

It is an interesting and engrossing art, which many persons in England have practised as an amusement. * * * From three bells six changes are derived; from four bells twenty-four changes; from five bells 120 changes, and so on until from twelve bells (the largest number ever rung in a peal) 479,001,600 changes are possible."

Mr. E. B. Osborn, in the *London Morning Post*, July 25, 1913, writes:

"Change-ringing, of course, is a comparatively modern invention. It is true we hear of guilds of bell-ringers at Westminster Abbey and other collegiate churches in pre-Reformation days. But these men, who were often clerics in minor orders, did not ring changes in the modern fashion. Indeed, the universal method of hanging bells in those far-off days effectually prevented them from making the almost complete revolution, starting from an inverted position, which causes the clapper to strike the ^{sound bar} ~~rim twice~~ at each stroke or pull of the rope, and is the essential feature of modern change-ringing. Nor is there a scrap of historical evidence to show that the pre-Reformation guilds had any knowledge of the various methods of ringing bells in succession but in a varying order which are known to the ringers of to-day. * * * Why change-ringing should be the Englishman's favourite form of bell music is, I think, easily explained. It involves much physical exertion, which tries, but need not overtax, as many muscles as are used in rowing, and is unquestionably one of the finest exercises known. * * *