

## ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting was held at St Martin in the Fields on the 1<sup>st</sup> January, for the year 1938, the attendance being rather small compared with Meetings of previous years. This was due to the absence of Country Members who had for many years past made a special effort to renew old acquaintances at these Annals and follow the business of the Society.

Tea was served in the Crypt, after an hour's singing. Here we were welcomed by the Vicar, the Rev. P. McCormick, who, in his short speech, expressed his great pleasure in seeing our new friend amongst us, the Rev. W. J. Simmons, the new Vicar of Shoreditch. The Master, in thanking the Vicar for his welcome, said he would also like the thanks of the Society to be conveyed to Miss Magnus and her assistants who, on so many occasions, had done so much to add to the joy of our annual gatherings.



The Business Meeting was held in the Vestry Hall, the first item on the Agenda being the Minutes of the previous meeting. These were read by the Secretary, and there being no questions relating to them Mr. L. Bayburt proposed they be signed. This was seconded by Mr. R. Devan and carried.

The Master next called upon the ~~Secretary to give his Report for the year.~~ Treasurer to read the Balance Sheet, which showed a balance in hand of £12-2-6. There being no questions, Mr. Newman proposed and Mr. Hare seconded that same be passed - Carried unanimously.

The next item on the Agenda was the Report, which was read by the Secretary. He stated that subscriptions to various charities and other deserving cases connected with ringing incidents had caused a considerable drain on the Society's finances, and it was due to the fact that members had agreed, unofficially, to pay a threepenny steeplesage instead of twopence, according to Rule, that our position on the Balance Sheet was so favourable; thus

it could be seen that the practices had been very well attended.

Regarding peals for the year, the disappointing total was six: - One 12-bell peal, two ten-bell peals and three eight-bell peals.

The Secretary mentioned that he had received numerous requests for Rule Books, both from old and new members, but owing to there being out of stock he was unable to supply them. It was therefore agreed that the proposal of Mr. Store, seconded by Mr. Bayburt be adopted, that Officers of Society to co-opt any members to study Rules with a view to reprinting.

The question of the Society's property was next considered, owing to the demolition of the "Ring of Denmark." Mr. Fussell asked if there was any possibility of the property being kept in the Church of St Martin-in-the-Fields, to which the Rev. McCormick replied he saw no objection whatever and would endeavour to make necessary arrangements for its safety.

Election of Officers. - Mr. S. Card proposed and Mr. R. Devan seconded that Mr. J. D. Matthews



be re-elected Master of the Society — Carried unanimously.

Secretary. — Mr. J. D. Matthews proposed and Mr. A. Garson seconded that Mr. J. Sparrow be re-elected, but Mr. Sparrow said he thought it better to have a change, he having held the position for the past six years. He, Mr. Sparrow, therefore proposed Mr. G. Card and Mr. J. Cornford seconded. Mr. Newman proposed and Mr. G. Cross seconded that Mr. Daybut be elected. Mr. G. Store was next proposed by Mr. Garson and seconded by Mr. W. Norton. There being three nominations, these were put to the vote, with the result that Mr. G. Card was elected Secretary, with 10 votes, as against Mr. L. Baybut, 9; Mr. G. Store, 5.

Treasurer. — Mr. R. Bevan proposed and Mr. J. Newman seconded that Mr. G. Store be re-elected. — Carried unanimously.

Trustees. — Mr. R. Brough <sup>proposed</sup> and Mr. R. Bevan seconded that Messrs. F. Smith and A. Hardy be re-elected. — Carried.

Auditors. — Mr. Card proposed and Mr. B. Audsley seconded that Messrs. R. Bevan and

J. Newman be re-elected. — Carried.

Stewards. — Mr. L. Baybut proposed and Mr. Bowden seconded that Messrs. C. Matthew and J. Bevan be re-elected Senior and Junior Stewards respectively. — Carried.

Ratifications. —

Mr. G. Cross, London; Mr. H. Howard, Grayford; Mr. E. J. Beer, Gravesend; Mr. R. W. Rex, Newbury; Mr. S. Linton, Newbury. Mr. G. Card proposed and Mr. J. Bevan seconded that all be ratified. — Carried.

New Member. — Mr. R. Bullen proposed and Mr. B. Audsley seconded that Mr. William J. <sup>Beer</sup> Bull, of Gravesend, be elected a member. — Carried.

Booking Peals. — In proposing that peals rung during the past year should be written in the Society's Peal Book, Mr. Brough asked that another person be entrusted with the work, owing to his (Mr. Brough's) inability to continue with it. Mr. G. Cross therefore proposed and Mr. R. Brough seconded that Mr. J. Newman be elected writer. — Carried.

Accounts. — Mr. A. Hardy proposed and



Mr. G. Card seconded that there be paid

Vote of thanks to Officers.— The Master, in reply to this, said he would like to thank the retiring Secretary, Mr. Sparrow, for his services to the Society during the past years.

This concluded the business, and the meeting closed with a few remarks from the Rev. W. J. Simmonds, who said it was his first visit to us, and he had thoroughly enjoyed it. Our work was most interesting to him, and he would ever be at our service if commanded.

Members then returned to the belfry for further ringing until 9 p.m.

John D. Matthews