L. Gilbert (Handsworth) were elected to the committee. Mr. Gilbert was also elected to the General Committee in place of Mr. Holmes. For the other vacancy on the General Committee, caused by Mr. Halksworth's resignation, Mr. A. Staveley, of Doncaster, and Mr. D. Smith, of Felkirk, were nominated, and, on a vote being taken, Mr. Staveley was elected for a period of two years.

It is worthy of note that both Mr. Staveley and Mr. Gilbert are very young men, and it is gratifying to know that they are sufficiently interested in the work of the association to take over the responsibility of office at an early age and train themselves to carry on the association's work, when some of the older members have to give up.

An appeal from Mr. Amos, of Northampton, for the fund for augmenting the bells of St. Andrew's, was read and a collection realised 10s. 6d.

Votes of thanks to the Rector, to the ladies for tea and to the local company were heartily carried, and replied to by Canon Baker, Mr. Watkinson and Mr. Gilbert on their behalf.

THE STATE OF LONDON RINGING.

(Continued from previous page.)

house in order, and, when that is done, London ringing circles may be enabled to follow the good example.

May I, in conclusion, say that the officers of my association are giving the question of Sunday ringing in London towers their very earnest attention and that co-operation and not carping criticism is looked for from every London ringer.

The Exercise did not appear to be aware of the existence of the London County Association, so may I offer a very hearty welcome to any person, who hears of it for the first time, to a meeting of the Southern District, which takes place at Wandsworth on April 2nd? All ringers are welcome, whether they are College Youths, Cumberlands, good strikers or bad, whether they ring rounds or Spliced Surprise. Vagabonds, however, are reminded that Wandsworth is famous for its prison as well as its bells.

P. A. CORBY, Master, Southern District.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

EASTERN DISTRICT MEMBERS' SUPPORT LACKING.

A meeting of the Eastern District was held on Saturday week at West Hartlepool, about 20 members being present from Newcastle, Gateshead, Fenham, Chester-le-Street, Durham, Sunderland, Darlington, Middlesbrough and Saltburn.

Ringings on the beautiful ten-bell peal of St. Oswald's was enjoyed, the methods rung being Grandsire and Stedman Caters, Kent and Bob Royal, Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Double Norwich and Bob Major.

A substantial tea awaited the ringers in the Mission Hall and afterwards a short meeting was held, Mr. R. L. Patterson (vice-president) being in the chair, supported by the Vicar (the Rev. T. H. Lilburn).

After the loyal toast, the chairman welcomed the president (Mr. J. Pollard) and the hon. secretary (Mr. J. Reed) of the Cleveland and North Yorkshire Association, and another old friend in Mr. T. Metcalfe. He also welcomed the officers of the Northern, Southern and Western Districts and expressed his thanks for the support of those members of the Eastern District who were present.

Mr. Metcalfe proposed a vote of thanks to the Vicar for the use of the bells, and the Rev. T. H. Lilburn, in reply, said he always welcomed the ringers to West Hartlepool. He appreciated what was done by them and by his own ringers.

Mr. Titt proposed a vote of thanks to the ladies for the splendid tea. It was proposed that the next meeting be a joint one with the Western District at Chester-le-Street on Saturday, May 7th.

After the meeting the belfry was again visited.

It was a most happy meeting and all had their full share at the ropes, but again it is to be deplored that many members of the Eastern District fail to support these meetings.

LADIES' GUILD.

A LONDON HEADQUARTERS.

A very enjoyable meeting of the Central District of the Ladies' Guild was held at St. John's, Erith, and was fairly well attended. A very short but interesting service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. E. W. Thornhill, who welcomed and thanked the Guild for coming to his church.

After tea at the new Parish Hall a short business meeting was held. Mrs. Deal presiding.

The date proposed for the outing to Dunstable at the last meeting has had to be postponed to a Saturday in September by the wishes of the Vicar, who, unfortunately, was unable to meet the Guild in June.

Seven new members were proposed by Miss Snowden and seconded by Mrs. Fletcher. These had been recruited mainly by the efforts of Miss S. Bowyer, of Ipswich, and are as follows: Miss E. Reeves (Ipswich), Misses E. Caton, A. Osborne and D. Andrews (Mistley, Essex), Mrs. L. Wright (Colchester), Mrs. R. Ronee (Frinton-on-Sea), and Miss V. Frost (Weeley, Essex).

May 7th was confirmed as the date of the annual meeting, and October 1st proposed as the date for the following meeting, this to be held at Beaconsfield.

Mrs. Fletcher made a proposal, which has the consent of the Rector, that St. George's-in-the-Borough, London, should now become the headquarters in London of the Ladies' Guild. This being so, efforts will be made to arrange a rota for Sunday ringing at least six times during the year, and any members who will promise at least one Sunday during the year should send their names to Mrs. Fletcher to further these arrangements.

Hearty votes of thanks were accorded to the Vicar for the use of the bells and his presence at tea, to the organist, to the ladies who were kind enough to arrange the tea, especially Sister Allen, and to Mr. F. Cullum, who made all the necessary arrangements for the meeting.

Further ringing afterwards took place, this being of a very high standard and including spliced Surprise.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

SCHEME FOR RECRUITING YOUNG RINGERS.

The annual meeting of the Sheffield and District Society took place at Ranmoor Church, Sheffield, over 50 members and friends attending. Full use was made of the beautiful light peal of ten bells. A splendid tea was provided in the Church Hall by the local company.

At the business meeting which followed, the Vicar (the Rev. H. C. Foster) presided. He said he quite realised the difficulty in getting new ringers in the belfries, but he had a suggestion given to him by his daughter, who was not a ringer, who thought it would be a good thing to form a guild of old choirboys, from which, no doubt, some might be attracted to the belfry.

The suggestion was discussed and met with approval as a step in the right direction in helping to solve the problem of getting more ringers in the belfries.

The Vicar also suggested an open day for members of the congregation to visit the belfry to see how the bells were rung and create an interest which was in many cases needed.

The balance sheet was presented and passed.

It was decided to hold a six-bell ringing contest in July, the arrangements being left in the hands of the hon. secretary.

Six new members were elected and the usual votes of thanks were extended to all concerned. Further ringing until 8.30 p.m. took place in the tower.

ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from page 199.)

VIEWS ON POSITION OF LONDON RINGING.

Round Table Conference Suggestion Welcomed.

Reference to the position of ringing in London was made in all the speeches at the dinner of the Royal Cumberland Youths, which followed those reported in our last issue.

Mr. C. T. Coles (hon. secretary of the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild), replying, with Mr. E. H. Lewis, to the toast of 'Kindred Societies,' referred first to the broadcasts from St. Martin's, agreed that the ringers were wise to stick to Caters. The only complaint he had was not against the ringers, but against the B.B.C., who failed to let the public hear the whole course of what was being rung. They faded the bells in just towards the end, which was disappointing. Mr. Coles went on to refer to the broadcast last November by the president of the Central Council who likened membership of the Ancient Society of College Youths to membership of the M.C.C. in cricket. There were, said Mr. Coles, a few heart-burnings about that, but, after all, what did it matter? He was talking about it, just after the broadcast, to a ringer who was also a cricketer, and he replied, 'What does it matter, any decent county side can whack the M.C.C.' (laughter).

WHERE THE 'FREE-LANCE' HELPED.

There had recently, continued Mr. Coles, been some instructive leading articles in 'The Ringing World,' and in one of them the Editor had spoken about the silent bells of London. It was not so easy a problem as some people thought; the position was due, in a great measure, to the bells and the condition of the towers, but one of the biggest problems was the number of ringers. It was undoubtedly true that in London there were far more bells than ringers, and it was difficult to find ringers for one belfry without depleting another, and it was here that the free-lance ringer was frequently of use. He had nothing to say against the free lance. Occasionally he was asked to ring in a London tower, and he found that on such occasions the unattached ringer was a very useful person. He (Mr. Coles) would be very uncomfortable if he felt that, in finding ringers for one church, he was taking them away from another. It was much better in such cases to use these free-lance ringers.

With regard to the suggested round table conference between London societies, he thought some good might come of it. At any rate it would do no harm, and, speaking as far as he was able for the association he represented, he could say they would be very glad to join in (applause). Something had been said, continued Mr. Coles, about old rules and traditions. He was not sure that the old 'friendly' spirit of rivalry of the days gone by was any good to them in these days. It often led to another kind of rivalry and generally ended in jealousy and bitter feeling. He felt that that spirit was not a good one. He was happy to think that bitterness and jealousy in London ringing was fast disappearing, and he suggested that that was due to the coming of the diocesan and territorial associations. With real co-operation between the London societies they might be able to overcome the great difficulties with regard to London bells. Referring to the ban on ringing at St. Bartholomew's the Great, Mr. Coles said it was difficult to believe that the tower was unsafe for ringing the bells in. He had the pleasure of ringing a peal of Grandsire Doubles there some years ago, and since then at least one attempt had been made for a peal. He could not believe that the tower had got unsafe since then. In the case mentioned by Mr. Lewis, where tact and cabot quilt had got over an objection, he would like to say that the tact was largely Mr. Lewis' own and that he and Mr. George Fletcher were mainly instrumental in removing the difficulties. On behalf of the association in whose territory the tower happened to be, he thanked them very much (applause).

A BERKSHIRE 'BRANCH.'

Mr. George Gilbert proposed 'The Visitors,' and, referring to the feeling that was sometimes apparent between rival organisations in London, said when they got rid of some of the die-hards in their own and other societies things would be a little more comfortable. Until these die-hards could see eye to eye a little more with some of the youth that was coming along in ringing they would still have the friction there had been for a number of years. They did not mind rivalry, but it had got to be friendly rivalry. They were hoping in July to have a Cumberland meeting in Reading. He had had most courteous letters from the people in charge of Reading belfries, and they were going to do all they could to make the visit a success—incidentally they did not belong to the Cumberland Youths. He had passed these letters on to the secretary and suggested that it would be a good thing if they could be read in some of the London towers (applause) to let them see that there was a friendliness outside of London that did not exist generally in London itself. They all knew, and they had read it in 'The Ringing World,' that there was more friction in London than there ought to be, and that it was chiefly the cause of the small amount of service ringing done in London. The suggestion of 'getting together' was very nice, but, although a few people might meet and try their hardest, they could lead a horse to water, but they could not make it drink. The Stepney Youths, some of whom were present that night, had shown what could be done in creating a band in a London tower if there was enthusiasm, and it

had been done in other places, so that it was not impossible in that great city. There were people who went about every week ringing peals in high-down methods and they ought to be ready to devote one night a week to helping a young band along (hear, hear). They would willingly go 20 miles to ring a peal, particularly if it was in a new method, but they would not go outside their own back door to give a hand to a young band where their help would be very useful. They had been fairly successful in his part of the globe, said Mr. Gilbert, and it would not be long before they had a 'branch' of the Cumberland Youths in Berkshire. They had already got about 50 members there now. Mr. Gilbert condemned the 'free lance' and said in his district one of these ringers had spoilt the ringing in three or four towers. With regard to noisy bells, Mr. Gilbert advocated efforts to quieten them before complaints were received. At Burnham they had a ring of 'pots' which were noisy outside. He blocked up the windows with cellotex, and not only had they stopped any nuisance, but the bells seemed to be better in tone than they were before. In conclusion, Mr. Gilbert extended a hearty welcome to all the visitors.

RELATIONS BETWEEN LONDON SOCIETIES.

Mr. J. Waugh, who replied for the visitors, offered their very best wishes for the continued prosperity of the Royal Cumberland Youths. It was a significant thing, he said, that he, a Londoner by birth and a frequenter of the city's belfries, should be addressing them as a visitor. This significance lay in two directions; firstly, it betokened the peculiar relationship which existed between the London societies, and, secondly, it was an indication of how that relationship was developing in modern times. It would, of course, be idle to pretend that it had always been a happy one, but it was easy also to over-estimate the advantages which had been thereby lost. Certainly it could not be said that the rivalry which produced such efforts as the unfortunate long peal at Southwark Cathedral and the seven thousand of Cambridge Maximus at St. Mary-le-Bow was devoid of good results.

As he saw them, the two old societies, the College Youths and the Cumberlands, had much in common, and they served a number of purposes. Of the latter, one of the most prominent was undoubtedly the duty of providing an adequate number of sufficiently trained ringers to handle the numerous bells of London city, and it should be remembered that London possessed a large number of rings of twelve. It was often stated that there should be more local bands in the City, and it was agreed that there was justification for the remark and that much remained to be done, but at the same time a survey of the bells of the actual City was illuminating. There were 21 ringing peals, of which no less than ten were, for one reason or another, unavailable for ringing purposes. Of the remainder, six had local bands and the rest consisted of one ring of ten and four of twelve. The latter were either very heavy or possessed of peculiarities which made good striking on them a matter of great difficulty. It might be that local companies could be raised at such places, but anyone who had noticed the comparative rarity of good twelve-bell bands in even quite large provincial cities could hardly fail to recognise the enormity of such a task, and the position was aggravated by the fact that it seemed to require a certain amount of natural ability to pick up twelve-bell ringing quickly, so that the training of a good local twelve-bell band was a very considerable undertaking even under favourable conditions. In such circumstances there would be a tendency to be content with the ringing of a mere eight or ten bells at these places, and, if it became fully developed, these great rings would never be heard to their full advantage at all. It was a fact, too, that twelve-bell ringing was undoubtedly the finest form of bell music, but its being so depended entirely on the quality of striking, and of twelve bells improperly handled it could only be said that there were twelve making a noise instead of a mere six or eight.

OVER-RIDING BODY NOT ACCEPTABLE.

Thus there was reason for the retention and extension of the system whereby the societies did much of the official ringing in London, and as it was a joint responsibility, the question naturally arose as to whether closer co-operation would have a beneficial effect.

It was obvious that a merger or the creation of an over-riding body on similar lines to what had been done successfully at Bristol would not be acceptable, and there remained only the possibility of the removal of the present restrictions on membership and the holding of joint practices. At the present time both societies were well supported, and the only immediate result of a combination of personnel would be one large, unwieldy meeting, instead of two smaller and much more comfortable ones.

Experience had shown that large practice meetings at twelve-bell towers were generally useless for training purposes and would lead to splitting up into groups who would restrict their support to certain fixed meetings. Thus the circle would be completed and they would be back again at a very similar position to the one from which they started. It was, therefore, best that the two societies should keep themselves as separate and distinct concerns and each pursue its own course. Rivalry, of course, there was bound to be, and they must take steps to see that their two societies developed along lines of mutual tolerance and goodwill. Admittedly it was a very far cry back to that deplorable state of affairs when nothing would please the members of one society so much as the utter downfall of the other, but they had got to avoid even a tendency in that direction, and there should be frequent intermixing between the members.

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NOTICES.

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

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN TUESDAY.

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

All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—A meeting will be held at Halstead on Saturday, April 2nd. Bells (8) available from 2.30 p.m. Service in church at 4.30 p.m.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Sec., 3, Belle Vue, Hedingham Road, Halstead, Essex.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—Quarterly meeting will be held at Aston Parish Church, Birmingham, on Saturday, April 2nd. Bells (12) available at 3 p.m. Short service at 4.30 p.m., to be followed by tea and business meeting.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham, 11.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual general committee meeting. This meeting will be held at Oxford, on Saturday, April 2nd, at 3.15 p.m., in the Chapter House, Christ Church.—Richard T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—A meeting will be held at Chigwell Row on Saturday, April 2nd. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m.—E. J. Butler, Dis. Sec., 313, Mawney's Road, Romford.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting of the Bolton Branch will be held at St. George's, Bolton, on Saturday, April 2nd, instead of March 26th. Bells available 3 p.m.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec., 203, Devonshire Road, Bolton.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton District calling.—Measham is the tower chosen for meeting on Saturday, April 2nd, and a hearty welcome awaits Loughborough District members and Birmingham friends to try this octave again. Tower open at 2.45 p.m., and a very short service will be arranged before tea and meeting. Everybody welcome.—J. W. Cotton, Dis. Sec., Overseal, Burton-on-Trent.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Beighton (6 bells) on Saturday, April 2nd. For tea, notify Mr. G. Fewkes, 1, Byron Road, Beighton, near Sheffield. All welcome.—M. E. Wilson, Hon. Sec., 13, St. Ronans Road, Sheffield, 7.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—The next monthly meeting will be held at Colston-Bassett on Saturday, April 2nd. Bells (8) ready 3 p.m. Tea can be arranged. All come and try this grand peal, 22 cwt. tenor.—E. C. Gobey, Dis. Sec., Trowell, Notts.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—The next meeting will be held at Wandsworth on Saturday, April 2nd. Ringing at Holy Trinity, West Hill, 3 to 4.30 p.m., followed by service. Tea 5 p.m. at Parish Hall. Business meeting afterwards. Further ringing from 7 to 8.15 p.m. at All Saints', High Street.—N. H. Manning, Dis. Sec., 21, Burlington Gardens, W.4.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guilborough Branch.—A special meeting will be held at Yelvertoft (5 bells) on Saturday, April 2nd. Usual arrangements.—Geo. A. Hollick, Hon. Branch Sec., West Street, Welford, Rugby.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The quarterly meeting of the West Norfolk Branch will be held at Watton on Saturday, April 2nd. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Service at 4.30. Tea at 5 o'clock.—W. J. Eldred, Hon. Sec., 4, Wellington Street, King's Lynn.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—Annual meeting will be held at Crawley, on Saturday, April 2nd. Tower open 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. All welcome. Names for tea, please.—O. Sippetts, 10, Albany Road, Crawley, Sussex.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Furness and Lake District.—The next practice meeting will be held at St. Cuthbert's Church, Kirkby-in-Furness, on Saturday, April 2nd. Bells available at 2.30 p.m.—N. M. Newby, Hon. Sec.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bedford District.—A meeting will be held at Bletsoe (6 bells) on Saturday, April 2nd. Short service 4.30. Tea will be arranged. You will be very welcome; come if you can.—Frank C. Tysoe, Hon. Dis. Sec., 10, Grange Road, Bromham, Bedford.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Coppull on Saturday, April 2nd. Bells available from 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea at 5 p.m.—S. Forshaw, 38, Poolstock, Wigan.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND NORTH SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN GUILD.—Service ringing, April 3rd, St. Clement Danes, Strand, 10 a.m. Practices, St. Clement Danes, April 25th, at 6.30 p.m., followed by quarterly meeting at 8.15 p.m.; St. Mary, Lambeth, April 26th, at 8 p.m.; St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, May 4th, at 7.30 p.m.—T. W. Taffender, Hon. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—Meetings for April: Southwark Cathedral, April 5th; St. Giles', Cripplegate, 19th; St. Andrew, Holborn, 21st; *St. Paul's Cathedral, 26th; St. Magnus', Thames Street, 28th. *Business meeting afterwards.—A. B. Peck, Sec., Branksome, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Croston Parish Church, Saturday, April 9th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. A good attendance is requested.—A. Blogg, Branch Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—The annual meeting will be held at Sherburn-in-Elmet on Saturday, April 9th. Bells (8) available afternoon and evening. Short service in church at 4.30. Tea at 5.15 p.m., will be provided free to all who inform Mr. R. H. Vigor, Grange Farm, Sherburn-in-Elmet, by Wednesday, April 6th. Meeting for election of officers, etc., in Church Hall after tea. Subscriptions are now due and annual reports available. A good attendance will be appreciated by the local company.—H. S. Morley, Hon. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch, Newport Pagnell Deanery.—A meeting at Weston Underwood on Saturday, April 9th. Ring up 2.30. Service 4. Tea 4.45. Business.—The Rev. J. F. Amies, Ravenstone Vicarage, Olney, Bucks.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Warwick, on Saturday, April 9th. Bells (10) available from 3 p.m. Committee meet 4 p.m. Service at 4.30. Tea (1s. 3d. per head) at the Porridge Pot, East Gate, at 5.15, followed by annual general business meeting.—Malcolm Melville, Gen. Hon. Sec., Highfield House, Exhall, Coventry.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch.—Monthly meeting at Brinkworth (6 bells, tenor 18 cwt.), on Saturday, April 9th. Tea by invitation of Bishop of Malmesbury. A card re tea will oblige.—W. B. Kynaston, 3, Dumbarton Terrace, Victoria Road, Swindon, Wilts.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—A meeting will be held at Groby and Ratby on April 9th. Ringing at Groby (6 bells) 3 p.m. till 4 p.m., Ratby (8 bells) until 9.15 p.m. Service at Ratby Church at 4.15 p.m. Tea in Ratby Church Rooms at 5 p.m., for those sending their names to Mr. T. E. Gardner, Holwell Cottages, 70, Stamford Street, Ratby, by April 6th.—A. W. Perkins, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, April 9th, at St. Helens Parish Church. Bells (10) available from 3 p.m. Service 5.30 p.m. Tea and meeting in schools. Visitors welcome.—H. Grundy, Sec., Alness, 3, Green Leach Avenue, St. Helens.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol Rural Branch.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Warmley on Saturday, April 9th. Bells (6) open from 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. Please advise for tea.—R. C. Gifford, Hon. Sec., Frampton Cotterell, near Bristol.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. Cuthbert's, Lytham, on Saturday, April 9th. Bells ready 3 p.m. Tea, followed by business meeting, 5.30.—C. Sharples, Branch Sec., Fylde.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Maulden on Saturday, April 9th. Bells (6) available at 3 p.m. Tea at 5. All ringers will be welcome. We are looking forward to a large company. Please come.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Shelly on Saturday, April 9th. Bells ready 2.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Those requiring tea please notify Mr. F. R. Brook, Lilac Nook, Shelly, near Huddersfield, not later than Wednesday, April 6th. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., Rock Cottages, Shafton, near Barnsley.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Thomas', Moor-side, Oldham, on Saturday, April 9th. Bells available from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. Business meeting at 6.30 p.m. Please do your best to attend and make this meeting a success.—Stephen Lloyd Parry, Branch Sec., 24, St. James Street, Milnrow, Rochdale.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—The next meeting will be held at Uckfield on Saturday, April 9th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Everybody welcome, but don't forget the card re tea!—B. Saunders, 18, New Road, Ridgewood, Uckfield, Sussex.

PEAK DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Next meeting, Saturday, April 9th, at Eyam. Bells (6) available 3 p.m. Will those who hope to be present kindly let me have a card not later than Wednesday, April 6th, so that I can make adequate arrangements for tea?—H. L. Warburton, Hon. Sec., 72, Causeway Head Road, Dore.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—South Forest Branch.—Meeting to be held at Newland, near Coleford, on Saturday, April 16th. Bells (6) open at 3.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting in Village Room 5 p.m. Ringers who require tea must let me know by Wednesday, April 13th, certain.—Oliver Thomas, Branch Hon. Sec.

BEXLEY, KENT.—St. Mary's Parish Church. The augmented peal of eight bells, in new steel frame and latest fittings, by Mears and Stainbank, will be dedicated by Dr. King, assistant Bishop of Rochester, on Easter Sunday, April 17th, at 3 p.m. All ringers cordially invited.—H. H. Holden, Verger, St. Mary's.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting, Easter Monday, at Leicester. Towers open from 10.30 a.m. to 4.15 p.m. (subject to weddings or services): St. Margaret's (12), St. John's (10), Belgrave (8); 2.30 to 4.30 and 7 to 8 p.m., Cathedral (12). Committee meet at 3 p.m. in Church House, St. Martin's (side of Cathedral). Tea at 4.45 prompt at Oriental Cafe, Market Place, followed by general meeting. Tickets for tea must be obtained from Mr. H. W. Perkins, 53, Landseer Road, Leicester, not later than Thursday, April 14th. Only those who apply for and obtain tickets can be accommodated. All others must cater for themselves. A room will be reserved (particulars later) for social intercourse in the evening.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec., 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Albans on East Monday. Cathedral bells (12) available at 2 p.m., St. Peter's (10) 2.30 p.m. The bells of St. Michael's, St. Stephen's and Sandridge (6 each) open by arrangement with your secretary. Service in the Cathedral at 4.30 p.m., with special preacher, followed by tea and business meeting in the Abbey Institute. **If you want tea you must let me know, the latest by Easter Monday morning, post or phone 241.** Notice of alteration of rule: 'That the subscription be raised to 1s. 6d., commencing January, 1939.'—G. W. Cartmel, Hon. Sec., Duffield, Russell Avenue, St. Albans.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting will take place at Norwich on Easter Monday, April 18th. The bells of St. Peter Mancroft, St. Giles', St. Michael at Coslany, and All Saints' are available. Service at noon in St. Peter Mancroft Church; preacher, the Ven. Thomas J. Perowne, Arch-

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deacon of Norwich. Luncheon at 1 p.m. at St. Peter Mancroft Parish Hall, 2s. per head to resident members. The business meeting for the election of officers for the year follows. Please notify your intention of being present at the luncheon. Kindly note subscriptions are due.—Nolan Golden, Gen. Sec. and Treasurer, Winton, 26, Brabazon Road, Norwich.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION (60th year).—Annual meeting will be held at Bristol, Easter Monday, April 18th. Bells available from 10.30 a.m. (see later announcements). Dinner 12.30, Prince's Cafe, High Street, 2s. 3d. per head. Business meeting, St. Thomas' Church Room at 2 p.m. Tea, Prince's Cafe at 4.30 p.m. Dinner and tea arrangements are provisional upon sufficient numbers, so please notify early. Annual reports for those who notify their intention to be present. Ringing again during evening.—Edgar Guise, Hon. Sec., 46a, Tankards Close, Bristol, 2.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Annual general meeting at Over on Easter Monday, April 18th. Bells (8) available from 12 noon. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea in the schoolroom at 4 p.m., 1s. each, followed by business meeting. It is hoped that Swavesey bells (6) will also be available. No ringing allowed during the business meeting. Good train services. The 11.32 a.m. from Cambridge will stop at Swavesey by request.—Kitty Willers, Gen. Sec., Sweetbriars, Trumpington, Cambridge.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The 58th annual general meeting will be held at Margate on Easter Monday, April 18th. The committee meeting will be held at 11.15 in St. John's Church Room. The association service will be held in St. John's, Margate, at noon; preacher, the Vicar, Rev. C. Tyrell. Lunch at 1 o'clock in the Artillery Drill Hall, Victoria Road, followed by the business meeting. The following are the ringing arrangements: St. John's, Margate (8), before the service and after the meeting (ringing may be curtailed in the morning owing to weddings); St. Lawrence's, Ramsgate, after the meeting; St. Peter's, Thanet (8), Birchington (8), Quex Park (12), St. Nicholas-at-Wade (6), all from 10 a.m. to 11.30 and after the meeting. Major Powell Cotton has kindly offered to open his museum to ringers after the meeting, and will all who intend going please notify me before Thursday, April 14th. All applications for luncheon tickets free to members, 3s. non-members, much reach me, accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope, by first post, Wednesday, April 13th, after which no application can be entertained?—Fred M. Mitchell, Gen. Hon. Sec., 114, Sun Lane, Gravesend.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Worcester on Easter Monday, April 18th. Business meeting in the College Hall at 2.30 p.m. prompt; chairman, the Very Rev. Arthur Davies, D.Litt., Dean of Worcester. Service in the Cathedral at 4.15 p.m.; special preacher, the Rev. W. Buchanan Dunlop, Rector of All Saints', Worcester. Tea (non-members 1s. each) will be provided at 5.30 p.m. for all those who notify me before Wednesday, April 13th. Bells available: Cathedral (12), 1 to 2 p.m.; All Saints' (10), from 10 a.m.; St. John-in-Bedwardine (8), St. Nicholas' (6) and St. Swithin's (6), all from 11 a.m. Central committee meeting in St. Helen's Church House at 11.30 a.m. Subscriptions should be paid and reports obtained in St. Helen's Church House between 12 noon and 1 p.m.—J. D. Johnson, Gen. Sec., Cheltenham Road, Sedgeberrow, Evesham.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District. —The next meeting will be held at Dorking on Easter Monday, April 18th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Service at 5 o'clock. Tea at 5.30 in the Parish Hall, followed by business meeting. Numbers for tea to be sent to Miss E. J. M. Cottrell, 28, Hart Road, Dorking, by Wednesday, April 13th. All ringers heartily welcome.—F. G. Woodiss, Hon. Dis. Sec., 28, Strathearn Road, Sutton.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD.—The annual meeting of the East Devon Branch will be held at Dalwood, near Honiton, on Easter Monday, April 18th. Bells (6) available at 2.30 p.m., also Stockland (6). Service 4.30. Tea and meeting 5, Church Hall. All ringers and friends welcome.—John H. Godfrey, Hon. Sec., Silver Street, Ottery St. Mary, Devon.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Preliminary Notice.—The annual general meeting will be held at Guildford on Saturday, April 23rd. Further details later.—J. S. Goldsmith, Hon. Sec.

BURTON-ON-STATHER, LINCS.—Will all interested please book May 7th, and come in crowds to try the augmented peal! Further details of combined Gainsborough and Grimsby District meetings later.—E. J. P. Davies and H. Mingay, Dis. Secs.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Mr. W. Evetts, hon. secretary of the Witney and Woodstock Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, has removed to Hampton, Tackley, Oxford.

GOLDEN WEDDING.

PERKINS—DAVEY.—On April 2nd, 1888, at the Parish Church, Little Addington, by the Rev. A. Boodle, Walter Perkins to Annie Margaret Davey. Present address, 22, Queen Street, Irthlingborough.

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ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from page 215.)

That, however, was no problem. They had the London County Association ready at hand, which, as the St. James' Society, was founded for that very object, and, as one connected with it, he would say that was still one of its most important and successful functions. There were in addition, of course, the several county associations, but they had duties of their own, quite apart from anything of that sort, and it seemed to him they did their job well. However, he welcomed the suggestion of a round table conference that had been made to see what could be done to further ringing in the metropolis, and he had no doubt ringing had a very bright future in London (applause).

The speeches were interspersed with some delightful songs by Miss Marjorie Dawson, songs at the piano by Mr. Bernard Maurice, and change ringing on handbells. The latter included a course of Stedman Cinques by members of the society, a course of Grandsire Caters by the Stepney Youths, and a course of Double Norwich Major.

FIRST QUARTER-PEALS.

WATFORD, HERTS.—On Sunday, March 20th, for evening service, 1,280 Superlative Surprise Major: F. Bullock 1, W. G. Paul 2, C. Kazer (first quarter-peal) 3, H. L. Long 4, A. G. Dix 5, F. Crook 6, S. H. Hoare (conductor) 7, H. G. Cashmore 8.

STEPNEY.—On Sunday, February 6th, for evening service at St. Dunstan's, 1,277 Grandsire Caters: Mrs. R. F. Deal 1, G. W. Cecil 2, H. A. Pinchbeck 3, J. A. Waugh 4, T. G. Fox 5, L. J. Fox 6, H. E. Thompson 7, R. G. Cousins 8, R. F. Deal (conductor) 9, J. H. Boomsma 10. First quarter-peal on ten bells by ringers of 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 10.

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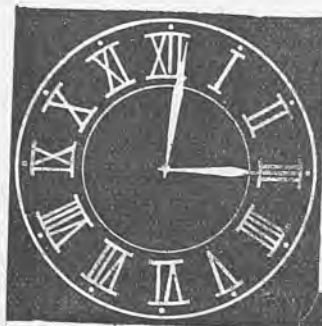
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