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MUFFLED RINGING

One of the debatable subjects which from time to time crop up in the Exercise and about which very divergent opinions are expressed is muffled ringing. Which is the best way to do it? some people ask, and others put the question in the rather different form: Which is the correct way to do it? It will be remembered that the matter was brought before the Central Council, arising mainly out of the ringing at the death of King George the Fifth, and was referred to the officers of the Council who, but for the outbreak of war, would have issued a considered and authoritative opinion. Last week it was raised again in our columns.

We have no intention of trying to settle this matter, or even of trying to advise ringers on what they should do, but it may be well to state one or two conclusions based on the general experience of the Exercise.

In the first place, whether one usage is more correct than another cannot and does not arise. No rules have ever been laid down by any competent authority, and it is doubtful if there is any authority competent to lay down any rules. Nor is the custom of muffling bells old enough for it to be subject to that uniformity of usage which in some points of Church ritual amounts to law. Muffled ringing is intended to create a solemn impression on the minds of those who hear it, and the method which best achieves that end is the best method of performance. It is a question of taste and aesthetics, and therefore not subject to any definite and stringent rules.

Different people at different times have advocated different methods, but in practice usage is confined to two ways—fully muffled with the tenor open at back-stroke, and half-muffled with the handstrokes open. These are the two methods with which the Exercise is familiar, and of which most ringers have enough experience to judge between them. Opinion is certainly not unanimous, but it is safe to say that the great majority prefer the half-muffled to the fully muffled. Indeed, we may wonder why the latter has had such an extensive vogue. The explanation lies in the conservatism of ringers and their unwillingness to change a habit once acquired. When muffling was first thought of, rather more than two hundred years ago, the only way which occurred to men was to tie cloth or felt round the ball of the clappers, and that did not admit of half-muffling. It was not till considerably later that someone (apparently a member of the bell-founding family of Bagley) invented the muffler which would leave one side of the clapper free to strike an open blow. By that time in most

(Continued on page 522.)

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places fully muffled ringing had become the customary usage and was not easily changed. Half-muffling, however, was gradually more and more adopted, and it is significant that, though bands adopted half-muffling in place of fully muffling, none seems to have changed the other way.

We may, then, reasonably assume that the Exercise has found half-muffled ringing artistically superior to fully-muffled ringing, but there are still differences of opinion as to how the former should be done. The usual custom is to muffle the backstrokes, but some men advocate leaving open the backstrokes where, they say, all the best and most musical changes come.

The best test of this opinion is to try both ways one immediately after the other. We do not think that many men would be very anxious to alter the present style.

Another plan which has had many advocates is to ring in whole pulls so that the muffled change may be an exact echo of the open. It seems excellent in theory, but very few bands would be able to ring accurately even the simplest method in whole pulls, not because it is, in itself, difficult, but because it is unfamiliar. And it is doubtful if the artistic gain would be great.

A further question is what sort of method is best to be rung—odd-bell or even? Here there is legitimate room for wide differences of opinion. If we were asked our personal opinion we should say, Tittum Grandsire Caters for ten bells, Plain Bob Major for eight bells. But other people may think differently.

HANDBELL PEALS.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 27, 1943, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

IN THE CHOIR VESTRY OF ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5010 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

MISS JILL POOLE 1-2	ERNEST MORRIS 7-8
HAROLD J. POOLE... .. 3-4	GEO. STRDMAN MORRIS ... 9-10
PERCY L. HARRISON 5-6	JOSIAH MORRIS 11-12

Composed by F. H. DEXTER

Conducted by H. J. POOLE.

Specially rung to mark the 90th birthday of Mr. James George, of Birmingham. Mr. George rang his last peal (on handbells) in this church on his 86th birthday.

BROMLEY, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, November 28, 1943, in Two Hours,

AT 6, GLEBE ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven extents.

Tenor size 10 in A.

*MISS HILDA OAKSBETT 1-2	GEORGE R. H. SMITH ... 3-4
*PERCY J. SPICE 5-6	

Conducted by GEORGE R. H. SMITH.

* First peal of Plain Bob on handbells and first attempt.

BELLS AND NATIONAL EVENTS.

We have received from Mr. C. V. Ebberson the following cutting from a Lynn newspaper quoting a paragraph of June 21st, 1890, an example of bellringing in celebration of events of national importance:

To celebrate the passing of the Load-line Bill, Mr. Plimsol expressed a wish that the bells of every port in the kingdom should be rung simultaneously, and this was done on Wednesday evening, when amongst the touches rung on St. Nicholas' bells at Lynn were five courses (560) of Bob Major by the following: 1 W. G. Cross, 2 J. W. Sedgley (conductor), 3 W. W. Brown 4 Stranger (Bungay), 5 W. Brooke, 6 R. Crome, 7 J. Dodman, 8 W. Curston.

The Load-line Act was the Act of Parliament which compelled every sea-going vessel to have a line painted on the hull to mark the limit to which it might be loaded. It is usually known as the Plimsol line. The intention was to stop the practice of sending to sea overloaded and heavily insured ships.

EIGHT BELL PEALS

CHESTER-LE-STREET, CO. DURHAM.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 20, 1943, in Three Hours & Twenty-Three Minutes,

AT THE COLLEGIATE CHURCH OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY AND ST. CUTHBERT.

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 21 cwt.

*JAMES BREWSTER 1 Treble	WILLIAM SHERATON 5
ERNEST WALLACE 2	ROBERT L. PATTERSON 6
†WILLIAM F. SHERATON 3	FRANK AINSLEY 7
JOHN A. BROWN 4	DENIS A. BAYLES... .. 1 Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by DENIS-A. BAYLES.

* First peal. † First peal in the method.

ARKLOW.

THE IRISH ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, November 23, 1943, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. SAVIOUR.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 22½ cwt.

HAROLD ANNESLEY 1 Treble	THOMAS NOZUM 5
WILLIAM T. SHAW 2	MISS MARGARET ALEXANDER 6
SAMUEL J. EVANS 3	JAMES FLIGHT 7
FREDERICK E. DUKES... .. 4	CAPT. JOHN KINCH 1 Tenor

Conducted by F. E. DUKES.

Rung as a wedding compliment to the ringer of the 7th and as a birthday compliment to Mr. James George.

CONISBOROUGH, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, November 25, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

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

Tenor 13 cwt. 2 qr. 20 lb.

*HARRY BARNES 1 Treble	T. COLIN RYDER 5
*CHARLES URCH 2	EDGAR C. STACHY 6
J. EDWARD CAWSE 3	HAROLD WAGSTAFF 7
EDWARD DALINGWATER 4	PERCY GLEDSTONE 1 Tenor

Composed by F. A. HOLDEN. Conducted by J. EDWARD CAWSE.

* First peal in the method. Rung to celebrate the birth of a son to Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Fowler.

CRAYFORD, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 27, 1943, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAULINUS,

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

Tenor 12½ cwt.

FREDERICK A. COLBY ... Treble	NORMAN CHADDCK 5
EDWIN A. BARNETT 2	JAMES E. BAILEY... .. 6
FREDERICK G. BALDWIN 3	PHILIP A. CORBY... .. 7
*ROBERT WAKE 4	EDWIN BARNETT 1 Tenor

Composed by E. BARNETT, SEN. Conducted by E. BARNETT.

* First peal of Major.

FIVE BELL PEAL.

BRAFIELD, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, November 27, 1943, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Consisting of 240 each of New Bob, Stedman Slow Course, Shipway's Place, St. Dunstan's, Chase and Union, and 360 each of Stedman, Antelope, London, New Grandsire, Grandsire, St. Simon, April Day, Old Doubles, Plain Bob and Canterbury Pleasure. Tenor 12 cwt. 7 lb.

*JOSEPH W. L. LINNEY ... Treble	GEORGE CARE 3
CÆCIL WHITE 2	PHILIP JONES 4
RONNIE NOON 1 Tenor	

Conducted by PHILIP JONES.

* First peal. First peal by all in 16 different methods. A birthday compliment to the conductor.

CURIOUS RINGING SCRAPS.

SIR ARTHUR HEYWOOD'S COLLECTION.

(Continued from page 465.)

Two interesting manuscripts in Heywood's book refer to Stedman Triples. One is the copy of Brooks' Variation, on which Henry Johnson as umpire ticked off the course-ends of the silent peal rung at St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, on November 20th, 1886. On it Johnson wrote, 'This peal was rung at Burton-on-Trent, Saturday, November 20th, 1886, in the presence of the Rev. Mr. Fish and H. Johnson, senr., without a Bob or Single being called or expressed and rung in 3 hours 7 minutes, and the first peal of Stedman Triples so rang on church bells.'

The other MS. is endorsed 'Stedman Triples, 5,040, altered from Thurstans' peal by T. Brooks. This, I believe, is the original copy, 1852.' The writing seems to be Brooks' own, but it is not quite certain. Underneath in pencil is written, 'Given to J. R. Haworth by Mr. Frank Marshall, a friend of Mr. Brooks. J. R. Haworth.' The figures of the peal are signed 'T. Brooks, April 18th, 1852.'

Beneath two leaves cut from some book Heywood has written, 'Explain this who can,' and, indeed, it would be a formidable task. One gathers that it is a transcript and explanation of some manuscript from the Rawlinson Collection in the Bodleian Library. It is a most extraordinary jumble of English, Latin, Greek, Hebrew, music and bellringing. There is a reference to 'an Epigramme to Bedford Ringers, especially to Mr. Robert Palmer principal in ye noble consort,' which consisted of sixty-four lines of verse in praise of the said Robert Palmer and his sons and other friends skilled in ringing changes. The date is about the middle of the seventeenth century.

One of the Palmers seems to have been, not only a ringer, but 'chiefe of ye Musical Society.' He adapted some psalm tunes to be rung on bells, and set them down not only in ordinary musical notation and in figures, but in Hebrew characters and with Latin words. He also set down the twenty-four changes of Plain Bob on four bells in Hebrew characters and, doing the job thoroughly, wrote them out, Hebrew fashion, from right to left instead of left to right. In one set of five-bell changes, we are told, Greek letters are used as well as Hebrew, and also some unknown alphabet.

A printed circular advertises 'Shaw's patent frictionless roller bearings' for the hanging of bells. By their means it is claimed 'the heaviest bells are made to swing as light and easy as very small bells under the old system of hanging.' Thus the physical part of bellringing will be so lightened as to make scientific change ringing more pleasurable and easy than has ever been the case before. Gentlemen constitutionally incapable of over-exertion will be able to ring the largest and heaviest bells with ease.' To this Heywood has a note: 'Tried on the 8th bell at Duffield and proved a useless plan of hanging.'

An illustration shows the bearing filled with steel rollers in a cast-iron box. If they were very carefully fitted, and so long as the rollers remained absolutely parallel with the gudgeons, they probably would be a success, but any movement of the frame and any inequality of alignment would at once cause trouble.

(To be continued.)

MR. JUSTICE WITHENS.

(Continued from page 515.)

When the Bloody Assize was ended, the five judges returned to London. On Saturday, October 3rd, 1685, King James received them publicly at St. James' Palace and they kissed his Majesty's hand and received his thanks. Jeffreys was rewarded with the Lord Chancellorship and went to a post where there was no more trying and hanging of prisoners to be done, but the others had more work before them. The Government, carrying on the policy of terrorism, determined to make an example of some Londoners who were supposed to have sympathised with the late rebellion, and they chose their victims so as to create, as they thought, the greatest impression.

In October, Sir Francis Withens charged the Grand Jury at Westminster. He said that there were 6,000 rebels with the Duke of Monmouth, and that not above 2,800 had been disposed of. The judges on their circuit had not found above two or three that had harboured them. They could not have escaped out of the country. What had become of them? Many, most like, were in London and Westminster, and it would be a proper thing for the constables to go about and inquire about lodgers, how long they had been in their lodging and what they had been doing at the time of the rebellion.

In two of the most notable trials which followed, Withens was on the Bench. One was of Henry Cornish, an alderman and a prominent member of the opposition party in the city. He was condemned on the evidence of a wretch named Goodenough and executed. The other was of Elizabeth Gaunt, a woman who belonged to the sect of the Baptists, and whose life had been spent in acts of charity and relieving distress. It was an act of mercy that was her undoing, for some years before she had befriended a man named James Burton, a conspirator in a plot against the late King, and had assisted him to escape to Holland. He had returned during the rebellion and after Sedgemoor had escaped to London where, to save his life, he betrayed the people who had helped him.

Withens did not sit still and say nothing during these trials; rather he tried to imitate the style of his master, Jeffreys; but he had neither the strength nor the badness to do so effectively. In these days, and for long after, a person on trial for his life for treason or murder was not allowed the assistance of counsel except when a point of law arose. The prisoner had to present his own defence, to call his own witnesses, and to cross-examine those brought against him, if, indeed, he was allowed to do so, which was not always. When, as usually happened in treason cases, the judges threw their whole weight into the scale to secure a conviction, the chances of acquittal were small. There was indeed a tradition of English justice that 'the Court ought to be counsel for the prisoner,' but that was clean forgotten in the State trials

at the end of the seventeenth century. King James had determined that Elizabeth Gaunt should be condemned, and condemned she was.

At the end of the trial, having remembered something, she wanted to call further evidence. The Recorder would have allowed it, but Withens at once said it could not be done, and the other judges were out of Court. Probably on a point of law Withens was right. Four days later Elizabeth Gaunt was burnt alive at Tyburn. She was not allowed even the poor mercy (then usual in such cases) of being strangled before the fire was lighted.

The night before she died she wrote that she forgave her enemies, 'but he that showed no mercy shall find none. I did but relieve a poor family and, lo, I must die for it. I desire to say, Lord, lay it not to their charge, but I fear and believe that when He comes to make inquisition for blood, mine will be found at the door of the furious judge who would not hear me, and though he granted some things of the same nature to another, yet he granted it not to me.'

There is so little recorded to the credit of Sir Francis Withens as a judge that it is pleasant to know that his last judicial act does him honour. A man had deserted from the Army, and the Government were anxious that he should suffer death for it. But the law of England knew nothing of standing armies and martial law in peace time; a soldier had the same rights as a civilian; and when Withens was required to condemn him he refused. For this he was dismissed from the Bench and returned to the bar and practised as a Serjeant-at-Law.

After the Revolution, which placed William and Mary on the throne, the Commons had 'the late disbanded judges' before them, who all declared the reasons why they had been turned out from being judges, and the House further considered some of the judgments which these judges had given in the political trials of the previous few years. Jeffreys died in the Tower and so escaped punishment; the other judges were treated leniently. Withens was called to the bar of the House to give an explanation of his conduct in the trial of Titus Oates, and some of his decisions were pronounced arbitrary and illegal. He was deprived of the recordership of Kingston-on-Thames, which he had held for several years, and with thirty other persons was excluded from the general Act of Indemnity. But no further punishment was inflicted on him.

In December, 1689, some of the citizens of London, to show their opinion, made effigies of Jeffreys, Withens and one or two men who had acted as foremen of grand juries. These effigies were carried in procession through the city, with a picture of Justice before them, to the Temple. At the Temple gate a gallows was erected, the images solemnly hung, and then cut down and burnt.

Sir Francis Withens married in Westminster Abbey Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Thomas Taylor. She was a clever, witty woman, but brought little comfort or happi-

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ness to her husband. She involved him in debts and law suits through her extravagances, and she had as her gallant Sir Thomas Colepeper, of Aylesford. There is a significant entry in Luttrell's diary for November 24th, 1696: 'Sir Francis Withens information against Sir Thomas Culpeper for assaulting him was tried on Saturday at Westminster and the defendant acquitted.'

Withens died in May, 1704, at Eltham, and was buried in the church there. His widow afterwards married Colepeper.

At the Church of St. Magnus, London Bridge, there is preserved a drinking cup which came from the famous Boar's Head Tavern, formerly in Eastcheap, and probably was used at the vestry meetings of St. Michael's, Crooked Lane. It bears an inscription saying it was the gift of Sir Francis Wythens, but whether it refers to the judge I cannot say. The date usually given does not agree.

We should like to know how far Sir Francis Withens was connected with the Society of College Youths, and to what extent he was a ringer. But that we do not know. As a young man he joined the society, and he may have been a regular attendant of the meetings for a long time. But we have no information. So far as ringing is concerned, he is a name and nothing more.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT ADWICK-LE-STREET.

A meeting of the Doncaster and District Association was held at Adwick-le-Street on November 27th. The Vicar, the Rev. T. A. Taylor, presided and urged the members to think not only of their ringing, but also of the welfare of the Church they served. Four new members were elected and six members were chosen to assist the Vicar and his young band on December 11th.

A notice of motion was received for the annual meeting that the old rules of attendance for the Walker Cup should be revived.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

BURNHAM, BUCKS.—Before the induction of the new Vicar, the eight youngest girl members of the St. Peter's Society (average age 14½ years) rang the bells (tenor 16 cwt.) in rounds and Queens: Edna Hearn 1, Vida Simpson 2, Mary Pemberton 3, Valerie Crouch 4, Jean Broomfield 5, Freda Murkitt 6, Mildred Crouch 7, Joyce Hearn 8. After the service a peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major was attempted, but came to grief after 2,458 changes.

MOSSLEY, LANCASHIRE.—1,280 Kent Treble Bob Major: Ralph Tayler (conductor) 1, Harold Tayler 2, Harold Jackson 3, Frank Welham 4, John Radcliffe 5, Ralph Walker 6, Ernest Garside 7, Jack Clayton 8. Rung for the 70th birthday of the conductor, who has been a ringer at the church for 54 years.

BUXTON.—At St. Peter's, Fairfield, 720 Bob Minor: S. Boundy 1, I. O. Smith 2, J. Puplett 3, J. Smith 4, A. Richardson 5, E. Ellison (conductor) 6. Rung half-muffled on the occasion of the funeral of Mr. Headington.

HITCHAM, BUCKS.—On Wednesday, November 17th, 720 Bob Minor: *Freda Murkitt (age 14) 1, F. Hicks 2, E. D. Poole 3, C. A. Levett 4, G. Gilbert 5, N. V. Harding (first 720 as conductor) 6.—720 Bob Minor: *Joyce Hearn (age 14) 1, N. V. Harding 2, C. A. Levett 3, E. D. Poole 4, F. Hicks 5, G. Gilbert (conductor) 6.—720 Bob Minor: *Jean Broomfield (age 13) 1, C. A. Levett 2, F. Hicks 3, N. V. Harding 4, E. D. Poole 5, G. Gilbert (conductor) 6. *First 720.

HIGH WYCOMBE.—On November 17th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: L. M. Squires 1, Miss K. Fletcher 2, J. W. Wilkins (composer) 3, Edward Markham 4, George Hinton 5, Ralph Coles (conductor) 6, C. A. Smith 7, Harry Wingrove 8. A birthday compliment to Edward Markham and his brother, Harry Markham, aged 80, the oldest chorister in High Wycombe.

ARKSEY, YORKS.—On Saturday, November 20th, 1,344 Grandsire Triples: Mrs. J. Somerville 1, G. Clark 2, E. Clark 3, H. Arrand 4, Joseph McCluskey 5, E. Cooper (conductor) 6, T. Revill 7, B. Birkett 8. Rung for the wedding of Miss J. Eggleston to Lieut. F. Briggs.

DEPTFORD.—At St. John's, on Sunday, November 21st, for morning service, 1,260 Grandsire Triples from Holt's Original: R. Fosdike, F. W. Richardson, F. S. Bacon, W. H. Daynes, T. A. Easterby, A. F. Bennington, G. H. Daynes (conductor) and C. D. Letzer. Rung at the special request of the Vicar as a memorial to the late captain and secretary, W. J. Jeffries. It also marked the 40th anniversary of the formation of a new band at St. John's by the late captain, of which the ringers of the 2nd and tenor were members.

ISLEWORTH.—On Sunday, November 28th, at All Saints', a 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: *Miss K. Brooks 1, *A. Thirst 2, *W. Gibbons 3, S. Croft 4, F. Bishop 5, H. Rogers (conductor) 6. *First 720 of Treble Bob.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Congratulations to Mr. John W. Jones, of Newport, who will reach his 79th birthday on Sunday next.

The peal of Double Norwich Major rung at Crayford last Saturday is believed to be the 509th for the Kent County Association.

The peal of Grandsire Doubles at Arklow is published as sent to us. Presumably it was rung with 7-6-8 as covers.

News has reached us that Mr. E. F. Behan, of Melbourne, Victoria, passed away on September 15th last.

The handbell peal at Linfield reported last week as being Holt's Ten-part should have been Holt's Original.

The peal of Bob Major at Chester-le-Street was arranged and rung to mark the 1,060th anniversary of the dedication of the first church and the 60th anniversary of the installation of the bells. Ten years ago a similar performance took place, and three men, Messrs. Brown, Patterson and W. Sheraton, stood in both peals. Two well-known North Country ringers, Messrs. W. Story and C. L. Routledge, who were present at the opening sixty years ago, are happily still alive. Mr. Routledge called the peal ten years since.

'BELLS OF THE ISLE.'

A NEW BOOK ON BELLS.

It is an excellent sign of the great interest taken by the general public at the moment in church bells and bellringing that a leading firm of publishers has found it worth their while to issue a book on bells, in spite of the severe restrictions imposed by paper shortage and other things due to the war.

The book by Mr. Reginald Harrison, who styles himself Bob Major, is primarily intended for the ordinary reader and necessarily deals with the subject on broad lines. As the author himself says, it would be utterly impossible in a book of the size to mention all the famous and curious bells of Britain, nor could full justice be done to the art of ringing within the limits of a chapter, however long. But he expresses the hope that he has said enough of the many aspects of bells and bellringing to stimulate interest in a fascinating subject.

He deserves to succeed in his object, and we believe he will have a large measure of success. He traces the story of bells through the ages, tells how they are made and tuned, gives an outline of change ringing, deals with chimes and carillons, mentions some curious and famous bells, and has something to say about bells in song and legend.

There are several illustrations and they are all good. One of them shows Great Paul on its way from Loughborough to St. Paul's Cathedral. Curiously enough, we lately received an original copy of this photograph from Mr. H. D. Harris, of Woburn, who sent it after reading our recent article on the bell. He tells us that after the traction engine and trailer had passed along Watling Street through Little Brickhill, the side wheels sank deeply into some soft ground on the edge of the road, where they stuck, and it was a considerable time before the trolley could be lifted to a firmer part of the highway. During its enforced stay the bell was a subject of great interest and curiosity among the people of the neighbourhood. The people shown in the photograph include Mr. Harris' wife's grandfather and aunts.

The one or two slips we have noticed in Mr. Harrison's book are of no importance, especially as some of them (like the statement that change ringing was practically the invention of Fabian Stedman) have been widely accepted as true in the Exercise. We join issue, however, when he tells us that at the close of the seventeenth century English bellfounding degenerated. For the purposes for which they were cast, eighteenth century bells as a whole were far superior to anything which preceded them and some of the best and most famous rings date from that time.

Mr. Harrison's book can be cordially recommended for anyone who is beginning to take an interest in bells and bellringing, and it would make a very suitable Christmas present to a person who has lately been attracted to the belfry, or is likely to be so.

DEATH OF MR. WALTER FARLEY.

The death is announced of Mr. Walter Farley, who passed away suddenly at Stourbridge on November 7th. The funeral at St. Thomas' Church was conducted by the Rev. Canon Newland, and the interment was at Stourbridge Cemetery. The Worcestershire and Districts Association was represented by Mr. B. C. Ashford, and the St. Thomas' band by Messrs. E. S. Bushell, A. Reynolds and A. D. Fellows. St. Thomas' bells were rung half-muffled by Messrs. W. Short, A. Walker, W. Potter, C. Skidmore, H. Shink, B. Ashford, P. Richards, W. Baughton, A. Skelding and F. L. Wright. A course of Grandsire Triples was rung over the grave by W. Short, A. Walker, C. Skidmore and B. C. Ashford. Among the floral tributes was one from the St. Thomas' ringers and one from the ringers of neighbouring towers.

During the evening the bells of St. Thomas' were rung for an hour by his fellow-ringers as follows: R. Lee 1, A. L. Dunn 2, C. W. Cooper 3, F. W. Gibbs 4, F. V. Nicholls 5, J. W. Smith 6, A. Whatmore (conductor) 7, A. Fellows 8.

Mr. Farley, who had recently completed 50 years as a ringer, was a native of Wells, in Somerset. His first peal was at Twerton, near Bath, on May 16th, 1903, and his complete list contained 195 peals, which consisted of Grandsire Triples 79, Caters 24, Cinques 4, Stedman Triples 46, Caters 24, Cinques 4, Bob Major 6, and Minor 8. He leaves a widow, a son and a daughter.

'NEED FOR DISCUSSION.'*To the Editor.*

Sir,—Ringers will welcome 'Forum's' debatable points, for this sort of discussion can only do good. Perhaps other ringers will contribute their 'points' and communicate their views upon published queries. I imagine that you will welcome such correspondence, provided it is not garrulous, and I, therefore, give my views on the questions published on November 19th as concisely as may be.

1. Open leads sound better than closed on any number and assist in maintaining a good beat.

2. The muffled backstroke does create an echo, which constitutes the solemn beauty of muffled ringing.

3. If ringers are really keen they will want to ring for an hour before service, and for an hour and a half on practice nights. But practice ringing should usually finish, at least in winter, by 9 p.m.

4. Learning to ring is a long and difficult business, and beginners are often allowed to ring in rounds too early in training, from the fear that interest will otherwise flag. This tendency has increased, for not only are ringers scarce, but the drudgery of learning any trade properly is, in these latter days, regarded with some impatience.

As to stance, the left foot may be slightly in advance of the right, with the feet a few inches apart.

5. No ringer should consider himself well equipped unless he can take part in rising and falling, which is a branch of the ringers' art worthy of close study. Nothing in ringing sounds better when well done: a good band falling 10, or even 12, is worth listening to.

6. Recently four Surprise ringers, all proficient on 8, 10 and 12, met for service ringing in an eight-bell tower. Rather than wait for late comers, it was not beneath them to raise the back four and ring Bob Singles for ten minutes. Singles and Doubles on the average eight-bell peal should be rung slowly. Doubles on a ten-bell peal are sometimes rung on 2.3.4.5.6.

J. HOWARD FREEBORN.

Aith, Little Chalfont, Amersham.

DEATH OF MR. ARTHUR J. NEALE.

The death of Mr. A. J. Neale on November 12th has removed another well-known figure from ringing circles in London and Norfolk.

A native of Norfolk, Mr. Neale did his early ringing at Aylsham. He joined the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths on January 14th, 1895, and was a regular member of the band at St. Martin-in-the-Fields from the last war until the ban was imposed in June, 1940.

He took part in the first peals of Cambridge Maximus for the Cumberlands at Shoreditch and St. Martin's, as well as numerous other peals, both on tower and handbells, and he will be remembered as a safe ringer and a good striker. At the time of the blitz Mr. Neale and his family returned to Norfolk for a time, and only went back to London six weeks before he died.

He was in his 80th year and leaves a widow, son and daughter.

The funeral took place at the City of London Cemetery on Wednesday, November 17th, and was attended by Messrs. G. Dawson, A. Hardy, F. C. Newman, A. Prior and G. W. Steere.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT LONG EATON.**

About twenty members were present at the quarterly meeting of the Nottingham Branch of the Midland Counties Association, held at Long Eaton on November 13th, and good use was made of the bells.

Tea was provided at the Co-operative Cafe, and at the meeting which followed the succeeding meetings were decided for Beeston on January 8th, the annual at Bulwell on February 5th, and Ilkeston on March 4th.

Concern was expressed at the continued absence of Mr. F. A. Salter, the late district secretary, due to ill-health, and the secretary was instructed to write him conveying the best wishes of the meeting for a full recovery and complete restoration to his former ringing activities.

Votes of thanks to the Vicar for use of the bells, to Messrs. Geary and Dawson for their help in arranging the tea and meeting, and to Mr. J. A. Barratt for presiding concluded the business.

MUFFLED RINGING.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—May I give the view of muffled ringing as rung in the district where I have lived a good many years?

For the usual muffled ringing, they were muffled at backstroke and changes rung the usual way, but on some occasions the whole pull way, which, as Mr. Rideout says, seems the most effective, in which we agree, and having heard from listeners how it appealed to them.

For the whole pull way only the plain course of Grandsire Triples was rung, which did not seem any more difficult, only required a little more patience. Where there were only six bells it was a course of Doubles, some suggested turning the tenor in, but most thought it would spoil the effect.

If they were muffled for a ringing member, the muffles were quickly removed and rung open with rounds, Queens and Tittums, then lowered in peal.

C. TYLER.

Henfield, Sussex.

DUTIES OF A RINGING MASTER.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—The letter from 'Orpheus' regarding the above provides a very interesting subject for discussion. It would appear that he is a ringer of no little experience and it is difficult to know whether oneself should be included in the category of the 'more experienced ringers.' However, I submit the following suggestions and hope to profit by articles from other quarters:—

In the first place, I think that the director of ceremonies should not only be a ringing master, but also a leader, otherwise many of his duties become very difficult if not impossible.

The first and foremost duty, I would suggest, is that he should be a regular attender and good timekeeper.

He should see that a high standard of striking is reached and, so far as is possible, maintained, particularly with regard to Sunday service ringing. His watchword should be 'progress' and this should be applied, wherever possible, to every member of the band. He should arrange a weekly practice and give encouragement and sympathetic consideration to learners.

In many cases the ringing master is also the steeplekeeper, but if not it is his duty to see that the bells are properly cared for and kept in good condition for ringing.

He should be the liaison officer between the Church authorities and the ringers and should be ready to deal reasonably with any problems that may arise. For this purpose he should maintain close contact with the clergy.

It is very advisable that he should arrange social functions occasionally to which his ringers' wives, sweethearts and friends may be invited.

He has a very special responsibility with regard to visitors to the belfry. Every stranger should be made welcome and the method ringing adapted to his capabilities.

A peal may be looked upon as a crowning glory and a reward for the labours of learning, and, therefore, an occasional peal should be arranged for as many of the band who are desirous and capable of ringing in it.

Finally, it is his duty to be of pleasing countenance. Quick thinking and speaking are necessary to prevent a trip in the ringing from developing into something more serious, but he should be very careful to see that sharp words do not give way to 'feeling' when the ringing is over.

The success or failure of any ringing band depends very largely upon the qualifications of the Ringing Master, but it must never be forgotten that his success depends entirely upon the support he receives from those under his command.

HAROLD J. POOLE,
Leicester Cathedral Ringing Master.

150, Narborough Road South, Leicester.

DEATH OF MR. R T. WOODLEY.

The death has occurred at Lowestoft on November 15th of Mr. R. T. Woodley, who in his younger days was well known as a ringer in London and as a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths. He was at one time hon. secretary of that society, being followed in the office by William T. Cockerill, and represented it on the Central Council, of which he was one of the original members. For the last 22 years he had been a regular member of the band at St. Margaret's, Lowestoft, and his keen interest in ringing affairs was shown by the letters from him we published from time to time. He had rung eleven peals for the Norwich Diocesan Association. At the time of his death he was 84 years old.

The funeral was on Saturday, November 20th, at St. Margaret's Church, and was attended by Mr. W. J. Lee, the chairman, and Mr. J. P. W. Harwood, the hon. secretary of the East Norfolk Branch of the Norwich Diocesan Association, and by Mr. A. E. Coeman, Master of the St. Margaret's company. Unfortunately, no ringers were available to ring muffled.

DEATH OF MR. M. J. EXETER.

The death is announced of Mr. M. J. Exeter, of Minster, Sheppey, who passed away on November 19th. He was for many years captain of the Minster band until ill-health compelled him to resign last August. Before going to Minster, Mr. Exeter was well known at Seal Chart, Hadlow, Elmsted and Doddington and had taken part in several peals.

The bells at Minster were rung half-muffled on Sunday, November 21st, in his memory.

HORTON RINGER'S GOLDEN WEDDING.

On Thursday, November 11th, Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Law, of Horton, Bucks, celebrated their golden wedding. Mr. Law is well known to ringing circles in the district, for, as captain of the local band, he has always made visiting ringers welcome. He has been a ringer at Horton for 56 years.

On the following Saturday a peal of Minor was attempted, but failed in the second 720, and owing to the early black-out the band had to be content with touches.

ST. MARY'S, WALTHAMSTOW.

A LECTURE GIVEN IN 1935.

By C. T. COLES.

(Continued from page 508.)

In 1897 a County Association was formed in Middlesex, which in 1903 became the London Diocesan Guild. The St. Mary's ringers were amongst the earliest members of this association and have consistently supported it. The first annual report of the Middlesex Association contains the names of some twelve St. Mary's ringers, possibly the whole of the effective membership. Nearly the whole of the present members of the St. Mary's Society are members of this association.

Several members, too, have been members of the St. James' Society, now the London County Association, a society which, under its earliest title, was founded over 100 years ago. It will therefore be seen that the St. Mary's ringers have, throughout the existence of the society, supported genuine efforts to uplift the status of ringers and ringing, and have not been merely content to let ringing matters drift along with the tide. Another instance of this is shown in their membership, in the 1880's, of the Wanstead Amalgamated Society, during that body's brief period of existence.

Mr. Maynard, in replying, of course expressed the pleasure of the ringers at having a peal of ten to ring on, and thanked the Vicar and churchwardens for what they had done. We are told that the proceedings were enlivened by songs by members of the choir and by selections by the Walthamstow String Band, and that a most pleasant evening was brought to a close by the singing of the National Anthem.

The third bell, which was the treble in the previous eight, was recast at this time, and the inscription on the original bell was reproduced. The tenor, however, which was recast in 1852, has no previous inscription shown.

With the restoration of the peal there came added enthusiasm for ringing, and many ringers from neighbouring towers were attracted by the ten bells. Consequently the St. Mary's ringers made great progress in the art. A great deal of ringing, other than for Sunday services, was done, and several peals, about which we shall hear more later, were recorded. As an encouragement, Thomas Maynard presented the society with a marble tablet, sufficiently lengthy to be placed on one wall of the belfry, on which has since been recorded several peals.

The practice night for many years was on Saturday. About 13 years ago it was altered to Tuesday, as all good husbands nowadays accompany their wives to High Street or some similar place on Saturday evenings. Besides ringing twice every Sunday, the bells are also rung every year on the King's birthday, on Empire Day, for early celebration on Easter Day and on Christmas Day, and on Easter Tuesday after the vestry meeting. Up to about ten years ago it was the practice to ring the bells after evensong on Sundays, but this ringing has been discontinued.

Another special occasion for ringing is on March 26th. By the will of the late Henry Turner, who died in 1907, a sum of money was left to the Vicar of this parish for the time being, to be held in trust, and 'to pay out of the income therefrom the cost of keeping in good repair the seven graves and tombs of my ancestors, and my own grave in the churchyard, and the expense of providing a supper for the bellringers for the time being of the Parish Church on the 26th day of March in every year, this being the anniversary of my death, and it is my wish, if the Vicar for the time being shall have no objection, that a peal of bells shall be rung on that day so that my memory may not be forgotten.' I need hardly add that the ringers do not forget to ring on this day.

During the later stages of the last war the bells were often not rung, as there were insufficient ringers left to carry on, but every endeavour was made by the older members to either ring some of them or to chime them. In January, 1916, a minute records that 'the police having issued instructions, through the Vicar, that the bells were not to be rung on New Year's Eve, they were, for the first time within the memory of the ringers, silent.' Since the war, the practice of ringing the old year out and the new year in has been continued without omission.

The members of the society lost one promising colleague during the last war, Benjamin J. Lock being killed in action in 1917, after nearly three years' service.

We must now turn to the ringing performances of the society, and in this connection it is true to say that there are few societies able to show such an interesting collection of peal records as those adorning the walls of the St. Mary's belfry. Some of these records show that the peals were rung by members of the society alone; others are of peals rung by members and visitors. In the belfry there are no less than 45 of these records; some take the form of marble tablets of different sizes; others are boards which take up considerable space; whilst others are much less pretentious, being illuminated cards, suitably framed. I need hardly say that only peals of some special interest, or peals that had been rung on the occasion of some event or anniversary of national interest, or of personal interest to the ringers themselves, are thus recorded; and there have been many more peals rung at St. Mary's Church than are recorded in the belfry.

The earliest peal of which a record finds a permanent place in the belfry is one of Grandsire Triples, consisting of the whole 5,040 changes possible on seven bells. Such a peal is quite a common event nowadays, but at that time it was no doubt considered well worth a peal board. The conductor was George Marriott, who was father-in-law of William D. Smith, one of the gentlemen previously mentioned as being at some time or other Master of the College Youths. The peal occupied the time of 2 hours and 57 minutes, and it was rung on May 18th, 1857. It is stated that this was the first peal on the bells for 27 years, and the name of the Rev. T. Parry, Vicar, appears at the foot of the board. George Marriott, the conductor, lived at Hackney.

(To be continued.)

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CENTRAL TOWERS.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 517.)

Another glorious Dorset ring of eight bells in a central tower is that of Kingston St. James', near Swanage. This church is one of George Street's, and was finished in 1880. A ring of eight was cast in 1878, but in 1920 they were all recast by J. Taylor and Co. and rehung with new fittings in the old frame. The tenor now weighs 28½ cwt. To get to the ringing room you enter a spiral stairway by a door between the west wall of the north-east transept, and north wall of the nave. At the top you cross the top of the vaulting of the chancel, then enter the ringing chamber through a tiny door approached by some very curiously cut block steps. The tower is at the east end of the church, and the belfry is thus over the chancel (choir stalls), and there is an apsidal sanctuary to the east end of it.

It may be the right thing to say that everything one touches in Stratford-on-Avon must be in some way connected with Shakespeare. This does not seem to hold good, however, in regard to the bells in the central tower and spire of the Parish Church of the Holy Trinity, for, whatever interests the great poet may have had beyond literature, we are not able to discover that he ever frequented the local belfry, and the information obtainable from the old vestry books is very scanty as to what bells hung in the tower in his day.

As early as 1502-3 it is recorded that John Bedill, alias Scatter, bequeathed 6s. 8d. to the reparation of the bells, and again in 1552 there is a note which runs as follows: 'Straatford-sup'-Avon. Itm there . . . ij belles Md. that the p'ishe have solde sithe' the Last Survey two broken bells to the maynten'nce of theire bridge the pavem'ts of the towne and the relief of the poore.'

Under the date October 24th, 1617, we read again, 'Item we were scited to Worcester because the church and Belles were out of order,' and on April 23rd, 1622—six years after the death of William Shakespeare—an order was given 'to cast two bells.' From this it may be inferred there were some bells, probably four or six, in the tower before 1683. In this year an entire ring of six was cast by Matthew Bagley, and probably the old bells were used to form part of this ring. Of these six bells the treble was recast in 1742 by Henry Bagley, and the third and sixth by Richard Sanders in 1733 and 1717 respectively.

Thus the ring appears to have remained until 1887, when two trebles were added by J. Taylor and Co. to commemorate the Jubilee of Queen Victoria. The old third and fourth were recast at the same time, and all the eight rehung in a new iron frame. The tenor is 18 cwt. approximately.

The only entrance to the belfry and tower is by a door *inside* the church, in the south-west pier of the central tower, so that the ringers, after ringing for divine service, emerge in full view of the congregation in the nave. The door is a fine specimen of Perpendicular period.

So far as I know, only four complete peals of 5,000 changes have been rung here—one each of Stedman and Grandsire Triples by St. Martin's Guild, Birmingham, one of Stedman Triples for the Midland Counties Association, and one of Kent Treble Bob Major by the Yorkshire Association.

St. Cuthbert's Church, Darlington, is a 12th century cruciform building, with central tower and lofty spire of the 14th century. Here the approach to the belfry is by a spiral staircase at the south-west corner of the south transept, and the door is in the churchyard. After climbing this stairway it is necessary to proceed the full length of the transept on a wooden gangway, which brings you to a platform in the tower very similar to the ringers' gallery at Southwell Minster. From this platform or gallery a wooden spiral staircase ascends to the belfry. There are eight bells, with a tenor 16½ cwt. Two trebles are by J. Warner and Sons, 1866; third and sixth, 1755; and seventh 1761, by Lester and Pack; fourth 1865, by Mears and Stainbank; fifth and tenor 1864, by G. Mears and Co.

The Parish Church of Cottingham, dedicated to St. Mary-the-Virgin, is acknowledged to be one of the finest churches in the East Riding of Yorkshire. It is a noble building of stone and consists of chancel, nave, transepts, aisles, with a lofty central tower containing eight bells and an excellent clock.

There is no doubt that a church existed at Cottingham and, it is believed, on the present site, several hundreds of years before the present structure was built. The first Rector can be traced to the year 1160. The transepts, tower and east part of the nave appear to have been built in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. The chancel was added a century later. The tower has double buttresses at the angles, which terminate above the battlements in small pinnacles, but whether these are original is open to conjecture. There is, however, a record in the old Churchwardens' Book of £31 17s. 6d. having been paid in 1744 for 'eight pinnacles setting upon ye Church of Cottingham, and £1 10s. for vanes for ye said eight pinnacles.'

The north-east corner of the tower is flanked by a conspicuous staircase turret leading to the tower roof, and approached by a doorway in the churchward. Although designed to carry a ring of bells—which it does—this tower had no means of access to them, hence the above-mentioned external stairway being erected. The ringers have to ascend right up to the bell chamber then, lifting up a trapdoor alongside the bell frame, go down again by a step ladder into a dungeon-like room with only one small window about 12in. square. The sallies of the bell ropes pass over the bell wheels, and naturally the noise while ringing is very great.

Four new bells were added to four ancient bells in 1897 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, and a new iron frame erected to carry them. The bells are dated thus: Treble, 1638, and bears the mark of G. Oldfield, of Nottingham; second, 1739, is by 'E. Sellor Ebor' (York); third, 1753, by G. Dalton, Ebor; fourth, 1795, by James Harrison, of Barton. The back four are by John Warner and Sons, of London.

(To be continued.)

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD MEETING AT NORTHAMPTON.

A meeting of the Northampton Branch was held at St. Giles', Northampton, on November 27th. Service, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. J. W. Augur, was followed by light refreshments in the Church Buildings. The business meeting was presided over by the Rev. M. L. Couchman, and arrangements for the annual meeting in January were agreed to. The bells were rung from 3.30 p.m. and after the business meeting.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. MEETING AT HESTON.

A meeting of the South and West District of the Middlesex County Association was held at Heston on November 20th, when about 20 members and friends were present from Ealing (Christ Church and St. Mary's), Feltham, Heston, Hillingdon (St. John's), Ruislip, Streat-ham, Twickenham and Uxbridge.

Ringling was carried on at intervals from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. in most of the standard methods, including a number of Surprise methods.

Tea and cakes, provided by the Vicar, the Rev. G. Craggs, were served in the Westbrook Memorial Hall.

At the business meeting an apology was made for the absence of the secretary, Mr. J. L. Cockey. Two new members were elected (Mrs. F. E. Collins, of Croydon, as a life member, and Mr. F. Digby, of Hammersmith), and votes of thanks were passed to the Vicar and to the local company, including Mr. H. C. Chandler.

'NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT.'

To the Editor.

Sir,—I have only just read Mr. Bond's letter in your issue of October 15th, and I feel it incumbent upon me to answer it.

Mr. Bond speaks after paying a single visit to the tower, which to me seems insufficient basis to rush into print with some rather sweeping statements.

After nearly a year's association with the band in question, I feel sure they do appreciate that they have a good peal of bells, although in my own opinion they are by no means exceptional. They are certainly not a good going peal, and are very difficult to hear when ringing, which makes good striking very difficult even by an experienced band.

I do know that war-time commitments of work and duty make serious restrictions on the ability of the members to meet regularly even for Sunday ringing. Mr. Bond will admit that a band being able to meet regularly will reach a consistently higher standard of ringing, and it is not surprising that in these circumstances the standard of ringing at this church is variable. I have had some good touches there when paying just such chance visits as that of Mr. Bond.

I know that the senior members of the band (and some of them are very senior) are endeavouring against some local difficulties to get training and practice for some, if not all, of those 'many people in the town who would be only too glad to learn to ring in order to keep their glorious ring going.' I have never met this enthusiasm myself in the town—and has anybody in any town?

I do know that the band always generously give any beginner (visitor or member) a fair pull, which indicates to me not only the band's hospitable spirit, but their desire to foster the progress of the Exercise. I am wondering also if Mr. Bond would care to admit his share in the vain attempt for the plain course of Grandsire which he mentions.

It is easy to criticise others, and speak airily of reforms without suggesting what they may be, or how they may be effected, but I do know that this band is not likely to co-operate with Mr. Bond in any of his reforms, on the strength of his single visit with its ensuing display of his technical ability and courtesy.

I also am a ringer in the Services, and it is only fair to the ringers in 'Civvy Street,' and to this local band in particular, that I should defend them after receiving unstinted friendship from them on all occasions, which is a surer way of promoting the Exercise than by hasty and ill-mannered criticism.

HOWARD MACKMAN.

[In the letter published on October 15th there was no hint as to the identity of any band criticised. 'The Ringing World' did not know; but took it as intended to be a typical example. We publish Mr. Mackman's letter in fairness, but we deprecate any further reference to the matter—Editor, 'The Ringing World'.]

BARNSLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY

MEETING AT CAWTHORNE.

A meeting of the Barnsley and District Society was held at Cawthorne on November 13th, at which the following towers were represented: Bushey, Darfield, Eastwood, Felkirk, Hoylandswaine, Penistone, Sandal, Silkstone, Sherburn-in-Elmet and the local belfry.

The business meeting was held in the Parish Room, with the Vicar, the Rev. F. B. Greenwood, in the chair. On the motion of Mr. J. W. Moxon, of Sandal, thanks were given to the Vicar for the use of the bells and for his welcome, and to the local company for the arrangements made. The Vicar assured all of a welcome to Cawthorne at any time they wished to visit it.

It was arranged to hold the next meeting in conjunction with the Doncaster Society and the Yorkshire Association at Doncaster on December 11th, and to hold a committee meeting at Barnsley on December 18th.

The methods rung ranged from Plain Bob to Cambridge Surprise, and touches of Bob Major were rung on handbells.

ENFIELD.—On Saturday, November 27th, on handbells at 45. Wallingham Road, 1.260 Stedman Triples: A. J. Wellman 1-2, Mrs. J. Thomas 3-4, J. Thomas 5-6, Mrs. G. W. Fletcher (conductor) 7-8. First touch of Stedman by ringer of 1-2, who is 15 years old.

SERVICE TOUCHES.

STEDMAN TRIPLES.

The treble is the observation bell. The course end is when the treble is a quick bell P signifies a plain unbobbed Six at the course end.

60

2314567

3425167 1 out quick
3451267 1 make bob
4165372 2 first whole turn
5214736 3 last whole turn
2351467 2 make bob
2314567 1 in quick

144

4732651 3 6-7 up

P 7516432 3

6243517 4 6-7 down

P 2317654 2

Repeated.

The treble is always a quick bell.

180

2314567

3425167 1 out quick
3451267 1 make bob
4165372 2 first whole turn
5214736 3 last whole turn
2351467 2 make bob
P 2316574 1

Twice repeated.

180

2314567

3425167 1 out quick

4675312 3 6-7 down

P 6512437 2

Four times repeated.

The treble is always a quick bell

240

2314567

3461275 2 make bob

4132675 1 in slow

6271345 6 make bob

6213745 1 in quick

Three times repeated.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT BITTON.

A meeting of the Bristol Rural Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association was held at Bitton on November 18th, and about forty members and visitors attended from Bath, Batheaston, Hal-latrow, Keynsham, Redhill (Surrey), Birmingham, Abson, Henbury, Coalpit Heath, Mangotsfield, Warmley and the local tower.

The service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. — Bell. At the business meeting votes of thanks were passed and some new members were elected. Mr. J. Jefferies spoke about 'The Ringing World' and said the paper was the only means ringers had to keep in touch with one another. It always contained some useful and interesting information.

The Chairman said his son, who was a ringer and in Italy, always asked for 'The Ringing World,' as it kept him in touch with the ringing activities at home. He (the chairman) hoped that all the members would get a weekly copy of the paper. He also welcomed the visitors.

The methods rung included Stedman, Plain Bob and Kent Treble Bob.

The next meeting will be the annual general meeting, to be held at Mangotsfield on Saturday, January 29th.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT CAERPHILLY.

A good muster of ringers attended the meeting of the Llandaff and Monmouth Association, held at Caerphilly on November 20th. Among them being the young members of the local band, who have been taught by Mr. Percy Jones.

Service at four o'clock was conducted by the Rector, assisted by the curate, and tea was at the King's Arms Hotel.

At the business meeting many new members were elected, and it was decided to hold the next meeting at Rumney. The bells were afterwards rung in various methods until late evening.

The meeting proved most successful, mainly through the efforts of the local ringers.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

All communications for this journal should be addressed to—

The Editor,

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Onslow Street,
Guildford, Surrey.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, Dec. 4th, 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 4.15; ringing at St. Michael's, Cornhill, Sunday, Dec. 5th, 10.30.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Southern Division.—Meeting at Henfield, Saturday, Dec. 4th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15.—Mrs. E. L. Hairs, Hon. Div. Sec., The Oaks, Theobalds Road, Burgess Hill.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan Branch.—Meeting at Wigan Parish Church, Saturday, Dec. 4th. Bells (10) 2.30 p.m. Tea at local cafe, 1s. 9d. each.—S. Forshaw, 55, Poolstock, Wigan.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Cheshunt, Saturday, Dec. 4th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting 5 p.m.—G. Radley, Dis. Sec., 18, Macers Lane, Wormley, near Hoddesdon, Herts.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wimborne Branch.—Annual meeting at St. James', Poole, on Saturday, December 4th, 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting in the Old Rectory 5.15.—C. A. Phillips, Hon. Branch Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at St. Giles', Norwich on Saturday, December 4th. Bells 2 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 4.45 (bring own food).—A. G. G. Thurlow, 52, The Close, Norwich.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—Meeting at Braintree, Saturday, December 4th, 2 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Meeting afterwards. Tea available in town.—H. G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION and EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.—Meeting at Tunbridge Wells on Saturday, Dec. 4th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—Meeting at St. John's Church, Blackpool, on Saturday, December 11th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided; bring food.—J. H. Foster, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—Meeting at Childwall (6 bells) on Saturday, Dec. 11th, 2.30. Service 5 p.m. Cups of tea provided.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—Meeting at Radcliffe-on-Trent, Saturday, Dec. 11th. Bells 2.30. Service 4.30, followed by tea, 1/9 per head, with use of Church Room for handbells, etc. Tower open until 7.30 p.m. Names for tea to reach me by Wednesday, Dec. 8th. — T. Groombridge, jun., 74, Dornoch Avenue, Sherwood, Nottingham.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Meeting at Shore, Littleborough, Saturday, Dec. 11th, 3 p.m. Own tea arrangements.—I. Kay, Sec.

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—Annual meeting at Claines on Sat., Dec. 11th. Bells (10) available from 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea and business meeting to follow. Names for tea before Tuesday, Dec. 7th.—E. F. Cubberley, Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—Meeting at St. Luke's, Derby, Saturday, Dec. 11th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Tea in Church Room 5 p.m.—Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec., 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch.—Meeting at Badby (6), Saturday, Dec. 11th. Bring food.—W. C. Moore, 5, Williams Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Devizes Branch.—Annual meeting at Melksham on Dec. 11th. Bells (8) at 3. Service 4.30. Light tea, with meeting to follow at 5 p.m. Send numbers for tea.—W. C. West, Hon. Sec., 584, Semington Road, Melksham.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Central Bucks Branch.—Meeting at Nether Winchendon, Saturday, Dec. 11th, 2.30 p.m. Service at 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Names for tea by Dec. 7th.—F. Gibbard, Hon. Sec., 30, Horn Street, Winslow, Bucks.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Meeting at Kings Langley on Saturday, Dec. 11th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Numbers for tea by the 8th.—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch.—Meeting at Christ Church, Swindon, on Saturday, Dec. 11th. Bells (10) from 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea by Wednesday.—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Rodbourne Cheney, Swindon, Wilts.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—North and East District.—Meeting at Barnet on Saturday, Dec. 11th. Bells 3 p.m. Tower blacked out. It is hoped to arrange tea for those who notify me by December 7th.—T. J. Lock, 57, Holloways Lane, North Mimms, Hatfield, Herts.

NORTH MUSKHAM, NEAR NEWARK.—Meeting on Saturday, Dec. 11th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. No tea arrangements.—H. Denman.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Annual district meeting at Baldock, Saturday, Dec. 11th, 3 p.m. Belfry blacked out. Tea 5 o'clock. Names for tea by Dec. 8th to Mr. A. E. Symonds, The Cottage, Windmill Hill, Hitchin.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—Meeting (with the Sheffield, Barnsley and Doncaster Societies) at Doncaster, Saturday, Dec. 18th, 2.30 p.m. Arrange own tea. Cafes near church. Business in Church Hall 5.45 p.m.—Sidney F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec.

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