

“Merthyr Express” 11 November, 1864

Opening of the Vochriw Schoolroom as a Place of Public Worship

“Merthyr Express” 10 March, 1865

Progress of the Age: Pantywaun School We are glad in being able to record the establishment of another Government school in the vicinity. We allude to Pantywaun, a small scattered mining district on the Rhymney mountain, between Rhymney and Dowlais, the inhabitants of which are chiefly employed by the Dowlais Iron Company. This has been erected entirely through the efforts of the Rev. G.C.F. Harris, Rector of Gellygaer, who has caused a very commodious school room to be erected, and has succeeded in providing funds for the support of a certificated teacher.

“Merthyr Express” 31 March, 1865

Pantywaun School We are glad to observe that the school has been so far advanced and completed, that it is announced to be opened on Monday next, 3rd April, 1865. The mistress selected for the very large number of candidates is Miss Tow of Helstone, Cornwall.

“Merthyr Express” 21 April, 1865

The Gellygaer Charities: Schools Inspections The Rev. J. Stammers, Chaplain to the Gellygaer Charities, inspected, officially, the Pontlottyn and Vochriw Schools on Friday last, 14 April 1865. The result of the examination is not yet known, but we think the reverend gentleman was highly satisfied with the progress made during the short time these establishments have been in operation. Both Mr. Porter and Mr. Jones (Head Teacher, Vochriw National School) are well spoken of.

“Merthyr Express” 14 July, 1865

Vochriw School Examined The Rev. J. Stammers, examiner to the Gellygaer Charities, examined Vochriw School last Friday.

“Merthyr Express” 2 September, 1865

Deri School If the establishment of schools is any criterion of the social and intellectual progress of the community, then the strides made in this locality have been exceptionally great. The start of no less than half a dozen elementary schools has been referred to in these columns in recent times, and now we add another to the list. The establishment of the school at Deri has been largely due to the efforts of the Rev. G.C.F. Harris, Rector of Gellygaer. Temporary buildings will be used until the new school is completed. A certificated teacher is to be employed. The foundation stone of the new building was laid last week by Rev. Harris.

“Merthyr Express” 26 February, 1866

Opening of Cwmysgwyddgwyn Chapel School The School Chapel in this beautiful little valley was opened on Friday last, 16th February. The School has a very high pitched roof and was built by Messrs. Price & Jones. It stands on the side of the hill close to Darren Station. Dinner was served at the Horse and Greyhound & the Bailey Arms. Present were the Rector of Gellygaer, Master Harries, Miss Watson, Rev. A. Stammers, Pengam, the Misses Johnson, Rhymney, Rev. E. Leigh, Tredegar, Rev. H. Lewis, Pontlottyn, Rev. W. Davies, Vochriw. Rev. E. Leigh preached in Welsh. At the evening service, the Rev. H. Hopkins, Beaufort, preached in Welsh.

“Merthyr Express” 31 March, 1866

Scholastic News The Rev. A. Stammers has been making his tour of inspection of the National Schools connected with the Gellygaer parish. All are reported to be in good condition. The Pantywaun School under Miss Tolls is highly recommended.

“Merthyr Express” 5 May, 1866

School Inspections The Gellygaer Schools, comprising Pontlottyn and Vochriw, have been examined by Her Majesty’s Inspector of Schols, Rev. H Binns. We understand that both schools have been very successful this year.

“Merthyr Express” 12 May, 1866

School Inspection The mixed school at Pantywaun was inspected by Rev H. Binns on Tuesday last. The school is reported to be in a flourishing condition, both in respect of attendance, and as regards general efficiency of scholars, a fact speaking much of the teaching, when we remember the school is only in its infancy, the isolation of the district,

and moreover, that many of the scholars on their admittance, are quite ignorant of the English language.

“Merthyr Express” 29 December 1866

Vochriw Schoolroom We have ascertained that the Vochriw Schoolroom has not been consecrated and that the grant of £3-11-10 reported to have been made to the school was for the first three months after the appointment of a certified teacher, i.e. for the year ending March 31, 1865 and not for the whole year. The grant for the year ending 31st March 1866 was £18-00-02.

“Merthyr Express” 5 March 1870

Educational Meetings: Mr. Foster’s Bill A public meeting was held on Tuesday week, at Twyn Carno Schoolroom, for the purpose of considering Mr. Foster’s Educational Bill now before the House of Commons. Mr. John Lewis presided. There were also present the Revs. Aaron Davies, E. Evans, J.P. Williams, Messrs. Koverschief, Prosser, Jones, Protheroe, and several other gentlemen who take great interest in the matter. The chairman, after alluding briefly to the object of the meeting, called on the Rev. E. Davies to speak on the subject. Mr. Davies spoke at some length and explained the disadvantages that the Bill would cause to non-conformists, and at the conclusion moved the following resolution: “That this meeting greatly laments that the educational measure of the government contains plans of action altogether inconsistent with nonconforming consciences. This meeting desires that Mr. H. Richard and his fellow representatives from Wales in Parliament should oppose the measure to the utmost, because if this measure becomes law, it will be the means of oppressing dissenters, and will destroy all the value of the labours and sacrifices in connection with British Schools.” This was seconded by Mr. Koverschief who spoke mainly on the same side, and carried. The Revs. M. Wright and Aaron Davies also agreed with the first speaker. Another meeting was held on Monday last at Moriah Chapel. It was agreed that the Bill should not be condemned entirely. A Committee was appointed to select the portions of the Bill that were suitable, and to reject the others, and it was also resolved to forward the suitable portions to the promoters of the Bill as early as possible.

A meeting was also held at Ponttodyn on Thursday last, full particulars of which will appear later.

“Merthyr Express” 12 March 1870

Laying the Foundation Stone of Deri British School Great was the excitement and bustle in the usually quiet and rapidly progressing village of Deri on Monday last, on the occasion of laying the foundation stone of the British School. At 1 o’clock, all the school children assembled in Bethel chapel, and were joined by the Sunday Schools of the different denominations of the place, together with the committee of the British School, and forming a procession, they marched to Plasycloed, the residence of the chairman of the committee. From thence they wended their way to Deri House and Bargoed Inn, and then ascended the Darren Hill as far as the residence of Mr. Watson, escorting from thence C.H. James, Esq, Merthyr, and his lady, to the ground where the new school room is to be built, and on which a goodly number of people had assembled. Mr. James stated the object of their meeting. Mr. J.M. Davies, Plasycloed, presented Mrs. James, on behalf of the British School Committee, with a silver trowel for the service of laying the foundation of the Deri British School. Mrs. James then, in a graceful manner, then proceeded with her allotted task, which she performed in a satisfactory if not “workmanlike” manner, amidst great cheering. Afterwards, the schoolchildren were regaled with tea and cake which were supplied by the committee. A lecture was delivered the same evening in the Calvinistic Methodist Chapel by Dr. Rees of Swansea, the proceeds of which went to aid the British Schools.

“Merthyr Express” 7 May 1870

H.M.I. at Vochriw H.M.I. Rev. Binns visited Vochriw school on Tuesday week.. 80 pupils were examined. A tea party, given to the children of the National School by the Rev. G.C.F. Harries, was held on Friday last.

“Merthyr Express” 4 February 1871

Adoption of a School Board in Gellygaer The result of the polling on Monday as to the adoption of a School Board for the parish of Gellygaer, was officially known on Wednesday

morning, when Mr. Frank James, the summoning officer, cast up the votes at the Boardroom of the Workhouse as follows, giving a majority for the Board of 127.

	For the Board	Against the Board
Gellygaer Booth	93	98
Deri	138	55
Pontlottyn Upper with Vochriw	155	193
Pontlottyn Lower and Tir Phil	221	144
Newton with Pantywaun	62	52

“Merthyr Express” 24 June 1871

Gelligaer School Board The monthly meeting was held on Friday at the Reading Room, Pontlottyn. There were present: Mr. J. Rees (in the chair); Mr. E. Lewis, and the Revs. A. Davies and J.P. Williams. A report was read from Mr. J. Williams of Merthyr with regard to the Deri British School, and it was resolved that the offer of the committee be accepted, and that the Clerk apply to the Education Department for leave to take the said school. Having read the report of the statistical committee, it was ordered that an application be made Registrar General for copies of the Census return of children between the ages of 3 and 5, and 5 and 13 in Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the parish. A map of the parish, prepared by Mr. F. James, was approved. The Rev. A. Davies gave notice that at the next meeting he would move that they erect a school at Pontlottyn to accommodate 350 children, and another at Vochriw for 130. A petition presented by Carmel Chapel, Vochriw, asking the Board to erect a school there of a non-denominational character was received. The meeting was adjourned to June 30 for a report from the Statistical Sub-Committee.

“Merthyr Express” 29 July 1871

Gelligaer School Board The monthly meeting of the Board was held on the 21st inst. at the Reading Room, Pontlottyn, when there were present Mr. J. Rees, in the chair, Revs. J.P. Williams, A. Davies, and Mr. J. Lewis. It was resolved that the transfer of the Deri British School to the Board be proceeded with at once.

The report of the Statistical Sub-Committee for Vochriw children is as follows:

Number of children aged 3 to 13 is 266; 3-5 = 64; 5-13 = 202.

Deduct 7% for absentees = 247.

The National School provides places for 127 children. With increasing population the new school should be built for at least 150. Present accommodation = 127; deficiency = 139.

“Merthyr Express” 26 August 1871

Gellygaer School Board The monthly meeting was held last Friday at the Reading Room, Pontlottyn. The Board met with the Education Department Inspector. An elaborate report was read by the Clerk relative to the Gellygaer Charities which were left to the parish by Edward Lewis of Gilfach Bargoed in 1715. It was resolved to publish 200 copies of the report explaining the Charities for parishioners.

“Merthyr Express” 23 September 1871

Gelligaer School Board The monthly meeting took place on Tuesday at Pontlottyn Reading Room. The members present were Mr. G. Martin, Mr. J. Rees, Messrs R. Laybourne, J. Lewis, the Revs. Aaron Davies & J.P. Williams. It was resolved that members Martin, Lewis and Revs. Davies and Williams should meet at Fochriw on Monday to decide a site for the Board School.

On Monday, the Committee met at Vochriw, and after inspecting various sites, selected a spot of ground near the Railway Station for the building of a Schoolroom.

“Merthyr Express” 21 October 1871

Gellygaer School Board An adjourned meeting of the Board was held at the Reading Room, Pontlottyn, when the following were present: Mr. J. Rees, vice-chairman, (in the chair); Revs. Aaron Davies, J.P. Williams and Mr. J. Lewis. With regard to the new school site at Vochriw, it was proposed by the Rev. A. Davies, seconded by the Rev. J.P. Williams, and carried, “that the vice-chairman wait upon Mrs. Williams, the owner of the land, and negotiate with her for the ground.”

“Merthyr Express” 25 November 1871

Gellygaer School Board The ordinary monthly meeting was held on Friday last, at the Reading Room, Pontlottyn, when there were present Messrs. G. Martin, chairman, J. Rees, vice-chairman, R. Laybourne, James Lewis, and the Revs. Aaron Davies and J.P. Williams. The Clerk called attention to some correspondence from the owners of land selected as a site for the new school at Vochriw, and also, to an offer of land by the Dowlais Iron Company. After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed to leave the matter in the hands of the Building Committee, who would visit both sites on the 27th inst., and would report progress at the next meeting.

“Merthyr Express” 23 December 1871

Gellygaer School Board The monthly meeting was held on Friday last at the Library, Pontlottyn. Vochriw Building Site The committee appointed in connection with a new school at Vochriw, presented a draft plan of the piece of ground selected. It is a piece of common ground near the Dowlais Iron Company’s colliery, and they raise no objection to that land being used for that purpose. It was therefore resolved that the offer of the Dowlais Company be accepted with thanks, and that the Clerk write to Mr. Lewis, the Marquis of Bute’s agent, to obtain a grant for the site from His Lordship.

“Merthyr Express” 24 February 1872

Gellygaer School Board The ordinary monthly meeting was held on Friday last at the Rising Sun Inn, Vochriw, when the members present were Messrs. G. Martin, chairman, J. Rees, vice-chairman, J. Lewis, and the Revs. G.C.F. Harries, J.P. Williams, and A. Davies. The Vochriw Site It was resolved that as soon as Lord Bute’s consent is obtained, that the following gentlemen make arrangements with the architect: Messrs. G. Martin, J. Lewis, and the Revs. J.P. Williams and A. Davies.

“Merthyr Express” 8 February 1873

Gelligaer School Board The ordinary monthly meeting was held on Thursday. A letter was read from Messrs Luard & Shirley, agents to the Marquis of Bute, offering a piece of common land for the building of a school at Fochriw for £50. It was proposed by the Rev. A. Davies, and seconded by Mr. J. Lewis, that the offer be accepted, and that a cheque be made up and forwarded forthwith. This was agreed.

“Merthyr Express” 26 July 1873

Gelligaer School Board The contract for the building of the Fochriw Board School has been signed. A request from Mr. Thomas Jones for permission to build next to the school was refused.

“Merthyr Express” 29 August 1874

Gelligaer School Board Rev. J. P. Williams moved the engagement of a female ex-pupil teacher at Fochriw Board School, and this was passed. The day for the opening of the new Fochriw Board School was postponed to 3rd September 1874 when Messrs. G. T. Clark, Dowlais, G. Martin, C. H. James, Methyr & others will be present.

“Merthyr Express” 12 September 1874

The Gelligaer Schools: Meeting of the New Governing Body The first meeting of the Governors of the Gelligaer Educational Charity, under the scheme of the Endowed Schools Commissions, was held on Tuesday at the schools, Pengam. The new governing body consists of ten members, five of them co-optative and five elective. Of the former, consisting of the Ven. Archdeacon Blosse, Mr. G. T. Clark, Mr. Charles H. James, Mr. Samuel Homfray, and Mr. G. G. Thomas, all with the exception of Mr. C. H. James, were trustees under the old regime, the later gentleman owing his position to the wish expressed by a large number of the Dissenters in the parish to have his name or that of Capt. E D. Williams (Maesyruddud) among the co-optative governors; but it was found out that the last named gentleman was a lessee of the coal under the Charity, and consequently ineligible. The whole of the new governors were present on this occasion. Their names are as follows: The Venerable Archdeacon Blosse, the Rev. Aaron Davies, the Rev. Richard Williams, Messrs. G. T. Clark, Samuel Homfray, G. W. G. Thomas, Chas. H. James, Ed. D. Williams, Lewis D. Rees, and Daniel Seys Lewis. The Rev. Archdeacon Blosse was appointed to the chair for the transaction of preliminary business. It was then proposed by the Rev. Aaron Davies, and seconded by Mr. C. H. James, that Mr. G. T. Clark be appointed chairman for

the ensuing year. This was carried unanimously. It was proposed by the Rev. Richard Williams, and by Mr. D. Seys Lewis, that Mr. C. H. James be appointed vice-chairman for the year. Mr. Frank James, Merthyr, was appointed Clerk, and Mr. Thomas Jones Evans of the Brecon Old Bank, Merthy, was appointed Treasurer. The master of the schools at Pengam, Mr. A. T. Pullin, gave a full report on the present state of the schools.

School Boards In Glamorgan From a Parliamentary return made up to June last, and just issued, we learn the following particulars as to the cost of School Boards in Glamorganshire, in their various particulars. At the date of the return there appear to be 19 Boards already established. Gelligaer - Cost of first election £9 4s.; cost of second (first triennial) election, £33 14s. 6d.; cost of establishment, £294 12s. 3d.; cost of erection of schools, £4,355 14s. 7d.; cost of maintenance of schools, £1,302 15s. 4d.; other expenses, £114 17s. 3½d.; total expenditure, £6,110 17s. 10 ½d.; rateable value of the district, £70,213; gross amount for which precepts have been issued, £1,600; annual amount per £ in rateable value, 1s. 7d. Merthyr Tydfil - Cost of erection of schools, £7,819 18s. 3d.; cost of maintenance of schools £3,408 [?] 17s. 4d.; total expenditure, £12,704 12s. 1d.; rateable value of the district, £135,527 12s. 6d.; annual amount per £ in rateable value, 2s. 6d.

“Merthyr Express” 17 October 1874

Gelligaer Endowed Schools At the second meeting of the new governing body, Mr. Frank James applied on behalf of the Highway Board, for permission of the governors for the formation of a road from Deri to Bargoed. He explained that although there was a railway between the two places, there was no road.

Gelligaer School Board The ordinary meeting of the Board was held on Thursday afternoon, the 8th instant, at the Board room, Pontlottyn schools, when there were present - the Revds. A. Davies (chairman), R. Williams, J. Griffiths, and J. P. Williams, and Mr. Matthews. Mr. J. Davies acted as deputy clerk. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Lack of Duty Arising out of the minutes passed at the previous meeting, it appears that a committee had been appointed to ascertain the general rate of pay given to pupil teachers of the schools in the neighbouring district; but the committee had neglected its work, and had not yet met. Rev. J. P. Williams was entrusted with the duty of convening the committee. Current Expenditure The Clerk had prepared and sent in an estimate of the aggregate expenditure the Board would require for the next six months, the various items amounting to £1,405. The Clerk was instructed to declare a precept for the sum required to meet the necessary expenditure of the Board. Loan of The Deri Board School On behalf of the inhabitants of the locality, the Rev. J. E. Griffiths made an application to the Board for the use of the Deri school for the convenience of the practice of a brass band which was now starting in the place. This was granted, on condition of the payment of a sum of 10s., exclusive of cleaning, and the proper arrangement of the school furniture.

“Merthyr Express” 14 November 1874

Gelligaer School Board The ordinary monthly meeting of the Board was held on Thursday last, when there were present the Revs. A. Davies (chairman), J. P. Williams and A. Williams, and Mr. Matthews.

School Attendance The attendance officer reported that Daniel Williams had not complied with the order of the Board to send his children to school; Isaac Richards had been sent to gaol for felony; and in the case of Sullivan, some of his children had been attacked with measles, and the Rev. A. P. Wilson had refused to admit them to school until they were totally cured, so as to prevent the other children of the school being likewise attacked.

Several persons were again called before the Board to answer the reason why their children did not attend school, the first of whom was the guardian of Mary and Johanna Corbett, who, it was stated, had been deserted by their parents, who had gone to America. They were now under the guardianship of their grandfather, and usually attended the Roman Catholic School. In such a case the chairman said that they could not pay towards the education of the children attending such schools, as they had decided not to pay the fees of other children only those who attended the Board schools. Mr. Matthews: Have you applied to the Board of Guardians? Attendance Officer: No; not for the school fees; but when they applied for poor

relief they were ordered into the house. Mr. Matthews: I should not like others to come to this Board under similar circumstances.

Eliza Cornelius also appeared for the same cause, who, in compliance with the order of the officer, had sent two of her children to school, but that the other two did not go as they were without shoes, and living at the Gwrhyd; but as soon as she would be able to have shoes for them, they would be sent to school. Rev. R. Williams: When will that be? No reply. Rev. R. Williams: Will it be next week? Mrs. Conelius: Don't know, sir. I shall try to do it. Mrs. Cornelius stated that her husband was employed as out-door fitter, at the Rhymney works: a class of men which are generally in receipt of good wages. Ultimately she promised to send her children to school.

Harriet Jones, a widow from Vochriw, was reported by the officer, and she appeared before the Board requesting the remission of school fees for three of her children attending the Vochriw Board School. The attendance officer reported the amount of earnings received into the house, which was £1 13s. per week, and likewise the number of family which is eight. Rev. R. Williams to applicant: Will you assist the Board by paying for one of the children if the Board should agree to pay for the other two? Mrs. Jones: It will be very hard for me to do so. In reply to a question she stated that the eldest boy was occasionally ill, by which he lost a good deal of his time. Mr. Matthews: If the Board will pay the fees in this case we shall soon have half the parish to apply for the remission of school fees. Rev. J. P. Williams: We have nothing to go by in deciding the question of the remission of school fees but the plea of poverty of the parent or guardian in care of the children; and we have no right whatever to calculate on the earnings of brothers with the view to compel them to pay the school fees of their brothers and sisters. The Clerk said he had no doubt that Mr. Williams was legally right. The Chairman observed that whether he was legally right he did not know, but certainly he could not be morally so. Subsequently, the Rev. R. Williams proposed, and it was ultimately resolved, that the Board should pay the school fees of two of these children for two months; and the mother to pay for one of them.

Susan Llewellyn, another widow from Vochriw, applied for the remission of school fees for two of her children. The Attendance Officer, in stating the amount of income received into the house said that there were four lodgers; and that Llewellyn was in receipt of £1 10s. per quarter for cleaning the Vochriw school; and also a daughter was engaged in service at Hirwaun. The Rev. J. P. Williams said he disapproved of the conduct of raking up the earnings of a daughter at Hirwaun; if they are able to support themselves, it is quite sufficient for them without asking them to contribute to the education of the members of the family. I cannot approve of the behaviour of the Merthyr Board of Guardians in cases of this character, to be introduced and carried on in this Board. Clerk: They have carried that resolution by majority, Mr. Williams. Chairman: There is no harm in knowing such things. Mr. Matthews thought there was sufficient income coming into this house to enable them to pay the school fees of these children. The Rev. J. P. Williams did not see that she (Mrs. Llewellyn) deserved any assistance as in the other case; as although she had previously secured aid from the Board for the education of her children, she had been brought before the Board for neglecting to send them to school. He would move, therefore, that the fees in this case be not remitted. Mr. Matthews seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

Salary of Pupil Teachers The Chairman said that unfortunately no report on the general amount of salary paid to pupil teachers of the schools in the surrounding districts could be laid before the Board, as two attempts to hold a committee meeting had been made, but both were unsuccessful. The Rev. J. P. Williams said that they did not desire to meet, or else they could have done so. Rev. R. Williams: Supposing Mr. Williams, that you would place before the Board a scale which you think a sufficient remuneration. Mr. Matthews agreed to this suggestion on condition that the Rev. Mr. Williams would modify his terms of language. He (Mr. Matthews) was a member of the committee, and it was his desire to meet with the other members, but he was so far pressed with other business that he could not attend. Rev. J. P. Williams said they had intended to meet at one o'clock p.m. today, and he had actually gone over to the Vochriw for the purpose of regretting the attendance of Rev. J. E. Griffiths, who

promised to do so, as did all to the Chairman; but neither of them put in an appearance. However, as a member of the committee, he had made enquiries, and would propose a scheme. He had found that at Merthyr they were in the habit of advancing more at the termination of the period than any other part of the year, the amount being advanced the last year to the extent of £5. He also had made enquiries of Pengam and Rhymney, where it was found they advanced the same amounts each year. As such he would propose the following rules of payment: To the boys for the first year, £10; 2nd £18; 3rd £16; 4th £20; and the last year, £24. To the girls he would propose: For the first year £8; 2nd £10 10s.; 3rd £18; 4th £16; last year, £10. Rev. R. Williams: What standard must children pass before they can be entered as pupil teachers? Rev. J. P. Williams: Reading and writing, together with the first four rules, and should be in the 5th standard geography, and grammar must be added. Rev. R. Williams: Have you children in the school at present qualified for that course? Yes; but our schools have only recently been opened. Rev. R. Williams observed that £10 per annum was a small stipend for boys at the age of 18. The Chairman remarked that an increase made in the respective years would be the means of inducing parents to keep their children as pupil teachers. Rev. R. Williams seconded the proposal of Rev. J. P. Williams as to the scale of payment [which was to apply from the current year].

Finances The Clerk read the abstract of the accounts for the past six months, from which it appeared that the total income amounted to the sum of £5,144 16s. 9d., and the expenditure to the sum of £4,116 10s. 6d. It was unanimously resolved that the foregoing abstract be advertised in the “Merthyr Express.”

“Merthyr Express” 12 December 1874

Gelligaer School Board The ordinary monthly meeting of the Board was held on Thursday week at the Boardroom, Pontlottyn, when the following members were present: Revs. A. Davies (chairman); J. P. Williams and J. E. Griffiths; and Messrs. D. Morgan and J. Matthews; J. Davies deputy clerk; J. D. Jones attendance officer; and J. Williams architect.

Irregular Attendance The subject of irregular attendance at school was introduced, and Mrs. Williams of Brithdir appeared before the Board to answer for the irregular attendance of her children at school. David Castor, the parent of one child, Jonah Merchant, the father of two children, and John Harris of Pontlottyn, who neglected to send a child to his school, were also ordered to appear before the Board, but did not, all three of whom had sent word promising to send their children to school in future, as also did Mrs. Williams of Brithdir, and in case such a promise should not be complied with, all the parties will be summoned forthwith.

Attendance And Payment Of School Fees The following monthly report of the attendance officer was read:

Name of School	Vochriw	Deri	Pontlottyn Boys	Pontlottyn Girls
Average number present per week	138	98.6	69.3	78.9
Number on register	180	129	89	116
School fees received	£4-15-5	£3-15-8	£2-10-7½	£2-0-10
School pence in arrears	£3-14-11	£5-5-6	£2-5-7½	£4-8-4

[Also Data for Troedyfuwch, Bargoed mixed, Bargoed infants, Pontlottyn infants, New Town]

“Merthyr Express” 6 February 1875

Gelligaer School Board The ordinary monthly meeting of the Board was held on Thursday afternoon at the Board-room of the Pontlottyn Board Schools, when there were present the Revs. A. Davies (chairman); J. P. Williams, J. E. Griffiths and R. Williams; and Messrs. J. Matthews and D. Morgan; together with Mr. F. James, clerk; J. Davies, deputy clerk; J. Williams, architect; J. D. James, attending-officer.

The Loan of Board Schools for Religious Purposes An application was received by the Board from Shiloh Baptist church and congregation, Brithdir, which was duly signed by the deacons of the church, and also recommended by the Rev. J. Lloyd, Ebenezer, Merthyr; Rev. E. Evans, Caersalem, Dowlais; Rev. T. Owen, Elim, Penydarren; T. G. Davies, Hebron, Dowlais; and J. Jarman, Tabernacle, Deri; requesting the Board to rent them the use of the Vochriw Board School for the term of six months, for the purpose of holding religious

services for the Baptist denomination of the localities. The application, which was the first of its nature which had been laid before the Board, was the means of creating considerable discussion on the subject, wherein all the members openly expressed their various opinions, but as no precedent of a similar character had been laid before them, and for the purpose of avoiding all unpleasantness and jealousies among the different denominations of the parish, which may in future arise out of this question, the Board resolved, on the motion of Mr. J. Matthews, seconded by Mr. D. Morgan, "That the Board school be not allowed for the purposes of holding religious services, nor for any religious purpose whatever." The motion was agreed to unanimously.

School Attendance An application was received from Mrs. Morgan of Farm Road, Pontlottyn, requesting that the Board would allow her daughter who is about ten years of age, an absence of leave from school for a certain time so as to enable her to assist her mother in domestic duties, especially that of nursing twins. There were seven children in the family so that the help of the girl at home would be most serviceable. The request was favourably received by the Board, and they then unanimously agreed to request the mother to send the child to school as a half-timer. Report of the Attendance Officer The monthly report of the officer was read by the Clerk, from which it appeared that application had been made by him for eight summonses at Caerphilly, in consequence of irregular attendance of children at school in the localities of Vochriw, Deri and Bargoed. It also showed that an increase in school attendances had been made in all the schools of the district; and that the school fees were fairly well paid up. The various items as shown in the report referred solely to the Board Schools of the parish, and to the Pontlottyn National School; no returns having been received or made as regards the other denominational schools of the parish. It was thought that the Board should be informed as to the state of attendances at these schools, with the view of seeing that every child in the parish did attend some school. The Rev. J. P. Williams requested to know why a similar return was not made as regards the other schools of the parish, so that a fair idea could be formed, and they could ascertain the true state of school attendances throughout the parish. The Clerk remarked that it was the duty of the Board to see that every child of a certain age throughout the parish did attend school. J. P. Williams then observed that the Board ought to satisfy themselves that four hours daily of secular instruction was given in these denominational schools, and if a full investigation of the matter was made, it might be found that such was not the case; and that school hours were used for other and less useful purposes than imparting elementary education to the children attending there. After some further conversation on the subject, the attending officer promised to look into the matter.

Finance Cheques were ordered to be drawn for the following amounts: Mr W. Jones, builder of the Gelligaer Village School, £150; the treasurer of Troedyfuwch school, £35; the treasurer of Vochriw school, £45.

"Merthyr Express" 5 February 1876

Gellygaer School Board The ordinary monthly meeting of the Board was held on Thursday last, when there were present the Rev. A. Davies (chairman), J. P. Williams, J. E. Griffiths, R. Williams, and Mr. D. Morgan, Mr. J. James (clerk), J. Davies (deputy clerk), J. Williams (architect), and J. Jones (attendance officer).

Assistant Mistress to Vochrhiw School The Clerk read four applications for this appointment:- Miss Martha Evans, National School, Tredegarville, Cardiff; Miss M. A. Vaughan, Board Schools, Cefncoedcymer; Miss Mary Jane Fowler, Brynmawr; and Miss Mary Davies, Infants School, Cwmavon. The Chairman, having spoken highly of Miss Vaughan, proposed that she be appointed. Rev. J. P. Williams observed that on the excellent testimonial of Rev. C. J. Thompson of Cardiff, he would propose the appointment of Miss Martha Evans. Rev. R. Williams seconded the amendment of Rev. J. P. Williams, which, on being put to the meeting, was agreed to. The Chairman then drew the attention of the Board to the fact that in case Miss Evans could not come, as had been done on other occasions, another of the candidates should be selected, and he would again propose that Miss Vaughan be appointed. He thought that no one knew better than the masters who were the most suitable persons to occupy such positions, and as they were thought to assist the Board in

carrying out the work of education; the Board should show them respect enough to rely upon them when recommending anyone for an engagement under the Board. Rev. J. E. Griffiths proposed the appointment of Miss Davies of Cwmavon. Rev. J. P. Williams observed that the opinion of the masters could not always be relied upon. For instance, the Board would well remember the case of a master who was furnished by another who they knew, with an excellent testimonial, and a retort was given, "Masters will do these things." This led him not to rely too much on their opinions. The proposition was then passed in favour of Miss Davies.

Extra Monitor The Rev J. E. Griffiths reported that the number of children attending the Board school at Vochrhiw was so large that the managers had been under the necessity of engaging the services of another monitor to assist in carrying on the work of the school. He would now request the Board to confirm the action of the managers. It was unanimously resolved that the extra monitor engaged be retained.

Neglecting School Attendance Mrs. French, wife of Thomas French of Vochrhiw, was ordered to appear before the Board in consequence of an order from the attendance officer for not sending her children to school, four of whom were of school age. A long and desultory tale was told by Mrs. French, pleading poverty, and stating that the amount of earnings received into her house did not exceed the sum of £1 between the husband and another boy, and claiming also the right of educating her own children. As the story of Mrs. French was not considered feasible, and was ultimately rejected by the Board, it was ordered "that she be requested to send her children to school, and in case of default that they be proceeded against."

"Merthyr Express" 1 April 1876

Gellygaer School Board: Timetables of the Schools The Rev. J. P. Williams desired to lay before the Board a few remarks upon the matter. He said that it was now drawing to the close of the school year, and masters and mistresses would have to submit the time tables of their respective schools to H. M. Inspector of Schools for approval. He was of the opinion that previous to their being submitted, they should also be placed before the Board for their inspection, so that the Board might know what was taught in their schools. Holding that view of the matter, he begged leave to propose "That exact copies of the time table which will be of use in the schools of the Board for the ensuing year, be submitted by their respective head teachers to a committee, consisting of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Revs. J. E. Griffiths and J. P. Williams, and Messrs. J. Matthews and D. Morgan for examination and approval, before being presented to H. M. Inspector for his approval on behalf of the Education Department." The Chairman explained the object of Mr. Williams's motion. It was principally because of the regulations of the Bargoed joint schools; and as he was given to understand, the question would very soon be laid before the Bedwelty School Board, after which it would inevitably crop up again before this Board; he did not know that it would be wise on their part to originate discussion on the subject. Rev. J. P. Williams: I should like to say that in moving the resolution I aim to have some degree of uniformity of teaching in our schools; for it is now well known that in one or two of our schools they had the reading of the Bible, and a short prayer offered at the commencement of the school duties, whilst at other schools they did not do so. I think that if it is good for one it is good for the others. It is my desire that the Board should assist the masters in drawing up the regulations for their schools. The Chairman was also of the opinion that uniformity of teaching should be secured at all their schools.

Mr. Morgan asked if the motion of Mr. Williams would be passed as a precedent? Rev. J. P. Williams believed that the time tables should be submitted for the Board's examination, for when they rightly discharge their duties others got the praise, and when anything was done wrong the Board was to blame for it. And in this case, if a prayer and hymns was allowed in one school it should be ordered in all the schools. Mr. D. Morgan: It is still the religious question. Rev. R. Williams: Yes, some religious matters were carried on in connection with other school duties. Mr. Morgan desired to impress upon them, not to create an ill-feeling amongst them by the introduction of this question, and by so doing disturb the peace which has pervaded the doings of the Board since its existence. In referring to the Bedwelty Board, he said that that Board was so much taken up with matters upon which the members were divided that no work had been done by them, and he attributed the success of this Board to its

moderation, and he still advocated moderation in the proceedings, for he might assure them that when they went to extremes it would surely turn out a failure. Rev. R. Williams concurred in the opinion expressed by Mr. Morgan, and thought that the passing of Rev. J. P. Williams's resolution was premature. It was decided to await the decision of the Bedwellty Board.

"Merthyr Express" 29 April 1876

Gelligaer School Board The ordinary monthly meeting of the Board was held on Thursday, when there were present the Revs. A. Davies (chairman), R. Williams, J. P. Williams, J. E. Griffiths, Mr. D. Morgan, Mr. J. Davies (deputy clerk), Mr. J. D. Jones (attendance officer). The timetables of the respective schools of the Board were laid before the members who took some time in looking over them. Rev. J. P. Williams observed that prayers were said at the commencement of school duties in the Pontlloftyn schools, none in the Newton, Vochriw or Deri schools, whilst in Bargoed schools, ten minutes was allowed for prayer, and twenty minutes for religious instruction. The tables produced showed that a variety of forms prevailed among the masters of the schools under the same Board. He was glad that these tables had been called for, so that an uniform system should be carried out in all the schools of the Board, because if prayers and religious instruction were to be given in one school, why not also in all the schools alike? The masters had hitherto adopted their own course without the action or the permission of the Board, and yet they saw that they differed in carrying on the work of the schools. Chairman: The masters have hitherto gone on their own accord, and until now the Board have taken no action in the matter; and it is quite evident that uniformity does not prevail among them.

Rev. J. P. Williams: What I should like is that prayers should be said at the commencement of the school duties, although that is not exactly according to my views; but preceiving that the majority of the schools are commenced by prayers, I fall in with them. But as to religious instruction, I do not know what that means. Religious instruction might mean many things, and, after all, might not include the Bible. Chairman: Yes, it might mean some catechism or other. But as he believed that this matter would turn up again when a letter would be received from the Bedwellty Board, and as two of the lay members of the Board were not now present, who, he thought, were interested to some extent in this matter, and one of whom he expected would be in soon, he would suggest that the question would be postponed for further discussion to a full Board. The Rev. J. P. Williams could not agree with the chairman in paying deference to some of the members of the Board more than others; and he could not see any use of compromising matters in this fashion with the churchmen.

The Clerk's Deputy said that when a return was ordered to be made for the use of the Education Department respecting the religious instruction given in the Board schools, the Rev. Mr. Harries wrote to the Board explaining the nature of the religious instruction given at Bargoed school, which consisted of the reading of the Bible, and a brief geographical description of the mountains and rivers contained in scripture. Rev. R. Williams: Prayers are said and hymns sung in all the schools except the Deri school. Chairman: There must be singing, or we should lose a portion of the Parliamentary grant. Rev. J. E. Griffiths: No; the Vochriw, Newton and Deri schools are conducted without prayers. Rev. J. P. Williams: This is how we stand - three of the schools are carried on without prayers, three others with prayers, and one with prayers and religious instruction. Rev. R. Williams: We must now come to the point. Now that these timetables are produced, are we satisfied with them? What we have to do should be done independently of the Bedwellty Board or any other Board.

Rev. J. P. Williams suggested that the Lord's Prayer should be said at the commencement and conclusion of the school duties. He did not object to this; neither did he believe that the rate-payers of the parish would object to it, as probably the majority of them would be in favour of it. But as to the religious instruction, which was put down in an open manner like this in the Bargoed time table, he would object to it - even taking into consideration what had been said by the clerk's deputy respecting mountains and rivers. In speaking of rivers, they could be plunged into baptism, and, likewise, in speaking of mountains, they could be plunged into very important doctrines. He would, therefore, sympathise with, and concede to, the rate-payers by suggesting that the Lord's Prayer alone should be used in the schools of the Board.

Should they decide upon adopting religious instruction, the Board would be constantly quarrelling with the appointment of schoolmasters.

Rev. R. Williams: It is my opinion that the Ten Commandments should form the basis of morality of the children attending day schools. Mr. Morgan now entered the room, and the Chairman explained the course of discussion. Mr. Morgan said the anticipated letter had not arrived from the Bedwellty Board, he did not wish to disturb the parishioners on the matter. Eventually, it was decided to adjourn the question to a special meeting of the Board to be held the following week, when also will be taken into consideration a scheme for the sewing in the schools, the proposed prizes for the children, and also the efficiency of the teaching staff of the schools.

Attendance Officer's Report Return of attendance and school payments in the various Board schools for the month ending April 14, 1876.

	Av. No. present for the month	No. present in all	No. on Register	School pence received	School pence in arrears
Pontlloctyn boys	68.1	80	86	£3-17-0	
Pontlloctyn girls	66.4	80	89	£4-18-4	£9-12-7
Pontlloctyn infants	98.3	115	136	£4-4-2	£2-13-11
Troedrhywfuwch	92.8	119	134	£6-12-10	
Bargoed mixed	57.4	68	78	£1-16-2	£4-3-2
Bargoed infants	76.8	83	105	£1-19-8	£10-7-0
Gelligaer village	145.5	187	190	£4-0-6	
Deri	86.7	107	151	No Return	
Vochrhiw	153	181	210	£3-9-7	
Newton	54.6	68	74	£1-10-0	

"Merthyr Express" 27 May 1876

Gelligaer and Bedwellty School Boards In consequence of what has transpired in the recent actions of these Boards respecting the management of the Bargoed Joint School, the result of which was that the majority of the managers of that school sent in their resignations to their respective Boards, which necessitated their direct and immediate intervention, the members appointed by them consisting of the Revs. A. Davies (chairman), J. P. Williams, D. Ll. And Mr. D. Morgan, on the part of the Gelligaer Board; and the Revs. E. Davies, J. Jones (Matthetes), and G. Owens, on the part of the Bedwellty Board, met by arrangement at the board-room of the Pontlloctyn Board Schools on Tuesday afternoon, to re-appoint managers, in connection with that school.

Rev. J. Jones remarked that the Gelligear Board had revised the timetables of their schools, and as could be observed, the pen had been drawn through that part of them which maintained religious instruction in their schools; but nevertheless they had maintained the Lord's Prayer, which would be used at the commencement and conclusion of the school duties, whilst on the other hand, the Bedwellty Board had totally excluded even the Lord's Prayer. Rev. J. P. Williams observed that the Gelligaer Board had come to this conclusion unanimously, and it was a decision which they felt had been passed in the interest of the majority of rate-payers. Let them [the Bedwellty Board] first convince the rate-payers of the wisdom of their personal opinions Rev. J. Jones believed that the people were fast coming round to the secular opinion. The Rev. E. Davies proposed the following resolution: "That the Gelligaer School Board, having resolved that the Lord's Prayer should be used at the commencement of the school instruction every day in the schools under the Gelligaer School Board, and the Bedwellty School Board having adopted a purely secular system in the schools under its management - Resolved, that the children from Bedwellty parish be considered exempt from the said regulation of the Gelligaer Board, and be not required to attend during the time the Lord's Prayer may be used in the Bargoed school." The resolution was seconded by Rev. G. Owens. The resolution was subsequently agreed upon, and it was ordered that the exemption of the Bedwellty children from using the Lord's Prayer be inserted in the time tables.

The subject of the resignation of the managers of the Bargoed School was then discussed, and ultimately agreed to recommend to the respective Boards the following persons as managers

of the Bargoed joint school: Messrs. J. Lewis, ex-member Gelligaer School Board; W. Evans, grocer; Jonathan Williams, agent; W. Mathews, station master; John Llewellyn, inspector; J. Price, bookseller; R. Abraham, mineral agent.

"Merthyr Express" 24 June 1876

Gelligaer School Board The ordinary monthly meeting of the Board was held on Tuesday. Present: Rev. A. Davies (chairman); Revs. J. P. Williams, R. Williams, Mr. David Morgan.

The Board School at Vochriw: Extra Accommodation The committee appointed to deal with this matter presented their report. The committee stated that they had visited the school and met with some of the managers. They found the school was overcrowded especially in the classroom. There were 218 names on the register and the attendance was 188, being 38 more than the accommodation. There were 75 infants present on the day of the committee's visit, and these were taught in one small classroom. Under the circumstances, the committee recommended the Board to build an infant room for 80 children at the end of the house of Mr. Thomas Jones, at the south end of the girls' playground and offices. This the committee believed could be done easily, the Board having the right to build on the end of Mr. Jones's house. The Board approved the recommendation and authorised the committee to see the architect and arrange which was the best and cheapest manner in which the proposed school could be erected.

A long discussion followed with respect to the staff of teachers at Vochriw school, a letter being read by the managers, urging the appointment of an assistant master. The matter gave rise to a conversation as to the case of W. J. Rees, a pupil teacher at the school, who had not been fulfilling his duties for some time. Rees had repeatedly failed to pass, and though he was in his fourth year, he was of no assistance to the master. It was proposed that Rees's father be asked to withdraw the lad on condition that the Board pay him £6, according to the agreement. Rev. Griffiths then gave notice that he would move the appointment of an assistant master at Vochriw school at the next meeting. The Board instructed the managers to employ monitors in the meantime.

"Merthyr Express" 22 July 1876

Gelligaer School Board The ordinary monthly meeting of the Board was held on Thursday. Present - The Revs. A. Davies (chairman), J. P. Williams, R. Williams, J. E. Griffiths, and Mr. D. Morgan.

Vochriw School Staff Rev. J. E. Griffiths moved that an assistant master be engaged at Vochriw school as the teaching staff was inadequate for the requirements, after the dismissal of William J. Rees as pupil teacher. Rev. J. P. Williams said the present staff comprised a master, mistress and two pupil teachers. Rev. R. Williams: You have four teachers for 160 children, and the average attendance for last year was 150. Chairman: I have seen crowded into that room 180, and this lately is of frequent occurrence. The mistress is engaged principally for the teaching of sewing. Rev. R. Williams: In my view two monitors should be engaged as these will be quite as efficient as an assistant master. Chairman: If the services of William J. Rees had been retained, it would have cost the Board £20. The services of an assistant master would not come to much more, and in consequence of the ill-health of Mr. Rees, the school had suffered greatly in the amount of grant earned which ought to have reached the sum of 18s. per head. The present staff is also inefficient to meet the requirements of the school. On a certain day when I visited the school there were 75 infants. After some further discussion, it was decided to proceed with the appointment with one dissentiant. The Chairman then mentioned the name of John Lewis, son of David Lewis, Upper Street, Rhymney, as a person likely to suit the needs of the school. It was decided that John Lewis be engaged on a three months trial at the rate of £45 per annum.

Arrears of School Pence Mr. Merchant, a tailor of Pontlottyn, appeared before the Board requesting that the Board would forbear with him with respect to his paying the amount of £1-7-9 of school pence due for three of his children attending the Pontlottyn Board School. Various excuses were made relating to his inability to pay. There were eight in the family, but the eldest was 22 years of age and in constant employment. It was also said that on Sundays, Merchant was generally seen carrying a quantity of beer into his house from the public house.

The members then agreed that if he could pay for beer, he could pay for his children's education.

"Merthyr Express" 2 February 1878

Gelligaer School Board Monthly Meeting The ordinary monthly meeting of this Board was held on Thursday se'nnight, at the Board room, Pontlottyn, where there were present - Messrs. G. Martin (chairman), D. Davies, and the Revs. J. P. Williams, A. Davies, R. Williams, and T. Theophilus.

Transfer of Vochrhiw National School to the Board After the reading of the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Board, the clerk also read the minutes of a special meeting of the Board that had taken place on the 8th of January, which had been called for the purpose of arranging the transfer of the Vochrhiw National School to the Board. The transfer was made by the Rev. T. Theophilus, Vicar of Pontlottyn, on behalf of himself, and his fellow managers of the school, the following, among other conditions, to be respected: The transfer to be arranged for the term of two years, the Board to effect the necessary repairs and other expenses to the extent of £10 annually, and the present owners to retain the building for their use on Saturday and Sunday. Some few observations having been made on the subject, the minutes of both meetings were unanimously confirmed.

Neglect of Attending School In as much as Mrs. Harriet Jones had been repeatedly warned by the Board of the irregular attendance of her children at school at Vochrhiw, to which it appears she took no heed, the Board now decided to take definite action in the matter, and it was resolved that a summons against her should be proceeded with. The wives of Thomas Jael, Jacob Thomas of Vochriw, and Edmund Thomas, Penybank, also appeared before the Board to answer the summons of the attendance officer in not sending their children to school. In the first case, a girl named Lizzie had only attended 46 out of 100 times, and that of another child 40 times out of 50, and another 20 out of 40. Various excuses were brought forward, such as slackness of work and the inability to prepare them in time for school. The chairman then said that in the past few weeks the collieries at Vochriw had been working very steadily. All the parties were severely reprimanded and warned, which brought forth a promise of better attendance.

Educational Results The Rev. J. P. Williams wished to call the attention of the Board to statistics he had prepared, bearing on the results of education in the parish, which he had great pleasure in submitting for their consideration.

	Av. Att.	Amt. grant	Amt. per head	% Passes [B - boys; G - girls; M- mixed; I - infants]
Newton	51	£42-16-00	16s. 9¼d.	97.1
Pontlottyn	229	£208-02-00	13s. 3d.	99.5 [B] 95.4 [G]
Deri	88	£52-00-00	11s. 9¾d.	80.3
Bargoed	161	£134-17-00	16s. 9 d.	99.1 [M] 100 [I]
Vochriw	159	£127-03-00	15s. 11¾d.	84.4
Gelligaer	136	£121-17-00	17s. 11d.	97.1
Tirphil	140	£84-09-00	12s. 0 ¾d.	89.1 [M] 96.6 [I]
Troedyrhiwfuwch	30	£21-10-00	14s. 4d.	91.6

Percentage passes in reading, 98.3; writing, 93.3; arithmetic, 88.7; total 93.4

Percentage of passes in England and Wales: reading 87; writing 79.4; arithmetic 70; total 78.

Amount of grant per head in England & Wales: Board schools, 13s. 0d.; voluntary schools, 13s. 3¼ d.; the district of Gelligaer alone 15s.1¼d

"Merthyr Express" 9 March 1878

Merthyr Police Court: Non-Attendance at School Henry Harris, collier, Vochrhiw, was summoned for not causing his son Jacob to attend the Vochrhiw National School with the regularity prescribed by the bye-laws of the Gelligaer School Board, whose attendance officer (Jones) now prosecuted. Defendant's wife appeared. The Bench considered the case to have been very plainly proved and a fine of 5s. including costs was imposed. A week was allowed defendant to find the money.

"Merthyr Express" 4 May 1878

The Vochrhiw National School The Rev. T. Theophilus made a statement to the Board respecting the proposed transfer of the school to the control of the Board, in which he said

that negotiations had been carried on between himself and the trustees - the Rev. Canon Harries of Gelligaer, and Archdeacon Griffiths of Llandaff - both of whom refused, by withholding their signatures to the transfer, to sanction the step proposed by him. He also stated that Canon Harries, whilst withholding his signature to the transfer, would, nonetheless, remain passive in the matter, and further promised to assist Mr. Theophilus to carry on the school until the end of the school year. Consequently, upon this statement, the Rev. A. Davies wished to know whether Mr. Theophilus was prepared to tell the Board if he would be enabled to carry it on further than the end of the school year. He asked this question to satisfy the Board, so they would know how to proceed. Rev. T. Theophilus: I am not prepared at present to reply to the question.

"Merthyr Express" 1 June 1878

Gelligaer School Board Monthly Meeting The ordinary monthly meeting of this Board was held on Thursday, the 16th instant, at Pontllynn Board schools, when there were present: The Revs. A. Davies (chairman), J. P. Williams and T. Theophilus; and Messrs. W. Beddoe, and D. Davies.

Vochriw National School Rev. T. Theophilus informed the Board that the managers had resolved to close this school at the end of the current year, 31st October next, and upon the motion of the Chairman the Board agreed to request the Education Department to send an inspector to confer with them as to the best means of providing for the educational wants of the village.

School Attendance Rev. T. Theophilus then proceeded with his motion as to attendance of children, and said that the £30 a year now paid out by the Board was well spent, but the Board did not reap the benefit from the office which it might. Mr. Jones, holding as he did, other appointments in the parish, could not devote the time proper for such an engagement. He did not know the conditions of the engagement of Mr. Jones, but he was of opinion that going to the schools once a month, and there ascertaining who were the children who were not attending, did not meet with the requirements of the Board in his view; for he only came in contact with those children who were attending, whilst there were children left about the roads, a large number of whom were to be seen daily at Pontllynn, and with whom Mr. Jones did not meet. He had nothing to say against the manner in which Mr. Jones had hitherto discharged his duties to the Board, but he was of opinion that the attendance officer should visit the schools once a week, and whilst seeing who were the children who were attending there, he should also see those who did not attend.

"Merthyr Express" 15 June 1878

Gelligaer School Board The meeting of this Board was held on Wednesday, the 5th inst., at the Newton schoolroom.... The following members were present: Revs. A. Davies (in the chair), and J. P. Williams; and Messrs. W. Beddoe and D. Davies.

Vochriw School Accommodation Members were conveyed to Vochriw for the purpose of meeting Mr. W. Edwards, Her Majesty's Inspector of Schools for the district, to confer with him with regard to the school accommodation for the district necessitated by the closure of the Vochriw National School, which event will take place at the end of the school year. Before the conclusion of the interview, the Rev. T. Theophilus joined the discussion. A survey was taken of the place as regards the extreme distance to one portion of the district from the other. The Inspector afterwards informed the members as to the object of their meeting that day, stating that he had received information from the Education Department of the decision arrived at by the managers of the National schoolroom, as to their intention of closing the building for school purposes; and that it would rest upon the Board to provide for the deficiency of accommodation caused thereby. Rev. A. Davies then said that the question was now open to be proceeded with, and whatever result they would arrive at, they as a Board, would be bound by some means or other to provide the necessary accommodation as required by the Education Act. The closing of this school would cause additional expenditure by the Board, as they would be obliged to either build an entirely new schoolroom situated in another part of the district, or extend their present school buildings so as to accommodate an additional 120 children. The question was not submitted to their consideration.

The Rev. J. P. Williams remarked that the National School had been built by aid from the public funds by a building grant, and consequently, the building could not be closed for school purposes without the managers of that schoolroom either refunding the sum of money received towards that object, or by the transferring the schoolroom to the Board. He contended that the public as rate-payers had a moral right to the building, as they had contributed towards its erection, and having to undertake the additional cost of providing the required accommodation, would be a double cost on them The Chairman in this respect wished to deal leniently with the present managers of the school, and thought the matter was a very insignificant one, for the school had been open for a number of years and had been ably conducted, so that, on information being given, their lordships would consider the public had received sufficient value for their money given in grants of whatever kind; and that there would be manifested on their part a perfect willingness to allow the present managers the privilege of retaining the building for other than school purposes. Some further remarks were made by the other members, concurring more especially in the sentiments expressed by the Rev. J. P. Williams, but no motion was made on the point raised and the discussion turned to another direction, namely, that of how the Board would meet the deficiency created by the closing of this school. The Rev. T. Theophilus expressed his opinion that it would be desirable for the Board to erect a new school building in another part of the locality, so as to more conveniently meet the requirements of the children residing at Brithdir, who would have a long distance to walk to the present Board school. The said schoolroom he thought should be built somewhere about the neighbourhood of Pentwyn, which would be about halfway between Brithdir and Vochriw. The other members differed from this opinion, and thought he had become very liberal in the spending of the rate-payers' money by advocating the building of a new school, whilst they thought that by extending the present school building, a considerable expense would be avoided. After some further consideration of the subject, on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Beddoe, it was unanimously resolved - "That the Board having been informed of the intention of the to close the National schoolroom at Vochriw, at a committee of the Board held at that place, where they had an interview with Mr. W. Edwards, Her Majesty's Inspector of Schools for the district, they recommended the enlargement of the present Board school, by the addition of an infant department to accommodate 120 children; and they beg to ask the sanction of the Education Department to immediately proceed with the work." As it was considered that before full powers would be granted to the Board, they would have to temporarily provide for the children, it was, also, decided that the vestry-room, now used as a place of worship by the Baptists, be engaged for school purposes until the necessary accommodation could be supplied. The inspector entirely concurred with the result arrived at, and stated that he would forward his report upon the matter to the Education Department.

"Merthyr Express" 6 July 1878

Gelligaer School Board Monthly Meeting The monthly meeting of the Board was held at the Board schools, Pontlottyn, on Thursday, the 27th ult., when there were present Mr. G. Martin (chairman), and the Revs. A. Davies, T. Theophilus and J. P. Williams.

The Vochriw Accommodation A deputation, consisting of the Rev. B. J. Evans, curate, and some five other respectable persons from the neighbourhoods of Brithdir, Pentwyn and Vochriw, waited on the Board, to suggest that the Board should re-consider its resolutions of the previous meeting, and that a new schoolroom should be erected somewhere about the neighbourhood of Pentwyn. They presented a memorial from the parents of the children residing in those districts in support of the application. The memorial contained 40 to 50 signatures. A discussion ensued, in which the Rev. A. Davies recapitulated the reasons which induced the Board at its last meeting to decide to build an addition to the present school building; he also pointed out the difficulty of having land at a suitable place to build schools to meet the views of the deputation; but, inasmuch as they were now present, and that the people of those districts had taken up the matter with interest, perhaps a different decision would be arrived at. In reply to the chairman, the Rev. B. J. Evans said that at Brithdir alone there were 39 children from 5 to 7 years of age. Chairman: How far is the present school from that district? A Member of the Deputation: Two miles. Rev. A. Davies said that he and

others had made it a special duty to walk the whole of the distance from one place to the other so as to be conversant with the whole of the facts, and they found the distance was walked easily in the space of 25 minutes. Rev. T. Theophilus observed that there were 94 children in those districts from 5 to 13 years of age, and it rested with the Board to provide for the number of 94. Rev. A. Davies stated that some of these children were already attending at the present school at Caeglas, and would be compelled to do so in future, materially affecting the amount of accommodation required. Mr. D. Evans, a member of the deputation, stated that he believed his father would meet the Board liberally on the matter of ground for a new school. The Clerk pointed out that the Board might provide for the infants of those districts. Rev. A. Davies: Of course so; and he would suggest that before the Board would commit itself in the matter, the members of the Board should, in company with the deputation, see the ground which could be utilised for the purpose. The suggestion of the Rev. A. Davies was unanimously agreed to. In consequence of this decision, the plans which had been prepared for the Vochriw schools were deferred for consideration at the next Board meeting.

"Merthyr Express" 24 August 1878

Gelligaer School Board The meeting of the Board was held on the 15th instant, when those present were Messrs. G. Martin (chairman), W. Beddoe, D. Davies, Revs. A. Davies, J. P. Williams, T. Theophilus, Mr. F. James (clerk), Mr. J. Jones (attendance officer).

Additional School Accommodation at Vochriw The following report of the committee of the whole Board, respecting the question, was read: "The committee met a deputation of the ratepayers of Vochriw district with respect to the accommodation required for Pentwyn and Brithdir upon the closing of the present school at Pentwyn, and upon taking into consideration the probability of an increase in the population of the district, owing to the working of deeper veins, it was moved by Rev. A. Davies, and seconded by Rev. T. Theophilus, and carried unanimously, that we recommend the present Board school at Vochriw be extended to accommodate about 70 children from Brithdir and Pentwyn, and that an infant schoolroom be built midway between Pentwyn and Brithdir to accommodate about 60 infants; and that application be made to Mr. Jenkins, the landowner, for his terms for a quarter of an acre of ground, part of a field called "Waunglobwll." - The report was adopted. The Clerk had written to and received a reply from Mr. Jenkins concerning the plot of ground. He refused to sell the ground, but would lease that quantity to the Board for the term of 99 years at an annual rental of 1d. per yard. The Clerk expressed his opinion that according to such a rate, the ground would be completely paid for long before the expiration of the term. - The Clerk also read a letter from Mr. Job Evans, of Pentwyn, who offered to sell half an acre of ground for the purpose of a school site for £100. - It was that this was quite as convenient and serviceable for the purpose as the original site agreed upon. Mr. J. Evans, jun., and a deputation, then informed the Board that they were authorised to let the Baptist chapels at Brithdir and Vochriw for the use of the Board for school purposes for £10 per annum.

The Rev. A. Davies observed that it now devolved on the Board to proceed with the suggestion of the committee with regard to the extension of the present Board school at once, and authorise their architect to draw out plans to forward for approval to the Education Department. As to the probability of an increase in the population of the district, the Chairman remarked that there was no probability of that taking place, as there was no intention of any more sinking at that place, and the company had provided the men working there with carriages for conveyance to and from the work, as they had shown they preferred living at Dowlais than at Vochriw. Subsequently, on the proposal of the Rev. A. Davies, seconded by Mr. Beddoe, the first portion of the report of the committee was unanimously adopted; the question of Mr. Jenkins's proposal was summarily disposed of, and it was resolved that the Board tender its thanks to Mr. Job Evans of Pentwyn, for his offer of a piece of ground, and that when the Board were prepared to proceed with the recommendations of the committee they would negotiate on the matter with Mr. Evans. With respect to the hire of the chapels for temporary school purposes, the Rev. J. P. Williams remarked that in their present condition they were unsuitable for school purposes, as the seats would have to be

removed, and if this was done, it was a question of who would have to do the work. The deputation undertook to do all necessary work at Brithdir and Caeglas required by the Board. Mr. Beddoe proposed, and Mr. D. Davies seconded, "That the proposal for the use of these chapels be accepted," and it was agreed to. It was also unanimously resolved that the Revs. T. Theophilus, A. Davies and J. P. Williams, and Mr. D. Davies be appointed a committee to see that the necessary requirements be carried out, and that the temporary accommodation agreed upon be opened by 1st of November.

"Merthyr Express" 16 November 1878

Gelligaer School Board Monthly Meeting The ordinary monthly meeting was held on the 1st instant at the Board-room, Pontlottyn; present - the Rev. A. Davies (chairman), Rev. T. Theophilus, Rev. J. P. Williams, and Messrs. W. Beddoe and J. Mathews.

Temporary School Accommodation The Chairman said that as the school year commenced on Friday, the 1st of November, the Board were under the necessity of opening their new schools on that day, which could not be done; and it was now a question for them to consider what could be done in the matter. After much discussion, the Board decided to continue with Brithdir Chapel [Shiloh] as an infant school with Mrs. Greening as mistress, and to utilise the Vochriw Board School to take in as many children as possible until the new school is ready.

Vochriw Infant School Mrs M. S. Greening, the present mistress of Pentwyn National School, was appointed infant mistress of the temporary school at Brithdir, at a salary of £70 per annum.

"Merthyr Express" 14 December 1878

Gelligaer School Board The ordinary monthly meeting of this Board was held on the 28th ult., at the Board-room of the Pontlottyn Board Schools, when there were present - The Revs. A. Davies (in the chair), J. P. Williams, and Mr. D. Davies.

Public Loan On the motion of the Chairman, it was agreed that the Board apply to the Public Loan Commissioners for the sum of £350 for the extension to Vochriw Board School.

The Vochriw and Brithdir Schools A deputation of four gentlemen representing the district complained to the Board respecting attendance of children at these schools. The gist of the matter lay in a wish that the Board should constitute the temporary infant school at Brithdir, a mixed school. It appeared hard upon a number of families that they were obliged to send the younger children to the Brithdir Infant School, and the older ones to Vochriw. It was their wish that the children of the same family should be allowed to attend the same school. After discussion relating particularly to cost of additional teaching staff, the chairman advised the deputation, and the inhabitants of the district, to allow matters to stand as they were at present. Probably in a short time, the Inspector of Schools would visit the localities, and if these things were pointed out to him, something effectual would perhaps be done in the matter.

Attendance Officers Report Total average attendance - 1,175.4; number present at all - 1,475; number on registers - 1,597; school fees - £21 6s. 8d; arrears of school fees - £269 14s. 11d.;

Corresponding period last year: Total average attendance - 1,086.4; number present in all - 1,319; number on registers - 1,480; school fees - £20 3s; arrears of school fees - £176 11s. 1d..

"Merthyr Express" 11 January 1879

Gelligaer School Board Monthly Meeting The ordinary monthly meeting of this Board was held at Pontlottyn on Thursday the 26th ult., when there were present the Revs. A. Davies, vice-chairman, presiding, J. P. Williams, T. Theophilus, and Messrs. D. Davies, W. Beddoe, and J. Mathews.

Arrears in School Pence and Remission of School Fees The question of the large amount of arrears in school pence was raised by Rev. T. Theophilus. He proposed that there should be remission of fees for the years 1873 and 1874 - the years of the strike and lock-out. He quoted Mr. D. Davies, a member of the Board, who had said, "How could it be expected that workmen could pay school fees, when they were unable to provide food and clothing for their families."

"Merthyr Express" 1 February 1879

Gellygaer School Board The ordinary monthly meeting of this Board was held at Pontlottyn on Thursday se'nnight, when there were present the Revs. A. Davies, in the chair, J. P. Williams, T. Theophilus, and Messrs. W. Beddoe, and J. Mathews.

A Complaint The Rev. T. Theophilus called the attention of the members to what he thought was a great irregularity practised by some of them, against which he would strongly protest. Whilst attending the meetings of the Merthyr Board of Guardians, it appeared that they had to a very great extent usurped to themselves without being duly authorised to do so, the functions of the Board as regards those children above the age of infants attending the Vochiw school. He had been informed that Mr. Lewis Evans, a ratepayer in the district of Vochriw, had been authorised by some of the members to order the children of Brithdir and Pentwyn not to attend the Vochriw school, but that of Brithdir alone. No order of such a nature had been given by the Board, and he would again protest against the undue interference of some of the members in the matter. The Chairman thought it was an irregularity to bring such a matter before the Board at this time, and it must also be noticed that Mr. Evans was not present to offer an explanation. Rev. J. R. Williams thought that the blame rested entirely on the shoulders of Rev. T. Theophilus himself, if such a thing had been done, inasmuch as he applied to the Board for permission to keep all the children above 7 years of age at that school. This was the cause of the dissatisfaction which had prevailed regarding this matter, and he must say that the Rev. gentleman was the originator of the evil. Some other remarks having been made, the Rev. T. Theophilus defended all the transactions which he had had with this school, and the subject dropped.

“Merthyr Express” 1 March 1879

Gelligaer School Board The ordinary monthly meeting was held at Pontlottyn on Thursday, when there were present - Mr. Martin (chairman), Revs. T. Theophilus, J. P. Williams, A. Davies, and Messrs. Mathews and W. Beddoe. Penybanc School Managers The following were appointed managers of the Penybanc school: Mr Lewis Williams, farmer, Penybanc; Mr Job, farmer, Brithdiruchaf; Mr Thomas Davies, collier, Brithdiruchaf, Vochriw; Mr William Rees of the same place and Mr Thomas Williams, contractor. Attendance Report The attendance officer's report showed the arrears in the school fees to amount to £189 2s. 6d., and out of the number on the books, 1,585, the average attendance was 1,104. The Board was adjourned for a fortnight to consider the arrears of school fees.

“Merthyr Express” 26 April 1879

Gelligaer School Board: Penybanc Temporary School The Clerk read a letter suggesting that a door be made at the side instead of one of the windows. Rev. Aaron Davies said that it would also be necessary to build a flight of steps, and the cost would be about £20. Rev. J. P. Williams said that the owners will not allow alterations. It was resolved that the Clerk inform the Education Department that they do not see their way clear to make any alterations, and moreover, the owners of the building, will not allow any alterations to be made. The letter also stated that the Gelligaer Board could not charge more than 2d. a head for boys and 1d. for girls.

Bible and Lord's Prayer at School Rev. T. Theophilus proposed the following resolution: “That the Bible be read daily for 20 minutes in all the schools under the Board, and that the Lord's Prayer be used at the beginning of the morning, and at the close of afternoon attendance.” It was resolved that the matter be adjourned to next meeting of the Board.

“Merthyr Express” 24 May 1879

Gelligaer School Board A meeting of this Board was held at the Board-room, Pontlottyn, when there were present: Mr. G. Martin (chairman), Messrs. J. Mathews, D. Davies, W. Beddoe, and the Revs. J. P. Williams, T. Theophilus, and A. Davies.

The Bible In Board Schools Rev. T. Theophilus rose to move “That the Bible be read daily for twenty minutes in all the schools under the Board, and that the Lord's Prayer be used at the beginning of the morning and at the close of afternoon attendance.” He need scarcely say that it would be impossible for this Board to be engaged in the discussion of an issue involving more important consequences than those which are contained in the resolution. The Archbishop of Canterbury, a little while ago, stated that Board schools had the power to have taught in their schools, the Bible, the Lord's Prayer, and the Apostles Creed. And it was a

matter of great satisfaction to think that out of 1,500 school Boards in England and Wales, 1,455 had exercised their lawful authority in that direction of giving to the children under their care the inestimable advantages of reading the Scriptures. Of the 45 who had not admitted the Bible into the schools, he was surprised to find that 27 were in Wales. An English newspaper, commenting the other day upon this fact, sarcastically added, "the land of Dissent." But he ventured to express the opinion that these boards did not rightly, justly, represent the feelings and practices of the Welsh people - at any rate he was convinced that this Board had not, up to the present, represented the feeling of the majority of the people in the parish. The Welsh people are a Bible-loving people. Take, for instance, the rural districts of Carmarthenshire. A stranger casually entering into the scattered farmhouses on a Sunday afternoon, would come upon the farmers, and the farmer's wives, and the farmer's daughters, and their man servants, and their maid servants, reading and studying the bible. In these gatherings the opinions of the Welsh commentators were carefully discussed Then we had the practice peculiar to Wales, of Sunday schools assembling together to recite chapter or chapters from the Bible, and to be catechised severely thereon. Such practice did not point to the exclusion of the Bible from our schools. He was quite aware that some people said that Sunday schools were quite adequate to the teachings of the Scriptures. In the rural areas this might to a certain extent be true, but what should be said of the busy centres of population with which this Board had to deal. It must be confessed that, notwithstanding the large number of children who attended the various Sunday schools, there was a large number in attendance at the day schools who never went to Sunday schools. It might be urged that the Bible may be taught at home. He admitted that in very many instances this was so; but what was the population with which they had to deal composed of? Almost entirely colliers and miners. Their circumstances were known. A collier left his home in the early morning, he took a hasty leave of his sleeping children, and as he looked upon their sleeping features, it might be for the last time, he offered up a prayer to the Throne of Grace; and in descending the shaft to his perilous labours did not the thought that the children would begin the day with God and his book, and our Lord's Prayer, afford him consolation? But it might be said that the State provided these high privileges. The State did nothing of the kind. Her Majesty's Inspector, in his annual visit, was strictly prohibited from making any inquiries as to the attainment of the children in religious instruction. It was found that the overwhelming majority of the School Boards of the country were in favour of the resolution, which as supported by the voice and by the action of the Parliament of this country, and expressed the feelings of the majority of the people of the parish. Mr. David Davies, as representative of the working classes, and in the belief that he was correctly interpreting their feelings, seconded the resolution.

The Rev. J. P. Williams moved as an amendment that the debate be adjourned. His reasons for so doing were the following: A compromise had already been made and the use of the Lord's Prayer agreed to, and he disapproved of breaking into the compromise; and the triennial election being very near, he wished the matter referred to the ratepayers, who might decide. Rev. Aaron Davies seconded. It would be, he said, very unwise to go and unsettle everything that had been working for nearly eight years, and the present compromise, he thought, five years. By the vote of the last election it was quite clear that the voice of the ratepayers was with the Board. The time-table was now very satisfactorily arranged; so far as he had heard there had been no complaint from any parent. As was well known, he was a Secularist on this point. He had discussed this matter in four places in the parish, and at each the votes were in favour of his views. Religious education was taken very good care of in this parish. He thought it was the duty of the ministers and clergymen to attend to it, and if they asked the state to do so, they confessed their failure.

The Clerk pointed out that the sanction of the Education Department was required before the time-table could be altered. Rev. T. Theophilus said that he would add to his motion that it should come into force on the 1st November. The amendment was then put to the vote, but was lost, the mover and the seconder and Mr. Beddoe only voting for it. The motion was declared carried. The Rev. J. P. Williams then gave notice of a motion to be brought at the next meeting that this resolution should be rescinded.

A National School Closed The Education Department wrote enclosing a letter from the Rev. G.C.F. Harries, rector of Gelligaer, announcing the closing of the Cwmysgwyddgwyn National School. The Department inquired in what manner the Board proposed to provide for the deficiency of school accommodation thus caused. The Rectors letter stated that he had been most reluctantly compelled to withdraw the mistress who he had appointed in November last, and to close the school. He had found it impossible to maintain the school, owing to the action of the School Board in not insisting on the payment of school pence. The deficiency which had fallen upon him had become a serious matter, so serious that he had been obliged to say that he could not any longer continue the personal liability in maintaining the National Schools. ... After the last inspection, the late mistress undertook to keep the school for the school pence and the Government grant; coal, material, cleaning, etc. being undertaken by him. The mistress informed him at the beginning of March that she could not get the school pence paid, because payment was not insisted upon at the Board Schools; if she sent the children home for the money, they were sent to the Board School. Throughout the parish, the Board had adopted the course of allowing enormous arrears of school pence, which had no doubt amounted to upwards of £300, of which, he was informed, only about £70 was said to be recoverable This was most unfair to the ratepayers of the parish, and also to the National School, which the School Board had from the first endeavoured to prevent continuing to carry on their work, knowing that the personal liability to himself must sooner or later become so great that it would be impossible for him to continue. The Rev. Aaron Davies proposed that a fresh census be taken, and that a committee of the whole Board should consider the subject. The proposal was agreed to.

“Merthyr Express” 7 June 1869

Merthyr Police Court: A School Board Case Henry Harris, collier, Vochriw, was summoned by Mr. J. Jones, attendance officer to the Gellygaer School Board, for not sending his child to school regularly. The regulation fine of five shillings including the costs was imposed.

“Merthyr Express” 21 June 1879

Gelligaer School Board There was much discussion of rescinding of the motion carried at the last meeting authorising the reading of the Bible for twenty minutes each day in all Board Schools, and the recital of the Lord’s Prayer at the beginning and end of the school day. Rev. J. P. Williams, Rev. Aaron Davies and Mr W. Beddoe voted for the motion. The Chairman, Messrs D. Davies and J. Matthews, and Rev. T. Theophilus voted against.

“Merthyr Express” 26 July 1879

Gelligaer School Board The Education Department had recommended a slight modification to the plans for the Penybank school. It was therefore ordered that the architect be requested to arrange a division in the Penybank schoolroom according to the suggestion. It was stated that the infants at Vochriw had commenced their schooling in temporary buildings.

“Merthyr Express” 15 November 1879

Gelligaer School Board

Cost of Bibles It was reported that the cost of books, taking the average attendance at 1,500, would be about £70. The Deputy Clerk then applied for a cheque for that amount, whereupon the Board ordered that the application stand over.

The Chairman called upon the Deputy Clerk to read the requisition calling the meeting as follows: -

November 1st, 1879. To Frank James, Esq., clerk to the Gelligaer School Board. Sir - We the undersigned, beg to request you to convene a meeting of the Board on 7th November, 1879, at 1.30 p.m., to consider the report of the committee appointed to draw up the instructions with respect to religious teaching in the schools of the Board, and the resolution passed at the last Board meeting, to incur considerable outlay in the purchase of Bibles, proper notice not having been given, in accordance with the Education Act, 1873, sched. 3, sec. 9. (Signed) Aaron Davies, W. Beddoe, J. P. Williams. The Deputy Clerk also read the report of the committee in favour of Bible reading, passed at the last meeting.

After discussion, Mr. W. Beddoe proposed, and Rev. J. P. Williams seconded, and it was unanimously agreed, “That the carrying out of the report presented at the last Board meeting

by the committee to make arrangements for carrying out the resolution passed by the Board in favour of Bible-reading in May last be deferred for the consideration of the new Board to be elected by the 1st March next; that the time tables for the ensuing year be made as heretofore, making provision for the Lord's Prayer to be used at the commencement of morning and closing of afternoon attendance; and that the clerk forthwith notify the schools of this resolution." This was all the business, and the Board adjourned. The Rev. T. Theophilus (vicar) came in at the end of the meeting, but took no part in the proceedings, and immediately took his exit.

After continued wrangling relating to the proposed changes in timetables in relation to religious education, including the possible purchase of Bibles at a cost of £70, it was eventually agreed unanimously to leave the final decision to the new Board to be elected on 1st March 1880. Rev. J. P. Williams stated that though his opposition to the proposed changes was well known, he would accept the verdict of the ratepayers should it run counter to his views. In the meantime, the existing agreed practices would continue.

"Merthyr Express" 3 January 1880

Gelligaer School Board A meeting of this Board was held at Pontlottyn on Tuesday evening. Present - Mr. G. Martin (chairman), Revs. A. Davies (vice-chairman), J. P. Williams, T. Theophilus (vicar), Messrs. W. Beddoe, D. Davies, and J. Mathews., also Messrs. F. James (clerk), J. Davies (deputy clerk), J. Jones (attendance officer).

Appointments The resignation of Miss Jones, mistress of the girls' department of the Pontlottyn Board school was accepted, and she was allowed to leave at once to take up her new post as mistress at Rhymney Middle Board Schools. The Chairman suggested that one of the applicants for the Penybank School be selected, and he recommended Miss Jones, formerly of Dowlais Schools, and it was agreed she be offered the the appointment at a salary of £70 per annum. Rev. J. P. Williams and Mr. D. Davies doubted the fairness to other teachers and the legality on the part of the Board in making an appointment not duly noticed, but it was agreed that, if Miss Jones accept the offer, the appointment be made at the next meeting of the Board. Rev. T. Theophilus moved that the question of the re-appointment of sewing mistress at Newton Board School be considered, and he suggested that Florence Tovey, a pupil teacher at the school, who has passed her fifth year examination, and who is thereby qualified under Articles 60 and 79 to act as assistant, should also take charge of the sewing. The Rev. J. P. Williams called attention to the fact that the Rev. T. Theophilus tended to mislead them by quoting a part only of the report with reference to Miss Tovey, whereas the report said that after the expiration of her apprenticeship - March 31st, 1880 - she will be qualified under the afore-mentioned articles. The Chairman then remarked that the matter should again be brought forward when the term of her apprenticeship had expired.

The Rev. T. Theophilus also moved that the report of the committee appointed to carry out the resolution in favour of Bible reading in all the schools under the Board be considered. The Chairman seconded the motion. Mr. W. Beddoe proposed, as an amendment, that the consideration of the report be deferred until the 1st of March. The Rev. J. P. Williams seconded the amendment [As the issue of cost of Bibles for every child had been raised,] the Rev. T. Theophilus then asked permission of those members who had signed the report to amend it, and recommended that Bibles be supplied only to children above the age of six years. Mr. W. Beddoe protested strongly against such irregularities. The report, as amended, was carried.

Mr. D. Davies proposed that the report now passed should not come into force before the 1st of March, and he was seconded by the Rev. A. Davies, and his motion was unanimously agreed to.

The Rev. T. Theophilus however, proposed that the Clerk be authorised to purchase Bibles at once, but was opposed by the Rev. A. Davies, who gave as his opinion, that no action with respect to carrying out of the report could be taken before such report would come into force. He further said that if a cheque were given towards the purchase of Bibles, he would feel it his duty to object to such expense before the auditor. He then move that all Bibles purchased should be paid for, not from the rates, but by voluntary subscriptions, and mentioned, in support of his motion, the fact that in several boards those who were in favour of Bible

reading, supplied Bibles at their own expense to those schools in which it was taught. Mr. Beddoe seconded. The Rev. J. P. Williams said that he had no objection to Bible reading, nor religious teaching, but no Dissenter could support such reading or teaching at the expense of the ratepayers, without betraying the principles of Dissent.

An amendment was proposed by the Chairman that the Bibles should be ordered at the expense of the ratepayers, and that they should be 400 in number. The proposal was seconded by Rev. T. Theophilus.

When the amendment was put to the vote, the Chairman, The Rev. T. Theophilus and Mr. Mathews voted for. As Mr. D. Davies, one of the Nonconformist members did not signify his approval of the amendment, he was asked by Mr. Mathews if he understood what was going on. Mr. D. Davies, in reply, said he understood perfectly well, but he concurred with the Rev. A. Davies in regard to the voluntary principle, and he was going to vote for the motion of that reverend gentleman.

The Rev. A. Davies's motion was therefore carried, the proposer, the seconder, and Rev. J. P. Williams and Mr. D. Davies voting for it.

“Merthyr Express” 7 February 1880

Gelligaer School Board: Final Meeting Of The Old Board The final meeting of the members of the Board, which has just completed its three years' existence, took place at Pontlottyn on Tuesday afternoon. The members present were: Mr. George Martin (chairman), Revs. A. Davies, J. P. Williams, T. Theophilus, and Mr. Wm. Beddoe.

Transfer of the Pontlottyn National School To The Board [Matters relating to the transfer were outlined.] A vote of thanks to the Chairman was proposed by Rev. T. Theophilus and seconded by Rev. A. Davies. A vote of thanks to the vice-chairman was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Mr. W. Beddoe.

“Merthyr Express” 11 September 1880

Gelligaer School Board

The monthly meeting of this Board was held at Pontlottyn on Thursday afternoon, the members present being the Rev. Aaron Davies (chairman), Rev. T. Theophilus, Rev. J. P. Williams, Messrs Lewis Lewis and David Evans.

Penybank School It was resolved to apply for a loan of £750 to defray costs of the Renybank Schools.

The Rejection Of Children For Non-Payment Of School Fees A notice of motion was placed upon the agenda at the former meeting with respect to the desirability of teachers being instructed to refuse the school to any children who did not bring their school fees. After lengthy discussion, it was decided that it would be inadvisable to refuse school to any child who did not bring his school fees.

Higher Education In Wales The Chairman felt that the Board might well spend a little time in considering the question of intermediate and higher education in Wales, which was now going to the front. They would remember that one of the members for the county brought the matter before the House of Commons last year, and there was a great debate upon it, the promise being given that an inquiry should be made into the necessities of Wales. As soon as the present Government came into authority they found that it had named a Commission to inquire into the educational wants of South Wales and Monmouthshire. He had learnt that the great point was to bring before these gentlemen such evidence as could be obtained to enable them to make a good report of their cases as Welshmen to the Government, in order to get something brought forward in the House respecting it, and perhaps some enactment carried through. The Gelligaer Board having for a long time dealt with elementary education, was not only interested in primary but in intermediate education, and in the higher education also, because, as it was said, the mother in her leading teachings of the children, formed the man, so they might also say that the primary teacher had something to do with forming the man in the intermediate and higher stages of education. He thought that this is a matter which the School Boards should take up, and he advocated that the Gelligaer Board should be the first to do so (hear, hear). In the parish of Gelligaer they were interested in a grammar school, which might come under consideration in the scheme, and he suggested that they might take the matter up by inviting a conference of the Bedwellty and Mynyddislwyn School Boards with

the Gelligaer Board, so that they might meet together, discuss the question, and, as all three Boards were interested in the welfare of the Pengam Grammar School, to decide upon what evidence they would like to bring before the commissioners. He would move that they take up the matter in this way, and invite such a conference of the three boards (hear, hear). After much discussion, it was unanimously resolved that the Clerk should invite members of the three Boards to the proposed conference, to consider the question of intermediate and higher education in Wales, with the object of representing their views to the Commissioners now about to consider the matter.

“Merthyr Express” 27 November 1880

Gelligaer School Board: Vochriw Schools The following communication was read from the managers of the Vochriw Board School, dated November 24th, 1880: “At the request of the managers, I beg to submit to your consideration the following resolution passed on the 8th November: 1st That we as managers beg to suggest to the Board the necessity of passing a bye-law to enforce the attendance of the children at the same school they enter for 12 months before they can be removed. We have two cases here: two of the children of Pentwyn left the school after they had made up their attendances, and went to Penynbank school, and did not appear on the day of the examination, and this injured the school of a few pounds Government grant. 2nd That we apply to the Board for authority to pay two monitors - namely, Elizabeth Evans and Catherine Morgan, at the rate of 1st year pupil teachers, as they have both qualified by age and ability as pupil teachers. - Your obedient servant, Thos. Jones.”

Mr. L. D. Rees: The reason these children moved was that they were beaten by one of the teachers. I suggest that no corporal punishment be inflicted at any school under the Board. Mr. Lewis Evans: I know about the case very well, and I consider Mr. Rees’s suggestion a very good one. Rev. J. P. Williams: The case is against the pupil teacher and not the head teacher. The rule has been passed some time ago that no pupil teacher was allowed to punish any child; the head teacher is the only person that has any authority to chastise any of the children attending the schools. After further discussion, Mr L. D. Rees said: To dispense with the matter, I now give notice that I will now at the next meeting of the Board move “That no corporal punishment be inflicted in any school under the Gelligaer School Board.” Rev. T. Theophilus: I also move that all children having commenced their schooling at any school under the Board, shall not be allowed to move to another without the consent of the Board.” Mr. Beddoe: I have much pleasure in seconding that. Carried. Chairman: I move that both Elizabeth Evans and Catherine Morgan be appointed monitors at the rate of the 1st year pupil teachers, at a salary of £8 per annum. Carried.

“Merthyr Express” 5 February 1881

Gelligaer School Board The adjourned meeting of this Board was held on Thursday, 27th ult. At the Board-room, Pontlottyn. Present - Rev. A. Davies (chairman); Rev. J. P. Williams, vice-chairman; Rev. T. Theophilus; Messrs. L. D. Rees, Cefn Hengoed; Lewis Evans, Penybank; Mr. John Davies (deputy clerk); and Mr. John Jones (attendance officer).

Corporal Punishment Mr L. D. Rees moved a resolution directing that no corporal punishment should be inflicted until the lapse of one hour from the commission of the offence, and that a record of such punishments containing the date of the infliction and the nature of the offence punished be kept in a book to be produced at the meetings of the Board. This was revised as follows, and agreed unanimously: “That managers shall direct that corporal punishment should not be inflicted except in urgent cases, and this only by the principal teacher.”

Section 19, New Code The Chairman proposed and the Rev. J. P. Williams seconded the following resolution, following resolution which was carried unanimously: “That the attention of all the head teachers in their schools be called to section 19, new code, as to the bringing up children in habits of punctuality, of good manners and language, of cleanliness and neatness, and also, to impress upon the children the importance of cheerful obedience to duty, of consideration and respect for others, and of honour and truthfulness in word and act.”

Analysis of H. M. Inspector’s Reports Rev. J. P. Williams brought forward a very elaborate list he had prepared of the percentage of passes and the grants per head of all the schools

under the Board, for the year ending October 31st, 1880. In examining the list, it seemed to him that the following schools had passed exceedingly well: Gelligaer, Pontlottyn, Bargoed, Tirphil, Troedyrhiwfwuch and George Inn. He considered the Newton, Penybank and Deri schools had passed fairly, and called for further improvements in the future. As for the other two schools, Fochriw and Bontnewydd, he must say they had passed a very unsatisfactory examination. The percentage in Fochriw was only 72, and in Bontnewydd, 78; when the percentage in the other schools of the Board were ranging from 94 to 98 per cent. Also, the difference in the grants very nearly amounted to one-half, which showed a very sad state of things. The percentage of passes in reading, writing, and arithmetic under this Board, in comparison to England and Wales, were extremely satisfactory, being as follows: Gelligaer: Reading, 98.7; writing, 85.5; arithmetic, 84.2; total, 89.5; grants, 15s. 8½d per head. England & Wales: Reading, 87.53; writing, 80.8; arithmetic, 73.87; total, 89.5; grants, 15s. 3½d per head.

Mr. L. D. Rees was of the opinion that the Board ought to enter into a new agreement with all the head teachers, so as to hold them responsible for the the state of passes and the grant per head; and he would be almost inclined to propose a reduction in the salary of those teachers whose schools had passed so low a percentage. The Rev. T. Theophilus thought the Board would be justified in calling the attention of the managers to the very low condition of those schools. The Chairman: Would it not be better to send direct to the teachers themselves, calling their attention to those facts, and ask for their explanation? He would propose that that should be done in the first instance, and if their explanations be not satisfactory to send to the managers afterwards. The Rev. J. P. Williams quite concurred with what the chairman had said, and seconded it, which was carried.

“Merthyr Express” 26 February 1881

Gelligaer School Board At the request of the Board, the Clerk prepared a long report on the teaching staff of all the schools, which was as follows: Bargoed 6; Bedlinog 3; Salem 2; Pontnewydd 3; Deri 5; Penybank 2; Pontlottyn 15; Tirphil 8; Troedyrhiwfwuch 3; Gelligaer village 6; Vochriw 9. This includes head teachers, assistant teachers, pupil teachers and monitors. The report did not give sufficient information as to the numbers of children attending each school, hence no action could be taken. The question was accordingly adjourned to the next meeting to obtain fuller information.

“Merthyr Express” 26 March 1881

Gelligaer School Board The monthly meeting of this Board was held at the Board-room, Pontlottyn, on Thursday, March 17th under the presidency of Rev. Aaron Davies (chairman), Rev. J. P. Williams (vice-chairman), Rev. T. Theophilus (vicar), Meesrs. W. Beddoe, L. D. Rees, Lewis Evans, Lewis Lewis, John Davies (deputy clerk), John Williams (architect), and John Jones (attendance officer).

Application Dr. Kent Jones attended as a deputation from the Fochriw Cricket Club, and made application for the use of the Fochriw Schools to hold a concert in aid of the funds of the club. Club membership was given as 23. The application was agreed to.

Fochriw The deputy clerk read a letter from the Fochriw managers as follows:

Fochriw Board School, March 16th, 1881. Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, I beg to enclose for your consideration the following resolution passed by the above managers. 1. That the secretary send to the Board for an allowance of £97 18s. 5½d. to clear the expenses for the quarter ending March 29th next. 2. That we beg to apply to the Board to let s. Davies and John Evans remain on until the next examination, and to be paid as fifth year pupil teachers, with a view to give them a chance to pass their examination into college. That we apply to the Board to engage Selina Williams as monitress instead of Mary J. Jones who is going to leave on 31st March. I am, sir, yours obediently, Thos. Jones, sec. F. James, Esq. Clerk.

“Merthyr Express” 16 July 1881

Gelligaer School Board Monthly Meeting The monthly meeting of this Board was held at Pontlottyn on Thursday, July 7th, the Rev. A. Davies in the chair. Mr. James explained the decision of the judges in the case of compulsory attendance and pre-payment of school fees It was resolved that 300 cards for the remission of school-fee arrears be printed, and a card given to each child whose fees were to be remitted by the Board, the said card to be

delivered to their teachers. Rev. J. P. Williams said that the Board ought to come to some understanding as regards the basis on which fees were to be remitted. He also referred to a statement in The Times in reference to the decision of the judges ... , that all schools in consequence must become free schools. The Board resolved that no further action be taken at present.

The Chairman, Rev. A. Davies, then brought on his scheme for equalising and re-adjusting salaries of head teachers. In his scheme, after classifying the schools, he sought to reduce salaries in the following cases: Headmasters of Vochriw, Gelligaer, Bargoed; and the headmistresses of Tirphil and Penybank. The scheme also included a premium if passes reached 95%, and a reduction if under 80%. Mr L. D. Davies then presented another scheme. Bonus would be given if the Government grant was above 18s. per head on average attendance, and the teachers would be responsible for all school fees, arrears etc.. [After much heated discussion,] the Chairman asked permission to withdraw his scheme. Mr. Davies persisted in proposing that his scheme be considered at the next Board meeting. Mr. D. Davies moved that the scheme be not considered, which was carried. The Board resolved that the new school at Penybank be opened on Monday 1st August.

“Merthyr Express” 6 August 1881

Gelligaer School Board On Monday the new Board school at Penybank was opened. The building cost over £700, and will accommodate 80 children. The architect was Mr John Williams, Merthyr, and the builder Mr Thomas Williams of Bargoed. The school is under the charge of Miss Snook. On the same day, the monthly meeting of the Board was held at Penybank. A short discussion took place of the advisability of refusing to admit children to the schools unless they paid their school fees in advance. Rev. J. P. Williams gave as his opinion that it was unnecessary to take such steps to refuse admission, as the school fees were recoverable in the county court, a few cases from their Board having been tried with success a few days previously at Merthyr.

“Merthyr Express” 3 December 1881

Gelligaer School Board Mr. Samuel Davies was appointed assistant master for Vochriw school at a salary of £36 per annum. Miss Mary Ann Williams was appointed mistress for Vochriw school, and Miss S. J. Williams was appointed mistress for Penybank school.

Salary Reductions Mrs Greening, Vochriw, reduced from £70 to £60 p.a. or, if she undertook sewing, salary would remain the same. Miss Snook, Penybank, reduced from £70 to £60.

“Merthyr Express” 4 March 1882

Gelligaer School Board Receipts for the sale of sewn materials from Vochriw Board School - £4 11s 7½d., and from Penybank School, 4s.

“Merthyr Express” 29 April 1882

Concert On Monday evening the 17th inst., a concert, presided over by Rev. A. Davies, Pontlottyn, was held at Carmel Chapel. A well arranged programme was gone through, the parts being sustained by Misses Margery Lewis, U.C.W.; Beck Jenkins, Rhymney; and C. M. Thomas, Vochriw; and Messrs. S. Evans and party, Pontlottyn; S. Richards and party, Deri; Dewi Buallt, Vochriw, assisted by the Vochriw Glee Club, under the leadership of Mr. Henry Williams, who sang the “Sailor’s Chorus” and “Comrades in Arms.” Part 1 included: “Sailor’s Chorus” - Glee Party; duet, “Tell me, gentle stranger,” - Miss Lewis and Mr. S. Evans (encored); song, “Kilarney,” Miss Doyle; pianoforte solo, Miss Kent Jones; song, “I’m a merry Singara,” Miss Lewis; duet, “The flower gatherers,” Misses Philpots; song, “Y Milwr,” Mr. Richards; song, “Katie’s letter,” Miss Jenkins; chorus, “O Gymru anwylaf,” Choir. Part 2: Duet, Messrs. Richards and Owen; song, “Turnham Toll,” Miss Lewis; glee, “Comrades in Arms,” Glee Party; duet, Miss Thomas and Dewi Buallt; song, “The old cottage clock,” Miss Jenkins; quartette, Mr. S. Evans and party; song, “Tell me my heart,” Miss Thomas (encored); duet, “Howell, why dost thou loiter,” Miss Lewis and Mr. Robert Davies (encored); finale, “God Save the Queen.” Miss Kent Jones ably presided at the pianoforte, and Mr. John Harris was the conductor. The proceeds were towards supporting a workman’s daughter who succeeded in gaining a scholarship of £25 per annum, tenable for two years, at Pengam. We have no doubt that a large sum will be handed over to the part mentioned.

“Merthyr Express” 17 June 1882

Gelligaer School Board It was stated that some improvements and alterations were required in the Fochriw School buildings. A Committee was appointed to consult with the managers on the spot and instruct them to carry out the improvements required. Cheques were given as follows: Penybank - £20; Fochriw - £84.

“Merthyr Express” 10 March 1883

A Promising Young Welsh Woman At the recent Cambridge Local Examinations, Miss Annie Gwen, the daughter of Mr. Thomas Jones, grocer, Vochriw, distinguished herself by obtaining a place in the third class honours division. It appears she is the only girl from Wales under sixteen years of age that has attained a pass with honour. Previous to the above examination she has received from the Science and Art Department four second class certificates in chemistry, mathematics etc. From her childhood, she has given evidence that she possess abilities considerably beyond the ordinary, and the success which has attended her in the various examinations may be taken as a good omen that there are further honours awaiting her. She has the best wishes of the inhabitants of Vochriw, who naturally feel glad of her rapid scholastic achievements, and also because honour is brought upon her native village. We sincerely wish her well, and earnestly hope we shall live to see her occupying an elevated position.

“Merthyr Express” 14 July 1883

Gelligaer School Board: Fochriw and Pantywaun Schools Communications have been read relating to these schools, and it was found that Miss Jones, Fochriw, was a good deal of her time at home attending to the illness of her mother. The members living in the upper part of the district, and the managers, were instructed to arrange as to the supply of teachers for these schools.

“Merthyr Express” 11 August 1883

Gelligaer School Board Vochriw Schools The Chairman reported that the Committee, as instructed at the last meeting, had appointed a successor to Miss Jones, the assistant mistress at Vochriw, who had left owing to the illness of her mother, and that Mr. John W. Walters, an ex-pupil teacher from the Board school at Treharris, had been appointed until the next examination, at a salary of £3 per month.

“Merthyr Express” 8 September 1883

Gelligaer School Board Cwmysgwyddgwyn and Pentwyn Schools The following correspondence was read between the Clerk and the Home Office with reference to the above schools, pointing out that in consequence of the closing of the two national schools, which the above school buildings formerly held, the Board had been obliged to supply school accommodation at a heavy cost. The Government grant had been obtained for the building of each of these schools.

April 14th, 1883. Sir, - I am directed by my Board to draw your attention to two school buildings in the parish in which national schools were lately held, viz, Cwmysgwyddgwyn (Deri), and Pentwyn (Vochriw). The School Board has been obliged to supply school accommodation, the want of which was caused by the closing of these schools, and which supply cost the Board considerable sums of money. We understand that a Government grant was obtained for the building of each of these schools. They have ever since they were closed been used exclusively for Divine service. Mr Board desire respectfully to submit that the money having expressly paid For buildings dedicated to educational purposes which have now failed, means should be taken, if possible, to recover such moneys. The moneys have now become wasted, although this might have been otherwise if the buildings had been offered to the Board under Section 23 of the Education Act, which they were not, but, on the contrary, a negotiation for the transfer of the Pentwyn school fell through in consequence of the late Rector of Gelligaer refusing his sanction. We are advised that under the School Sites Act, 1841, these cannot be transferred without your sanction, and we must respectfully beg to suggest that should an application be made to you for such sanction you will decline to give it, except on condition that the building grants moneys be returned to the Government. - I am, etc. F. James, Clerk.

To this letter the Home Secretary made a formal acknowledgement, and afterwards made some formal inquiries. Subsequently, the subject was dealt with by the Education Department in the following letter:-

Education Department, April 21st, 1883. Sir - I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 14th instant. The Education Department are advised that they have no power to require the premises of the Cwmysgwyddgwyn national school to be used for the purposes of a school. Possibly an application to the Charity Commissioners for their advice and assistance might be of advantage. Yours, etc. P. Cumin.

This suggestion was carried out, and the Charity Commissioners stated that if they were supplied with the names and addresses of the trustees of the buildings, they would cause a copy of the letter to be forwarded to them for their observation. It was now stated that the trustees were the Rector of Gelligaer, and the Archdeacon of Llandaff, and it was decided to give the Charity Commissioners the particulars with which they desired to be provided.

“Merthyr Express” 23 February 1884

Gelligaer School Board: Non-attendance at Vochriw The attendance officer brought four cases of non-attendance at the Schools. The parents appeared before the Board, and in one, the officer was ordered to issue a summons against the parents.

“Merthyr Express” 19 April 1884

Fochriw: Lecture On Monday se’night, a lecture was delivered by Rev. D. Jones, Swansea, in Carmel Congregational Chapel, on “England, China and the Opium Trade.” After a very interesting lecture, the following resolution was passed: “That this meeting desires to express its protest against the injustice of enforcing the trade of opium on the Chinese, and of prohibiting them the power to deal with it as they may see fit.” The following gentlemen also took part in the proceedings: Messrs. Isaac Williams, John Jones, W. O. Morgan, and W. Harris. After the usual votes of thanks had been accorded the lecturer and chairman, the meeting terminated.

Gelligaer School Board Deri School Managers asked permission to engage a monitor to serve in the infant department, which was granted. Mr. W. O. Morgan, Fochriw, was requested to examine those who had passed the VI Standard, and the one who obtained the highest number of marks to be appointed.

“Merthyr Express” 28 June 1884

Fochriw: Educational At the recent examination at Pengam Endowed School, two of the pupil teachers of Fochriw school were first and second prize winners. Ann Mantle took the first prize for 1st year students, and C. Morgans won 2nd prize for those in the third year of their apprenticeship. We congratulate them and also, Mr. W. O. Morgan, the head teacher.

“Merthyr Express” 9 August 1884

Gelligaer School Board Rev. J. M. Williams, curate of Vochriw, applied to the Board for a loan of the Board schoolroom to hold the annual tea treat of the Church Sunday School. The request was refused.

“Merthyr Express” 4 October 1884

Gelligaer School Board Monthly Meeting: The National Schools at Deri and Vochriw Considerable time was spent in a discussion with respect to the closing of the National Schools at Deri and Fochriw. The following correspondence on the subject was read by the Clerk:-

Merthyr, August 11th, 1883. The Secretary of the Charity Commissioners.

Sir, - I am directed by my Board to draw your attention to two school buildings in the parish in which national schools were lately held, viz, Cwmysgwyddgwyn (Deri), and Pentwyn (Vochriw). The School Board has been obliged to supply school accommodation, the want of which was caused by the closing of these schools, and which supply cost the Board considerable sums of money. We understand that a Government grant was obtained for the building of each of these schools. They have ever since they were closed been used exclusively for Divine service. Mr Board desire respectfully to submit that the money having expressly paid For buildings dedicated to educational purposes which have now failed, means should be taken, if possible, to recover such moneys. The moneys have now become wasted, although this might have been otherwise if the buildings had been offered to the

Board under Section 23 of the Education Act, which they were not, but, on the contrary, a negotiation for the transfer of the Pentwyn school fell through in consequence of the late Rector of Gelligaer refusing his sanction. The School Board have represented the above facts to the Education Department, who have replied by stating that they have no power to deal with the matter, but have recommended us to make an application to the Charity Commissioners for their advice and assistance on the matter. I shall feel obliged, therefore, if you will submit the matter as soon as convenient to the Commissioners, and advise us what steps to take. I am, etc., Frank James

Gellygaer Rectory, August 9th, 1884. Cwmysgwyddgwyn (Deri), and Pentwyn (Vochriw) Schools.

Sir - In reply to your letters dated Oct. 27th, 1883, and July 25th, 1884, requesting us as Trustees of Cwmysgwyddgwyn, Deri, and Pentwyn, Vochriw, Schools, to make observation on the letter of the Clerk of the Gelligaer School Board respecting grants obtained from the Government for the building of the above schools, we beg to state:- "That the school sites were conveyed for the purposes of schools to be always in union with and conducted upon the principles and in furtherance of the ends and designs of the Incorporated National Society for promoting the education of the poor in the principles of the Established Church, and that the minister of the parish may use or direct the premises to be used for the purposes of Sunday schools under his exclusive control and management (see Trust Deed). That when the schools were built and the grants received, there was a bona fide intention to carry them on as public elementary schools, and the intention was loyally carried out as long as was possible. That the intention was only frustrated by the will of the people through the establishment of a School Board, to have undenominational schools. That owing to rivalry of Board Schools, it was found necessary to discontinue the use of the premises for day school purposes, but we beg to submit that the trusts are fulfilled by the holding in the buildings of Sunday Schools and weekday evening classes for religious instruction. We are of opinion that, to require payment of the money granted, would be of the nature of a fine upon the school managers for their efforts in endeavouring to meet the educational requirements of a difficult district, when assistance of every kind was urgently needed. We would call the attention of the Commissioners to the following selection of facts:- (a) That private subscriptions towards the erection of these buildings were asked and secured on the understanding that the buildings were to be used for the double purpose of supplying educational need and of providing means of public worship. (b) That they continue to be used for such purposes, but that the requirements of the Trust Deed as regards education, are from necessity limited to holding Sunday schools under the direction of the minister of the parish. The clause in the Trust Deed being "that the principal officiating minister the time being of the parish of Gelligaer may use, or direct to be used, for the purpose of Sunday school under his exclusive control and management. (c) That the proportion of expense covered by the grant is very small compared with the outlay. (d) That the National Society, having knowledge of the trust, and having made grants for the erection of these buildings, have not given their sanction to their use for any other than the purposes of their provision.

(signed) J. L. Meredith, Rector of Gelligaer; John Griffiths, Archdeacon of Llandaff.

Charity Commission, Whitehall, S. W., August 27, 1884.

Charitable Trusts Acts. Gelligaer, Cwmysgwyddgwyn, Deri), and Pentwyn, Vochriw, Schools.

Sir - Adverting to your letter of the 19th ult., which refers to your previous communication of the 11th of August, 1883, I am to enclose a copy of a letter recently received from the trustees of the schools to which you refer. Assuming the trusts of the schools in question to be correctly stated in the enclosed letter, there seems to be no grounds for the intervention of the commissioners as would be if the school buildings were closed, and now useless, in consequence of the establishment of School Board Schools. In such a case, the commissioners would be prepared to consider an application from the trustees for the sale of the school buildings, with the assent of the Home Secretary in respect of Government Building Grant, and would also be prepared to establish a scheme directing the investment in Government

Stocks of the proceeds of the sale (after the repayment of the Government Building Grant, if required), and the application of the dividends for the educational benefit of the children of the parish, who are the objects of the charity attending any public elementary school there in small money payments, as rewards for meritorious conduct or proficiency at the annual examinations. It is not understood what the School Board desire to effect by their suggestion that means should be taken to recover back moneys obtained in respect of a Government Building Grant. I am your obedient servant, Henry M. Vane, Secretary.

The chairman, Rev. Aaron Davies, considering the question to be of such importance to the ratepayers in general had committed what he had to say to paper, and, with their permission, he would now read it to them, which was as follows:- "The schools which received Government grant towards their construction could not be under the exclusive control of the minister of the parish, as the schools were public elementary schools, and as such were under government inspection, and as such, come within the scope of the Education Act, 1870. The intention of the trustees is stated to be, when the schools were built, 'to carry them on as public elementary schools.' Such intention the Board, under the Act of 1870, sec. 23, were ready and willing to carry out and take the charge of the trust as far as relates to the Public Elementary Schools Trust, as the schools were covering accommodation for a large number of the children in their respective localities, and which were claimed and insisted upon to be considered, when the Board made out its report to the Department. If the intention was bona fide, then why not complete the transfer of Vochriw school to the Board, when the Board were willing, and that only for school days, leaving the 'old managers' to deal with what they call Sunday school teaching and weekday night classes, which do not come under the inspection of H.M. Inspector? to say that the trust for public elementary education is carried out by keeping Church Sunday School, and similar classes on week nights, is preposterous. That is at once claiming that the Departments established for giving public elementary education to the children of Her Majesty's subjects, to be a department for supplying Church Sunday Schools, which was not within the scope of the authority of such department.the Board, owing to the action of the trustees, had to build and spend upwards of £1,000 to meet the deficiency caused by the closure of the said schools, it is but just to the ratepayers that whatever value of the public trust money there is should be used to pay off some part of the loans raised to make the accommodation that was required as a result of the closure. I move that we ask the Commissioners to take steps for that purpose, and that the following members be named a committee to act with the Clerk to draw up the application, viz., Rev. A. Davies, Rev. J. P. Williams, and Mr. Jonathan Williams.

Rev. J. L. Meredith said that it was unkind of the Board to do anything in connection with these schools after the very great amount of work done by the late Canon Harries in establishing schools in the parish of Gelligaer. It was simply a piece of sectarianism, and in his opinion it would be most unfair to visit the sins of the dead upon the living. And he moved that in the opinion of this meeting, this Board have nothing more to do with the question of these schools, and no committee be formed. This was seconded by Rev. T. Theophilus. Upon a division, the original proposition of the chairman was carried by one vote.

The Vochriw Staff The assistant master, Mr. Walters, having tendered his resignation, it was resolved that a young man named Jones from Pontlottyn, be engaged as monitor until the next examination.

Finance The following quarterly bills and other bills were ordered to be paid: Cwmfelin schools, £70; Newton, £53; Deri, £82; Pontnewydd, £57; Penybank, £25; Bargoed, £79; Pontlottyn, £133; Pantywain, £28; Gelligaer village, £59; Vochriw £96; Tirphil, £86; George Inn, £29; Troedrihwfuch, £27; Daniel Thomas (tredegar), £160; Thomas Thomas, £15 5s.; Frank James, £17 10s.; John Jones, £7 10s.; Public Works Loan Commissioners, £446 19s. 4d.; total, £1,471 4s. 4d. Attendance Officer's Report: Number of children in average attendance was 1,976; on the registers 2,499; school fees received £41 7s. 11½d.

“Merthyr Express” 1 November 1884

Gelligaer School Board: The Closing of the National School The committee appointed to deliberate on the adjourned question of the closing the National schools at Cwmysgwyddgwyn and Pentwyn, reported to the Board, and the following reply was ordered to be sent to the Charity Commissioners:-

Merthyr Tydfil, October 23, 1884. Gentlemen, - Cwmysgwyddgwyn (Deri) and Pentwyn (Vochriw) National Schools - Referring to your favour of the 27 August 1884, I am directed by my Board to state that the matter has again had their due consideration. I beg leave to send herewith office copies of the Trust deeds of both these schools, which I shall be glad to receive back when done with. It would appear that the Cwmysgwyddgwyn school was built with money from the Parliamentary grant to the extent of £83 15s., and Pentwyn (Vochriw) school also received a Parliamentary grant of £87 10s.. My Board submit that this public money was granted for the express purpose of supplying public elementary education in the parish of Gelligaer under inspection; that it now appears, and is, in fact, admitted by the rector and archdeacon of 9th August 1884, that no elementary education is carried out in the buildings, and the trustees have not availed themselves of the power of transferring the schools to the School Board, but, on the contrary, have refused to do so. In consequence of these schools being closed, and not transferred, this parish has had to raise money by way of loan for other buildings, to supply the requisite accommodation. The School Board therefore think that the public money spent upon these buildings, which has now become useless, should be returned; and if this can be done, my Board respectfully suggests that the amount received should be applied in part-payment of the loan advanced by the Public Loan Works Commissioners to the Board. I have the honour to remain sir, your obedient servant, Frank James, Clerk.

To the Secretary, Charity Commissioners, Whitehall, London, S. W.

It was unanimously resolved that the above letter should be sent to the Charity Commissioners.

“Merthyr Express” 21 March 1885

Gelligaer School Board: Deri and Pentwyn National Schools The Clerk reported that the following letter had been received from the Charity Commissioners.

‘In reply to the letter of your Board stating that the Commissioners are empowered to advise trustees of charities in the conduct or administration of their trust, the Commissioners can only intervene in the application of each trustee, and it does not come properly within the functions of the Commissioners to advise those who claim advocacy to the trust upon questions coming between such persons and the trust.’ To F. James, Clerk, from H. M. Vane.

It was resolved that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk reply.

“Merthyr Express” 14 November 1885

Gelligaer School Board Three teachers won Queen Scholarships at the last entrance examination at Swansea Training College, namely, Miss M. A. Williams, Tirphil, Miss Esther Jenkins, Pontlottyn, and Miss Morgan, Fochriw.

“Merthyr Express” 20 February 1886

Gelligaer School Board Election Mr Lewis Evans, Penybanc, has withdrawn his name from the election of members for Gelligaer School Board.

“Merthyr Express” 27 February 1886

Gelligaer School Board Election Dr. Eleazer Davies, Vochriw, non-conformist, received 858 votes in the election for membership of the Gelligaer School Board. He was unsuccessful. Those elected were as follows: Rev. Ll.M. Williams, vicar of Pontlottyn, 2,601; Rev. J.L. Meredith, rector of Gelligaer, 1,417; Rev. J.P. Williams, Pontlottyn, non-conformist, 1,314; Rev. Aaron Davies, Pontlottyn, non-conformist, 1,305; Mr. Hy. Edwards, Dan-y-Pentre, churchman, 1,225; Mr. W. Beddoe, Nelson non-conformist, 1,045; Mr. Isaac Phillips, Pontlottyn, non-conformist, 1,005; Mr. John Morgan, Pontlottyn non-conformist, 986; Mr. E. Lewis, Yswyddgwyn, 954.

“Merthyr Express” 6 March 1886

Gelligaer School Board An application from the curate of Vochriw to hold a concert at the school was granted as the time was so short, but the case was to be seen as “exceptional,” and not a precedent, as a rule had been passed that the schools should only be let for the public as a whole, and not any particular section of it.

“Merthyr Express” 17 April 1886

Gelligaer School Board Reference was made to the land on which Fochriw Schools had been built. It had cost £600 per acre.

“Merthyr Express” 22 May 1886

Gelligaer School Board An application by the Drum and Fife Band at Vochriw for a reduction in the price of 5s. charged by the Board for the use of the school for practising could not be entertained as nothing had yet been paid.

“Merthyr Express” 12 June 1886

Gelligaer School Board There was only one application for the vacancy at Penybank School - Miss J. E. Tarbuck - who was, accordingly appointed.

“Merthyr Express” 7 August 1886

Gelligaer School Board There were four applications for the teaching post at Penybank school. Miss E. Evans (Hornsey Hill) originally from Cardiganshire, was appointed.

“Merthyr Express” 25 December 1886

Gelligaer School Board: Another Skirmish The ordinary monthly meeting of this Board was held at Pontlloctyn on the 16th. Present: Rev. A. Davies (chairman), Rev. J. P. Williams (vice-chairman), Rev. Ll. M. Williams, Rev. J. L. Meredith, Messrs. W. Beddoe, Issaac Phillips, Henry Edwards, John Morgans, Edmund Lewis, J. Williams (architect), F. James (clerk), Messrs James and Thomas (attendance officers).

Fochriw Schools Rev. L. A. Williams had given notice of motion that the staff of the Fochriw Schools be reconsidered and re-arranged. He thought . . . that it would be injurious to the schools if the plan were put in force. He had examined the registers and had found that the attendance was on the increase, and in all probability, would continue to increase. He saw no reason why any alteration should be made in the staff, and he would therefore move that the school staff be allowed to remain as it is for the next twelvemonth. Rev. J. L. Meredith seconded. The Board divided five votes to three on sectarian lines, and the earlier decisions to end the employment of Mrs. Greening and Mrs. Morgan, sewing mistress at Vochriw were re-affirmed.

“Merthyr Express” 22 January 1887

Gelligaer School Board Applications for the appointment of two additional managers of the Fochriw schools - Dr. E. Davies, and Rev. Lloyd Rees - was agreed.

“Merthyr Express” 25 June 1887

Gelligaer Endowed Schools: Distribution of Prizes The students were examined by Rev. Frank Besant of Emanuel College Cambridge. Senior Class - 2nd prize, £2 and a book to G. M. Evans, Penybank, Fochriw. Also, Hannah Mantle, Fochriw, 45 shillings; Annie Ann, Vochriw, 35 shillings.

“Merthyr Express” 1 October 1887

Gelligaer School Board Bills paid: Penybank £30; Vochriw £85. Penybank Schools: Mr. J. Williams, White Horse Inn, was appointed correspondent for the schools.

“Merthyr Express” 29 October 1887

Gelligaer School Board: Successful Pupil Teachers Four pupil teachers under the Board have successfully passed the examinations to enter different Training Colleges. Thomas Jones, Pontlloctyn Boys' School passed first class to Borough Road College, and Samuel Davies, Edward Williams and J. G. Evans, in the second division, from Vochriw schools to Bangor College.

“Merthyr Express” 5 November 1887

Educational Successes Mr. John Morgan is entering Cardiff University, and Miss Ann Mantle passed first class at a recent examination at Swansea College.

“Merthyr Express” 24 December 1887

Gelligaer School Board: Vochriw Schools A letter was read from Mr. W. O. Morgan of Vochriw asking that Joseph Evans be retained at the school as an assistant master. The Clerk

was directed to reply that, Board having arranged the staff, it could not now be altered. Mrs. Lewis attended before the Board, and stated that Mr. Morgan would not allow her boy, Edward Lewis, who was injured at Vochriw, to attend the school until he was again able to resume his work. All the members were in favour of the boy attending school, and the Clerk was directed to inform Mr. Morgan.

“Merthyr Express” 28 January 1888

Gelligaer School Board The monthly meeting was held at the Plasnewydd Hotel Bargoed on Thursday 19th., when there were present the Rev. Aaron Davies (chairman), Rev. J. P. Williams (vice-chairman), Rev. J. L. Meredith, Messrs. E. Lewis, I. Phillips, J. Williams, H. Edwards, J. Morgan, F. James (clerk), and J. Jones (attendance officer).

The Appointment of Assistant Mistresses Among the appointments was that of Miss Phillpotts to Vochriw.

Vochriw Schools The Government report was read and contained a note made by H.M.I. to the effect “That in future none will be accepted for examination unless they can be indentured in accordance with the provision of the Education Act.” The person referred to in this note was M. S. Humphreys, and a warm discussion took place between the Rev. J. L. Meredith and the Chairman. It was eventually decided that the clerk should write to the managers asking for an explanation as to why she was not presented for examination the same as the other candidates.

“Merthyr Express” 25 February 1888

Gelligaer School Board At the monthly meeting of the Board, a summary of the quality grant and average attendance based on the last examination of schools, and taken from the Reports for H.M. Inspector for 1887, was given: Vochriw Mixed and Infants, grant - £119 11s. average attendance - 134; Pantywain Mixed £54 3s. and 51; Penybank Mixed, £37 11s 10d and 46.

Pupil Teacher Grievance at Vochriw A warm discussion ensued with reference to the pupil teachers’ grievance at this school. It was decided to request the headmaster to supply for the next meeting of the Board certain information for the guidance of the Board.

“Merthyr Express” 7 April 1888

Gelligaer School Board: Charges Against a Schoolmaster Disproved An adjourned meeting of the above Board was held recently at the Vochriw Board School to inquire into the charges of undue preference brought against the master (Mr. W. O. Morgan) by the Rev. Ll. M. Williams, vicar of Beaufort, at the instigation of Mr. Rees, the mother of one of the candidates for pupil-teachership. The charges were: (a) That Mr Morgan before the last pupil-teachers’ examination put Mrs. Rees’s daughter to teach Mr. Morgan’s daughter’s class, together with her own, and gave the time for his daughter to prepare for her examination; (b) That he taught Mr. Rees’s daughter for second year’s work up to within a short time of the examination, and on the eve of the examination day, put her back to do first year’s work, which was the reason for Mrs. Rees’s daughter passing so poor an examination before Her Majesty’s Inspector of Schools. Mr. Morgan denied the first charge altogether, and justified himself in regard to the second by saying that Mrs. Rees’s daughter came under his care in the middle of the year after being for nearly a year and a half under Mrs. Greening in the infant department. She was so backward and much neglected, or neglected herself with her lessons, that though he spent a great deal of extra time, above the requirements of the code in preparing her, he found out that if she took the second year’s papers in the examination, it would surely turn out a blank failure on her part, and he advised her to consult her parents on the matter, which she did, and told him so. Letters from Mr. Morgan and Mrs. Greening were read. The inquiry was conducted in the presence of the master concerned and the pupil teacher’s mother. After the inquiry, Mr. Jonathan Williams proposed the following resolution:- “That after hearing all the evidence, we are of opinion that the charges brought against Mr. Morgan are not proved, and that he has done nothing wrong to Miss Humphreys, and that she will be allowed to remain on condition of her complying with the regulations of the Board.” It was seconded by Rev. Ll. M. Williams and accepted by Mrs. Rees.

“Merthyr Express” 30 June 1888

Prize Day at Gelligaer Endowed School The annual distribution of prizes to the successful students of Lewis' Endowed Schools, Pengam, took place on Friday last. G. M. Evans of Penybanc was placed in the 3rd class for the Cambridge local examination. He received second prize of £2 and a book in the Senior Class prize giving. In the female pupil teachers examination, those successful included:- 3rd year, second prize, Annie Morgan, Vochriw schools. Other prizes were given to Annie Wynne and Lydia Rees, Pantywaun Schools.

“Merthyr Express” 28 July 1888

Gelligaer School Board: Vochriw Schools Tenders for repairs were received, and that of Mr. Evan Jones of Dowlais, for £66 5s., was accepted.

“Merthyr Express” 23 March 1889

Gelligaer School Board The resignation of Miss Humphreys of Vochriw School was accepted, and notice given that an ex-pupil teacher (female) be appointed.

“Merthyr Express” 20 April 1889

Gelligaer School Board On Thursday evening, April 11th, the monthly meeting of the Board was held at Hengoed Board School. The Rev. J. P. Williams, vice-chairman, presided, and there were also present Revs. R. O. Jones & T. J. Jones, Messrs. Henry Edwards, W. C. Beddoe, E. Lewis, together with Mr. F. T. James (deputy clerk), John Jones and T. R. Thomas, attendance officers.

Bible Reading in Schools A letter was read from the Rev. Alderman A. Davies, asking that the question of Bible reading (notice of which he had given at the last meeting) in the schools under this Board should be postponed to the next meeting. This was agreed. Another letter was read from Rev. J. L. Meredith, rector of Gelligaer, (who was absent through illness) asking permission to postpone his motion in regard to the appointment of an examiner for pupil teachers (females) under the Board for prizes at the Gelligaer Endowed School. This was agreed.

Appointment to Vochriw School The chairman proposed, and Rev. T. J. Jones seconded, that an assistant mistress be appointed to the vacancy at Vochriw Board School caused by Miss Humphrey's resignation, and that the one who obtained the highest number of marks at the last examination by H.M. Inspectors be appointed. The Rev. R. O. Jones moved an amendment, which was seconded by Mr. W. C. Beddoe that a monitress be appointed to the vacancy. The motion was declared carried. Miss Jane Edwards, who lives at Vochriw, but is at Hengoed School, was appointed to the vacancy at Vochriw, and it was arranged that Miss Ann Edwards of Gelligaer, go to Hengoed School.

The Late Election The Clerk submitted the bill of charges incurred at the last School Board election, amounting to £115 17s 2d. The charge for the previous election, three years ago, was £87 3s 3d. Some members thought the amount of the present bill far too high, especially the amount paid to polling clerks, the preparing of registers, and the posting of papers. After some explanation, it was agreed to pass the bill.

“Merthyr Express” 15 June 1889

The Bible-Reading-Question at Gelligaer A public meeting took place at the Assembly-rooms, Bargoed, on Wednesday evening, 5th. To consider the above matter. There were present: Revs. Aaron Davies; T. J. Jones, vicar of Pontlottyn; B. Davies, Tirphil; W. T. Williams, Gelligaer village; R. Evans, Hengoed; Jones, curate Bargoed; Lloyd, curate Cwmfelin; Morgan, Vochriw; and D. W. Hopkins, Deri; Messrs E. Lewis, Moses Davies, Deri; Jonathan Williams, William Jones and Makepeace, Bargoed; Williams and Davies, Pontlottyn. Mr Jonathan Williams was voted to the chair. It was agreed that every effort should be made, consistent with the voluntary principle, to get the Bible taught in the schools of the Board. A general committee is to be formed of two representatives from all the Sunday Schools throughout the parish, and all the head teachers of the Board are invited to join the committee. A sub-committee was appointed to formulate a scheme for consideration composed of the following persons:- A. Davies, T. J. Jones, J. P. Williams, R. Evans, J. L. Meredith, Jonathan Williams, D. W. Hopkins. The best feeling prevailed throughout the meeting.

Gelligaer School Board: the Question of Married Teachers Rev. T. J. Jones gave notice that he would move at the next meeting that no married teachers be employed in future.

“Merthyr Express” 29 June 1889

Gelligaer Endowed School: Prize Day The annual distribution of prizes included the following:- Boys: Sixth Year; Exhibition of £10 and a book to G. M. Evans, Penybank; Girls: Fourth Year, Annie R. Morgan, Fochriw, £2-5-0; Third Year, Annie Wynne, Pantywaun, £1; Second Year, Elizabeth Ashton, Pantywaun, 17s. 6d.; First Year, Dinah Davies, Fochriw, 15 shillings; Candidates, Catherine Lewis, Fochriw, 15 shillings.

“Merthyr Express” 14 September 1889

Alleged Favourism At The Gelligaer School Board In a letter related to alleged favouritism at the Gelligaer School Board, J. P. Williams outlined some of the opportunities for scholarships available to girls of Gelligaer parish at the Pontllytyn Higher Grade School. Candidates entering the examination must have the following qualifications: 1. They must be pupils from the elementary schools in the parish of Gelligaer. 2. They must, on the 31st October, be qualified to sit the examination for the fifth standard and upward at the next Government examination. Twenty exhibitions, tenable for two years, are offered for competition, each exhibition including tuition fees and train fare where the exhibitioner resides at a distance, and is able to avail herself of a train. Those unable to travel daily, receive a portion of their expenses for lodging at Pontllytyn. The names of the pupils involved in the alleged favouritism were Miss Ballard and Miss Viner. They were granted a third year as exhibitioners on the word of the Board chairman, and the legality of this was being challenged.

“Merthyr Express” 7 December 1889

The Establishment of Working Men’s Scholarships On Monday last, a meeting was held at Brynseion Chapel, Dowlais, for the purposes of promoting the establishment of working men’s scholarships in connection with the University College, Cardiff. The ten collieries of the Dowlais Company were represented. There was a large attendance, and the proceedings throughout were very enthusiastic. The subject was introduced by the chairman, Mr. Davies, who was followed by Mr. R. Davies, the organizing secretary of the field committee, who detailed the nature and character of the proposition. Mr. Ivor James gave an account of the progress generally since the formation of the three University Colleges. Rev. O. L. Roberts made a vigorous appeal to the men to combine together for the purpose of educating the best and brightest of their sons and daughters. At the close, a resolution pledging the meeting to use the utmost efforts to carry out the suggestion was passed, as well as cordial votes of thanks to the members of the deputation, and to the chairman.

“Merthyr Express” 12 April 1890

The New Code and Welsh Schools The concessions granted by the New Code to the special circumstances of Welsh schools are of the utmost importance. In effect, they will open the door to a thorough change in the whole system of Welsh elementary education. Summarized briefly they amount to this:- 1. Welsh grammar may be taught as a specific subject in Standards V, VI, VII, and a grant of 4s. will be paid on account of each child who passes this examination. 2. A rational system of teaching English as a class subject by means of a graduated system of translations, and an appeal at each step to the intelligence of the children, may be substituted for the present requirements in English grammar in all standards, and a grant of 2s. per child, on the average of the whole school, will be paid if the results of the examination are satisfactory. 3. In all standards, and in all subjects taught in the school, bi-lingual reading books may be used, and bi-lingual copy books may be used in teaching writing. 4. The geography of Wales may be taught up to Standard III., and the history of Wales may be taught throughout the whole school, by means of books partly in Welsh, partly in English, and a grant of 2s. per head, on the average of the whole school, may be earned for each of these subjects, if the results in the examination are satisfactory. 5. Schools taking up the new method of teaching English as a class subject may also claim the right to substitute translation from Welsh to English for English composition in the elementary subjects, and thus reap double benefit.

6. Finally, the small village and country schools, so numerous in the Principality, may for the purposes of class teaching, re-arrange the standards in three groups: Group 1 - Standard 1 &

II; Group 2 - Standard III; Group 3 - Standards IV, V, VI, VII. This will be a material relief to under-staffed schools.

“Merthyr Express” 1 November 1890

Higher Grade School, Pontlottyn: Scholarship Examination Results: Vochriw Successes E. Cole; G. Jones; E. Jones; E. A. Morgan; M. A. Lewis, Penybank.

“Merthyr Express” 22 November 1890

Gelligaer School Board: Letter of Application A letter was read from the secretary of the Vochriw Rechabites asking for a loan of the shool at Vochriw for the holding of a concert. This was granted on the usual terms.

Exhibitions It was resolved on the motion of Rev. T. J. Jones, seconded by Rev. R. O. Jones, that the first 25 girls on the merit list be offered exhibitions at the Higher Grade School at Pontlottyn.

“Merthyr Express” 29 November 1890

GILCHRIST EDUCATIONAL TRUST On Tuesday Evening, December 9, 1890 at 8 o'clock the sixth of the series of Lectures will be delivered at the Temperance Hall, Merthyr by PROFESSOR H. G. SEELEY, KING'S COLLEGE, on “The Animals and Plants of the Coal Measures.” The Lectures Are Primarily For The Working Classes And Working Men Are Therefore Especially Invited. Admission One Penny

“Merthyr Express” 6 December 1890

Gelligaer School Board Appointments etc.. The Clerk said that the average attendance of the infants' department at Vochriw was 56, and therefore, a certificated mistress was required, but it was agreed to let the matter rest until Her Majesty's Inspector's report arrives.

“Merthyr Express” 20 December 1890

Gelligaer School Board: Appointments At the monthly meeting, it was agreed that Miss Adelaide Lewis be retained as 4th year pupil teacher at Penybank School. Miss Lottie Davies was appointed monitor to Penybank.

Loan of Schools It was agreed to loan the Vochriw schoolroom to the Methodists on the usual terms.

Letters Dr. Dyke requested the Board to close the whole of their schools owing to the prevailing epidemic. This was ordered to be done until January 4th, 1891.

“Merthyr Express” 7 March 1891

Gelligaer School Board A letter was read from Mr. Davies, Fochriw, asking for the loan of the school at Fochriw to perform a drama in connection with the Noddfa Chapel Party on 12th March, 1891. It was resolved that the request be granted provided they did not interfere with the school duties before four o'clock.

Attendance The attendance officer reported an average attendance of 2,060 last month. Considerable discussion arose on the different methods of ensuring attendance. Three remedies were identified: prosecution; awarding prizes; raising the standard for leaving off school. It was resolved to prosecute parties from Vochriw, Trelewis and Bargoed for non-attendance.

“Merthyr Express” 30 May 1891

Vochriw Schools Dr. Dyke advised the Board to close these schools as an epidemic was prevailing there. This was agreed to.

“Merthyr Express” 1 August 1891

Gelligaer Endowed School A meeting of the Governors of this school was held on Saturday. A letter from the Gelligaer School Board was read by the Clerk:- Dear Sir, - I am directed by my Board to send you a copy of the following resolution which was passed by my Board at their last meeting: “Resolved that the Clerk apply to the Governors of the Gelligaer Charity to know whether they would be prepared to take over entirely the management of the Higher Grade School at Pontlottyn, in view of converting it into an Intermediate School for Girls, and if so, whether they would take over the same at the end of this present school year.” I shall be glad to receive your reply.

Yours truly, Evan James, Clerk. Consideration of the letter was deferred.

“Merthyr Express” 22 August 1891

Gelligaer School Board: Free Education The Board agreed unanimously to adopt the Free Education clauses of the Education Act, and that all schools of this parish be free on and after September 1st 1891.

Raising of the School Exemption Limit from the 4th to the 5th Standard Rev. J. P. Williams argued that in that the present Government had granted free education to children from three to fifteen, and given that this Board had availed themselves of this boon, surely we should not allow children to leave school with such scanty education as they now received. There were now some 200 children between the ages of 10 and 12 who regularly did no more than walk the streets of the parish. They were too young to work, and according to the Board's bye laws, too old for school. He would therefore move that the exemption standard be raised from the 4th to the 5th Standard. The motion was seconded and carried. Notices of the resolution were to be distributed throughout the parish, pending the alteration of the present bye-laws.

French Classes A letter was read from Mr. W. O. Mogan, Vochriw, asking the Board to allow him to form French classes to prepare teachers for the Queen Scholarships, and asking where such classes could be formed. It was resolved that he be allowed the rooms that would be agreeable to the various head teachers.

“Merthyr Express” 12 September 1891

Gelligaer School Board: Letter from the Education Department Sir, - I am directed to invite your attention to the Elementary Education Act of 1891, which comes into force on the 1st September next, and under which the Education Department are empowered to pay a fee grant “at the rate of 10s. a year for each child of the number of children over three and under fifteen years of age in average attendance at any public elementary school in England and Wales ...”

“Merthyr Express” 26 September 1891

Girls Higher Grade School The Clerk read a letter from the Governors of Lewis's Charity stating that the question of taking over the above school had been postponed for a time, whereupon the Rev. T. J. Jones gave notice that he would move at the next Board meeting that the Higher Grade School be done away with six months hence as far as the Board was concerned. This was carried by the Board. It was of particular concern to the Board, that the ratepayers were supplying wants that the charity was supposed to meet, and he felt confident that the public would want the money that the charity had lying idle in the Bank.

Attendance The Attendance Officer reported a very bad case of attendance at Bedlinog and it was agreed to apply to the magistrates for an order to place the boy named Thomas in a truant school. Several others were ordered to be prosecuted, as also were some of the delinquents of the Pontlottyn Catholic School.

“Merthyr Express” 24 October 1891

Gelligaer School Board An application from Miss A. R. Morgan of Vochriw to be released from her position of assistant mistress, she having won a scholarship to University College, Cardiff, was granted. The managers of Vochriw school reported the need of several repairs at the master's house and the school, and the Board agreed that these should be done. Miss Harris was appointed sewing mistress at Vochriw until Christmas.

“Merthyr Express” 30 April 1892

Gelligaer School Board Assistant Mistress required for Vochriw Board School. Salary £35 per annum. Duties to commence June 1, 1892 and to terminate Christmas 1892. No applications received by 21st May. It was decided to let the matter stand for some time.

“Merthyr Express” 6 August 1892

The Site of the Proposed Girls' School for Gelligaer The Governors had already decided to build the school on their own land at Groesfaen, near Bargoed, but many people from Hengoed thought that Hengoed would be a more suitable site. Two deputations presented their cases to the Board. Dr. Davies, Fochriw, said that a public meeting had been held at Fochriw on the previous Thursday, at which the following resolution had been passed unanimously: "That this meeting is of the opinion that the Groesfaen land is the proper place for building the girls school proposed by the governors of Lewis's Charity." After listening to the presentations, the Board confirmed its original decision.

“Merthyr Express” 28 January 1893

Prize Giving at the Girls' Higher Grade School, Pontlottyn The annual prize day in connection with the Girls' Higher Grade School was held on Monday, January 23rd, when there was a large assembly of past and present scholars. Alderman A. Davies presided, and was supported by Mr. Alfred Thomas, M.P., Rev. Councillor J. P. Williams, Mr. Jonathan Williams (Bargoed), Rev. D. Morgan (New Tredegar), Rev. J. Jones (Fochriw), Mr. James Morgam, B.Sc., (Fochriw), Dr. E. Davies (Fochriw), and several head teachers of the Gelligaer School Board. Mr. Thomas presented prizes to all girls who had attended over 90% of possible attendances. He then presented prizes to the students of the technical classes. Student from Fochriw receiving prizes were as follows: Principles of Mining: Teacher, Mr. Henry Davies – 1st Advanced, John Bevan (Fochriw); 2nd Advanced, Daniel Jenkins (Fochriw), Burkley Angel (Fochriw); 2nd Elementary, Charles Edwards, Wm. J. Mantle, Wm. J. Ballard, Thomas Edwards, D. L. Jones (all of Fochriw). Second Grade Freehand Drawing: Teacher, Mr. W. Davies – 2nd Class, Catherine Lewis (Fochriw). French: Teacher Mr. W. O. Morgan - 1st Class, A. Mantle (Fochriw); 3rd Class, A. Lewis (Fochriw).

“Merthyr Express” 18 February 1893

Gelligaer School Board Average attendance at Fochriw infant school exceeds 50, and the Board was ordered by the Inspector to appoint a certificated teacher. Miss M. M. Price from Pontllanfraith was appointed.

“Merthyr Express” 15 July 1893

Gelligaer School Board The resignation of Miss M. J. Harris as Assistant Mistress was received.

“Merthyr Express” 10 February 1894

Gelligaer School Board: Grants Fochriw Mixed School: children examined 99, grant £90-10-0; Penybank Mixed School: 59, £41-14-0.

“Merthyr Express” 10 March 1894

Pupil Teachers Examination On Saturday, the pupil teachers of the several elementary schools in the lower part of the parish under the School Board, attended the quarterly examination which was held at the Hengoed Board School. Messrs. Mantle, Fochriw, and Jones were the examiners.

“Merthyr Express” 7 April 1894

Gelligaer Endowed School: An Inquiry on Behalf of the Charity Commissioners On Monday, Mr. W. E. Lefroy conducted an inquiry into the scheme under the Endowed Schools and Welsh Intermediate Education Acts, 1890 for providing intermediate and technical education for the inhabitants of the County of Glamorgan, particularly with respect to the “foundation of Edward Lewis for a school at Gelligaer.” Vochriw representatives at the inquiry were Mr. Thomas Bevan, colliery manager, Vochriw, who said that the inhabitants of the parish were unanimously in favour of the governors' scheme, and this was corroborated by Mr. Thomas Roberts and Mr. Evan Evans.

“Merthyr Express” 1 December 1894

Gelligaer School Board: Assistants appointed: Miss P. Davies to Fochriw.

Fochriw Schoolroom Flooded The school was completely flooded owing to the recent floods. The examination was delayed. The Clerk said the Dowlais Company had promised some time ago to prevent this. The Clerk was instructed to write urgently to the Company.

“Merthyr Express” 22 June 1895

Teachers' Picnic The annual picnic arranged by the teachers of the Vochriw School, took place on Saturday. Between 100 and 150 visited Dolygaer, and spent the time in boating and other amusements. During the afternoon the victorious Vochriw Band arrived on their return journey from Welshpool where they had won the second prize in a competition. This enlivened the party greatly. The return to Vochriw was made by special train, and when they arrived, the inhabitants gave a right hearty welcome to the band.

“Merthyr Express” 31 August 1895

Gelligaer School Board The resignation of Miss Phoebe Davies, assistant mistress at Vochriw school, was received and accepted, she having obtained an appointment under the Bedwellty Board. It was decided to appoint Mr. Don Davies, Pontlottyn to the post. Miss Lottie Davies, pupil teacher at Penybank School also sent in her resignation, and the Clerk

was directed to ask her for the reasons that prompted her action. The tender of Mr. Robert Davies of £269 10s. for alterations at Pantywaun School was accepted.

“Merthyr Express” 18 April 1896

Vochriw: Outing The annual outing under the auspices of the “Welsh Grammar Class” took place on Saturday last. The rendezvous on this occasion was Pontsarn, and a really enjoyable day was spent. During the morning various games were indulged in. Then tracks were made for the refreshments room, where a capital ‘spread’ had been prepared by Hostess Lewis. After dinner, various places of interest were visited, our able tutor, Rev. J. Jones, acting in the capacity of guide. The affair turned out a complete success, and was a fitting close to a term of lessons drawn up to master the intricacies of the Welsh language. “Oes y bydi’r iaith Gymraeg.”

“Merthyr Express” 20 June 1896

Teachers’ Picnic The annual picnic of the Vochriw teachers came off at Llangorse on Saturday last. The stationmaster, Mr. J. Harris, kindly placed a saloon to the ordinary train at the disposal of the company. An enjoyable day was spent, the weather being all that could be desired.

Personal We hear with much pleasure of the success of Mr. William Adams in a recent examination for the A. C. certificate. The examination was held at Tredegar, the judges being Mr. T. Price, Merthyr, and Mr. J. Evans, Tredegar.

“Merthyr Express” 17 October 1896

Dinner: Mr James Morgan B.Sc. On Thursday the 8th instant Mr. James Morgan, B. Sc., headmaster of Tredegar Intermediate School, and a native of Fochriw, was entertained at dinner by the managers of the Fochriw School Board. The company included the committee of management and Technical Education Committee, and the following ladies graced the proceedings with their presence: Mrs. Bevan, Mrs. Roberts and Mrs. James Williams (Martin-street), Mrs. Edwards (Cwmbargoed), Mrs. Phillips, Mrs. Evans (Brook House), Mrs. Jones (Guest-street), and Mrs. Worman. The main room of the school for the time being had been completely transformed, and for the evening was an inviting banqueting hall. Skillfully arranged draperies, appropriate mottos, and a good display of choice plants assisted to make the transformation complete. Mr. Thomas Bevan, manager of the Fochriw Pits, presided. Grace having been said by Mr. Worman, the first toast was “Our noble Queen,” the company singing the national anthem. The next was “Our honoured guest,” proposed by the President in a pertinent speech, and supported by Rev. J. Jones and Dr. Davies. Dr. Davies present Mr. Morgan with four volumes of “Chips from a German Workshop,” by Prof. Max Muller. Mr. Morgan thanked the company for the gifts and their kind words. The company could not refrain from singing “For he is a jolly good fellow.” Next came the toast “The Fochriw industry,” spoken by Mr. Thomas Roberts, Mr. James Williams and Mr. Henry Evans, who, between them, enlarged upon the good quality of the Fochriw coal. The President proposed a toast to “Cycling,” to which the Rev. James Jones replied in a genuinely humorous speech. Sport brought to his feet the well-known sportsman, Mr. George Phillips, who complained of the scarcity of grouse and snipe in Gelligaer parish, as compared with year’s gone by. The toast, “Vocalists and musicians,” was responded to by Mr. John Jones in a thorough Celtic fashion, the breeze having got into his sail so that we had the “hwyl.” The toast, “The teachers of Gelligaer,” received excellent treatment by Mr. W. O. Morgan, who was highly pleased to see an old pupil receive such a signal honour. The next toast, “The railways of our district,” was well dealt with by Mr. John Edwards of Cwmbargoed, and the last toast, but not the least, “The ladies,” was responded to by Rev. Evan Morgan and Mr. James Morgan. While the company were discussing the good things set before them, the following young ladies contributed largely to the evening’s entertainment: accompanist, Miss M. A. Thomas; vocalists, Misses S. A. Davies, Elizabeth Jones, Maud Angell, Addie Phillips and Lilian Williams. The proceedings came to a close by singing “Hen wlad fy nhadau,” but not before Mr. James Morgan had proposed a vote thanks to the president, to Mr. Worman, to the young ladies mentioned, and to the attendants.

“Merthyr Express” 30 January 1897

First Annual Prize Meeting at Fochriw Board School The first annual prize evening in connection with the Fochriw Board Schools took place on Friday afternoon last. Our genial doctor, Dr. Davies occupied the chair, whilst among those present were Alderman Aaron Davies, Councillor Bevan, Revs. Jas. Jones (I), and E. Morgan (C.M.), and Messrs. Harry Evans, John Jones, James Williams and John Lewis. Alderman Davies, in an interesting speech, put before the children the benefits arising from the prize scheme lately introduced by the Gelligaer School Board, and urged them to attend regularly during the present year, that the present high reputation of the school be not endangered. A capital rendering of "Flee as a bird" having been given by Miss Blodwen Angell, the distribution of prizes took place. Four medals were to be awarded. Two were taken by pupils of the mixed department, namely, Emily C. Morgan and Maggie Walters, the other two finding their way to the infant department, namely, Evan Evans and Mabel Evans. The above scholars had attended throughout the year, without missing a single half-day. A splendid collection of books was then distributed to scholars who had won second, third and fourth prizes. Upwards of a hundred prizes were given out, a fact that reflects great credit on the teachers. A song by the school children followed, and then Councillor Bevan addressed the meeting in the vernacular. Miss Blodwen Angell and Master Rees Jones gave an effective rendering of the humorous duet "Jack and Jill." Revs. E. Morgan and James Jones, and Mr. John Jones gave brief addresses, after which Master Stephen Lewis gave a splendid rendering of "Mercy," and Master Arthur Ballard the "Charge of the Light Brigade." Cordial votes of thanks were given to the chairman and Alderman Davies.

"Merthyr Express" 2 October 1897

Gelligaer School Board The Board require a Certificated Assistant Master for the Fochriw Board School, duties to commence as soon as possible. Salary £70 per annum. Knowledge of Welsh desirable.

"Merthyr Express" 18 December 1897

Gelligaer School Board: Fochriw School Tenders are invited for Improvements to the Culvert at the back of the above School, and the re-building of the Back Boundary Wall.

"Merthyr Express" 12 February 1898

Gellygaer School Board: Triennial Election of Officers The triennial election of members for the School Board is fixed to it take place on Monday the 21st. The following nominations have been received:

BEDDOE, Wm. Coslett, Cefn Llwynau Hall, Gelligaer, coal proprietor**
 DAVIES, Daniel, Bedlinog Stores, Bedlinog, grocer and butcher*
 DAVIES, Hannah, 6, Heol Evan Wynne, Pontlottyn, married woman;
 DAVIES, Lewis Philip, 15, Dynevor-street, Fochriw, Baptist minister;
 GREENHOW, Joseph March, Hanbury Villa, Bargoed, mining engineer;
 HUGHES Thomas, 24, Reform Street, Pontlottyn, Congregational minister
 JONES, John, Manchester House, Bargoed, draper*
 JONES, Robert Orton, Station-terrace, Bedlinog, Congregational minister*
 JONES, Thomas Grugwyn, 1, Station-street, Pontlottyn, assurance superintendent;
 JONES, Thomas Jesse, The Rectory, Gellygaer, rector of Gelligaer*
 LEWIS, David, 3, Powell's Terrace, Bargoed, colliery under-manager;
 LLEWELYN, John, 1, Hanbury Road, Bargoed, railway inspector;
 MORGAN, John, New Tredegar, grocer*
 MORGAN, William Albert, Picton Hotel, Pontlottyn, licence victualler*
 POWELL, William, 25, Merchant-street, Pontlottyn*
 REES, Jonathan Marsden, Commercial-street, Bedlinog, grocer;
 REES, Thomas, The Vicarage, Pontlottyn, clerk in holy orders*
 THOMAS, Evan, 3, Southend-terrace, Pontlottyn, miners agent* [* old member]

From the foregoing list it will be seen that eight out of the 11 members have been nominated for re-election. The other three members are the Rev. Aaron Davies, who after a connection with the Board since its commencement, has signified his intention of retiring; Mr. Edmund Lewis, and Mr. H. P. Davies-Phillips. For the eleven seats,

Pontlottyn has put forward seven candidates, and if the lady member, who is the wife of Mr. W. Davies, architect (son of the Rev. Aaron Davies), is returned, she will be the first lady member ever elected to the Board. There are some burning questions to be settled by the new Board, and the contest is causing considerable excitement in the parish. At the last election the following were the successful candidates:

Rev. T. J. Jones, rector	1,949	Rev. R. O. Jones	1,741
Rev. Aaron Davies	1,564	Mr. H. P. Phillips-Davies	1,501
Mr. John Morgan	1,421	Mr. W. A. Morgan	1,320
Rev. Thos. Rees	1,257	Rev. J. P. Williams	1,241
Mr. Daniel Davies	1,079	Mr. W.C. Beddoe	1,070
Mr. Evan Thomas	1,041		

Meeting at Fochriw: A crowded meeting was held at the Board School, Fochriw, on Tuesday evening, under the presidency of Mr. G. Phillips, grocer, in support of the candidature of the Rev. R. O. Jones, Bedlinog, and Rev. Thomas Hughes, Pontlottyn. Both gentleman were accorded an enthusiastic reception, and at the close of their addresses a resolution pledging the voters present to support them at the poll was unanimously agreed to.

“Merthyr Express” 5 March 1898

School Board The Rev. L. P. Davies is the first member of the Gelligaer School Board from Fochriw since the early 1875.

“Merthyr Express” 12 March 1898

Gelligaer School Board: Appointment of Chairman and Vice-chairman The first meeting of the newly-elected school Board was held on Tuesday at the Boardroom, Pontlottyn. The following were present: Revs. R. O. Jones, T. Rees, T. J. Jones, Lewis Davies and T. Hughes, Messrs E. Thomas, W. C. Beddoe, John Morgan, David Lewis, J. M. Rees, and F. T. James (clerk).

Rev. R. O. Jones was unanimously elected chairman. Rev. R. O. Jones, in returning thanks, said that they had a great responsibility in the education of the future generation. In the parish of Gelligaer there were between three and four thousand children under their charge. If they looked at the history of the Gelligaer School Board from the beginning, they would see that it would bear favourable comparison with any other. It would be his chief aim to be fair to everyone, and do his duty conscientiously. As it was customary for the vice-chairman to be of the same political opinion as the chairman, Mr. Evan Thomas was duly elected. Mr. Thomas stated his appointment was a compliment to the working classes, which he represented.

The Teaching of Welsh Mr. W. C. Beddoe brought forward his motion that Welsh should be taught in all their schools to the infants and standard one. The chairman asked if this was not done. Mr. Beddoe said that it was not. On the suggestion of the Clerk, it was decided to write to all headteachers asking them to describe the present provision.

Time and Place of Meeting Rev. T. J. Jones proposed that two monthly meetings should be held at Pontlottyn, and that every third meeting be held at some of the other centres. They would then have the opportunity of examining the schools. This was carried by six votes to four.

“Merthyr Express” 6 August 1898

Gelligaer School Board A meeting of the Board was held at the Pontlottyn Schools on Tuesday.

Miscellaneous A letter was read from Miss Edith Cole saying she wished to continue as assistant in Fochriw school instead of going for examination, due to ill-health. The Board received the intimation with regret, Miss Cole being a very good scholar, having come out highest in the recent examination.

Transfers Miss A. E. Tozer was transferred from Vochriw to Bedlinog Infants' School as assistant mistress. Miss Catherine Lewis, assistant at Vochriw, was transferred to Gelligaer Parish School.

The Teaching of Welsh in Day Schools The committee appointed to draw up a scheme for presentation to the Board, submitted a draft, but consideration of the same was

deferred. The committee stated that before any scheme for the systematic teaching of Welsh be adopted, due consideration should be given to the following facts: (1) The strong English element which has of recent years been imported into the district, which in some cases place Welsh in the position of a foreign language to a large section of school children. (2) Up to the present, the Board has not made it a condition of appointment that teachers possess a knowledge of Welsh. For this reason, the staff available for teaching the subject is very limited in most of the schools. Upon these grounds, the committee, while assuring the Board that the head teachers will cordially endeavour to carry out the Board's wishes, consider that the subject should not be made compulsory in all the schools of the parish. Instead, the head teachers should be allowed to decide the best course to follow. The committee further consider, that whenever the subject is taken up, that it only be taken up in the lowest standards in the mixed schools, adding one standard each year, and in the infants' schools that a modest start be made with the first class infants.

“Merthyr Express” 17 September 1898

Technical Instruction Splendid results have been gained by the members of the Welsh Class in the examination held last April. Ten candidates presented themselves for the Welsh Paper, and all were successful, eight passing in the first division. We desire to congratulate the pupils, together with their able tutor, Rev. James Jones. The following is the list: First Class - E. Cole, M. A. Lewis, Thomas Lewis, Elizabeth Jones, Gwen Jones, Evan Jones, Elizabeth Evans, Evan L. Thomas, Evan Williams; Second Class - Margaret A. Ballard, Thomas Ballard.

“Merthyr Express” 6 May 1899

Fochriw Board School Tenders are invited for constructing Kerb, Channel, and Gravel Walk opposite the School Wall at the Fochriw - distance 85 yards. Also to raise the adjoining wall 94 ft long by 18 inches. Plans and specifications to be seen by applying to the Secretary, Rev. James Jones. Tenders to be in hand by the 22nd of May.

“Merthyr Express” 1 July 1899

Gelligaer School Board: Filling the Vacant Chair The Rev. T. J. Jones moved that the seat rendered vacant by the death of Rev. R. O. Jones, the late chairman, be filled that day. He proposed that notice be taken of the letter from the managers of Bedlinog School supporting the appointment of Mr. Daniel Davies. He said that he did not know whether Mr. Davies was of the same religious creed as the late chairman, but he knew Mr. Davies was a non-conformist. He moved that he be appointed. Mr. J. M. Rees seconded. Rev. T. Rees proposed as an amendment that the Rev. James Jones, Independent minister, Fochriw, be appointed, which was seconded by Mr. W. A. Morgan. In the voting, Mr. Daniel Davies was elected by six votes to three.

Labour Certificates The Board granted labour certificates to George Williams, Brithdir; William H. Jones, Gas-street, Fochriw, and Rees Jones, Tirphil.

“Merthyr Express” 12 August 1899

Gelligaer School Board Tenders are invited for the erection of a New Cookery Class at the Fochriw School. Plans and specifications maybe seen at the offices of the architects, Messrs. James and Morgan, Charles-street Chambers, Cardiff. The Board do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender. By Order, F. T. James, Clerk, High-street, Merthyr.

“Merthyr Express” 23 September 1899

Technical Classes The results of the examination in Welsh held at the end of last winter season are as follows: Second Year, First Class - Edith Cole, Thomas Lewis, Mary A. Lewis, Elizabeth Evans; Second Class, Evan L. Thomas, M. A. Ballard, Maggie M. Rees. First Year: First Class - Judith A. Jenkins, Annie G. Williams, Lilian Williams, Sarah Jones, Sophia Davies, David J. Rees. The teacher of the class was the Rev. James Jones, Congregational minister, to whom much credit is due. The above class, with others in French, mathematics, physiography, ambulance, and music, will continue during the coming winter season, and the committee invite both young and old of the neighbourhood to join.

“Merthyr Express” 4 November 1899

Gelligaer School Board: Staff List for Next Year The Rector of Gelligaer moved that Benjamin Williams, second year pupil teacher, and George W. Jones, be appointed to Pontlottyn from Fochriw. Mr D. Lewis said it would be squandering the rate-payers money, because a second year pupil teacher was not required. It would be better to wait until there was a vacancy somewhere. Rev. H. Hughes said that only a monitor was required, and consequently the Rector withdrew his motion. Mr. W. Beddoe said that there was a possibility that the Board would establish central classes for pupil teachers. Therefore, they should be very careful in selecting their staff for next year, because of the extra teachers that would be required to take the places of those who attended the classes. Among the twenty four staff changes involving pupil teachers that were agreed, were the following: appointed to Vochriw School: Montague Williams, Priscilla Denty, Benjamin E. Williams; to Penybank School: Bessie Jones and Gertie Lloyd. Esther Jones, Penybank, wrote asking to be removed, and it was agreed that a reply be sent stating that her application would be considered in due course.

“Merthyr Express” 27 January 1900

Gelligaer School Board Resignations were received and accepted from M. J. Prangley, assistant mistress at Fochriw, and also from R. Perkins, assistant mistress at Deri. It was agreed to advertise for successors.

“Merthyr Express” 2 August 1902

Technical Classes: Results Music: The teacher of music class is Mr. D Davies (Pencerdd Morgannwg). Honours stage – 1st Class - D. J. Thomas; 2nd class - R. Jones; Advanced stage – 1st Class - Rod Jones; 2nd Class - J. Jones, W J. Angell, T. Walters; Elementary stage – 1st Class - C. Thomas; 2nd Class - M. L. Morgan, S. Thomas, L. M. Thomas, A. Price.

“Merthyr Express” 27 September 1902

Gelligaer School Board On Tuesday last, a letter was read from the head teacher of Fochriw school, Mr. W. O. Morgan, complaining about parties using the school during evenings and who abused the property.

“Merthyr Express” 22 November 1902

Gelligaer School Board Tenders are to be invited for new latrines at Fochriw School.

“Merthyr Express” 14 March 1903

Successes We were pleased to see the following names figuring on the recent King's scholarship list: J. A. Jenkins, L. Williams, and B. Williams (Fochriw Mixed), E. G. Williams (Fochriw Infants), E. Morgan (Penybank).

“Merthyr Express” 30 May 1903

Gelligaer School Board The Board requires caretakers for the Fochriw and Troedrhifwuch Board Schools. Wages: Fochriw - £26-18s per annum; Troedrhifwuch - £24-4s per annum. The person appointed to supply all cleaning materials and utensils. Applications, accompanied by testimonials, must reach me by 19th June, 1903. By Order, Frank T. James, Clerk to the Board.

“Merthyr Express” 23 July 1904

Personal At the Independent Order of Grand Templars meeting on Thursday evening, numerous references were made to the election of the Rev. James Jones to be chairman of the Gelligaer School Managers. Mr. Charles Payne, chairman, Dr. Davies, Councillor J. Jones, and others, spoke very high of the invaluable services rendered by Rev. Jones in the cause of education. As one of the most prominent members of the late Gelligaer School Board, Rev. Jones rendered services which stamped him as a most zealous advocate of education. On June 13th, the honour of opening the school at Pontlottyn was conferred on the Reverend Jones, and this function he discharged in his usual able manner. Another distinction lately enjoyed by the reverend gentleman was that of chairman of the quarterly meetings of the North Glamorgan Congregationalists, and here again he acquitted himself with great ability.

“Merthyr Express” 22 April 1905

Social On Thursday evening, the 13th April, at the Council School, Fochriw, the teachers of the Fochriw School and their friends, met for a social evening prior to the departure for Bournemouth of Mr. Benjamin Williams, assistant teacher. The chief event of the night was a presentation to Mr. Williams by his fellow teachers. The pleasant duty was delegated to Miss Cole (Fochriw), who first recounted Mr. Williams' many good qualities which had won the esteem of his co-workers, and then made the presentation of a handsome dressing case which she hoped would keep alive memories of agreeable co-operation in school duties. Mr. Williams suitably acknowledged the presentation amidst hearty cheers. The company sat down to light refreshments, presided over by Mrs. W. O. Morgan, School House, and Mrs. James Williams, Brynawel. The pleasant evening was brought to a close by the reading of some verses composed for the occasion by Mr. Davies, Craig-y-tyle, Pontlloftyn.

17 May 1919 Music Success The friends of Wyndham Price Lawrence (Fochriw) will be pleased to learn that he has had a first-class in the Intermediate Section of the London College of Music.

“Merthyr Express” 12 May 1906

Population Estimates The population at Rhigos is now estimated at 937. The population of the other five wards - Pontlloftyn, Tirphil, Fochriw, Bedlinog, Bargoed and Gelligaer - is calculated at 24,213.

Education Bill At Pentwyn Church on Tuesday night, the Rev. J. A. Rees presided over a large attendance of church people, when the Rector of Gelligaer, Rev. Jesse Jones, delivered an address on the Education Bill. He referred to the establishment of schools by Churchmen, and their maintenance. Subsequently, on the motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Edgar, it was decided to form a Church Defence Association for the district.

The Curate of Fochriw Attacks the Education Bill: A Remarkable Address: Will the Devil be Satisfied With It? At the close of the Sunday evening service at the Fochriw Mission Church, a meeting of laymen was held, and the Rev. J. A. Rees spoke on the Education Bill. He said: "As a priest holding Social Union principles, I cannot but vehemently protest against the outrageous educational proposals of the present Government. The confiscation and alienation of Church property, together with the endowment of undenominationalism, and the denial of the right of parents to have their children educated in accordance with their religious belief, which the Bill involves, is so diametrically opposed to Liberal principles, that it passes my comprehension to know how any Liberal Cabinet could for a moment sanction such a flagrant breach of the fundamental principles in its political faith as we find in this Bill. The Bill makes no pretence at equality of treatment. On the contrary, it establishes and endows a form of religion that wounds the consciences of Churchmen and Roman Catholics - a religion termed Birrell-religion - satisfactory only to Dissenters. This Bill is not an Education Bill at all. It is a Bill for the establishment and endowment of any religion, so long as it is not Christianity. The Bill affords no security for Christianity: it only speaks of religion, and, without any alteration, its clauses might equally apply to the faith of the Chinese, of Hindoos, and Brahmins. The Bill bristles with intrigue, inconsistency, injustice, and intolerance, and intensifies religious strife. Simple Bible teaching is to be given by teachers who may be Atheists or anything else, for no teacher is to be questioned about his faith. We are on dangerous ground here, to say nothing of the profanity of placing God's word in hand of unbelieving teachers. The Bill justifies the devil. He will, I have no doubt, be very satisfied with it, and will back it up, for it certainly betrays the bitterest envy, hatred, and malice of the National Church, to which England and Wales owe all their Christian knowledge. The measure makes Christianity ridiculous, and places it in a position of less importance than any other matter in the world.

According to this Bill, the children may play about the streets during the time allotted to religious instruction. Indeed, what more would Satan like? I picture him chuckling over it, for he sees, if the Bill becomes law, secularism runs riot in our country, and the morals of our next generation, as a result, reduced to the sad condition of affairs existing in France.

“Merthyr Express” 14 September 1907

Gelligaer School Managers On Tuesday afternoon, a special meeting of the School Managers was held at the District Council Offices, Hengoed. Among the tenders accepted for the supply of coal and coke for the ensuing year was one from Mr. John Morgan, Pontlottyn, for supplies to Fochriw Schools. Only one tender was received to supply oil, but this was in too large a bulk to be accepted. The Managers recommended that oil be purchased as hitherto, the teachers to obtain prices from the local dealers.

“Merthyr Express” 29 February 1908

Scholastic Miss Sarah Thomas, Brook Cottage; Miss Ceridwen Thomas, Bryntirion Cottage; and Miss Emily Morgan, School House, passed the preliminary examination for the Elementary School Teachers' Certificate, Part 1. The examination was held at the Abermorlais Council School, Merthyr, on Thursday and Friday, December 19th and 20th, 1907.

“Merthyr Express” 7 March 1908

Social Gathering On Friday, a social evening was held at St Mary's Hall in connection with the staff of the Fochriw Council School, and it was well attended. The hall had been gaily decorated for the occasion, and the tables were presided over by the following: Mrs. J. Williams, Brynawel; Mrs. Williams, Dynevor-street; Mrs. Jones, Aelybryn, Mrs. and Miss Cole, Aelybryn; and Miss M. M. Jones, Moore's-row. Others who assisted were: Mr. James Williams, Brynawel, and Mr. H. Evans, Brook House. The caterer was Mr. W. J. Angel, Supply Stores, Fochriw. After supper, there was dancing and games, and also a whist drive, in which a great number took part. The prizes were won by the following gentleman: Mr. J. H. Jones, Mr. Tom Jones, and Mr. Thomas, Deri. A short programme of music was gone through, and a very pleasant evening was spent. Mr. H. Green, Rhymney, presided at the piano and Miss S. A. Evans and Miss G. M. Williams proved energetic secretaries.

14 March 1908 Scholastic Miss Gertrude M. Williams, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Williams, Brynawel, has passed the Certificate Examination, 1907, held at the Abermorlais Council School, Merthyr, in December last.

“Merthyr Express” 28 March 1908

Musical Success Mr. David James Thomas has passed the last periodical examination of the Tonic Solfa College, which was held at Bargoed.

4 April 1908 Musical Success Mr. John Williams, signalmen, (Llew Brycheiniog), has passed his examination in musical theory and choir training, and has been awarded the diploma of fellowship of the National College of Music, and has also been made a professor and public representative of the said College.

25 April 1908 Scholastic Successes Master Archie Rees, son of the Rev. J. A. Rees, curate of Fochriw, has won a scholarship at Christ Church College, Brecon, and also at Llandovery. He has decided to go to Brecon, and will leave home on the 30th of this month.

2 May 1908 Examination The session of the Technical Classes for 1907-08 have come to an end, and the examination for the Welsh class (teacher, Rev. Rhys Jenkins) took place on Thursday evening, when the following scholars presented themselves: Honours Stage - Miss Ceridwen Thomas and Mr. Arthur Ballard; Elementary Stage - Mr. Thomas Thomas, Mr. Daniel Jenkins, and Mr. John Jones. The examination was superintended by the Rev. J. A. Rees, and the Rev. L. P. Davies.

18 July 1908 Scholastic Success Miss C. Thomas, Bryntirion House, has passed the preliminary examination for the elementary school teacher's certificate, part 2. The examination was held in Merthyr last April.

“Merthyr Express” 8 August 1908

Scholastic Success Master Willie Adams Jones has won a scholarship for three years at Pengam County School. He was trained at Pantywaun Council School, under the tuition of Mr. David Jones, son of Councillor John Jones, Fochriw. He has passed with great distinction, gaining full marks in nearly all the subjects.

29 August 1908 Scholastic Success Mr. Thomas Walters, Guest-street, has passed the Oxford Senior Local Examination in the first division. The examination was held at Cardiff last July.

12 September 1908 Successes At the Glamorgan Committee Examination held at April last, the following students were successful in the Welsh class: Honours stage - Mr. Arthur

Ballard; Elementary stage – Mr. Daniel Jenkins and Mr. Thomas Thomas. Their teacher was Mr. Rhys Jenkins, Dynevor-street.

12 September 1908 Technical Classes - Teachers Wanted The Gelligaer District Committee invite applications for teachers to conduct their Evening Schools for Session 1908-09, commencing on 1st October. Applications must be sent to the Secretary, Mr. L. Arnold Williams, 26, High-street, Bargoed, not later than 15th September.

24 October 1908 National Union of Teachers The quarterly meeting of the Gelligaer branch of the National Union of Teachers was held at the Fochriw Council School on Saturday afternoon. After the meeting, all sat down to tea. The trayholders were: Mrs. W. O. Morgan, School House, and Miss Jones, headmistress of the Fochriw Infants' School.

19 December 1908 Musical Successes The following were successful at the periodical examination of the Tonic-sol-fa College, held at Bargoed in November last: Mr. David John Thomas passed his matriculation certificate, and Mr. David James Thomas, William's-row, secured his A.C..

26 December 1908 Christmas Tree On Friday, prior to breaking up for the holidays, every child of the Infants' School received a present from a monster Christmas tree, which was provided by Miss Jones and her staff.

9 January 1909 Musical Success At the singing festival which was held at Carmel Chapel on Christmas Day, Mr. David John Thomas secured the prize for the best composition of a march tune for "Rhagom, filwyr Iesu" ("Onward, Christian Soldiers"). He was declared the best with very high merits. The adjudicator was Mr. John Thomas, Penywern, Dowlais.

6 February 1909 Whist Drive The staff of the Fochriw Council School promoted a whist drive and dance at St. Mary's Institute on Friday night. A large number of invitations were sent out, and freely responded to. An excellent spread was provided, the tables being presided over by the teaching staff. Great interest was centred on the whist drive. A dance followed, in which a very large number took part. The music was provided by Mrs. Herbert, Pontlottyn. Mr. Ted Miskin was master of ceremonies. Miss Gertrude Williams and Miss S. A. Evans were the secretaries and Miss Minnie Morgan was the treasurer.

13 February 1909 Scholastic Success Miss Bronwen Ballard has passed the preliminary certificate examination held at the Hengoed Pupils Teachers' Centre, in December last.

15 May 1909 Social The technical class of art needlework conducted by Mrs. Roderick, held their annual social at Nazareth Chapel on Tuesday evening. There was a good attendance, and the tables were beautifully laid out, with the following ladies presiding: Mrs. P.S. Williams, Mrs. Maggie Davies, Mrs. Captain Edwards, Mrs. Catherine Thomas, Mrs. Davies, Miss Williams, Brynawel, Miss Lily Way, Miss Annie Davies, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Ballard, Mrs. Captain Jones, and Mrs. Evans. A splendid programme was gone through, when the following took part: recitation, Mr. Thomas; duet, Miss Katie Davies and Miss Doris Davies; short address, Mrs. Williams, Williams-row; recitation, Miss Doris Davies; solo, Miss M. A. Walters; short address, Miss Maggie Davies; solo, Miss Thomas. Bryntirion. A vote of thanks to all the workers concluded the evening.

“Merthyr Express” 3 July 1909

Scholastic Success Miss Bronwen Ballard has passed the preliminary certificate examination which was held in March 1909.

10 July 1909 Scholastic Success Miss Mabel Evans of the Farmer's Arms, Dowlais, has passed the preliminary certificate examination which was held in March 1909. Miss Evans is a teacher at the Fochriw Council School.

4 September 1909 Fochriw Teacher's Promotion Mr. E. H. Williams, the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Williams, Dynevor-street, has been appointed headmaster of All Saints' School, Child's Hill, London. He is only 30 years of age, and yet goes to his new sphere with a good record. He is an Associate of the College of the Preceptors, as well as being an Associate of the National College of Music, and in this respect he shines, for the St. Paul's Schools, Mill Hill (where he has recently taught) were successful in carrying off the second prize at the last Middlesex and Herts. Musical Competition. His first appointment as an elementary teacher was at the school in his own home, then the Fochriw Board School; and since then he has been assistant in several schools under the London County Council. During his stay at Mill

Hill, he has won the esteem of parents, scholars and managers, and was well liked in the neighbourhood.

11 September 1909 Scholastic Successes The following have been successful in passing the Central Welsh Board Examinations, held at Pengam: Senior: Master Willie Barker, Pleasant View; Junior: Masters Idris Jones, 9, Station Terrace, Masters Daniel and Howell Jones, 8, Station Terrace.

“Merthyr Express” 9 October 1909

Musical Success Mr. Richard Davies has been successful in passing the elementary and intermediate certificates in the Tonic Sol-fa Examination recently held at Bargoed.

9 October 1909 Fochriw Council School: New Headmaster Mr. J. D. Jones, who was recently appointed headmaster of the Fochriw Council School, in place of Mr. W. O. Morgan, who has retired after 37 years service, commenced his duties on Friday last. He is a gentleman well worthy of the office, and is greatly respected by all. He received his early education at a small country school near Llanwrda, and when nine years of age removed to Penydarren, Merthyr, and attended the Penydarren Boys' School, under the charge of Mr. John Lloyd. He left school after passing Standard VI. I. and went to work at Aberdare, in the well-known works of Messrs. Thomas and Williams, the makers of miners' lamps. He remained there for three years, but was not happy, so he determined to return to school as a pupil teacher. He was apprenticed at Abernant Boys' School for four years. He passed the Queen's Scholarship Examination in 1899, and proceeded to the University College, Reading, where two years were spent. He came out as a fully-fledged certificated teacher, and holder of the diploma of Associate of the University, with distinction in English and European History. He went back to Aberdare, and served under Mr. John Griffiths at Park Boys' School for two years. He left Aberdare for Brithdir in June 1903, and served under Mr. Samuel Davies, an old Fochriw boy, for over six years. He is the holder of several certificates in science and art. He has also conducted a successful certificate class for several years in the Rhymney Valley.

“Merthyr Express” 13 November 1909

Musical Success Master John Elias Davies, Martin-street, has gained his elementary certificate, and Miss Martha Thomas the intermediate certificate of the Tonic Sol-fa College, London.

13 November 1909 Appointments The Glamorgan Education Committee have appointed Mrs. Edith Cole Jones, headmistress of the Fochriw Infants' New School. Miss Elizabeth Jones has been appointed headmistress of the Pontlottyn Infants' School. She is now headmistress of the Bedlinog school.

“Merthyr Express” 1 January 1910

Gellygaer School Managers: Dilapidated State of Fochriw School The monthly meeting of the Managers of the Gellygaer Council Schools was held at Hengoed on Tuesday evening. Mr. John Jones referred to the dilapidated state of the school at Fochriw. A terrific hurricane, he said, took away part of the roof - half a dozen slates or more - making a big hole; later on, the ceiling came down, so that snow and rain came through. This state of things had been allowed to continue for three weeks. The master had also called his attention to the state of the lobby where children had had to walk through up to two inches of water to get into the schoolroom. The masters house was also in a wretched state: he had put pans in the bedroom to catch up the water coming through the roof. Also, on Sunday evenings, before he went Chapel, he had to take out the fire because of the smoky flue. Apart of this, the school wall had also fallen on to the public footpath. The Clerk said that this state of things had never been reported to him. Mr. D. Pugh Jones said he had no recollection of seeing a word about the master's house. It was all very well to make speeches and complaints in such a meeting as this, but why were the facts not communicated to him. Mr. W. C. Beddoe drew attention to the fact that the Managers had the power to spend a sum of money for small matters, up to £5, and he thought the local members should have undertaken on their responsibility to replace the slates. The Clerk said that the local members had no such powers, and the master should have communicated with him. It was decided that the architect should visit Fochriw at an early date to inspect the premises.

26 February 1910 Scholastic Success Mr. John Francis, Hill-row, Pentwyn, has passed to the preliminary certificate examination, part one, which was held at Pengam in December 1909.

21 May 1910 Banquet At the winding up of the Technical Classes for the last session, a banquet was held by the teachers and pupils of the different classes. The mining, the Welsh, and the Art Needlework classes, under the tuition of Mr. William Davies, Mr. Rhys Jenkins, and Mrs. Isaac Roderick, respectively, joined to celebrate the success of the classes. Mrs. Edith Cole Jones was appointed secretary, and Mrs. Isaac Roderick treasurer. The tables were laid out in an artistic fashion. About 100 people attended, and all enjoyed the good things provided by the ladies. The following ladies took an active part at the banquet: Mrs. Captain Jones, Mrs. Maggie Davis, Mrs. T. Roberts, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. Captain Edwards, Miss Ceridwen Thomas, Miss Beatrice Griffiths, Miss Mary Jane Angell, and Miss S. A. Williams. An entertainment was held after the banquet. Councillor John Jones, who presided, said he trusted the social would be the means of stimulating others to join the classes next winter. He thought they were giving good mental training to the young people, which would make them useful citizens in the future. Miss Ceridwen Thomas rendered a solo, and Mr. Simon Cole gave selections on the gramophone. Mr. J. D. Jones read a piece on "Sleeping," which caused great amusement. A most amusing feature of the evening was a competition for the best story. The competitors were: Messrs. J. Jones, J. D. Jones, Moses S. Young, Rhys Jenkins, Howell Thomas, Simon Cole, William Davies, and Mrs. Edith Cole Jones. Dr. Eleazer Davies adjudicated, and the prize was divided between Mr. Howell Thomas and Mrs. Edith Cole Jones. The Rev. Isaac Roderick recited a stanza (englyn) on the banquet, and the singing of the National Anthem concluded an excellent meeting.

25 June 1910 Success Master John Elias Davies, son of Mr. David Davies, overman, Martin-street, has been successful in gaining the intermediate certificate of the Tonic Sol-fa College.

"Merthyr Express" 30 July 1910

School Childrens' Tea On the occasion of the opening of the new Infants' School at Fochriw, a tea was given to the scholars of the mixed schools on Friday afternoon at four o'clock. The expenses of the tea were paid by Mr. J. D. Jones, headmaster, and the staff of the Mixed School. The children did justice to the good things provided.

3 September 1910 New Infants' School Open The Infants' School, which was opened by Councillor John Jones in July last, was attended for instruction by the scholars for the first time on Monday last.

"Merthyr Express" 17 September 1910

Scholastic Success The following have been successful in passing the Central Welsh Board (junior) examination, recently held at Hengoed: Howell Jones (with distinction in woodwork and chemistry), Freddie Williams, and Judith A. Angell.

15 October 1910 Successes The Art Class conducted by Mr. J. D. Jones (schoolmaster) at Bargoed for session 1909-10 proved very successful. In freehand drawing, out of six who sat, five were successful. In model drawing two others were successful.

29 October 1910 Gellygaer School Managers: Unsatisfactory Conditions at Fochriw School The Clerk read the report of the special committee appointed to inspect the existing schools at Fochriw. The committee recommended the building of a new mixed school adjoining the present school, with accommodation for 250 children, and that more land to be obtained for that purpose. Mr. J. Jones said that the state of the present school was filthy, and the whole committee agreed that a new school was needed. A report was sent to the County Authority.

24 December 1910 Social A social was held on Friday last at the Fochriw Council School, under the auspices of the head teacher and staff, in aid of a school piano. Games and whist were played, and, in spite of the storm, an enjoyable evening was spent. A splendid repast was served by the following ladies: Mrs. D. Davies, Mrs. J. Davies, Mrs. H. Jones, & Mrs. D. J. Thomas.

31 December 1910 Infants' School The children of the Infants' school were provided with a Christmas tree on Friday afternoon. After the distribution of toys, etc., a miscellaneous

programme was gone through. Master Harold Harris took the part of Santa Claus admirably. Mr. Chas. Payne addressed the children. Coun. Rees Jones was also present.

1 April, 1911 Gellygaer School Managers At a meeting of Gellygaer School Managers, a letter was read from the solicitor of the proprietors of a piece of land adjoining the site of Fochriw School. His client was willing to convey her interest in the half acre of land required for a sum of £40 per acre. It was decided to inform of the Education Committee that the Managers approved the terms.

13 May, 1911 Banquet On Thursday evening, a banquet was held at the Fochriw Council School by the teachers and scholars of the technical classes in the following subjects: practical mathematics, mining, and art-needlework. All the classes joined together for the purpose of winding up the session. The tables were laid out in artistic fashion, and were filled with plenty of varieties of the best kind. Mrs. I. Roderick superintended the banquet, and she was assisted by Miss Annie Davies, secretary, and Miss Rolands, treasurer. The following ladies served at the tables: Mrs. Samuel Evans, Mrs. Hopkins, Mrs. Alfred Evans, Mrs. J. D. Jones, Mrs. Maggie Davis, Mrs. Captain Jones, Mrs. Williams, Miss Thomas, Mrs. Mary Ann Walters. After the banquet, a competitive concert was held, with Councillor Rhys D. Jenkins in the chair. The adjudicators were: Music – Mr. David John Thomas; Literature - Rev. Isaac Roderick. The first item was a drawing competition, every competitor being blindfolded before starting. The results were most amusing, and created roars of laughter. In the sight singing competition, the prize was divided between Mary Ann Walters and T. Walters. There was an impromptu speech, the subject being "The New Woman". The prize was divided between James Williams and Mary Ann Walters. There was also an un-punctuated reading competition. Councillor John Jones spoke on the advantages of the technical classes for the rising generation. The meeting concluded with the singing of the Welsh National Anthem.

24 June 1911 Gellygaer Evening Classes, 1911-1912 Classes held at Fochriw School: Evening Continuation Classes include: English, Preparatory Mathematics, Elementary Science and Drawing, Ambulance, Art, Needlework, Practical Mathematics, Principles of Mining, Geology, Vocal Music, Welsh.

8 July 1911 Fitters and all interested in the Study of Mechanical or Electrical Engineering, send for particulars to the I. C. S. Course - the most complete and up-to-date offered. Success guaranteed. Study in your own home, in your own spare time, and at your own rate. Free information and advice from - The Manager, Cardiff District, International Correspondence Schools, Ltd., 3, The Hayes, Cardiff.

16 September 1911 Scholastic Successes Great credit is due to the following, who have been successful in passing the Senior Welsh Board Examination : Senior – Messrs. Daniel Jones, Howell Jones, Idris Jones, and Miss Hannah Evans; Junior – Mr. Willie A. Jones. All were students Pengam and Hengoed County Schools.

9 December 1911 Musical Success Master Josiah Octavius Padarn Richards, son of Mr. and Mrs. Josiah Richards, Llwyn Celyn Cottage, Fochriw, has been successful in passing the examination of the Trinity College of Music, London, in the Intermediate Division in pianoforte playing, which was held at the Park Hotel, Cardiff, on November 26th, 1911. He is a pupil of Mr. W. L. Watkins, F.R.C.O., Dowlais. Master Richards is very earnest in his work and deserves great credit for his success. Although very young, he plays and has played for years, the pipe organ at St. Mary's Church.

30 December 1911 Christmas Tree A Christmas tree and entertainment was provided at the Infant School on Friday morning. During the week, the school had been prettily decorated with festoons, bunting, and the usual Christmas decorations - holly, mistletoe, bells, etc. Mrs. E. Cole Jones, headmistress, and the staff, were anxious to give the little ones a really happy time, and keep up, as far as possible, the old Christian Christmas customs. Many Christmas carols were sung, and appropriate recitations were rendered relating to Santa Claus, Christmas, etc. Also various verses referring to the birth of Christ, and songs of the shepherds were recited. Then came tales regarding the real Santa Claus. The distribution of sweets, books, etc. proved very interesting, and brought gladness to the hearts of the little ones. The lucky bran tub caused much amusement. There was also a game - the central figure of which was Father Christmas, one of the boys dressed up in red cloak bound with white - and, of

course, laden with toys. The singing of Christmas hymns brought a happy hour to a close. Mrs. Cole Jones and the staff, are to be complimented on their thoughtfulness for the children.

29 June 1912 Scholastic Success The following have been successful in passing the preliminary examination for the certificate:- Mr. John Francis, Pentwyn, and Mr. Tom Walters, Fochriw. The examination took place at Pengam last March.

20 January 1912 Personal Mr. Fred. J. Wotten who has been spending a holiday in Fochriw has returned to the University of London. His numerous friends wish him every success.

13 July 1912 Teachers' Meeting The quarterly meeting of the Gellygaer N.U.T. Associations was held at Fochriw Infant School on Saturday, when the president, Mr. J. D. Jones, presided. There was an excellent attendance, and several important matters were discussed including National Insurance. An excellent tea was provided by Mrs. Cole Jones, headmistress, Mrs. J. D. Jones and Mrs. Captain Edwards.

27 July 1912 Gellygaer Evening Classes: Fochriw Classes English, Preparatory Mathematics, Elementary Science, Drawing (forming a Preparatory Technical Course), Ambulance, Art. Needlework, Geology, Practical Mathematics Stages 1 and 2, Principles of Mining, Welsh.

3 August 1912 Gellygaer School Managers Held at the Council Offices, Hengoed on Tuesday. Mrs. Edwards applied to be transferred from Penybank to Fochriw. This was deferred pending a vacancy. Mrs. Jesse Davies, Merthyr, was transferred from Fochriw to Trelewis. Resignations were received from Brinley Jones, Pontlottyn, and Miss E. Cole-Jones, Fochriw, who are about to enter college. The Clerk said that he thought it was important for the Managers to get teachers to reside in the village in which they worked. The vice-chairman said that this matter had already been discussed and decided against. Dr. E. W. S. Martin drew attention to the need of a waste supply at Pantywaun school, and also the heating apparatus, which had been promised for such a long time. The vice-chairman said that men were now working on Fochriw school, and Pantywaun would be next.

17 August 1912 Musical Success At the recent examination held in Cardiff, Mr. Tom Walters succeeded in gaining an Associateship of the London College of Musicians. Our young townsman, who has already had a successful career, both as organist and composer, is the organist at Carmel Chapel. We heartily congratulate Mr. Walters, A.L.C.M.

14 September 1912 Mining Successes The following have been successful in passing the examinations held under the Glamorgan Education Committee: Stage I: (1st Class) Mr. Edward Wellings; (2nd Class) Mr. Howell Thomas; (3rd Class) Mr. Tom Jenkins; Stage III: (3rd Class) Mr. Evan Henry Davies, Mr. Llewellyn Rees. The classes were held at Fochriw. The class teacher is Mr. Wm. Davies, Dowlais.

21 September 1912 Fochriw Welsh Class The success of the above class at the County Council Examinations, 1911-12, are as follows: Jane Edwards, Katie Jones-Davies, Margaret Davies, Aneurin Jenkins, Daniel Jenkins. Rev. Rhys Jenkins is the class teacher.

21 September 1912 Scholastic Success Higher C.W.B. and Senior French: Mr. Howell Thomas; Senior C.W.B.: Miss Sarah Ann Sibley, Station Restaurant; Miss Judith Angell, Dynevor-street; Junior C.W.B.: Miss Hilda Phillips, Miss Margaret Jones, Brynteg.

28 September 1912 Meeting of the Gellygaer School Managers Mr. Ben Hughes drew attention to the state of Fochriw school, saying that there was a terrible stench, and he did not see how children could exist in such an atmosphere. On the motion of Rev. D. Leyshon Evans, the Clerk was instructed to write to the building committee of the County Council recommending that a new school be built.

Miss Sydney was appointed as an assistant at Fochriw. It was decided to advertise for another assistant. Mr. Idris Jones was appointed to Fochriw Mixed School.

12 October 1912 Technical Classes A meeting was held at Fochriw Council School on Monday evening, when certificates were presented to successful students at the various technical examinations last April and May. Councillor Rev. Leyshon Evans, Bargoed, presented the certificates, congratulating all, both students and teachers, on their achievements. In two classes, Welsh and practical mathematics, all who entered had passed, the teachers being Mr. J. D. Jones and Rev. Rees Jenkins. There were further speeches,

followed by a short concert. Mr. J. D. Jones, the organising teacher, then called attention to the classes for the coming session. Councillor John Jones, Fochriw, presided.

21 June 1913 Gellygaer Evening Classes The Committee invite applications from those prepared to teach at the under-mentioned classes, subject to the approval of the County Education Committee, during the forthcoming session: Fochriw:- English, Preparatory Mathematics, Elementary Science, Drawing (preparatory Technical course), Domestic Arithmetic, Needlework, Ambulance, Art Needlework, Geology, Practical Mathematics, Vocal Music, Welsh, Cynghanedd, Mining, Mechanics and Heat.

4 October 1913 Certificates A meeting was held at Fochriw Council School on Monday evening to present certificates to the successful students at the examination held last May. The certificates were presented by Mrs. Davies, Pontlottyn, who gave an excellent address on the value of evening classes, and complimented the students and teachers of the Fochriw Technical Classes in showing such good results. Mrs. Walters, Fochriw, Miss Lizzie Mary Lawrence and Miss Hilda Davies sang and recited. Rev. Roderick thanked the speaker and artistes, seconded by Rev. R. D. Jenkins.

15 November 1913 Social and Dance A social and dance promoted by the Penybank Council School was held at St. Mary's Institute on Thursday. A large number were present. The M.C. was Mr. Stephen Phillips, with Mr. H. Jenkins at the piano. Miss J. A. Jenkins was the secretary, and Miss B. Moore the treasurer. Thanks are due to the many helpers for making the evening a success.

14 February 1914 Social A social and dance was held at St. Mary's Institute on Thursday week, promoted by the staff of Penybank Council School. The duties of M.C. were shared by Mr. Tom Evans and Mr. John Puddle, with Mr. Alf Jenkin, Pontlottyn, at the piano. Miss H. Evans was secretary and Miss J. Morgan the treasurer.

14 March 1914 St. David's Day at Fochriw: Penybank Council School A pleasant morning was spent at the above school on Monday morning to commemorate St. David's Day. The scholars went through a historical drama, representing historical tableaux, song, Welsh folk songs, and the Welsh National Anthem. The school was filled with the parents and friends of the scholars. The scholars who took part in the tableaux were Wm. T. Jones and E. J. Morgan (who represented Ancient Britons); Wm. J. Jones (a Roman soldier); Alfred Gwynne (Norman baron); Joseph Carter (King's jester); D. H. James (a Crusader); David Tyler (Blondel); John Williams (Richard of the Lion Heart); and Wm. Thomas Morgan (Edward, the Black Prince). The drama consisted of four scenes representing periods in Welsh History. The first scene represented early Britain and the capture of Caradoc by the Romans. Those taking part were: Edgar Davies, Richard Attwell, Tudor Jones, Thomas O. Jones, Albert Barnett, Percy Mantle, E. Evans, E. J. Morgan, Fred Pearce and Albert Pearce. The second scene consisted of two Welsh bards, who gave the history of St. David at the tomb of the Patron Saint. The bards who were in character were Mary Jones and Maggie Morgan. The third scene displayed Cadwallon in the field of leeks, warned by a messenger of a Saxon plot. Mary Morgan represented Cadwallon, and Winnie Evans the messenger. The fourth scene showed the history of Prince Llewellyn of Wales, and Edward I, including the presentation of the first English Prince of Wales. The following took part: Wm. T. Williams; Blodwen Williams; Mat Davies; Emily Evans, Louisa Grimmett, Sarah Williams and Minnie Carter; W. T. Morgan; Thomas Jones; Willie Jones, Charles Tyler and Alfred Gwynne. The headmistress and her staff must be complimented on having trained the scholars to perfection. A most enjoyable time was spent by all present.

14 March 1914 Successes The many friends of Mr. Mordecai Evans will be glad to learn of his success at the recent examination held in Cardiff in connection with the Royal College of Science. Mr. Evans has now qualified as a teacher and demonstrator in science. He has done well, being bracketed second on the list, and the only external candidate who sat the examination. Mr. Evans has also qualified as an underground manager, first class honours in mining, and bronze medalist in mining engineering, and he has also taken the ordinary grade in surveying - City and Guilds (London). He was prepared for these examinations by Mr. Lionel Davies, Glamorgan County Lecturer in mining, engineering and surveying.

14 March 1914 Mrs. Jones, wife of Mr. John Jones, greengrocer and confectioner, Rheidol House, Ael-y-bryn, has passed the Central Midwife Board Examination, which was recently held at Cardiff and Bristol. She received her training at the Monmouthshire Training Centre, Newport.

4 July 1914 Personal The many friends of Mr. W. A. Jones, Guest-street, will be glad to hear of his recent success in passing the King's Scholarship examination. He also passed the Senior Welsh Board examination.

6 March 1915 Fochriw Mixed School Gwyl Ddewi was celebrated in the Mixed School with enthusiasm and earnestness. An extensive programme was gone through in a masterful way, the chief item being "Pont Orewyn" given by the boys of the upper classes. This was performed in full character, and Prince Llewellyn, in his shining armour, looks extremely well. The dresses were all made by the scholars at the school. The singing of patriotic songs and Welsh airs, under the guidance of Mr. T. J. Jones, reflected great credit upon the teachers. The scholars were addressed by Dr. E. Davies, and Rev. Roderick, on Welsh life and Welsh ideals. Mr. Roderick dealt with the important lessons which can be drawn from the stories linked with for the life of Dewi Sant. Mr. Jones, headmaster, and the staff, are to be complemented upon the excellent work done, and the enthusiasm and patriotism shown. Mrs. M. E. Morgan presided at the piano.

6 March 1915 Penybank School Gwyl Ddewi was celebrated with the usual enthusiasm at Penybank School. The school had been prettily decorated by the staff and scholars. Large numbers of the childrens' parents were present, and they thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Miss Richards, the head teacher, took the chair, while the following took part: pianoforte solos - Miss H. Evans, teacher; paper on St David - Miss J. A. Morgan, teacher; recitation - Blodwen Watkins; song - David James Williams; recitation - Agnes May Williams; song - Blodwen Watkins; competition - blackboard drawing; chorus by scholars "Pa Wlad fel Cymru lan?" game - the infants; trio - "Mae Doli'n Crio;" recitation - Amy James; chorus - "Doh"; competition - word building; game - the infants; "Harlech" - Std. III girls; recitation - Ivy Tyler; solo and chorus "Jester"; game - the infants. The Welsh National Anthem was then sung. Miss Angell deserves great praise for teaching the little ones their games, songs, and recitations so well. Messrs. Evans and Davies, teachers, were the accompanists.

6 March 1915 Fochriw Infants School St David's Day was celebrated with the customary enthusiasm. The school was beautifully decorated with bunting, banners of the Red Dragon, leaks, and daffodils. The school being always conducted in Welsh, the programme for the day was entirely in the vernacular, and included Welsh airs, old folk songs, games, and dances, Welsh rhymes, recitations, and short addresses. The head teacher extended a hearty welcome to the parents and friends present, and made a pressing appeal to all present to speak the Welsh language in their homes, and do all in their power to foster the Welsh spirit. The accompanist was Mrs. C Walters, a former teacher on the staff. Mr. George Sibley, seconded by Rev. D. Huws Jones, thanked Mrs. E. Cole Jones, head teacher, the staff, and Mrs. Walters, for their excellent services. The rendering of "Hen Wlad fy Nhadau" by Miss Marsie Davies, one of the teachers, brought an inspiring meeting to a close.

20 March 1915 Concert A concert was given at St Mary's Hall on Thursday last by the scholars of the Fochriw Mixed School. The programme consisted of plays, songs, recitations, etc. The chair was occupied by Councillor John Jones, Fochriw. The following pieces were performed: "Owain Glyndwr;" "William Tell;" "Pont Orewyn;" "Buttonhook" (by the 10 girls). National Anthems and a few glees were sung; soloists - D. J. Rees, Ruth Griffiths, Phyllis Williams; duets were given by Elizabeth Ann Jones and Elizabeth Ann Angel, and Lydia and Ceinwen Ballard; recitations - Dan Davies, Ceinwen Ballard, Ernest White. The singing and acting was all that could be desired, and reflects great credit upon the Headmaster and staff, who must have laboured very hard. The scenes, dresses, and arms were all prepared by the scholars, and tickets were also sold by the scholars of the upper classes. The proceeds were in aid of the Fochriw Sewing Class.

1 May 1915 Musical Success Master David Thomas recently passed first class elementary grade of pianoforte playing, London College of Music. He is a pupil of Mr. Thomas Walters, organist of Carmel Congregational Church.

31 July 1915 Scholastic Successes All the children from the Fochriw Mixed School who entered for the County School Scholarship Examination this year, have been successful. This reflects great credit upon Mr. J. D. Jones, the headmaster. There were seven candidates, and the seven have passed successfully. Six have gained probationers' scholarships and one a governors' scholarship. Their positions on the list for the whole of Gellygaer Parish were as follows: girls - Lydia Ballard, second; Annie Maud Jones, third, Annie Jones, seventh; boys: Tudor H. Williams, second; Evan Brinley Sibley, third. Morfydd Thomas was placed seventh on the Governors' list. Others were also successful in the College of the Preceptors Examination, as follows: Miss Maria Jones and Miss Hilda Phillips. Hardly any other school in the parish of Gellygaer can show such a splendid record as that of the Fochriw Mixed School.

7 August 1915 Scholastic Success Miss Mary A. Walters, Brynteg, Fochriw, has been successful in passing the College of Preceptors examination. Miss Walters gained distinctions in domestic economy.

18 September 1915 Scholastic Successes The numerous friends of the following will be glad to hear of their recent success at the Central Welsh Board Examinations: Honours: Miss Margaret J. Jones; senior: Miss Edith M. Thomas, Miss Margaret Davies, Miss Mafanwy Cole; junior: Miss Annie Evans, Miss Tegwen Jenkins; senior with Welsh metric conditioned equivalent: Mr. T J Jones ; junior: Mr. T. H. Jones.

9 October 1915 Musical Success The Fochriw Choir, under their conductor Mr. S. Evans, A.C., was successful in carrying off chief honours at the Abertysswg Eisteddfod on Thursday last week.

15 January, 1916 Examination Successes The many friends of the following will be glad to learn of their success at their College of Preceptors Examination: senior - Miss Maria Jones, Miss Hilda Phillips, Miss Mary Ann Walters; junior - Miss Sarah Jones, Miss Evelyn Davies, Miss Edith Parry.

11 March 1916 St. David's Day The customary celebrations of St. David's Day took place at the Fochriw Mixed School, when the scholars went through an interesting programme under the direction of Mr. J. D. Jones, headmaster, and the teaching staff. Mr. T. J. Jones attended to the music part of the programme, Miss M. A. Lewis to the play and recitations, and Mrs. M. P. Morgan ably presided at the piano. The headteacher referred to the number of old scholars serving King and country, and also the three members of staff - Private Daniel Jones, now in India, Corporal A. Ballard, and Private Howell Jones.

At Fochriw Infants' School, St David's Day was celebrated with the customary enthusiasm in this school, which was prettily decorated with banners, bunting, leeks and daffodils, while the Red Dragon held a prominent position. Practically every child wore a leek or daffodil. The ordinary timetable was suspended, and a special programme was carried out, consisting of Welsh songs, Welsh nursery rhymes, plays, recitations, solos, duets, dances to Welsh Nursery rhymes, and patriotic airs. Tales bearing on the life of St. David, the leek and the daffodil were also given. Mrs. Ceridwen Walters, a former teacher on the staff, accompanied at the piano. The crowd of parents and friends present showed a hearty interest in the Welsh celebrations and the school generally. Mr. Charles Payne, in moving the vote of thanks, congratulated Mrs. Cole Jones and her staff for the splendid programme, which was conducted entirely in Welsh, and for the great efforts they made to teach the Welsh language and keep up the native traditions. Mrs. David Lewis, also a former teacher at school, seconded the proposition.

A pleasant morning was spent at Penybank Council School, when the scholars and staff co-operated in celebrating a Welsh National day. The children rendered Welsh folk songs, recitations and anthems, heartily and with good feeling. The chair was taken by a head teacher Miss M. F. Morgan, who gave an address on patriotism. Solos were given by Miss Maria Jones, assistant mistress, and by Miss Blodwen Watkins, an old scholar. Miss M. Davies accompanied the music. Several of the present scholars also sang solos. Miss J. A. Angell took part in conducting the choral singing, and Miss J. A. Morgan gave an address on St. David.

6 May 1916 New School At Fochriw: Opened By Councillor John Jones Councillor John Jones, Bargoed, opened a new school for boys and girls at Fochriw, on Monday. There was a large gathering, and Mr. Jones was presented with a gold key by the contractors, Messrs Hamilton and Millard, of Caerphilly, as a memento of the occasion. The school is pleasantly situated on the mountain top, and has accommodation for 260 scholars, and is on up-to-date lines, the design of which was by the county architect, Mr. D. Pugh Jones. The contract price was £4,402 which is about £16-18-7 per child. The heating engineers were Messrs. J. C. Hill and Sons, Bridgend. Mr. F. E. Huish was the clerk of works. Councillor Sydney Jones presided at a meeting which followed the opening ceremony. He said it was for him an important event in the history of Fochriw, and he congratulated the headmaster, Mr. J. D. Jones, who had laboured under great difficulties in the old school. It was gratifying, he said, that the people of Fochriw were possessed of the opportunity of having education under such healthy conditions. Councillor J. Jones said that as a native of Fochriw it giving him greater pleasure to meet with the reception they had kindly accorded him. He was himself a product of the old School Board system, now obsolete. He remembered the opening of the old school under the Education Board in 1870, and the excitement caused by the event. He remembered also the zeal of those days to get prizes, and those occasions had been a stimulus in later life. Fochriw bore an excellent character in the matter of education, and regular attendance accounted no doubt for the success which had been attained by boys and girls from Fochriw. They had been most successful at the Pengam and Hengoed County Schools. He had heard people say "He is only from Fochriw," but it was a place very dear to him. From that place, some of the finest men in the country had come. There was one in Australia, holding a high position under the government as controller of mines, and some were headmasters of various intermediate schools, from Pantywaun down to Ystrad Mynach. There was a mining engineer at Fochriw with whom he was at school, and in Yorkshire and Lancashire he had met men from Fochriw who were holding high positions. The topic had been suggested to him by Mr. M. Lewis, Bargoed, on the definition of a school. His definition would be that a school was a nursery for the young people of the nation. He wished the school a successful career, and the memory of that occasion would be with him throughout life. Rev. D. Leyshon Evans said that the building of school was long overdue. Some five years ago he was amongst a party that visited the old school, and decided that a new school should be built, but unfortunately there were delays due to lack of money. Alderman W. Williams said he was glad that Fochriw appreciated the educational facility given to it. This was proved by the number who went to the county schools. Just now, education was suffering as it was impossible to staff the schools as they would like, owing to the shortage of teachers due to them serving in the war. He hoped the present crisis would soon be over, but prospects were not favourable. After the war, I hope a period of attention to education will follow. This was the 58th schools erected in the eastern part of the county from designs by Mr. Pugh Jones, and every one of them had been within the contract price. Councillor J. H. Charles delivered an address, and Councillor J. Jones presented a certificate of merit from the County Education Committee to Elizabeth Ann Angel, for having attended school for eight years without losing a day. Councillor Ben Hughes, Mr. J. D. Jones, Rev. Isaac Roderick, Rev. J. R. Salmon, Councillor W. J. Giles, Councillor John Edwards, and Rev. R. Jones, Abertysswg, also spoke.

29 July 1916 Successes Miss Lizzie Mary Lawrence, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Lawrence, Railway-terrace, has been successful in gaining an entrance scholarship into the Hengoed County School. Miss Ceinwen Ballard, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. Ballard, Station-terrace, has been successful in passing the probationer examination.

16 September 1916 Successes Congratulations to the following, who have been successful in passing the following examinations: Higher Certificate: Thomas John Jones; Senior: Thomas H. Jones, Katie Davies, Annie Evans, Tegwen Jenkins; Supplementary: Edith M. Thomas; Junior: Silvanus Jenkins (distinction in scripture), Lewis Jones (distinction in scripture), Vincent Sibley (scripture and drawing), Willie Davies, Frances M. Jones, Elizabeth Ballard, Ceridwen Thomas.

31 May, 1917 Fochriw School Sold to C.W.S. At the Royal Hotel, Bargoed, on Thursday of last week, Messrs. Selwyn Davies, Coggins and Company, offered for sale

Fochriw Old Council School and the master's house. The property, which is freehold, is situated on a commanding site opposite the railway station, having a frontage of 240 ft, and containing in the whole, 1760 square yards. It was sold to the Dowlais Co-operative Society for £910. The solicitor for the vendors, the Glamorgan Education Committee, was Mr. T. Mansell Franklen.

30 June 1917 Success The numerous friends of Mr. Thomas H. Jones, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Jones, Brynteg-terrace, will be pleased to hear that he has been successful in passing the King's Scholarship certificate examination.

28 July 1917 Musical Success Mr. D. Thomas, Martin-street, has been successful in passing the advanced intermediate grade; also Mr. T. J. James, Dynevor-street, has passed in first class elementary.

28 July 1917 Scholastic Success Miss Sarah Jones, Brynteg-terrace, has been successful in passing the College of Preceptor's examination. The following have been successful in gaining an entrance scholarship into the Pengam and Hengoed County Schools: Horace Evans, A. Thomas, Florrie Cole and Maggie Thomas.

23 February 1918 War Savings The Fochriw Mixed School Association has been at work exactly a year, and during that time 163 certificates (averaging one per child) have been sold. It is to be hoped that by the end of the second year every child in School will be able to say that they have tried to their very best to make the Association a success, by keeping up their own payments, and inducing others to join in.

9 March 1918 St. David's Day at Fochriw: Fochriw Infants' School St. David's Day was celebrated with real Welsh enthusiasm. The school was prettily decorated with banners, and with the Red Dragon, leeks and daffodils. The programme included Welsh folk songs, nursery rhymes, dramatised games based on incidents in Welsh history, dances to nursery rhymes, penillion singing, etc. The crowd of parents and friends present at the school, show of the warm interest taken in the celebrations, and the school accommodation was taxed to the utmost. Appeals were made to all present to speak Welsh in the home, and to do all in their power to foster the Welsh spirit. The vote of thanks to Mrs. E. Cole Jones and her active staff was proposed by the Rev. J. R. Salmon, Pontlottyn, who said that the staff was to be highly complemented for the splendid programme and for the Welsh spirit, which was so marked. In seconding the vote, the Rev. John Francis, vicar of Fochriw, spoke of the good tone of the school, and in a stirring speech eulogised the bravery and heroism shown the Welsh boys on the battlefields of Europe and on the seas. Among others present were Rev. J. Morgan Jones and Rev. R. D. Jenkins. At the suggestion of Mr. W. Payne, a very substantial collection was made by the audience, which was handed over to the fund in aid of comfort for the Welsh troops.

9 March 1918 St. David's Day at Fochriw: Fochriw Mixed School A pleasant morning was spent by the scholars of the Mixed Department, most of the children assembling in national dress, and wearing either the daffodil or the leek. The celebration took the form of a miscellaneous concert, and all the items were excellently rendered, and showed careful preparation on the part of the staff. Violin solos were given by Francis Wilton and Miriam Thomas, and "Cader Idris" was sung by Enid Evans, and "Gwalia Dlos" by Miriam Thomas. Selections from the national songs were nicely rendered by the children, followed by the historical plays "King Alfred" and "Boadicea." "My Country" was then given by Standard III, and "Yr Ysgolar Bach" was finely recited by Windsor Rhys. The choruses by the scholars included "Ffarweli Blwy' Llangower," "Canu'r Iach i Arfon," "Deio i Dywyn," "Suo Gan." A Welsh dialogue followed by L. H. Angell, Mary Jones and Miriam Thomas. A feature of the afternoon was a performance by the 6th Standard entitled "Plas Gogerddan," which was excellently done. An address was also given by the Rev. John Francis, which was much appreciated by the scholars.

9 March 1918 Penybank Council Schools St David's Day the celebrated in an enthusiastic manner at Penybank Council School. The school was prettily decorated with daffodils and leeks. Many of the children's parents visited the school, and were delighted to see the children taking their various parts so well. The Rev. D. R. Beynon, Pontlottyn, was present, and complimented the headmistress and staff on the able way the children performed. Programme

: adroddiadau, Tom Davies a Mary E. Price; "Dau Dderyn Bach," Edna M. Morgan a George Williams; "Pegi Ban," Lettuce Davies; adroddiad, A. C. Llewellyn; dadl, May Williams a Jane Seaborne; adroddiadau, "O Hyd y mae Dewi" a "Bachgen Bach o Gymru"; "Dolly's Visitor," Frances Atkins and Mary M. Griffiths; recitation, Alfred Morgan; song, Jane E. Jones; "Alfred and the cakes," Standards I & II; "I Blas Gogerddan" Girls' Choir; recitation, Eleanor A. Davies; song, Jane Seaborne; dadl, Alice Mills and Dorothy Watkins; "Joan of Arc," Standards III & IV; "Tra Bo Dau" Maria Jones a Myfanwy Cole ; adroddiad, Celia Small; "Ar Hyd y Nos" cor merched; "Rhanu'r Deisen," Olwen Small a Morfydd Williams; "Alfred's Book," Standards III & IV; deuawd, Misses Jones a Cole; drama, "Caradof yn Rhufain," Dosbarthau V & VI; canu penillion, Miss Jones; "Hen Wlad fy Nhadau," Blodwen Watkins. The headmistress, Miss Jones, appeared in Welsh costume.

25 May 1918 Success Wyndham Price Lawrence, Station-terrace, successfully passed the primary examination of the London College of Music for pianoforte playing, held at Cardiff.

1 June 1918 Success William Albert Lewis, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. Lewis, (station master), Brynteg, has been successful in passing first class elementary in pianoforte playing.

13 July 1918 The Tank The total contribution of the Fochriw school children to the tank at Pontlloftyn was £1,236, which is a fine record, as the number of child is only 200.

20 July 1918 Musical Success Miss Enid Evans, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. Evans, Dynevor-street, was successful in passing the primary section pianoforte of the London College of Music, with a high mark. She is a pupil of Miss Hilda Phillips.

27 July 1918 Bargoed Higher Elementary School Wyndham Lawrence, Jack Davies, Gomer Evans, David Thomas and Enid Evans have been successful in passing for admission to the Higher Elementary School, Bargoed.

27 July 1918 London College of Music At a recent examination held at Cardiff, Master Aneurin Thomas, aged 12 years, was successful in passing his intermediate examination in pianoforte playing, with honours. He is the son of Mr. David John Thomas.

27 July 1918 Success Delsey Mary Turner, Plantation-terrace, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Turner, has been successful in gaining a four years' scholarship at the Hengoed County School. Also, Eileen Morgan, daughter of Mrs. Morgan, and the late Mr. W. O. Morgan, schoolmaster, won a similar scholarship.

10 August 1918 Success At the recent examination held at Cardiff, Miss Miriam Thomas, daughter of Mr. D. J. Thomas, was successful in passing the elementary examination in violin playing, with honours.

14 September 1918 Successes The numerous friends of the following will be pleased to hear of their recent success at the Central Welsh Board Examination: Welsh Metrication and Senior, Miss Bessie Ballard, with distinction in drawing; Senior, Miss Ceridwen Thomas, Mr. Sylvanus Jenkins; Supplementary, Miss Tegwen Jenkins, Miss Annie Maud Jones; Junior, Miss Annie Maud Jones and Miss Elizabeth A. Angell, Mr. Ben Jones and Mr. Brinley Sibley.

8 March 1919 St. David's Day at the Schools: At the Fochriw Mixed Council School St. David's Day celebrations were carried out during the morning session of Friday. An excellent programme had been arranged by the headmaster and his staff, and the scholars showed in the performance of the work the care with which the dramas, songs, and recitations had been prepared. The whole programme was in Welsh, and one of the most interesting items was a little play on Welsh sentiments and ideals, composed by Miss M. A. Lewis, certificated assistant mistress on the staff of the school. The Revs. Williams, John Francis, R. D. Jenkins, Councillor John Jones, and Mr. Charles Payne delivered short addresses, and encouraged the children to do all in their power to keep up the Welsh language and Welsh traditions. They also welcomed back Mr. J D Jones, the headmaster, after his to one-and-a-half years service with the Colours, first in the ranks, and afterwards as a commissioned officer. An interesting meeting was brought to a close by the singing of "Hen Wlad fy Nhadau."

8 March 1919 St. David's Day at the Schools: Fochriw Infant's School St. David's Day was celebrated with the customary enthusiasm. The school was suitably decorated with daffodils, leeks, and banners bearing the "Red Dragon." The place was crowded with parents and friends, among them being Councillor John Jones, the Rev. Esaiiah Williams, Rev. John

Francis, and Rev Rhys Jenkins. The programme consisted of the Welsh folk songs, historical plays, Welsh nursery rhyme games, recitations, dances to the rhymes, and patriotic airs.

26 July 1919 Scholastic The numerous friends of Master Clifford Davies, son of Mr. David Davies, (Pencerdd Morganwg), will be glad to know that he has been successful in obtaining a scholarship to Lewis' County School, Pengam, and has passed the Pupil Teachership Examination.

2 August 1919 Gellygaer Evening Classes The Gellygaer Evening Classes Committee invite applications from those prepared to teach at the under-mentioned classes, which, subject to the approval of the County Education Committee, will be conducted during the forthcoming session: Fochriw: Junior Technical Course 1 & 2, comprising Elementary Mathematics, English, Mining, Science, Drawing, Practical Mathematics 1, Art 1.

16 August 1919 London College of Music At an examination held at Cardiff on 18th July, Miss Phoebe Cole, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Simon Cole, Aelybryn, passed first class, primary section, in pianoforte playing. She is a pupil of Mr. D J Thomas.

23 August 1919 London College of Music At the recent examination held at Cardiff, Master David Thomas, Aelybryn, obtained first class primary section pianoforte. Master John Lawrence, Glyn-terrace, gained a pass. Both are pupils of Mr. Thomas Walters.

11 October 1919 Presentation A very interesting presentation meeting was held at Nazareth Chapel on Monday evening last, when Mr. Willie Adams Jones was made the recipient of a hymn book, dressing case, and cheque case by members of the Nazareth Sunday school, on the occasion of his leaving the Church for Bristol College. Mr. John Jones very feelingly made the presentation. Others who spoke were Mrs. Captain Jones, Messrs. James Lawrence, John M. Jones, and William Morris.

10 January 1920 Success At a recent examination of the London College of Music held at Cardiff, Master Windsor Rees, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Rees, 32, Aelybryn, and Mr. Walter Birch, Railway-terrace, Cwmbargoed, obtained first class in violin playing, primary section. The former obtain 94 marks and the latter 88. Both are pupils of Mr. David J. Thomas, Fochriw.

10 January 1920 Mining Success The many friends of Mr. David Thomas, the son of Mr. Rees Thomas, Plantation-terrace, will be delighted to hear of his brilliant success in acquiring the distinction of Mining Engineer, under the tutorship of Mr. Williams, F.R.G.S., Llanishen. Great praise is due to him for his achievement at the early age of 26. He has laboured incessantly, for, in addition to passing all his examinations, he followed his daily occupation at the colliery. He has now been appointed manager of collieries at Ynysybwll.

6 March 1920 Presentation Mr. J. D. Jones, headmaster of Fochriw Council School, left on Friday to take up duties at Gorseinon Boys' School. As a token of the sincere regard in which he was held by the people and staff of Fochriw, he was presented with a neat and useful bureau. He has been headmaster at Fochriw for ten-and-a-half years and during that time he has done excellent work in the school, and has associated himself with every local official movement. We wish him every success in his new sphere.

6 March 1920 St. David's Night On Monday evening, an entertainment was given by the Mixed School Children in St. Mary's Hall. A very good programme had been prepared, and was successfully carried out. The chief items were: "Cewri Cymru"; "Plas Gogerddon": "Pont Orewyn" - Welsh plays. The folk songs were well rendered. The conductor was Mr. T. J. Jones, the chairman, Mr. J. Jones, grocer, whilst Mr. Howell Thomas manipulated the scenes, and rendered the other valuable assistance. The teachers wish to thank all who kindly assisted to make the evening a success.

6 March 1920 St David's Day The day was celebrated with enthusiasm at the Infants Council School. The Central Hall was suitably decorated with banners bearing Welsh emblems. The programme included Welsh airs, Welsh folk songs, games, dances to the music of Welsh rhymes, historical plays, recitations, dialogues and tales bearing on St. David and Welsh patriots. The school was crowded with parents and friends among them being Rev. Esaiiah Williams and Rev. Samuel Evans. A very pleasant and inspiring morning session was brought to a close with the usual votes of thanks, given in eloquent terms. Great praise is due to Mrs. E. Cole Jones and her staff for the excellent way they had trained the children.

8 May 1920 Musical Successes The following have been successful in passing in pianoforte playing - London College of Music: Master Wyndham Lawrence, pass (senior); Miss Edith Walters (first class elementary), Miss Gwladys Shankland (first class elementary), Miss Marjorie Lewis (first class primary). The above are pupils of Mr. Thomas Walters, A.L.C.M.

24 July 1920 Scholastic Success The friends of Howell Jones, B.A., and Thomas John Jones, B.A., sons of Mr. and Mrs. George Jones, Station-terrace, and Mr. Idris Jones, B.A., son of Mr. and Mrs. John Jones, Central Station, will be glad to here that they were successful candidates at this year's final examination at Aberystwyth University. They obtained degrees in Arts. They attended the ceremony at Bangor last week, when the degree was conferred upon them. Fochriw is a noted village for pupils in the scholastic profession.

31 July 1920 London College of Music At an examination held in Cardiff on 17th July, the following candidates were successful: Elementary stage with honours - Annie Mary Sims, pianoforte; Phoebe Cole, pianoforte; Walter Birch, violin; Windsor Rees, violin; Primary stage, first class - Jane J. Seaborne, pianoforte; Mary Lewis Morgan, violin. All are pupils of Mr. D. J. Thomas, Fochriw.

28 August 1920 Singer's Success The numerous friends of Mr. W. Edgar, son of Mr. Herbert Edgar, Guest-street, will be pleased to hear of his rapid promotion in the world of song. Only a short time ago, he left the village, where he worked in the mines of Messrs. Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds, to join of the O'Mara Opera Company. On Monday next, he makes his appearance as principal tenor in the Carl Rosa Opera Co., at the Boro' Theatre, Stratford.

25 September 1920 Success The following have been successful in passing their Central Welsh Board Examinations: Higher Certificate - Miss Ceridwen Thomas; Senior - Miss Annie Maud Jones, Miss Annie Jones, Miss Morfydd Thomas, Miss Elizabeth Mary Lawrence, Master Brinley Sibley, Master Willie Davies; Supplementary - Miss Elizabeth Ann Angell; Junior - Miss Ceinwen Ballard, Miss Maggie Thomas, Master Emrys Evans, Masters Aneurin Thomas. All are pupils at Pengam and Hengoed County Schools.

1 January 1921 School Teas At Penybank School on Thursday, all the scholars sat down to a tea provided by Miss Jones, headmistress, and the staff, to which all did justice. In the afternoon, a Christmas Tree was prepared for them, and each child was presented with a gift from the tree. On Wednesday afternoon, the scholars of the Fochriw Infants' School were provided with the tea, which had been nicely got together by Miss Evans, headmistress, and staff. The little ones enjoyed themselves to their heart's content.

5 March 1921 St. David's Day at Fochriw: At the Schools Owing to the sad and fatal accident to one of the older scholars at the school, the original programme had to be modified to be in keeping with the death of the pupil. The evening concert was also postponed until next Monday. It was a sad occasion for the school, both for visitors and pupils. Mrs. Beynon Davies, chairman of the managers, Councillor Morgan Morgan, the vicar, and many local ladies were present. After an address by the headmaster, the scholars gave the rendering of "Yn iach i ti Gymru" and "Y Lili." The Reverend Samuel Evans then gave a very eloquent address, which was appreciated by all present. A few more choruses were sung, including "Can, Aderyn, Can," "Lili Dyner," and "Moliant y Plant." Mrs. Beynon Davies addressed the children on the late Sir Owem M. Edwards and gave a splendid account of his fight against all difficulties, of his love for Wales and all Welsh things. A framed photograph was unveiled, which was quite as impressive as the advice given: take encouragement from the life of a great man and overcome the difficulties that beset us. Councillor Morgan proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs. Davies, which was seconded by the Vicar. The pupils sang "Cadw Fi" and closed the celebrations with the Lord's Prayer. Much credit is due to the headmaster and teachers for the splendid way in which the children acquitted themselves.

12 March 1921 St. David's Day at Penybank A Children's Concert in celebration of St. David's Day was given by Penybank School at the Baptist Chapel on Wednesday March 3rd, when the vicar presided. Items in which the children took part were greatly appreciated by the parents, particularly those given by the young children - "Hen Fenyw Fach Cydweli," Pegi Ban," "Doli Fach," and "Cwmni o Fechgyn." Songs, recitations, dialogues, and plays were

given by various pupils. Miss G. Jones, headmistress, wore her Welsh costume. Great praise is due to the headmistress and staff for the excellent programme given.

12 March 1921 Concert A grand concert in celebration of St. David's Day, which was postponed under painful circumstances last week, was held by the scholars of the Fochriw Mixed School at St. Mary's Hall. The building was well filled, and the chair occupied by the vicar, who opened the proceedings with a very able address. An excellent programme had been prepared by Mr. Isaacs, headmaster and staff. The conducting of the singing was carried out by Mr. Tom Jones, whilst Miss H. Evans was at the piano. An interesting programme was carried through in fine style. The last chorus, "Cadw Fi," was sung with much feeling in memory of the departed pupil, Morfydd Jones. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the chairman, staff, etc., and all who had worked to get the concert to such a success, by the Rev. D. J. Jones, and seconded by Mr. Isaac.

7 May 1921 Scholastic The many friends of Mr. Idris Jones, B.A., son of Mr. and Mrs. John Jones, Central Stores, will be pleased to hear of his recent appointment to Caerphilly Secondary School. He took up his duties on Friday last.

28 May 1921 Success The friends of Miss Stella Cole, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Cole, Upland Stores, will be pleased to know that she has been successful in gaining an entrance scholarship into Hengoed County School; also Master Willie Morgan, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Morgan, Aelybryn, into Pengam County School. Both are pupils at the Fochriw Council School.

2 July 1921 Secondary School Master Enoch Lewis, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Lewis; Master Ben Davies, son of Mr. and Mrs. Evan Morgan Davies; and Master Clifford Phillpot, son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Phillpot, have been successful in passing in the examinations for entrance into Bargoed Secondary School. They are all pupils of Fochriw Council Schools.

2 July 1921 Success Miss Gladys Lewis, Brynteg, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. Lewis, station master, has been appointed, from a long list of applicants, for the post of staff nurse at Pontypridd Cottage Hospital. Before this appointment, Miss Lewis held the positions of staff nurse and theatre sister at Hertford County Hospital.

9 July 1921 Scholastic The numerous friends of Mr. Thomas John Jones, B.A., son of Mr. and Mrs. George Jones, Station-terrace, will be pleased to hear of his recent appointment to the post of Master of History at Queen's College, Taunton. Mr. Jones is one of the six children, all of whom are in the scholastic profession. Another brother, Mr. Howell Jones, B. A. is pursuing his studies at Oxford.

16 July 1921 Concert A very interesting concert was held at Penybank Chapel on Thursday last by the scholars of the Fochriw Council School, under the conductorship of Mr. T. J. Jones, Fochriw School. Selections were given of all the National airs by the scholars. Pianoforte and violin solos were also given, together with solos and duets. Dialogues were most effectively given by parties of boys and girls. Mr. Edward Lewis, Fochriw, presided.

30 July 1921 Success The numerous friends of the following will be glad to hear of their recent success at the examination held at Cardiff of the London College of Music. Each of the candidates passed with honours: Intermediate Section - pianoforte playing - Phoebe Cole and Annie Mary Beth; Elementary Section - pianoforte playing - Jane Jones Seaborne; violin - Mary L. Morgan. They were the pupils of Councillor David John Thomas.

7 January 1922 Gelligaer Council: Notice of Motion Councillor D. J. Thomas moved that in view of the inconvenience of the pupils attending Bargoed, Pengam & Hengoed County Schools from Fochriw, and also to the general public through lack of a train service, the Council request the railway authorities, to extend the newly augmented service between Bargoed and Deri on to Fochriw. Cllr. Thomas said this matter should be considered by the Council to enforce the railway authorities to bring the need about. As there was no train, pupils attending these schools had to return to Fochriw via Pontlottyn. This matter had been moved for a number of years and the pupils at County schools had increased immensely. Mr. Hammond seconded. The Clerk was directed to write to the railway authorities.

28 January 1922 Lecture At the Co-op Reading Room, an interesting address, 'Pictures of Parliament,' was given by Mr. Morgan Jones M. P.

25 February 1922 New Train A new train has recently started to convey pupils attending Hengoed, Pengam and Bargoed County Schools. This is in response to Cllr. D. J. Thomas motion reported in the Merthyr Express of the 7th January, 1922.

4 March 1922 Whist Drive A very successful whist drive and dance took place at St. Mary's Hall on Friday last. The event had been well organised by the headteachers and staff of the local Council Schools. The Hall had been beautifully decorated for the occasion and there was a large gathering present. The dancing M.C.s were Messrs. T. H. Jones and W. A. Jones; games, Mr. G. Thomas; pianist, Mr. D. T. Davies, Rhymney. The following ladies assisted at the tables: Mrs. G. Way, Mrs. R. Evans, Mrs. D. Evans, Mrs. W. Thomas, Mrs. W. Cole, Mrs. Davies, Mrs. Morris and Miss B. Rowlands. The arrangements worked without a hitch. The secretarial duties were carried out by Misses S. Cole Jones and E. M. Thomas.

11 March 1922 St. David's Day at Fochriw Council Schools At the Infant Department the morning was devoted to folk-songs, nursery rhymes, games and dances suitable for the children. The performance was entirely in Welsh. Great praise is due to the headmistress and her staff for the excellent training of the little ones. As usual, March 1st was a special day in the history of the Mixed School. The event had been eagerly anticipated by both the parents and children, but owing to the structural arrangements of the building, the parents were not invited to the performances. There were three distinct performances at the Mixed School. Under the supervision of Misses S. Jones and H. Phillips, the youngest classes gave splendid renderings of penillion singing, Welsh character representations, and Welsh country dances. The intermediate scholars were under the guidance of Misses H. Evans and A. Evans. "Ffynon Gras," a play for girls, was very successfully performed. Folk-songs were sung and many Welsh dances were executed. The senior classes, under the charge of Mr. T. J. Jones and Miss E. M. Thomas, acted an original play entitled "Gruffydd ap Llewellyn." The characters were in costume. The singing of Welsh folk songs, which has always been a feature of the schools, was very well done. The headmaster and staff are to be complimented on their successful work in instructing the children so well. At Penybank School, the day was celebrated in the usual way. Stories of St. David and great Welshmen were given by the teachers, after which the whole school assembled to spend the later part of the morning in singing, reciting etc. The headmaster gave an address on St. David; then the old Welsh hymns were sung: "Beth sydd imi yn y byd," and "O Frynau Caersalem." Solos, recitations, plays, dialogues etc. were given by the various scholars. "Hen Fenyw Fach Cydweli," was played very well by the Infants. The morning was closed by singing "Hen wlad fy Nhadau," and "God Save the Queen."

24 June 1922 Success The numerous friends of Thomas Jenkins, Guest-street, will be pleased to hear of his recent success in the examination held under the Glamorgan Education Committee. He passed in mining (4th stage), mining surveying (3rd stage), mining drawing (2nd stage), and practical mathematics (2nd stage). Mr. John Walters, Railway-terrace, was also successful at mining (3rd stage), mining drawing (1st stage), and practical mathematics (1st stage).

8 July 1922 Success Mr. Horace Evans, son of Mr. Mordecai Evans, Brook-row, has been successful in passing the preliminary certificate of the Board of Education.

22 July 1922 Gellygaer School Managers At the previous meeting, attention of the Managers was drawn to the fact that the attendance of certain children whose parents were in receipt of poor law relief was very low. It was decided on the suggestion of Mrs. Beynon Davies, Pontlottyn, to ask the Merthyr Board of Guardians to restore the custom of providing certificates which would show the attendance of children, and cause inquiries to be made in this connection if necessary. The Guardians had replied stating that they would take no action in the matter.

22 July 1922 Boots and Mitching Scholars During the reports of the attendance officer, it transpired that lack of boots was the great complaint put forward by parents for the non-attendance of their children at school. Mrs. Beynon Davies suggested that in many cases it was no use paying too much regard to this story. It was common knowledge that children were about the roads doing mischief, in ponds and rivers and on tips, and in all sorts of dirt, and it would therefore be much better if they were at school without boots.

16 September 1922 Fochriw School Awards Awards for perfect attendance were presented last Monday to many scholars in both departments by Mr. Morgan Morgans, the local representative of the Gellygaer School Managers. The awards were: One year - Dilys Evans, Willie J. Gittoes, Olive May Payne, Maggie Cor. Jones, Eirwen Walters, Jessie Thomas, Gertie May Cook and Leslie Jones. Two years - Dorothy Everett, John Gwyn Lewis, Spencer Lewis, Margaret Ellen Thomas. Three years - Cassie Shankland, who was the winner of the silver medal presented by the Glamorgan Education Committee.

7 October 1922 Scholastic We are pleased to learn of the success of Mr. Vincent Sibley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sibley, Station Stores. He has qualified in physical training at Sheffield, and has been awarded a first class diploma. He is now physical instructor and games master at Devizes County School, Wiltshire. Miss Crisley Sibley has been awarded a scholarship at Hengoed County School. Mr. Brinley Sibley has just returned to Aberystwyth College after a successful first year.

25 November 1922 Whist Drive A whist drive in connection with the Fochriw Council School was held at the Infant's School on Friday evening last. The school had been well decorated for the occasion, and quite a representative gathering was present. During the evening, light refreshments were provided. Great credit is due to Mr. J.P. Isaac, headmaster, and Miss Davies, headmistress, and all the teachers, who worked so hard to organise the event. The M.C. was Councillor D.J. Thomas. The winners were: Mrs. Isaac (gents) and Miss M. Thomas (ladies).

9 December 1922 Whist Drive and Dance Held on Thursday in connection with the Penybank School.

30 December 1922 Whist Drive A highly successful whist drive was held at the Infants School in connection with the Infants' Department. Mr. J. P. Isaacs, headmaster was M.C. The prizewinners were: Ladies: Miss E. A. Thomas; Gentlemen: Mr. Husband.

10 March 1923 Penybank School The usual celebrations were observed on St. David's Day. A full programme of Welsh choruses and folk songs was performed, with the parents of the children present.

10 March 1923 St. David's Day St. David's Day was celebrated in the usual manner in the Infants' Department of the Council Schools. The little children gave a fine display of dancing, and also sang folk songs and performed Welsh plays. The parents were present for the concert. In the Upper Department, an original play, 'Taliesin,' was acted. Welsh airs were sung and a selection was given on the gramophone. A special feature of the celebration was the making public of a gift of Mr. Clark, late of Talygarn and now of London, who generously handed back to the school, the gift of a mallet and trowel that his late grandmother, Mrs. C. H. Clark of Dowlais, had received from the contractor, when she had laid the foundation stone of the old school in 1863.

30 June 1923 Personal The numerous friends of Miss Ceridwen Thomas, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Howell Thomas, Brynteg Terrace, will be pleased to hear of her recent success at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, where she passed the degree of B. Sc.

28 July 1923 Brilliant Success Fochriw is naturally proud of the recent success of Mr. H. Jones, B.A., second son of Mr. & Mrs. George Jones, Station Terrace, who at the recent examination at Oxford passed his Bachelor of Civil Law degree with honours. He is an old Lewis School Pengam boy. During the Great War, he saw active service, and held the rank of lieutenant in the Yorks and Lancs. He was wounded in France. Last year, he was president of the Cambrian Society at Oxford. He also captained last year's football team at Oxford. All the family are in the scholastic profession and hold important positions.

15 September 1923 Congratulations Evan Davies, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lodwick Davies, and Cyril Evans, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Evans, have passed the Central Welsh Board examinations with distinctions. Both pupils are at Bargoed Secondary School.

8 December 1923 Whist Drive and Dance At the Church Hall on Thursday evening last, under the auspices of the staff of Penybank School, a first class whist drive and dance took place, and was well attended. The Hall had been gaily decorated, and looked a pleasing sight. The M.C. for whist was Coun. D. J. Thomas and the M.C. for dancing was Mr. T. H. Jones.

The accompanist was Mr. H. Salmon, Rhymney, and Mr. F. Wilton, the violinist. The prize-winners were: Ladies, Mrs. W. Edgar; gents, Mr. W. Evans.

23 February 1924 Prize Day On Monday morning, a pleasant function was held at the Fochriw Infants' School, when certificates, books, medals and prizes were given to a number of pupils for the excellent attendances which had been made. Mr. Isaac, headmaster of the Mixed Department, and Miss Davies, Infants' Department, introduced the Rev. Gilbert Williams, vicar of Pontlottyn, and chairman of the Gellygaer School Managers, who presented the prizes. The reverend gentleman addressed the children on "Perseverance," after which the prizes were distributed. The following received prizes: Cassie Shankland, four years, a work needlework basket lined with blue silk; John Gwyn Lewis, Spencer Lewis, Margaret Ellen Thomas, Dorothy Everett (three years) silver medals suitably inscribed; Leslie Jones (two years), book; Bedford Edwards, Grace Everett, Beryl Ballard, Elwyn Lewis, Nesta Jenkins, Gwladys Lewis, Phoebe Jones, Nehemiah Thomas, John Cole Jenkins, Islwyn Jones, Iorwerth Morgan, Edward Gittings, Ronald Jones, William Shankland, Glyn Thomas, Robert Gwilym Jones, Idwal Walters, John Alwyn Edwards. The headmaster, headmistress and staff are to be complimented for arranging such a pleasant morning, which was enjoyed by all.

8 March 1924 Fochriw Mixed School Friday morning was devoted entirely to Gwyl Dewi celebrations. The classes were separated into two divisions, the seniors under Miss E. M. Thomas and Mr. T. J. Jones, and the juniors under Miss Evans, Miss Phillips and Miss Jones. One notable feature of this year's demonstration was the general participation of the children. Every child had his part to play. Mr. Isaac and his staff deserve every credit for their patient and successful work.

8 March 1924 Penybank School St. David's Day was celebrated by the pupils of Penybank Council School on Friday last at Siloh Chapel. There were a large number of parents present for the programme in which all classes participated.

8 March 1924 Infants' School The usual timetable was suspended. The programme was entirely Welsh and consisted of folk-songs, nursery rhymes, games, dances, recitations, solos, duets and tales bearing on the life of St. David. The children brought an abundance of leeks and daffodils, and the school was suitably decorated

2 August 1924 Congratulations Congratulations to John Walters, Vincent Wood and Dd. Lewis who won 1st prize for wire-rope splicing at the Bridgend Royal Show on Friday last.

20 September 1924 Congratulations The numerous friends of Masters Lewis Haydn Angell, son of Mr. W.J. Angell, and Aneurin Thomas, son of Mr. & Mrs. D.J. Thomas will be delighted to hear of their recent success at the Central Welsh Board examination. Lewis Haydn Angell passed with distinction in English, Latin, Welsh, mathematics, chemistry, and Aneurin Thomas in English & Welsh (with distinction), and arithmetic, drawing, mechanics.

20 September 1924 Scholastic The numerous friends of Mr. Lewis H. Jones, son of Mr. & Mrs. Aneurin Jones, Post Office, will be pleased to hear of his transfer from Ogmere Vale to the staff of Trelewis Mixed School. Apart from his abilities in the scholastic profession, he is well known in the world of sport, being three-quarter back in the Rugby game, as well as a skilful Soccer player. His friends wish him well in his new sphere of work.

11 October 1924 Congratulations Mr. E. B. Sibley, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Sibley, has graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Aberystwyth University College. He matriculated at Pengam, where he also won numerous athletic prizes. He was in the University soccer team and also played for Aberystwyth Town A.F.C.

17 January 1925 Good Attendance A pleasant event took place at Fochriw Council Schools, when many scholars were awarded prizes for perfect attendance. The ceremony of handing over the prizes was performed by the Headmaster, Mr. J.P. Isaac, who spoke very encouraging words to the scholars. The following received awards: for five years perfect attendance - Cassie Shankland (a suitably engraved watch); four years - John Gwyn Jones (case of instruments), Spencer Lewis (fountain pen), Margaret Ellen Thomas and Dorothy Everett (work basket each); three years - Leslie Jones (silver medal); two years - Glyn thomas, Phoebe Jones, Gwladys Lewis, Grace Everett and Nesta Jenkins (books); one year - Maggie C. Jones, Gwilym Davies, Phillip Davies Isaac, Phyllis M. Davies, Elizabeth C. Pugh, Kenneth Phillips (books).

7 March 1925 St. David's Day Celebrations At the Infants' School, the programme consisted of folk songs, nursery rhymes, games, duets and solos, and was entirely in Welsh. The school was crowded with parents and friends. Miss Davies and staff deserve every credit for producing such an excellent programme. The programme at the Mixed School was as follows: Standards I & II - Chats on St. David; Singing of Welsh Airs ('Y Deryn Pur,' 'Clychau Aberdyfi,' 'Yr Hen Wr Mwyn,' 'Calon Lan;,' various competitions; Standards III & IV - Short History of St. David; Choruses; Poems by Welsh poets. At Penybank School the children sang Welsh folk songs, and took part in Welsh dialogues and recitations. A silver medal was presented to Master Thomas Verdun Jones for three years complete attendance. The following received books: - for two years complete attendance - Gwyn Mantle, Lilian Morris and Idris Williams; for one years complete attendance - Adelaide Baldwin, Vernon Cogan, Olwen Morgan, Leslie Cowles, William Richards, Francis Williams, Leslie Mantle, Ronald Llewellyn, Douglas Small, Ann Thomas. The session closed by singing 'Let us Praise Our Famous Men.'

June 1925 Congratulations Congratulations to Mr. Samuel Lewis, Glyn-terrace, on his appointment as a new member of the Gellygaer School Managers. He is a member of the I.O.G.T.

27 June 1925 Council School Results The successful pupils who sat the examinations were Glenys Jones, Phyllis Evans, Leslie Candrick and Gwilym Davies. The following qualified for the first part: Phoebe Jones, Megan Davies, Enid Gittoes, Dorothy Everett, Glyn Thomas, John G. Lewis, Brinley Davies, Ronald Jones, Gwilym Davies & Thomas J.E. Davies. The following were successful at Penybank Council School: Margaretta Morgan and Iorwerth Williams. The Headmasters, Messrs. J.P. Isaac and D. Davies, and staffs are to be congratulated.

8 August 1925 Personal Congratulations to Mr. William Lewis, Brynteg-terrace, and his brother, who were successful in winning the chief prize at the Caerphilly Show in the timbering competition, thus securing the shield.

15 August 1925 Personal Congratulations to Miss Nesta Evans, Aelybryn, who was successful in passing the preliminary examination of the London College of Music (1st class). She is the daughter of Mrs. Evans and the late Mr. Evan Evans who fell in the Great War.

5 September 1925 Success of Railwaymen Mr. S. G. Thomas, porter, passed with merit the G.W.R. Railway Operation and Signalling Classes at the examination recently held at the Technical College, Cardiff. The late porter Mr. Percy Jenkins also passed. Last year, two local signalmen, Mr. A. Lewis and Mr. T. Jones also passed a similar examination with credit.

19 September 1925 Personal Congratulations to Master Trevor Lawrence, Glyn-terrace, who matriculated in the recent Central Welsh Board examinations; also Master Willie Morgan, Plantation-street, pupils of Lewis School Pengam; and to Master Bryn Davies, a pupil at Bargoed Secondary School.

10 October 1925 Personal Mr. Walter Jones, Brynteg, has been appointed on the Board of Governors of the Pengam and Hengoed Schools.

14 November 1925 Presentation Miss Letitia May Jones, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Price-Jones, Iscoed, returned home on Monday, having spent a most successful period as nurse at Talgarth Sanatorium. A social evening was held on the previous Saturday by the staff and patients, and a number of valuable and useful presents were handed Nurse Jones as a mark of appreciation and esteem.

6 March 1926 Penybank Council School St. David's Day was appropriately kept at the above School. The chief item in the morning was the presentation of books and useful gifts to the regulars by Mr. Samuel Lewis, school manager. He expressed his wish that Welsh should be taught at home, which would considerably help in the work of the school. Mr. Lewis presented awards to the following children: Thomas Jones, regular attendance for four years, set of geometrical instruments; Idris Williams, three years, silver medal; Francis Williams, Vernon Coggan, Leslie Cowles, Ronald Llewellyn, Jane A. Thomas, regular attendance for two years, books; C. Tyler, Albert Williams, W. John Llewellyn, D. Strang, Annie Jones and Agnes Baker, one year, a book. An exhibition of scholars' work in the form of exercise books, drawing and painting specimens, needlework in all different stages, were on view for

inspection by parents. Great credit is due to the Headteacher, Mr. Davies, and staff, for their great efforts.

24 April 1926 Perfect Attendance Awards The Fochriw Mixed and Infants' Schools maintained their high standard of good attendance during the last years, and the following pupils gained Prize awards: - one years' perfect attendance (books): Griffith Pugh, William Howells, S. Rosella Williams, Ronald Jones, Glenys Jones, Robert Gwilym Jones, Eifionydd Ballard, Stephen Ballard, Magretta May Thomas, Nehemiah Thomas, Windsor Rees, Walter John Howells, Esther Mary Pugh, Rita Cole, Walter Jones; two years' perfect attendance (books): P. M. Davies, Kenneth Phillips, Maggie C. Jones; three years' perfect attendance (medals): Nesta Jenkins, Grace Everett, John Aldwyn Edwards, Phoebe Jones, Glyn Thomas; four years perfect attendance (case of drawing instrument): Leslie Jones; five years (watches): Spencer Lewis, Dorothy M. Everett, Margaret E. Thomas, John C. Jones, John Gwynne Lewis; six years (gold brooch): Cassie Shankland. Mr. S. Lewis, the local school manager, addressed the school on the benefits of education and advised the children to make even greater efforts to avail themselves of our present-day advantages. Mrs. Lewis, who has served under the Glamorgan Education Authority for many years, was also present, and was cordially welcomed by her old colleagues and pupils. Taking a watch - one of the prizes - as her theme, Mrs. Lewis built up an interesting lesson on "Character" which was enjoyed by all.

1 May 1926 Musical In connection with the London College of Music examination (pianoforte playing), Miss Nesta Evans, Aelybryn, passed with honours, and Reggie Lewis, in the first class.

5 June 1926 Translation Congratulations to Mrs. Sam Lewis who has been successful in winning a prize of £2 for the best translation of an English hymn into Welsh. There were over 20 competitors.

12 June 1926 Congratulations Fochriw is proud of her sons. This week it is a pleasure to record the brilliant success of Mr. Howell Jones, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Jones, Station-terrace, on his success in Bar Final Examinations. He will be called to Bar in the near future. He is a member of the Inner Temple. During of the Great War, he saw active service, and obtained the rank of lieutenant. He saw much fighting, and was wounded and invalided home. All feel proud of him and his family.

24 July 1926 Scholarships At the recent examination for secondary education at Pengam, Hengoed or Bargoed schools, the following pupils of Fochriw and Penybank Mixed School gained free scholarships: Philip Seaborne, Hannah Lewis, John Gwynne Lewis, Kenneth Phillips, Gurwen Thomas, David Emlyn Evans, Margaret Ellen Thomas. The following also qualified to sit the oral examination: John Adams Jones, John Iorwerth Morgan, Brinley Davies, Tudor Davies, Enid Gittoes, Iris Evans, Leslie Mantle. Scholarships were gained by Megan Davies and Clarice Pritchard.

31 July 1926 Appointment Congratulations to Mr. Walter Jones, Pentwyn, who has been appointed to the post of School Attendance Officer for the Gellygaer area out of 175 applicants.

11 September 1926 Successes We wish to congratulate the following on their success in the recent Central Welsh Board Examination: Matriculation - Willie Morgan; Senior - Johnny Roberts ((both are pupils at Pengam County School); Senior - Bryn Davies, Windsor Rees, Mary L. Thomas, Eluned Lawrence (pupils of Bargoed Secondary School); Senior - Miriam Thomas (pupil at Hengoed County School).

11 December 1926 Scholastic Appointment Congratulations to Miss Katie Davies, Guest-street, who has been appointed to the headship of Coatbridge Infants' School. Miss Davies has laboured very faithfully for some years on the staff of Deri Infants' School, where she will be greatly missed.

18 December 1926 Congratulations Congratulations to our brilliant young pianist, Mr. Wyndham Lawrence, Station Road, who was successful in obtaining his A.L.C.M. last week with very high percentage marks. He is the accompanist of the Male Voice Party, Ladies' Choir, and the United Choir.

25 December 1926 Musical Congratulations to Master Philip Davies Isaac, son of Mr. Philip Isaac, Headmaster of the Mixed School, who was successful in pianoforte playing in the primary section of the London College of Music, gaining 98 marks out of 100.

15 January 1927 School Attendance Fochriw is very proud of the scholars of the Mixed and Infants' Schools who hold such an excellent record for perfect attendance. The following were awarded prizes: for seven years - Cassie Shankland (a handsome ladies handbag); six years - Dorothy Everett (a gold brooch), John Gwynne Lewis and Margaret Ellen Thomas (a leather attache case), Stephen Lewis (a silver watch chain); five years: Leslie Jones (a watch); four years - Grace Everett and Nesta Jenkins (work baskets), John Aldwyn Rowlands (a case of mathematical instruments); three years - Phyllis Davies (silver medal), Kenneth Phillips (fountain pen); two years - Wm. D. Howell, Walter J. Howell, Sarah Rosella Williams, Eifionydd Ballard, Rita Blanche Cole, Esther Mary Pugh, and Walter Jones (a 5 shilling book); one year - Phillip David Isaac, Irfona Thomas, Mona Ballard, Phoebe Meirwen Davies, Elizabeth Pugh, Edith M. Wilton, Esther Pugh, Millicent L. White, James P. Lewis (a book valued at 2/6) .

5 February 1927 Call to the Bar We have a great pleasure in recording yet another step forward in the successful career of one of our neighbours. In the list of members called to the Bar at the Inner Temple on Wednesday, 26th January, appears the name of Mr. Hywel Jones, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Jones, Picton House. Mr. Jones studied at Pengam Grammar School, the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, and Lincoln College, Oxford.

5 March 1927 St. David's Day This was celebrated at Penybank Council School with recitations, songs and dialogues from the scholars of the infant and senior departments. The school rooms were decorated with drawings of leeks, daffodils and dragons. The headmaster and staff interested the children with stories on the life of St. David and other Welsh Saints. The singing of the Welsh anthem brought a most enjoyable programme to a close. At Fochriw schools, the morning was devoted to special celebrations. The headteacher and staff deserve praise for their conscientious work throughout the year, and the children for their splendid performances.

5 March 1927 Penybank Council School A prize day was held on Wednesday last, when County Councillor W. H. Hopkins presented the prizes for good attendance. Five years: Thomas V. Jones (watch); four years: Idris Williams (football and a pair of shoes); three years: Francis Williams, Leslie Cowles, Ronald Llewellyn, Jane A. Thomas (silver medals); two years: Albert Williams (book); one year: Philip Seaborne, Edgar Mantle, John Pullen, Robert Llewellyn, Marion Evans, Eunice Morris (book). 1st class certificates: Thos. V. Jones, Idris Williams, Francis Williams, Leslie Cowles, Ronald Llewellyn, Jane A. Thomas, Albert Williams, David Strang, Violet Grimmett, Philip Seaborne, Edgar Mantle, John Pullen, Robert J. Llewellyn, Marion Evans, Eunice Morris, Christopher Tyler, Annie Jones; 2nd class: Leslie Mantle, Jessie Llewellyn, Hilda Watkins, Phyllis Addis, Katie Strang; 3rd class: Olwen Morgan, Thomas Davies, George Grimmett, Lemuel Small, Elwyn Davies, Agnes Baker, Ellis Williams. Mr. Samuel Lewis and Mr. Walter Jones congratulated the children and pointed out to the parents the necessity for regular attendance at school. The energetic headmaster, Mr. W Davies, and his staff, were also highly complimented.

14 May 1927 Musical Congratulations to Miss Nesta Evans, Aelybryn, who was successful at the recent London College of Music Examination, intermediate level.

25 June 1927 Successes At the last County Scholarship examinations recently held, splendid results were obtained by the scholars of Fochriw and Penybank Schools. The following have qualified for free scholarships: Fochriw School: (a) Candidates who received 60% and were exempt from the oral examination - William D. Howell, 147 marks; Lilian Morris, 145; Mona Ballard, 140; Vernon Davies, 129; Elizabeth C. Pugh, 124; (b) Candidates who received 50% and who were called for oral examination - Philip D. Isaac, 227 marks; Idris E. Howells, 201; Mervyn Evans, 201. Penybank Council School - the following qualified for scholarships - George K. Morris; Hilda Watkins; Mair Williams. Gwyn Mantle was also called up for the oral examination.

16 July 1927 Personal Mr. Trevor Lawrence, son of Mr. John Lawrence, Glyn-terrace, has been successful in gaining admittance to the South Wales Training College, Carmarthen,

where he will study with a view to obtaining the Board of Education teaching certificate. He will go into residence on October 8th.

10 September 1927 Nursing Success Congratulations to Miss Lydia Mary Cumpstone, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Earnest Cumpstone, Aelybryn, who has passed the Final State Examination in General Nursing and is now a State Registered Nurse. Nurse Cumpstone was trained at the National Hospital, London, and also at the Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester.

10 September 1927 Scholastic Successes Hearty congratulations to Masters Enoch Lewis, Windsor Rees, Misses Mary L. Thomas, Addie Lawrence, Eiluned Lawrence, pupils of Bargoed Secondary School, who succeeded in passing their Central Welsh Board Examination. Enoch Lewis and Windsor Rees matriculated, as did Miss Crisley Sibley, a pupil at Hengoed County School.

24 September 1927 Personal The many friends of Miss Ceinwen Thomas and Mr. Daniel Jones were glad to hear of their appointment as certified teachers to Pontlottyn Girls' and Boys' School.

8 October 1927 Personal The many friends of Messrs. Lewis H. Angell and Trevor Lawrence wish them the best of luck on entering college this week. Mr. Angell will study at Cardiff University, and Mr. Lawrence at Carmarthen College.

7 January 1928 Scholars Honoured A happy time was spent at the Council Schools, when County Councillor W. H. Hopkins presented the attendance prize awards. He was accompanied by Mr. Samuel Lewis, school manager for Fochriw. A most inspiring address was given by County Councillor Hopkins, who stressed the value of school life in the building of character, and the value of regular attendance to the pupil himself, to the teacher, and to the parent. Mr. Lewis also spoke to the scholars. The awards were: seven years perfect attendance (a travelling case), Sinclair Lewis; six years (watch chain) Leslie Jones; five years (watch) John Aldwyn Edwards; four years (work basket) Phyllis Davies; three years (silver medals) Lilian D. Howell, Eifionydd Ballard, Walter John Howell, Sarah Rosella Williams, Esther May Pugh; two years (book value five shillings) James Pax Lewis, Elizabeth C. Pugh, Irfona Thomas, Phoebe M. Davies, Eunice Morris; one year (book value 2/6) Caradoc Shankland, Archie Adams, William Wilton, Cadfan Cumpstone, Glanville Jones, Mair Walters, Myfanwy Davies, Kathleen Williams, Gwenny Puddle, Jessie Jones, Edryd Jones, Betty Jones,. Great credit is due to the headmaster, Mr. J. P. Isaac, Miss Davies, headmistress, and staff, for such an excellent record.

14 January 1928 Perfect Attendance: Omission 7 years: (a travelling case) Spencer Lewis; 3 years: (silver medal) Wm. D. Howells; 2 years: (book 5/-) James P. Lewis.

25 February 1928 Social At Penybank School, a social evening and whist drive took place, in connection with the Evening Classes. The M.C. was Mr. William Davies, headmaster. Prizewinners: Ladies: 1. Miss Sybil Gwynne, 2. Miss Jones, 3. Miss R. Morgan; Gents; 1. Mr. S. Bishop, 2. Mr. D. Lewis, 3. Mr. T. W. Watkins.

17 March 1928 Scholastic Mr. Willie Morgan, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Morgan, has taken up his duties as a teacher on the staff of Cwmaber Boys' School. We wish him every success in his profession

31 March 1928 Nursing Congratulations to Miss Elizabeth Lawrence, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Lawrence, Martins-street, who has passed her examination at Cardiff in the nursing profession. She is at present on the staff of the Merthyr General Hospital. Also to Nurse Florence Cole, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Cole, Upland Stores, who has passed a clerical examination. She is on the staff of the City Lodge, Cardiff.

21 April 1928 Scholastic The numerous friends of Mr. Bryn Davies, son of Mr. and Mrs. Evan Morgan Davies, Glyn-terrace, will be pleased to hear of his appointment as un-certificated master at Gilfach Boys' School. They all wish him every success in his profession.

21 April 1928 Penybank Council School A very pleasant afternoon was spent at Siloh Chapel, Penybank (kindly lent), on Wednesday, when prizes for perfect attendance were distributed among the scholars of the above school. The head teacher (Mr. W. Davies) presided, and the children gave an interesting programme of songs, recitations, etc., and these were much appreciated by the visitors and parents. Among the visitors were Mrs. David Jones

and Mrs. T. Jenkins. Mr. S. Lewis, the school manager, gave an excellent address and dealt with the formation of character. Rev. Samuel Evans followed with a most interesting address advising the children to take full advantage of the facilities of education which now exist. The head teacher then introduced Mrs. W. H. Hopkins, wife of County Councillor W. H. Hopkins, who presented the prizes. Six years perfect attendance: Thomas Verdun Jones (silver chain); five years: Idris Williams (silver watch); four years: Francis Williams and Ronald Llewellyn (set of mathematical instruments); Jane Ann Thomas (work basket); three years: Albert Williams (silver medal); two years: John Pullen, Robert Llewellyn, Mary Ann Evans (books); one year: Christopher Tyler, Hilda Everitt, Gwyn Mantle, William John Llewellyn, Stanley Jones, Ellis Williams, Annie Jones, Violet Grimmett, Norman Mills, Coral Patricia Small, Evan John Thomas, William Pullen, Catherine Jane Williams (books). Twenty nine of the scholars had gained certificates having made an attendance of 99%, six having made 98% and seven 97%.

30 June 1928 Appointment The numerous friends of Mr. Sam Lewis will be pleased to hear of his recent appointment as chairman of the Gellygaer School Managers.

30 June 1928 Evening Class Students Congratulations to David John Williams, David Hughes Lewis and Maldwyn Williams upon their success in passing Stage 1, Arithmetic of the Royal Society of Arts Examination held last March. These young men are students of the evening classes held at Penybank Council school.

30 June 1928 School Governor Congratulations to Mrs. David Jones, who has been appointed a member of the Gellygaer County School Governors. Mrs. Jones, prior to her marriage, was in the teaching profession, and during the war period, she again took up teaching duties. She has three children, all of them being in the scholastic profession.

4 August 1928 At Oxford Mr. J. P. Isaac, headmaster and Miss E. M. Thomas of the Fochriw Mixed School, are at Oxford taking a course in the special study of Welsh at Jesus College.

11 August 1928 Musical The numerous friends of the young bass-baritone, Mr. Claerwyn Davies, will be delighted to know that he is to broadcast from Cardiff on the 15th August. It augers well for this young singers that he is one of the youngest bases yet invited to broadcast.

25 August 1928 Wireless The many friends of Mr. Claerwyn Davies, the brilliant young bass-baritone, were delighted to hear him on the wireless from Cardiff last week.

25 August 1928 Fochriw Boy's Post An important appointment has been made for a former Dowlais student, Mr. Horace David Evans, B.A., son of Mr. Mordecai Evans, Ivy Cottage, and an old Dowlais boy. He has been successful in obtaining the appointment of Master of Education at St. Catherine's College, Manchester, out of 75 applicants, drawn from all over the country. Mr. Evans' family has been connected with the Welsh Church, Dowlais, for many years, and his uncle is at present one of the sidesman and a representative on the Parochial Council. His father will be remembered as a musician of some repute, and as a composer of numerous anthems, hymn tunes, psalms, and chants. Mr. Evans was educated at Lewis' School Pengam, and afterwards at St. David's College, Lampeter, where as senior scholar, he made his mark in Latin and Greek. He also spent some time at Carmarthen College. Last July, he took the diploma in divinity at the Archbishop of Canterbury's examination. We predict a bright future for our townsman.

8 September 1928 Brilliant Sons The large circle of friends of Mr. G. V. Sibley and Mr. E. R. Sibley, sons of Mr. and Mrs. George Sibley, late of Station Stores, Fochriw, now of Devizes, will be glad to learn of their continued success in this scholastic world. Their father was one of the deacons of Carmel Chapel, and the boys were born in the village and received their early education in the village school. Afterwards, they proceeded to Lewis' School, Pengam, and then to Bangor and Aberystwyth Universities. Mr. G V Sibley was appointed games master and physical instructor at Devizes Secondary School, afterwards leaving to take up a similar appointment at Selhurst Grammar School, Croydon, one of the finest schools in the area. He was followed at Devizes Secondary School by his younger brother, Mr. E. R. Sibley, who held the same position. Mr. G. V. Sibley has now been appointed lecturer in hygiene and physical instructor at Cardiff University, and his late appointment at Croydon

will be taken up by his younger brother. Their sister, Miss Crisley Sibley took her Welsh and London Matriculation at Hengoed County School last year, and has now been appointed student teacher at Southbroom School, being too young to enter college. Another sister is Mrs. Dan Jones, who until her marriage was on the teaching staff of the Fochriw Mixed School.

8 September 1928 Appointment The numerous friends of Miss E. M. Thomas, will be pleased to hear of her recent appointment as headmistress of Garth School, Maesteg. She commenced duties last Monday.

8 September 1928 Off to College Mr. Enoch Lewis, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Lewis, is about to enter Caerleon College, after a very fine career at Bargoed Secondary School, where he matriculated last year. He is also a good cricketer.

15 September 1928 Examination Successes In the recent Central Welsh Board Examinations pass lists, and names of the following successful pupils appear: Miss Mary L. Thomas and Miss Beryl Ballard. Both are students at Bargoed Secondary School.

22 September 1928 Scholastic Hearty congratulations to two old Fochriw boys - products of the village school, which has turned out so many brilliant scholars - in the persons of Mr. W. O. Morgan, son of the late Mr. W. O. Morgan, a former headmaster of the Fochriw Council School, and Mrs. M. E. Morgan, Bargoed South Schools, and Mr. Clifford Phillipott, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Phillipott, formerly of Aelybryn. Both were successful in gaining the Higher Certificate of the Central Welsh Board at the recent examination. Mr. Morgan intends continuing his studies at Cardiff University, and Mr. Phillipott will study at Caerleon College. We wish them every success in their futures studies.

17 November 1928 Scholastic Mr. Horace D. Evans, son of Mr. Mordecai Evans, Ivy cottage, has been informed that he was successful in gaining the Board of Education's final teacher's certificate. He is now employed at Manchester.

24 November 1928 Personal Mr. A. E. King, Rhymney, has passed an examination under the observation of the Royal Automobile Club examiners as a first class motor driver. He is the organist of St. David's Church, Pantywaun.

24 November 1928 Penybank Evening Classes A whist drive was held by the students of the above classes on Friday at Penybank schools. The winners were: ladies: 1. Miss O. Morgan, 2. Miss L Davies; gents: 1. Mr. J. Llewellyn, 2. Mr. A. Morgan. Certificates were presented to Messrs. David John Williams, David Lewis and Maldwyn Williams, who was successful at the examination held by the Royal Society of Arts (mathematics) last March. A short concert followed, solos and dialogues being given by Miss C. Lewis, Messrs. G. Tyler, D. J. Williams, D. Tyler, W. Watkins and G. Williams.

9 March 1929 Whist Drive A whist drive was held at Penybank Council School on Wednesday. The duties of M.C. were carried out by the headmaster. The proceeds were in aid of a school gramophone. The prize winners were: Ladies: 1. Mrs. S. Jones, 2. Miss S. Jones; Gents: 1. Mr. I. Williams, 2. Mr. Leslie Cowles.

9 March 1929 Noted Singer Congratulations to our brilliant young baritone singer, Mr. Claerwyn Davies, Brook Cottage, who was engaged throughout last week at the Capitol, Cardiff, where he scored a decided success.

9 March 1929 Council Schools At the various schools of Fochriw and Penybank, St. David's Day celebration were kept up in splendid manner. Various programmes of singing, sketches, folk songs, etc., were carried out. The little ones delighted the visitors who assembled at the various schools, the children displaying careful training, which speaks highly of the head teachers and staff – Mr. J. P. Isaac, Fochriw Mixed; Miss M. Davies, Fochriw Infants'; Mr. W. Davies, Penybank.

9 March 1929 Prize Distribution An enjoyable time was spent by the scholars and parents at the Penybank Council School on Wednesday, on the occasion of the distribution of certificates, books, medals and watches to children for periods extending from one year to seven years perfect attendance. County Council William Hopkins presented the prizes. A very good programme was given by the scholars which included songs, recitations and dialogues.

6 April 1929 Nursing The many friends of Miss Florrie Cole, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Cole, Upland Stores, will be pleased to know that she has passed the Final Nursing Examination. She is at present nursing at Cardiff. We wish her success in her profession.

18 May 1929 New Headmaster: Fochriw Boy's Brilliant Career The large circle of friends of Captain Evan H. Williams, headmaster of All Saints School, Child's Hill, London, and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Mordecai Williams, School House, Fochriw, has been recently appointed by the Hendon Education Committee to the headship of the Goldbeater's Boys' School on the Watling Estate. Captain Edwards commenced his teaching career in 1898 as assistant master in the Fochriw Board School, under the late headmaster, Mr. William Owen Morgan, and he left for London in 1901. He moved from Holy Trinity School, Canning Town, to St. Luke's School, Millwall, and later proceeded to the London County Council's British School at Millwall, where he gained valuable teaching experience, and obtain the "five points" for extra qualifications, which raised him to the status of a first class assistant. He afterwards gained an A.C.P. Diploma of the College of Preceptors and the Associateship Diploma of the National College of Music. In November 1905, he moved to Mill Hill, and in 1909 he was appointed headmaster of All Saint's School, Child's Hill. In 1914, he sat for the Theory and Practice of Education for the A.C.P. Diploma of the College of Preceptors, and was successful. On June 5th, 1915, he joined the 2/3 London Yeomanry as a private, and was transferred to the Inns of Court Officers Training Corps, where he was made a cadet corporal. Later, he was gazetted to the 2/1 Shropshire Yeomanry, rising to the rank of Captain. After his military service, Captain Williams took a great interest in the new methods of teaching, and gave lectures on individual methods at the 1923 City of London vacation course. He also lectured at Rugby Public School and has taken an active part in many educational gatherings. Captain Williams' new school, is the first permanent school on the Watling Estate, and was opened on Tuesday morning. There is accommodation for 1,220 boys and girls, and it has been erected by the Hendon Council at a cost of approximately £51,000. His large circle of friends, and the old boys from Fochriw and district, wish Captain Williams and family health, happiness and long life to carry out the important duties entrusted to him.

29 June 1929 Scholastic The following were successful in the recent entrance examination for Pengam, Hengoed and Bargoed: Millicent M. White, Annie M. Jones, Douglas J. Small, Stanley Jones. The following also qualified for the oral examination: Reg E.. Gittoes, Hilda Drage, Amelia Evans and Islwyn Mitchell (Pantywaun).

29 June 1929 Personal Mr Lewis Haydn Angell, son of Mr. W. J. Angel, has passed his B.A. degree at Cardiff University.

29 June 1929 Nursing The many friends of Nurse Elizabeth Lawrence, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Lawrence, Martin-street, will be pleased to know of her success in passing the final State examination. She received her training at the Merthyr General Hospital, where she has been for the last three years. This month she accepted the post of staff nurse at Monmouth Hospital.

6 July 1929 Musical Success The friends of Mr. Claerwyn Davies, the brilliant bass baritone, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Davies, Brook Cottage, will be glad to hear of his further achievements in the world of song. Madame Marie Rosing, London, the world renowned voice trainer, recently offered a three years free scholarship for the best voice in Wales. Of the the 280 competitors, Mr. Davies has been awarded a scholarship, and is to commence his studies next October in London.

24 August 1929 Royal Show Winners Congratulations to Mr. William Lewis and Mr. David Lewis who carried off the first prize in the timbering competition at the Royal Show, Cardiff.

31 August 1929 Appointment Mr. Trevor Lawrence, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Lawrence, has been appointed to the teaching staff at Newcastle-upon-Tyne. He was a pupil at Lewis School, Pengam, before going to Carmarthen College. Miss E. Lawrence, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Lawrence, has been appointed to the Caerphilly Schools' teaching staff, after a successful career at Bargoed Secondary School.

7 September 1929 Success At the Bedwellty Show on Monday, Mr. William Lewis and Mr. David Lewis were amongst the winners in the timbering competitions, adding to their long list of victories.

7 September 1929 Scholastic The following local students were successful in the recent Central Welsh Board examinations: Miss Phyllis Evans, Miss Olive May Payne, Miss Edna May Morgan, and Mr. Elwyn Davies.

21 September 1929 Success The numerous friends of Mr. John O. Roberts, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Roberts, Glyn-terrace, will be glad to know that he has been appointed to the staff of Gilfach School. Also, Miss Eileen Morgan, daughter of Mrs. Morgan, and the late Mr. William O. Morgan, (late headteacher at Fochriw), has been appointed to the staff of Brithdir Infants' School.

28 September 1929 Success The numerous friends of Miss S. Magdalen Pugh, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Pugh, Dynevor-street, will be glad to hear of her success at the examination of the Royal Society of Arts, passing in the following subjects: arithmetic, type writing and book keeping. She was a pupil at the Hengoed County School.

5 October 1929 Personal Miss Mary L. Thomas, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howell Thomas, Station-terrace, has taken up residence at Bangor Normal College to pursue the scholastic profession.

5 October 1929 Scholastic Congratulations to Mr. Trevor Lawrence on passing his final certificate examination. During his time at Carmarthen Training College, he has also passed the Archbishop's examination. His college course has been a list of successes. In the sporting side of college life, he is a prominent member of college teams, including the hockey team. He was recently appointed to a teaching post in Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

30 November 1929 Nursing The numerous friends of Miss Florrie Cole, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Cole, Upland Stores, will be pleased to hear of her further success in the nursing world. She has recently passed her C.M.B. examination, and is at present nursing at the City Lodge, Cardiff.

7 December 1929 Whist Drive A whist drive was held at the Penybank Council School under the auspices of the evening classes. The M.G. was Mr. Davies, schoolmaster. The prize winners were: Ladies, Miss E. Lewis; gentlemen, Mr. H. Ballard.

14 December 1929 Appointment Mr. Harold Bernard Harris has been appointed warder at the Abergavenny Mental Hospital, and will take up duties this week. His loss will be keenly felt in the life of the village, for he was the energetic secretary of the Fochriw Cricket Club, and a leading member of the St. Mary's Dramatic Society, and also of the Fochriw Male Voice Party.

14 December 1929 Personal The many friends of Mr. Islwyn Davies, Brook Cottage, will be pleased to hear of his acceptance into the Metropolitan Police Force. He is a young man of splendid physique, and a keen sportsman. He is the brother of Mr. Claerwyn Davies, winner of the Rosing Scholarship.

1 February 1930 Personal Congratulations to Miss Mona Ballard, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Ballard, Moore's-row, who was successful in passing the Intermediate examination for pianoforte playing, London College of Music.

8 March 1930 Broadcasting His fellow townsmen were delighted on Saturday night to hear Mr. Claerwen Davies broadcasting from Cardiff.

15 March 1930 Scholastic The many friends of Mr. P. J. Isaac, headmaster of Fochriw Schools, will be pleased to hear of his appointment to the headship of Pontlottyn Boys' School in succession to Mr. D. W. Jones. Mr. Isaac has resided in Fochriw for the last 10 years, and has won the admiration of all. He is a deacon of Nazareth Chapel, and all join in wishing him, Mrs. Isaac and family, a very happy time at Pontlottyn.

5 April 1930 Personal Miss Annie Griffiths, the brilliant soprano, scored a decided success in the opera "The Bandolero," in aid of the Rhymney Cottage Hospital. She possesses an excellent voice, and an easy grace of manner and deportment, which won her rounds of applause.

5 April 1930 Presentation A very interesting presentation was held at Fochriw School on Friday last, when Miss Davies, headmistress of the Infants' School, was presented with a

beautiful mahogany Westminster chime-clock by Miss Thomas on behalf of the staff. Miss Davies has been appointed headmistress of Pontlottyn Infants' School. She has been at the Infant School for ten years.

5 April 1930 Presentation Mr. J. P. Isaac, headmaster of Fochriw Council School, was the recipient of a handsome barometer, given by the staff of the school as a token of respect, and to mark the occasion of his departure to become headmaster of Pontlottyn Boys' School. Mr. Isaacs has had charge of Fochriw School for the last 10 years, and by his faithful attendance to his duties has won the respect of all, and his departure will be keenly felt. The presentation was made by Miss John on behalf of the staff.

3 May 1930 New Headmaster: Mr. Thomas Jones The appointment of Mr. Thomas Jones to the headship of the Fochriw Mixed School in succession to Mr. J. P. Isaac was received with great satisfaction. He has laboured faithfully for years, and his excellent qualities are well-known.

3 May 1930 Appointment Miss Florrie Cole, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Cole, Upland Stores, has been appointed school nurse under the Glamorgan County Council. She has a very wide experience in the nursing world.

5 July 1930 Scholastic Amongst the honours list at the recent honours examination at Cardiff University is the name of Mr. Lewis Angell, son of Mr. W. J. Angell, and the late Mrs. Gwen Angell. He is an old pupil of the village school, and afterwards Lewis' School, Pengam.

19 July 1930 Appointment Mr. Evan Bryn Sibley, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. George Sibley, will be delighted to know that he has been appointed lecturer in Physical Education at Bangor Normal College.

13 September 1930 Central Welsh Board Examination Congratulations to the following who were successful at the recent examination: School Certificates: Margaret E. Thomas, English, geography, Welsh, mathematics, botany, art; David Emlyn Evans, English, history, geography, Welsh, mathematics, physics, art; John Gwyn Lewis, English, Welsh, art, physics.

20 September 1930 Show Success Mr. William Lewis and Mr. David Lewis were winners at the Blackwood Show on Saturday last in the timbering competition.

20 September 1930 Scholastic The numerous friends of Miss Olive M. Payne, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. W. J. Payne, who has taken up residence at Barry College, join in wishing her further success.

20 September 1930 Congratulations are extended to Mr. Glyn Thomas, Station-terrace, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Thomas, who was successful in passing his Central Welsh Board Examinations, obtaining credits in English, Welsh and physics.

27 September 1930 Scholastic The many friends of Miss Adelaide Lawrence, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Lawrence, Pleasant-view, who has taken up residence at Cardiff Domestic College, join in wishing her further success.

27 September 1930 Scholastic Mr. Willie Morgan, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Morgan, Plantation-street, who is leaving to take up his studies at Exeter Training College, was the recipient of a fountain pen as a token of appreciation by the staff of Tiryberth Mixed School.

27 September 1930 Scholarships The following have won scholarships at the various schools: County School - Gwyn, Thomas (illegible); Bargoed Secondary School - James P. Lewis, E. Burrows, Gwyn Evans, Walter Howells, William J. Llewellyn, Mafanwy Davies. The following have continued their studies at King's College Cardiff: Rita Cole, Cadvan Cumpstone.

29 November 1930 Appointment: Mr. Arthur Ballard Congratulations to move Mr. Arthur Ballard who has been appointed to the headship of Penybank Council School in place of Mr. W. Davies, who has been appointed to Deri School.

27 December 1930 Promotion Congratulations to Mr. Brinley Powell, manager of the local branch of the Co-operative shop, who has been appointed to take charge of the Bedlinog branch of the Co-operative Society. He has made himself very popular. All join in wishing him and his family a very happy time in their new sphere. We extend a hearty welcome to Mr. Hicks, who has succeeded Mr. Powell at the Fochriw branch.

27 December 1930 Presentation As a mark of their appreciation, and on the occasion of his departure to take up the headship of Deri Mixed School, Mr. William Davies, headmaster of Penybank School for the last nine years, was presented with a beautiful dressing case by the staff and scholars of the school. The presentation was made by the oldest teacher, Miss Rosie Davies. Mr. Davies responded very feelingly.

27 December 1930 Whist At Penybank School on Wednesday evening, a pleasant time was spent in connection with the evening classes, when a social and whist drive took place. The tables had been nicely laid out, and were presided over by the staff - Miss R. Davies, Miss M. Thomas, Miss C. Thomas and Mr. W. Davies. After tea, the M.C. for whist was Mr. W. Davies, headmaster. The winners were: Ladies - 1. Miss Gwen Davies, 2. Miss Hilda Watkins; Gents: 1. Mr. Charlie Tyler, 2. Mr. D. J. Williams.

24 January 1931 Economics Debate A well-attended debate took place at the Library on Tuesday last under the auspices of the Workers' Educational Association Economics Class. The subject of the debate, "Remedies for Unemployment," proved of great interest, each of the political parties being represented by a leading speaker. The Liberal Party case was taken by Mr. Tom Jones, the class secretary; the Communist by Mr. Ray Clarke; the Labour by Mr. Reg Stokes, Deri; and in the absence of Mr. J. Lloyd Jones, the Conservative case was put by Mr. Evan Davies, Fochriw, the class tutor. A great number of questions were submitted to the speakers by an audience that took a lively interest in the proceedings. The class was very fortunate to secure the services of Rev. J. C. Payne, who acted as president in a fine debate. The W.E.A. has held their classes in economics at the Library throughout the winter, the interest in the subject being well maintained. Fochriw feels proud of the tutor, Mr. Evan Davies, B.A., who is a young man who started his career in the village school. After studying at Bargoed Secondary School he proceeded to Aberystwyth University where he took his degree. He was recently been appointed to the staff of Fochriw Mixed School.

7 March 1931 St. David's Day The real spirit of Gwyl Dewi was well maintained at the local schools on Friday, when the scholars showed they had been carefully trained. Great credit is due to Mr. Tom Jones, headmaster, and staff Fochriw Council School, Mr. Arthur Ballard and staff of Penybank Council School, and Miss Lewis and staff of Fochriw Infants' School.

13 June 1931 Scholastic Congratulations to the following candidates who were successful at the entrance examination: Frances Adams, Jemima Lewis, Tudor Rowlands (Fochriw Mixed); Mary Lewis (Penybank).

8 August 1931 Success The many friends of Miss Mary Lewis Thomas will be glad to hear of her recent appointment to Gellygaer Infants School. She has been a student at Bangor College for the last two years, and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howell Thomas, Station-terrace.

12 September 1931 Central Welsh Board Examinations Congratulations to the following villagers who were successful at the recent examinations: Higher certificate - Phyllis Evans, John Gwyn Lewis, Kenneth Phillips, Ronald Jones, Glyn Thomas, Emrys Davies, Gurwen Thomas, Vernon Davies.

10 October 1931 Scholastic The many friends of Miss Phyllis Evans, who has taken up residence at Cardiff University, join in wishing her every success. She was presented by her friends from Nazareth, where she is a member, with a beautiful lady's companion as a token of appreciation.

31 October 1931 Personal Miss Mary Lewis Thomas, Station-terrace, has passed her final examinations at the Bangor Normal College.

7 November 1931 Personal The many friends of Mr. Gerwyn Thomas, Brynteg, will be interested to know that he has resumed his studies at Cardiff Technical College.

5 March 1932 Gwyl Dewi Headteachers and their staffs entered wholeheartedly into the spirit of the festival of St. David's Day. Welsh folk songs, plays, and addresses were enjoyed by all present at the Fochriw Mixed and Infants' and Penybank Schools.

5 March 1932 Personal Miss Margaret E. Thomas, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howell Thomas, Station-terrace, who is at present a pupil at Bargoed Secondary School, has been admitted to Bangor Training College.

23 April 1932 Essay Award Master Glyn Mantle, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Mantle, Pentwyn, a pupil at Bargoed Secondary School, has been presented with a wristlet watch for writing the best essay on the pupils' recent tour of Cardiff factories.

30 April 1932 Scholastic The many friends of Miss Beryl Ballard, Morris-row, will be pleased to hear that she has commenced teaching duties at Sully.

2 July 1932 School Outing The schools of Fochriw and Penybank held their annual outing on Friday last, when a large number of children, accompanied by their Headmasters, Mr. Tom Walters and Mr. Arthur Ballard, and teachers and parents, left Fochriw Station for Bristol, where many wonderful sights were seen.

16 July 1932 Scholastic Congratulations to Miss Phyllis Evans, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Evans, who has passed her Inter B.A. examination. She is a student at Cardiff University. Also, Mr. George White, son of the Rev. and Mrs. J. L. White, who has passed his examination at King's College, London, where he is a student for Holy Orders.

23 July 1932 Scholastic Congratulations to Miss Pearl White and Miss Winnie Evans, who passed their entrance examination for free places to the secondary schools, each receiving a high percentage of marks.

30 July 1932 Scholastic Congratulations to Mr. Willie Morgan, son of Mr. John Morgan and the late Mrs. Morgan, who has passed his final examination at Exeter College.

6 August 1932 Musical At a recent examination of the London College of Music, Miss Hannah Mantle, Pentwyn, was successful in pianoforte playing in the elementary grade.

6 August 1932 Scholarship As a result of the recent examination for admission to the Bargoed Junior Technical Day School, out of the 28 scholarships awarded, Master Edgar Mantle, Pentwyn, occupied the 9th place. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Mantle.

10 September 1932 Central Welsh Board Congratulations to the following who were successful in the recent examination: Willie D. Howell, Glyn Thomas (Matriculation); Senior: Miss Mona Ballard, Emrys Davies, Tudor Davies and Vernon Davies. They are pupils of Lewis' School, Pengam and Bargoed Secondary School.

1 October 1932 Personal The many friends of Miss Margaret Helen Thomas, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howell Thomas, Station-terrace, and Mr. John Gwyn Lewis, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Lewis, Glyn-terrace, will be interested to know that they have taken up residence at Bangor and Carmarthen Colleges to pursue their studies.

15 October 1932 Personal The many friends of Mr. Wyndham Lawrence, A.L.C.M., and Mr. Patrick F. Keane, White Horse Inn, will be glad to know that they have been admitted into Cardiff University to pursue their studies.

22 October 1932 Scholastic Miss Olive M. Payne, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Payne Glyn-terrace, has passed her final examinations at Barry Training College. She has now been appointed on the teaching staff of the Essex Education Authority

5 November 1932 Scholastic Miss Adelaide Lawrence, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Lawrence, Pleasant-view, has been appointed on the teaching staff of the Caerphilly Education Authority.

10 December 1932 Scholastic Congratulations to Mr. Willie Morgan, son of Mr. John Morgan, Plantation-terrace, who has been appointed to the staff of Hanham School, near Bristol.

11 March 1933 St. David's Day: Celebrations at the Fochriw Schools At the Fochriw Council School (Mixed Dept), a very interesting and delightful morning's programme was thoroughly enjoyed. The parents had been invited to attend. The Eisteddfod was exceptionally successful. The younger children gave various action songs in Welsh, as well as playlets. The chairman was Mr. Sam Lewis, school manager, with Mr. W. A. Jones as the adjudicator. The winners of the various competitions were: boys' solo - William J. Jones and Gethin Jones; girls' solo - Marion Gregory and Betty Simpson; duet - Phoebe Davies and Betty Simpson; essay - Gethin Jones and Betty Hiscox; drawing competition - Emrys Evans; recitation - Betty Simpson; reading - Edna Jones; party - Phoebe Davies's party.

At the Infants' School, the usual programme was given, under the supervision of Mr. Lewis, headmistress, and her staff. The little ones assembled in the hall, and gave some fine

renderings of folk-songs, dances, recitations, etc. The usual half-holiday was given in the afternoon.

At Penybank School, the first part of the morning was devoted to talks to the children by the head teacher and staff on famous Welshman and their life work. From 11.30 to the end of the morning session, musical and other items were given.

8 July 1933 Educational Trip On Friday last, a large number from the Council Schools, with Mr. Tom Jones and other members of staff, left for an educational trip to London. On arrival at Paddington, conveyances were waiting to take the party for a trip through the city. Afterwards, the Zoo was visited, where a delightful time was spent. The happy party arrived home about 12:30a.m. after a perfect day. Penybank Council School, with Mr. Arthur Ballard and staff, were also in London with a number of scholars.

15 July 1933 Scholastic Miss Phyllis Evans, grand-daughter of Mrs. Ann Parry, and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Evans, a student at Cardiff University, has qualified for her B.A. in Welsh, History and English. She was a pupil at Bargoed Secondary School.

15 July 1933 Musical Congratulations to the following who passed the examination for the London College of Music at Cardiff in July: 1st class pianoforte - Miss Ceridwen James and Miss Nellie Goddard; pass in pianoforte - Miss Betty Baker and Master Gwynfryn A. Davies; pass in organ - Miss Edna M. Handley. They were pupils of Mr. Thomas Walters, A.L.C.M.

29 July 1933 Scholarship Results Congratulations to the following who were successful in the recent entrance examinations: Gethin Jones, Edna Evans Jones, Aneurin Morgan, Thomas J. Kinsey, and Jack Davies.

12 August 1933 Scholastic Congratulations to Mr. Pat Keane, White Horse Inn, Pentwyn, a student at Cardiff University, who has passed his recent examination.

9 September 1933 Central Welsh Board Congratulations to the following who were successful at the recent examination: Tudor Davies, Stanley Jones, Vernon Davies, Douglas J. Small, Mona Ballard, Eironwen Richards, and Annie E. Kinsey.

16 September 1933 Scholastic Congratulations to Mr. Gurwen Thomas, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Thomas, Brynteg, a student at Cardiff Technical College, who has passed his Oxford arts course.

14 October 1933 Scholastic Congratulations to Miss Addie Lawrence, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Lawrence, Pleasant-view, who is a student at Cardiff Domestic College. At the recent examination she was successful in all subjects.

11 November 1933 Musical The many friends of Mr. Wyndham Lawrence, A.L.C.M., son of Mr. and Mrs. James Lawrence, Pleasant View, will be pleased to know that he has been successful in passing his matriculation and intermediate music examinations. He is now pursuing his studies at Cardiff University.

20 January 1934 Musical Success Miss Mair Evans, Ivy Cottage, has been successful in gaining her certificate in violin playing and theory of music at the College of Violinists, London. Mair is a product of the Fochriw School Orchestra.

27 January 1934 Urdd Gobaith Cymru On Friday, a meeting was held to discuss the prospects of forming a branch of the above at Fochriw. Mr. H. D. Jones, County School, Pengam, and Mr. David Jones, head teacher of the Ystrad Mynach School, addressed the meeting. A committee was formed, and it was decided to ask Mr. T. J. Jones, and his teaching staff, to make further arrangements. Mr. Sam Lewis, who presided, thanked the visitors for their splendid addresses.

17 February 1934 Urdd Gobaith Cymru On Friday, a singing practice in preparation for the Cymanfa Ganu at Bedlinog was held. Mr. T. J. Jones, head teacher, was the conductor, and Mr. Thomas Walters, A.L.C.M., was the accompanist.

10 March 1934 Urdd Gobaith Cymru On Friday night, the Fochriw section held a competitive meeting for children over and under 9. The winners were: rhigymau, David Evans and Betty Bailey; recitations, Betty Evans, Margaret Evans, Willie Walters, Betty Jones; singing, Willie Jones, Jenny Davies, Betty Simpson; duet, David J. Lewis and Tom Smith; reading, Hannah Mantle and J. Lester. The adjudicators were Messrs. J. J. Lewis and T. J. Jones, and the accompanist was Mr. Thomas Walters. "Hen Wlad fy Nhadau" was sung by Mr. J. J. Lewis.

28 April 1934 Urdd Gobaith Cymru A gymanfa ganu was held at Carmel on Thursday by the Fochriw section. Scriptures were recited by Betty Jones, Betty Simpson, Mair Morgan and Elizabeth Evans, and Betty Evans recited a short prayer. The singing was conducted by Mr. T. J. Jones, and Mr. Thomas Walters was the organist. Solos were rendered by David J. Lewis, William J. Jones (Fochriw); John Jones, Myfi Roberts (Bedlinog); Betty Jones, Elizabeth Evans, Thelma Way (Fochriw); duet, Masters Tom Smith and David J. Lewis (Fochriw). The meeting was presided over by the Rev H. D. Jones (Hengoed). Mr. H. D. Jones, Pengam, and Mr. David Jones, Ystrad Mynach, thanked all who had assisted.

19 May 1934 Urdd Gobaith Cymru An all-Welsh entertainment was given on Thursday by the pupils of the primary department of Fochriw School. The following contributed: Marie Davis, Margaret Davies, Bronwen Hollister, Enid Davies, Gwyneth Jones, Eira Davies, Doris Bailey, Dorothy Way, Nancy Morgan, Len Davies, Gwyn Davies, David J. Evans, James Price, Selwyn Hughes, Dennis Slimmons, Glyndwr Edwards. The pupils did their work most efficiently. Miss E. A. Lewis, head teacher, and staff, were heartily thanked for their efforts. The accompanist was Miss Beryl Barnard. Mr. Sam Lewis presided.

12 May 1934 College of Music Mr. D. Joshua Thomas, 20, Brook-row, obtained first class in the senior section, piano forte playing.

26 May 1934 Urdd Gobaith Cymru A very enjoyable evening was spent on Thursday last. The programme was prepared by Mr. T. J. Jones, headmaster, and staff. Recitations were given by Eliza Evans, Marion Sullivan, Betty Jones, Ada Gregory; solos, Marion Sullivan and Betty Evans. A few Welsh airs were rendered in fine style by scholars of the upper school classes. Mr. Thomas Walters was the accompanist.

2 June 1934 Pupil's Success Miss Betty Hiscox, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Hiscox, has gained entrance to Hengoed County School.

9 June 1934 Appointment Miss Addie Lawrence, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Lawrence, Pleasant View, has been appointed domestic teacher for Roose and Cowbridge. She studied at Cardiff Domestic College.

16 June 1934 Urdd Sketch On Thursday, in very humorous sketch entitled "Gofid Hen Lanc" was produced by Mr. Willie Angell, Mrs. Nellie Evans, Misses Iris Edwards, Jessie Thomas and Eirlys Jenkins, and was much enjoyed by the large audience present. Mr. Sam Lewis presided, and Mr. Thomas Walters was the accompanist.

23 June 1934 Urdd Gobaith Cymru On Thursday, the scholars of Form 1, conducted by Miss Maria Jones, gave a programme of recitations and plays. Miss Jones and the children were heartily thanked on the motion of Mr. Thomas Walters and Mr. A. Ballard. Mrs. S. Lewis presided.

23 June 1934 Scholastic Success Master Tom Smith, son of Mrs. George Smith, was successful in the entrance examination to the Smith Junior Nautical College, a department of Cardiff Technical College. He will take up a three years engineering course, with the object of adopting marine engineering. He is a pupil in Fochriw Council School.

30 June 1934 Urdd Gobaith Cymru On Thursday, at the Council Schools, Welsh dances were given by young members, under the direction of Miss Ballard, who also gave a short address on "Great Welshman." A biography of Ceiriog and some of his poems were given by Betty Evans, Betty Jones, Betty Simpson and Howell Lewis. Mr. Thomas Walters conducted the singing.

7 July 1934 Musical Success Mr. Wyndham Lawrence, A.L.C.M., has passed his Inter. Mus. Bac. examination.

7 July 1934 Arts Degree Congratulations to Miss Phyllis Evans, Bryn Corwen, Fochriw, who has passed her Bachelor of Arts examination, with honours, at Cardiff University. She is a former pupil of the Fochriw Council School and Bargoed Secondary School.

14 July 1934 Scholarship Results The following scholars of Fochriw Council School were successful in passing the entrance examination for secondary schools: Willie Walters, Norman S. Palmer, David L. Jones and Ivor Davies.

14 July 1934 Musical Success Miss Mair Evans, Ivy Cottage, aged 12, has been successful in obtaining the third grade certificate, with distinction in theory of music and violin playing, at the College of Violinists, London.

21 July 1934 Urdd Branch A large number of members from the Fochriw branch journeyed to Deri on Thursday evening last, and joined in the united gymanfa ganu, with Mr. Thomas Walters conducting. Several solos and recitations were given by the members. The Fochriw branch is in a very flourishing condition, with Mr. Sam Lewis as secretary. Recitations were given by Betty Jones, Eliza Evans, Thelma Way and Betty Evans; solos by David J. Lewis, W. J. Jones; duet by D. J. Lewis and Tom Smith.

4 August 1934 Urdd Gobaith Cymru The Fochriw and Ystrad Mynach sections met on Saturday for a picnic on Gellygaer Mountain. The young members indulged in games, and a 'rounders' game resulted in a win for Fochriw.

4 August 1934 Woodwork Exam Mr. Vernon Davies, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Davies, Brynteg, has passed an examination in woodwork of the City and Guilds. Mr. Davies is a fine athlete.

4 August 1934 Musical Success Miss Betty Jones, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Jones, Rising Sun Hotel, has passed first class in the examination in pianoforte playing (primary section).

11 August 1934 Students Success Master Norman G. Thomas has passed the entrance examination to the Junior Technical School, Bargoed.

22 September 1934 Scholastic Successes Students from Fochriw and Pantywaun who passed the Central Welsh Board examinations are: Annie Morfydd Jones, Douglas James Small, J. E. Tibbott, R. I. Mitchell. David Emlyn Evans obtained his Higher Certificate.

13 October 1934 College Success Miss Margaret Ellen Thomas, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howell Thomas, Station-terrace, has passed the Bangor College examination. She has taken up a position at Manchester.

13 October 1934 University Students Mr. David Emlyn Evans, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Evans, Moore's-row, has taken up residence at Aberystwyth University. He is a product of the local Council School, and Bargoed Secondary School. Mr. Glyn Thomas, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Thomas, Station-terrace, has entered Cardiff University.

3 November 1934 Scholastic Success Miss Jessie Jones, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Jones, Plantation-terraces, has won an entrance scholarship to Bargoed Secondary School

22 December 1934 Urdd Gobaith Cymru The Fochriw branch met on Wednesday when Mr. W. Lewis gave an address on "Cranogwen" and also read some of her poems.

19 January 1935 Urdd Gobaith Cymru The local branch of the Urdd held their "Sul yr Urdd" on Sunday. The service was introduced by Miss Winnie Evans and Miss Betty Evans. Solos were rendered by Betty Jones and Ewart Davies; recitations by David Evans, Linda Thomas, Betty Evans, Marion Sullivan, Eliza Evans, Leighton Millward, David Cole, and Garnant Jones. Hymns were read by Evan Lewis, Desmond Kelly, Edna Jones-Evans, Huw B. Thomas, Ivor Davies; prayer by William Walters. An address was delivered by Mr. W. I. Jones, Cardiff. Mr. J. Merriman and Mr. J. James, Rhymney, also gave short addresses. Messrs. S. Lewis and William Lewis thanked Mr. Jones and the officers of the Church for their kindness and assistance. The conductor was Mr. T. J. Jones, and the accompanist was Mr. Thomas Walters.

23 February 1935 Urdd Gobaith Cymru At the meeting on Wednesday, folk songs were sung by Mair Cumpstone, Betty Cumpstone, Margaret Jean Evans, Gladys Harris, Marion Lester and Marie Davies; solos by Huw B. Thomas; pianoforte solo by Mair Cumpstone; recitation, Desmond Kelly. Miss Beryl Ballard was thanked for such an excellent programme.

9 March 1935 Urdd Gobaith Cymru A very enjoyable evening was spent on Wednesday. Songs were rendered by Gwladys Harris, Muriel Davies, Marion Lester; recitations by Marie Davies, Gwynfil Harris, Eliza Evans, Willie Walters; story-telling, Huw B. Thomas, Desmond Kelly, David Evans; act, Desmond Kelly and Linda Thomas. A play was performed by the younger members for which Miss Maria Jones was responsible. The members are busy preparing for the eisteddfod and drama competitions.

30 March 1935 Entrance Exam The entrance examination to the secondary schools was held at the Fochriw Mixed School and Penybank School on Tuesday.

1 June 1935 Urdd Gobaith Cymru An enjoyable evening was spent by the members on Thursday last. Welsh papers were read by Betty Evans entitled "Dwy Gan," "Codiad y

Hedydd" and "Tros y Garreg." Mrs. C. Walters recited, and Muriel Davies, Marie Davis and Marion Lester sang. The singing was conducted by Mr. T. Walters and Miss B. Ballard was the accompanist.

15 June 1935 Urdd Gobaith Cymru The Fochriw branch met on Thursday. Readings were given by Marion Sullivan and Jimmy Davies; a quartette by Muriel Davies, Maggie Lester, Mary Davies and Gladys Harris. Mr. T. Jones conducted the singing, and Mr. T. Walters was the accompanist.

22 June 1935 Urdd Gobaith Cymru A large number of the members of the Fochriw branch journeyed to Carmarthen, to take part in the various competitions on Saturday. The choir competed under the conductorship of Mr. Thomas Walters and gave a good account of themselves.

29 June 1935 Scholastic Success The following pupils of Fochriw School passed the recent entrance examination: Tudor Chapman, Evan M. Lewis, Betty Edwards, Alice Kinsey, and Mair Morgan.

20 July 1935 Educational Success Master W. A. Hiscox, a pupil at Fochriw Mixed School, was successful in passing the entrance examination to the Bargoed Technical School.

10 August 1935 Scholastic Success In June, Miss Phyllis Evans, Bryn Corwen, passed the University of Wales teachers' diploma and a special needlework course.

10 August 1935 Urdd Gobaith Cymru During the next fortnight, three young Urdd members will spend a holiday at the camps at Llangranog and Porthdinllaen. They are Willie Walters at the former, and Winnie Evans and Edna Evans-Jones at the latter.

12 October 1935 Scholastic Success Mr. John G. Lewis, second son of Mr. and Mrs. David Lewis, Preswyl, has passed his finals at Trinity College, Carmarthen.

30 November 1935 School Trip On Thursday, a number of children from the Fochriw Council School, in the charge of the head teacher and staff, journeyed by train to Newport, and visited the "Doric" at Newport Docks.

27 June 1936 Scholastic Successes Margaret W Ballard, Havard S. Davies, and Annie Thomas, pupils of Fochriw Council School, are amongst those who passed the county scholarship examination in the Gellygaer area.

27 June 1936 Local Musician's Success Mr. Wyndham Price Lawrence, only son of Mr. and Mrs. James Lawrence, Emlyn House, who is an old student of Bargoed Secondary School, has attained the Bachelor of Music degree at Cardiff University. He is the first in the history of Fochriw to hold this honour. Mr. Lawrence has been the organist at the Welsh Methodist Church for a number of years. He was presented with a public testimonial when he entered the University and his success has justified the confidence in him. Last Christmas, Mr. Lawrence conducted the gymanfa ganu of the joint chapels - Noddfa and Nazareth. He has been for many years the accompanist of the Male Voice Party, the ladies' Choir and the Children's Choir.

4 July 1936 Student's Success Mr. Willie Williams, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Evan Williams, Brynteg-terrace, has obtained the degree of B.Sc. at Cardiff University. Mr. Williams is at present studying medicine at the University of Wales.

11 July 1936 University Successes Mr. David Emlyn Evans, son of Mr. & Mrs. T. Evans, Moore's-row, a student at Aberystwyth University, was successful in his recent examination. He is an old Bargoed Secondary School pupil. The name of Mr. P. Kearne, nephew of Mrs. Davies, White Horse Inn, appears in the honours list at University College, Cardiff.

1 August 1936 Scholastic Successes As a result of the recent examination, the following will enter Bargoed Secondary School: Douglas H. Clark, Harry Evans, Garnant Jones (pupils of Fochriw Mixed School), Glyn Williams (Penybank Council School). Llewellyn D. Jones (Fochriw), gained entrance to Bargoed Technical School.

8 August 1936 Fochriw Musician's Degree Mr. Wyndham Price Lawrence, who has gained his Mus. Bac. degree, was "capped" at the City Hall, Cardiff, on Saturday last. He is one of the most popular and versatile residents of his native place. For many years he has been organist at Nazareth C.M. Church. He has been appointed an accompanist at the Pontlottyn annual eisteddfod, and an adjudicator at the Central Hall Eisteddfod, Bargoed. He has given his services for charity on many occasions.

5 September 1936 Scholastic Success Mr. Leslie G. Thomas, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Thomas, Brynteg-street, has passed the final examination in arts at the Technical College, Cardiff. Before entering the college, he was a pupil at Lewis' School, Pengam.

20 March 1937 St. David's Day Celebrations: Fochriw Mixed School An Eisteddfod took place on Monday under the supervision of Mr. T. J. Jones and staff. The awards were: Solos: girls under 10, Megan Davies; over 10, Gwladys Harris; boys under 10, David Evans and Glanmor Dummett; over 10, H. Lewis; duet, Jenny Davies and Howell Lewis; parties, Jenny Davies and party; instrumental, Lorna Jenkins, Mair Cumpstone, and Gwladys Harris. Recitations: girls under 10, Enid Davies; over 10, Eliza Evans and Betty Evans; boys under 10, James Price; written Welsh story, Marion Sullivan; reading Welsh, Hywel Lewis; melody, Howell Lewis and Leighton Millward; harmonising, Dennis Saunders; pastel drawing, Percy Ballard, Glanmor Dummett, James Price; pencil drawing, Howell Kinsey; dramas, Standards 1, 2, 3 and 4; Needlework, Std. 1, Eirwen Lugg; Std. 2, Elaine Thomas; Std. 3, Mary Davies; Std. 4, Evelyn Angell; Std. 5, 6, 7, Marion Lester and Betty Evans.

20 March 1937 Penybank Council School children were given accounts of incidents in Welsh history and famous Welshman by the headteacher Mr. A. Ballard and staff. A concert followed when those who took part were: Gordon Llewellyn, Jimmy Jones, Elsa Evans, Gwen Williams, Annie Wheeler, Margaret Thomas, Iris Morgan, Doreen Pollen, Freda Way, Leonard Thomas, Evan Strang and Philip Mantle.

20 March 1937 Fochriw Infants School celebrated St. David's Day with action songs, dances and games under the supervision of Miss Lewis and staff. The scholars were granted a half-holiday in the afternoon.

3 July 1937 Musician's Honours The name of Mr. Wyndham Price Lawrence, Mus. Bac., son of Mr. and Mrs. James Lawrence, Pleasant View, appears in the honours list of Cardiff University of Wales degree examination, Faculty of Music.

31 July 1937 Distinction For Fochriw Boy: Brilliant Career at Nautical College Mr. Thomas J. Smith, son of Mrs. Laurie A. Smith, 17, Guest-street, has just completed a three years' course at Smith's Nautical School, Cardiff. He was educated at the Council School, under Mr. T. J. Jones, from where he obtained a scholarship to the Nautical College. During his studies at Cardiff, he had the distinction of being top of his form for each term each year, and finally became top boy for the three years. This was the first occasion on which a scholar at the college has obtained this distinction. In his final certificate, he obtained first position in every subject, including six distinctions, and was awarded the Master Mariner's Silver Medal for efficiency. He also distinguished himself in swimming, having obtained the silver and bronze medals, together with the badge and certificates of the Royal Life-Saving Society. Mr. Smith has now secured a post as midshipman on the merchant vessel, MacGregor Laird, one of the ships of the Elder Dempster Line, and will be leaving in a few days to take up duties. He is the first body in the village to take up a navigational career, and all wish him every success.

31 July 1937 Examination Success Mr. James P. Lewis has passed the first part of the City and Guilds examination.

31 July 1937 Scholarship Success Muriel Davies, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Davies, Plantation-street, a pupil at the Council School, has been added to the list of those awarded a scholarship at Bargoed Secondary School.

31 July 1937 Chairman of Governors Mrs. S. J. Jones, Brynteg-terrace, has been appointed chairman of the Gellygaer County School governors. Mrs. Jones has been a governor for many years and is connected with various other organisations at Fochriw.

20 November 1937 Appointment Mr. William Adams Jones has been appointed headmaster of the boys' winter camp at Pembrey.

16 July 1938 Degree Success Mr. Emlyn Evans, the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Evans, 3, Moore's-row, has gained second class honours in geography in the list of honours in the recent examination at the University College, Aberystwyth

16 July 1938 Education Diploma Mr. Wyndham Lawrence, Mus. Bac., has recently passed the examination for the Diploma in Education at the University of Wales.

27 August 1938 Urdd Camp The following girls journeyed to Llangranog to spend 10 days in camp in connection with Urdd Gobaith Cymru: Eliza Evans, Annie Thomas and Muriel Davies.

4 March 1939 St. David's Day At The Schools Miss Lewis and the staff of Fochriw Infants' School produced an entirely Welsh programme in which the children took part. Individual items were given by: Margaret Davies, James Davies, Dora Cumpstone, David Adams Jones, and Lorna Rees.

Under the direction of Mr. T. J. Jones and staff, the annual Eisteddfod was held at Fochriw Mixed School. The high standard of past years was maintained, and the number of competitors was the highest for many years. A large number of parents attended. The winners were: boys' solo, Glanmor Kent and Glyn Edwards; girls' solo, Megan Davies; Welsh recitation, Betty Evans and Violet Abbey; duet, Vincent Hollister and Megan Davies; Welsh composition, Charles Hollister; pastel drawing, Glanmor Kent; Welsh reading, Huw Ballard Thomas; champion solo, Marie Davies; pencil drawing, Glanmor Kent; melody, Glanmor Dummett; harmonising, Dwynwen Williams; Welsh play, 1. Huw B. Thomas, 2. Betty Evans; Chief choral, James Price's party; junior recitation, Sarah Puddle; girls' (junior) solo, Eileen Simpson, Bronwen Hollister; boys' (junior) solo, Gwyn Davies, Len Davies. The adjudicators were Messrs. T. J. Jones and W. Adams Jones, and the accompanist was Huw Ballard Thomas. The activities of the juniors, which included plays, songs and recitations, were supervised and directed by Miss H. E. Jones and Miss M. Jones. During the proceedings an address was given by Mrs. S Lewis.

At Penybank School, Mr. Arthur Ballard and staff arranged a delightful programme. The following took part: Barbara Williams, Margaret Tyler, Phyllis Neade, Leslie Wheeler, Edith Rowlands, Edna Thomas, David Parry, Marlene Gwynne, Irene Gwynne, Wynne Davies, Maggie Evans, Eileen Golding, Vera Powse, Ruby Bowen, Mafanwy Parry, Eunice Thomas, Gordon Llewellyn, Thomas Wheeler, Fred Evans, Annie Thomas, Jimmie Jones, Gwennie Williams, Margaret Thomas, Elsa Evans, Muriel Wheeler, P. Mantle, E. Strang, L. Thomas. In the play "The First Prince of Wales," the characters were taken by T Wheeler, V. Wheeler, F. Evans, G. Llewellyn, D. Evans, J. Jones, E. Davis, N. Jones, A. Thomas, M. Wheeler and Jean Gillard. Welsh folk songs were sung during the concert.

18 March 1939 Scholastic The following Fochriw students have been accepted for College this year: Mr. Gethin Jones and Mr. Tudor Rowlands for Carmarthen College - both are good all-round sportsman, and excellent rugby players; Miss Edna Evans Jones for Barry Training College. All are pupils of Bargoed Secondary School.

29 April 1939 Competition Success Miss Jean Williams, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Idris Williams, Emllyn House, has won a special prize in the "Golden Rules" handwriting competition. She is a pupil at the Council School.

17 June 1939 Examination Successes The following were successful in the technical examination: Willie Abbey, Tom Idris Shankland (Fochriw Council School); Philip Mantle (Penybank Council School).

24 June 1939 Scholarship Success Huw Ballard Thomas, son of Mr. & Mrs. Griff Thomas, Aelybryn, headed the list of successful candidates for the Gellygaer area in the entrance scholarship examinations to the secondary schools. He is a pupil at of Fochriw Council School. He obtained 273 marks out of a possible 300. He is 11.

22 July 1939 Musical Success At the recent London College of Music examination held at Cardiff, Brynmor Jones, Upper-road, Pantywaun, gained a first class certificate in pianoforte playing in the higher junior stage.

2 September 1939 Examination Success Mr. Tudor Rowlands has been successful in passing his Higher Certificate of the Central Welsh Board. He is a pupil of Bargoed Secondary School. He will enter Carmarthen College in September.

23 September 1939 Off to College The following have left Fochriw to pursue College training: Messrs. Tudor Rowlands and Gethin Jones to Carmarthen Training College; Miss Edna Jones to Barry Training College.

23 December 1939 Musical Success Brynmor Jones, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. Jones, Pantywaun, has been successful in passing first-class primary in pianoforte playing.

30 December 1939 Fochriw Boy's Success Mr. Granville Ingram Jones, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Jones, formerly of Brynteg, now of Ogmere Vale, has secured the sanitary inspectors' certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board.

24 February 1940 Gellygaer Schools Managers Decision: Cleaner Appointed for Fochriw Councillor W. J. Kedward, Bargoed, presided over a meeting of the Gellygaer school managers on Monday, when Mrs. Eleanor Evans, Martin-street, was appointed cleaner of Fochriw Mixed School.

One of the attendance officers reported that the reason for a very reduced percentage in the attendance during the past month was the outbreak of diphtheria and the inclement weather.

The meeting appointed invigilators for the forthcoming county entrance scholarship examination. Most of the persons appointed also served 12 months ago.

13 April 1940 Musical Success Brynmor Jones, Pantywaun, passed first-class in pianoforte playing in the recent London College of Music examination.

25 May 1940 Schools' Governor Councillor Sam Lewis has been elected a member of the Governors at Bargoed Secondary School. He has been a member of the Gellygaer Council for several years, and is a former member of the Gellygaer School Managers. He has associated himself with several movements for the benefit of the community.

22 June 1940 Gellygaer Class Teachers: Fochriw Man Elected President A meeting of the Gellygaer Class Teachers' Association was held at the Senior Girls' School, Bargoed, on Friday. Mr. R. E. Williams, retired president, installed Mr. W. Adams Jones as the new president.

5 October 1940 Short List Mr. Dan Jenkins was placed on the shortlist of three on Tuesday for the appointment of the headship of Fochriw school. Mr. W. Adams Jones was on the shortlist for Trelewis School.

26 October 1940 Headships Many friends were delighted to learn of the appointments at Cardiff on Tuesday of Mr. Daniel Jenkins, Fochriw, to the headship of Fochriw Council Mixed and Infants' School, and Mr. W. Adams Jones, Fochriw, to the headship of Trelewis Council School. Mr. Jenkins is at present on the teaching staff of Pontlottyn Boys', and Mr. W. Adams Jones is acting head at Fochriw. They will take up their appointments with the good wishes of a host of friends.

23 November 1940 Honour to Mr. T. J. Jones A meeting of representatives of various organisations was held at the library on Monday to consider how to show appreciation in some tangible form for the many services rendered to Fochriw by the former headmaster, Mr. T. J. Jones. It was decided to proceed with the scheme. Officers appointed were: chairman, Councillor W. J. Payne; secretary, Mr. D. J. Davies; treasurer, Mr. Idris Cumpstone. The arrangements for the musical part of the programme for the presentation was left to Mr. J. J. Lewis (Ap Morlais).

28 December 1940 Schools Tea On Thursday evening last, the Fochriw and Penybank Council Schools children, with the evacuated children, were entertained to tea. The rooms had been decorated and everything possible had been done to make the children happy. At Fochriw School, Mr. Daniel Jenkins and his staff, with a band of workers, were kept busy attending to the wants of the children. At Penybank School, Mr. Arthur Ballard and staff had a number of helpers. Also present were Mr. I. Cumpstone (billeting officer), Counsellors S. Lewis and W. J. Payne. Thanks are due to all who helped.

8 March 1941 Dydd Gwyl Dewi Celebrations were held at the Fochriw Council School on Friday in honour of St. David's Day. An address was given on "Dewi Sant" and a story on "The Legend of the Leek." There were also recitations in Welsh; dramatisation and singing of Welsh folk songs; a drawing competition of the leek and daffodil. The festivities were concluded with choral singing of Welsh hymn tunes, "Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau," and "God Save the King." The programme was conducted by the headteacher and staff. At Penybank School, Gwyl Dewi was celebrated last Friday. The programme was: recitations - Gwynfryn Powell, Ruby and Marlene, Marjorie, Barbara Williams, Elvira Small, Phylis Meade; recitation; story - Ruby Bowen; recitation - Pay, Jessie and Co.; solo - Margaret Tyler; quartette - Glyndwr Parry, Gordon Llewelyn, John Neade, Jimmie Jones; duets - Margaret Wheeler and Doreen

Pullen, Thelma Tyler and Margaret Wheeler; quartette - Gwenny Williams, Elsa Evans, Irene Gwynne and Hannah Davies; Play - by Standards 2, 3 & 4 entitled "Mary Jones;" play by the boys - "Robin Hood;" play "Sleeping Beauty." The programme ended with the singing of Welsh folk songs.

5 July 1941 Scholarship Success Miss Jeanne Lawrence Williams, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. J. Idris Williams, formerly of Fochriw and Pontlottyn, has been awarded a special place at Cardiff High School for Girls.

26 July 1941 No Swimming for Fochriw Pupils: Director's Reply to Gellygaer Group When Gellygaer Group of Managers met on Monday, Mr. Hector Bolwell (who presided) read a letter from the Director of Education for Glamorgan, in reply to a letter from the Group, requesting that children attending Fochriw, Penybank and Pantywaun Schools, should be afforded the same facilities at Bargoed swimming baths as those enjoyed by other schools in the group. The letter stated: "I have made inquiries and find it is not possible to arrange for senior scholars attending the named schools to receive swimming instruction at Bargoed baths on account of the fact that: (1) the baths are already fully occupied by other scholars from the authority's elementary, secondary and junior technical schools in the area; (2) it would be difficult to arrange for the conveyance of these extra pupils at present; (3) there are no teachers on the staffs of the named schools who can swim and can give instruction to the pupils in this subject. I am sorry to say, for your information, that the facilities already granted to most of the other schools in the group to which you refer will shortly have to cease, as the Gellygaer omnibus department have been notified by the regional transport commissioner that supplies of fuel can no longer be granted for the purpose of conveying children for swimming instruction." Coun. Sam Lewis and Coun. W.J. Kedward both felt that the excuses were lame ones, but conceded there was no point in pursuing the matter further this summer. One of the attendance officers reported that there was an improvement in his area during the past months, but there were still a number of children suffering from skin diseases, scarlet fever and chicken pox, particularly at Pontlottyn, Tirphil and Deri

3 January 1942 Musical Success Brynmor Jones, son of Mr. T. H. Jones, 3, Upper-row, Pantywaun, was successful in passing the Advanced Intermediate Examination in pianoforte playing at the recent examination of the London College of Music held at Cardiff.

6 March 1943 St. David's Day The headmaster (Mr. A. Ballard) and staff were responsible for the celebrations at the Penybank Council School on Friday. At the Fochriw Council School, the programme had been arranged by Mr. D. Jenkins, headmaster, and the staff. It included an eisteddfod, the performance of short Welsh plays, addresses on Welsh notabilities and Welsh folk songs. At the New Hall, the children and the Young People's Society held a varied Welsh programme including recitations, folk dancing and two short plays. The programme was arranged by Misses S. Lewis, M. Jones and E. Evans. The chairman was the Rev. Eurof Jones. The accompanists were Mr. T. Walters and Mrs. B. Rees.

20 November 1943 Changes in Staffs of Schools: Gellygaer Managers Face A Problem When Gellygaer Group of School Managers met on Monday, Coun. Mrs. Maud Williams, Bargoed, presiding, Coun. W.H. Hopkins asked whether it was possible to have a more stable staff of teachers in elementary schools. He said that children taking the entrance scholarship examination would benefit considerably if they had the same teacher in charge of them. Capt. T.J. Evans, M.A., Inspector of Schools, said head teachers were alive to the importance of seeing, where possible, that the scholarship classes were not disturbed by a change of teachers. Unfortunately, owing to teachers having joined the Forces and left the service, there had been many changes in staffs during the past two or three years. The position was one which disturbed the authority very much, but one over which they had no control. As far as he could see, the prospects were not at all good. Coun. Sam Lewis (Fochriw) and Coun. H. Williams (Brithdir) stressed the need for more teachers, but the Chairman observed that nothing could be done at the moment.

4 March 1944 Fochriw Council School Can, "Dewi Sant," gan James Davies; rhigyman, Shirley Lawrence, Katie Hughes, Jean Watkins a Bertie Cumpstone; can actori, "B'le rych chi'n mynd?" Shirley Lawrence, John Sullivan, Shirley Jones, Roy Dummett, Morfydd Thomas, Leonard Evans, Margaret Davies, James Davies, Ray Hurley, Emrys Price, Shirley

Whittard, Billy Rees, Audrey Dummett, Leighton Davies, Jean Watkins, Bertie Cumpstone; adroddian, "Y Gymraeg," gan Shirley Whittard; drama fe, "Sion a Sain" Margaret Davies, Bertie Cumpstone, Morfydd Owen, Morfyrr Thomas, Shirley Lawrence, Shirley Jones, Shirley Whittard, Audrey Dummett, Jean Watkins a Ray Hurley; adroddiad, "Yr Aderyn a'r Plentyn," gan Morfydd Thomas; can penillion, Pat Sullivan; deuawd, Sybil Jones a Gwenfil Thomas; adroddiad, Doreen Clark; triawd, Lorna Rees, Jean Wood a Pat Sullivan; adroddiad, Raymond Davies; can, Connie Wood. Pleidlais o ddiolch-garwch gan y Parch, Eurof Jones: aratoadau a'r trfenladau gan Miss Maria Jones a Miss Aranwy Jones. The programme was arranged by Mr. D. Jenkins, headmaster.

4 March 1944 Penybank School At Penybank School talks were given on celebrated Welshmen and there was singing of Welsh songs and hymns. The children of the Infants class acted short plays, and children of the other classes recited Welsh poems and sang Welsh songs. The programme was arranged by the headmaster, Mr. A. Ballard and staff.

4 March 1944 Chaired Bard Huw B. Thomas of Fochriw was the chaired bard at the St. David's Day Eisteddfod at Bargoed Secondary School on Tuesday.

22 July 1944 Cadet's Success Chief Cadet James Price, son of Mr. Henry Price and the late Mrs. M. Price, Brynteg, has won outstanding honours at the Smith Nautical School, Cardiff. The "Cardiff Times" states: "The most coveted award at the school is the King's Medal, which is given by the King, and is awarded annually for the qualities likely to make the best sailor. The award this year went to Cadet James Price, who received it at the hands of Mr. H.C. Bolter at the prize distribution at the Technical College on Wednesday, July 12." He also won the third place in Britain in the Royal Society of Arts annual cadet course examination. In addition to the above honours, he won every first prize awarded by the school, which includes the Norrie's prize for navigation, the Shipowners' Association prize for seamanship, and several swimming and life saving certificates, including the bronze medal. It can also be added that he has been top of the school throughout the course. He is regarded as one of the most brilliant pupils to have passed through the school. Before going to Nautical School, he was a student at Lewis; School, Pengam.

6 January 1945 Music Success As a result of the December 1944 examinations of the London College of Music held at Cardiff, the following were successful: Primary Section, Mary Lewis (honours), Pauline Minoli (honours); Elementary Section, Tudor T. Thomas (honours), Clifford T. Jones (first class); Intermediate Section, John Price (first class).

10 March 1945 Chaired Bard For the first time, it was a Fochriw boy who sat in the bardic chair at Lewis School, Pengam, in the annual eisteddfod held on March 2. The chair was awarded to Huw Ballard Thomas (Gweledydd), only son of Mr. & Mrs. T.G. Thomas of Bryn Gwyn, Aelybryn, Fochriw, for his Welsh poem "Yr Aberth." Mr. Thomas is the chairman of the local County Youth Centre.

4 August 1945 Organist's Success Mr. Huw Ballard Thomas, only son of Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Thomas, Bryngwyn Aelybryn, was elected to an official membership of the Royal College of Organists at a meeting of the Council of the Royal College held in London recently. Mr. Thomas - who is 17 - is assistant organist at the Parish Church and leader in music and conductor of the Choir at the County Youth Centre.

8 September 1945 Scholastic Successes The following were successful in the C.W.B. examinations: Lorna Jenkins; Henry Ballard; Huw Ballard Thomas; David Alvan Evans. Millie Williams passed her C.W.B. senior examination.

15 September 1945 College Successes Miss Eliza Evans, Martin-street, the daughter of Mrs. N. Evans and the late Mr. T.I. Evans, and Miss Margaret Ballard, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Ballard, Brynteg, passed their final examinations at Barry College this year. Miss Evans has received a teaching appointment at Romford, Essex, and Miss Ballard at Birmingham.

22 September 1945 Scholarship Winner Mr. Penry Ballard, son of Mr. & Mrs. W. Ballard, Plantation-terrace, has been notified by the Ministry of Education (Awards Branch), that he has won a state bursary in science, valued at £146 plus fees. He will take up a three-year course at Cardiff University. He is a pupil at Bargoed Secondary School, where he recently passed his Higher Certificate.

22 September 1945 Welsh Church Scholar As a result of an examination recently held at Lampeter, Huw Ballard Thomas, only son of Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Thomas, Aelybryn, has been made a Welsh Church Scholar. The scholarship is tenable in the first instance at the University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire, Cardiff. Mr. Thomas, who is 17, studied arts at Lewis' School, Pengam, where he recently gained his Higher School Certificate. He is a provisional ordinand of the Church in Wales (Diocese of Llandaff).

29 September 1945 Another Success Following the award of a State bursary in science by the Ministry of Education, Mr. Penry Ballard, elder son of Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Ballard, Plantation-terrace, has been awarded a County Major Scholarship by the Glamorgan Education Authority value £60 per annum and fees.

29 September 1945 Welsh Scholarship Further to the announcement last week of the awarding of a Welsh Church Scholarship to Mr. Huw Ballard Thomas, Aelybryn, it has since been announced that Mr. Thomas has been awarded a Glamorgan County Welsh Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to the candidate who gains the highest marks in Welsh in the Higher C.W.B. Examination and enables him to study Welsh at University. He is a former pupil of Lewis' School, Pengam.

9 March 1946 St. David's Day at Fochriw St. David's Day was celebrated by the people - and more particularly the children of Fochriw - on Friday, when concerts were performed at schools and churches. Penybank School celebrated on similar lines to previous years. The first part of the morning was devoted to lessons on Wales and a few of her famous sons. After the interval, a concert was held in which the children took part with songs, recitations and playlets, while the children of Standards 1, 2 & 3 gave individual items in Welsh, of songs and verse. A number of the children in Standards 4, 5 & 6 took part in singing Welsh songs and hymns. Quite a number of the parents attended. Mrs. M.M. Jones and Miss R.J. Davies were responsible for the tuition of the children. The accompanist was Mrs. Evans, Pentwyn. The arrangements were under the supervision of the headteacher, Mr. Arthur Ballard. Noddfa Baptist Chapel held their celebrations in the form of an eisteddfod. The adjudicators were Mr. D.J. Davies, Mr. Burkley Davies and Mr. D.J. Thomas. Mr. T.J. Jones was the conductor, and Miss Aranwy Jones and Mr. D.J. Thomas acted as accompanists. Prize winners were: Solo (under 7) Lorna Williams; recitation (under 7) Mary Cumpstone; sol (under 10) Brian Pearce; recitation (under 10) Brian Pearce; solo (under 12) Katie Hughes; recitation (under 12) Margaret Morris; solo (under 14) Brian Pearce; recitation (under 14) Pat Sullivan; party of six, Shirley Jones' party.

The celebration at the Primary School was arranged under the supervision of the headmaster, Mr. Dan Jenkins and staff, and both Senior and Infants' Departments took part. The Seniors performed two Welsh plays "Pwca Bach," and "Llew," and sang Welsh songs and actions songs. The Infants also performed action songs in Welsh, and also danced and recited to the native tongue.

25 January 1947 Musical Success The many friends of Miss Mary Lewis, 3. Station-terrace, will be pleased to learn that she has been awarded a certificate for excellence in pianoforte playing by the London College of Music.

1 March 1947 Musical Success Miss Mary Lewis, 2. Station-terrace, has been awarded a book as a special prize for excellence in pianoforte playing, by the London College of Music (Cardiff Centre).

15 March 1947 Celebrations St. David's Day celebrations were carried out with the usual enthusiasm at the local Council School, Mr. D. Jenkins and staff arranging a fine programme.

31 May 1947 For Memorial Fund At the New Hall on Thursday last, a concert was given by the Bargoed Secondary Grammar School in aid of the Old Students' Memorial Fund. There were items from the choir, soloists, verse reading, and a one-act play. The headmaster, Mr. E.J. Saunders, thanked the villagers for their support. The chairman was Coun. S. Lewis, J.P.

5 July 1947 Exam Successes Mr. Glyn Thomas, Gwalia House, son of Mr. & Mrs. W. Thomas, has obtained his B.A. degree in the recent examination at Cardiff University. Others who were successful in their examinations were Miss Lorna Jenkins, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. D. Jenkins, Pleasant View; Mr. Hugh B. Thomas, son of Mr. & Mrs. G. Thomas, Aelybryn;

Mr. Penry Ballard, son of Mr. & Mrs. W. Ballard, Plantation-terrace. They are all students at Cardiff University. Mr. Tudor Rowlands, son of Mr. & Mrs. T. Rowlands, Glyn-terrace, has obtained his final teaching certificate at Carmarthen Training College, with distinctions.

2 August 1947 Musical Success Miss Elsie Davies, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. W. Davies, Guest-street, has passed her musical examination of the London College of Music. She is a pupil of Mr. Wyndham Lawrence, Mus. Bac.

20 September 1947 Schoolchildren Gone Hop Picking At the recent meeting of the Caerphilly and Gellygaer Divisional Executive, the school attendance officers reported that 743 children from schools in the Rhymney and Aber Valleys had gone to the hop-fields. One Officer said: "In my area, they are the usual ones who have gone." Another Officer stated: "They are organised groups and go to the same farms every year." Chairman to Attendance Officers: "We are not going to send you up there as spotters, as the N.C.B. did." The chairman stated that the majority went to the hop-fields the previous Friday, and would not return till the end of September. The Officers were asked to make a further report to the next meeting.

17 January 1948 Musical Successes At the recent practical examinations of the Associated Board of the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal College of Music, and also of the London College of Music, held at Merthyr and Cardiff respectively, the following candidates were successful in pianoforte playing: Idris Powell, Brynteg-terrace (Grade 1 passed with credit); Maldwyn Hughes, Chapel Row, Pantywaun (Elementary, Honours); Michael Evans, Post Office, Fochriw (Preparatory, First Class). They are all pupils of Mr. W.P. Lawrence, Mus. Bac., Emlyn House.

17 July 1948 Academic Success Mr. Huw Ballard Thomas has graduated in arts at the University College, Cardiff, with Honours in Welsh language and literature, together with Finals in Philosophy. Mr. Thomas, who is 20 years of age, is an old student of Lewis' School Pengam, where he took the School Certificate and Higher School Certificate, being subsequently awarded a Glamorgan County Scholarship, and a Welsh Church scholarship. During the past year, he has been chairman of the University Church Society, and chairman of the College Philosophical Society. Mr. Thomas hopes to read for a further degree in philosophy next year, before entering upon his training for the priesthood in the Church in Wales. He is an Associate of the Royal Institute of Philosophy, and a member of the Royal College of Organists.

Gorsedd Honour

24 July 1948 B.Sc. Degree Mr. P. Ballard, son of Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Ballard, Plantation-terrace, obtained the degree of Bachelor of Science with Honours at University College, Cardiff. Mr. Ballard will shortly take up the post of assistant metallurgist at the Warrington (Lancs) Works of the British Aluminium Co. Ltd.

25 September 1948 Over 400 Children Hop Picking: Committee to Prosecute Parents: Conditions are Atrocious Gellygaer and Caerphilly Divisional Executive Committee, meeting at Ystrad Mynach on Monday, decided to take Court proceedings against the parents of 411 children alleged to have gone hop picking in Hereford, instead of attending school.

22 January 1949 Music Success At the recent examinations in pianoforte playing held at Cardiff, Master Michael Emlyn Evans, son of Mr. & Mrs. Emlyn Evans, Post Office, was successful in passing the Junior Grade.

31 December 1949 Children's Concert On Friday, the children of the Penybank Mixed and Infants' School celebrated the end of the Christmas term when they enjoyed a Christmas concert under the guidance of the teachers, Mr. T. Lawrence, Miss R.J. Davies and Mrs. E.M. Davies. The children performed nativity plays, sang carols, and gave solos and recitations. During the festivities, "Santa" arrived, complete with a sleigh and bells, and his sack of toys. Following the concert, the children had tea in the dining hall. Preparations had been made by the canteen staff, Mrs. E. Williams and Mrs. P. Williams. Two members of the Divisional Executive Committee, Coun. S. Lewis and Coun. W.J. Payne, were guests and both spoke to the children. They thanked the teaching and non-teaching staff. Albert Evans, one of the school prefects, thanked everyone, and wished all a merry Christmas.

8 July 1950 University Success In a recent examination at the University of South Wales and Monmouthshire, Miss Lorna Jenkins, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Dan Jenkins, head teacher of Fochriw Primary School obtained an honours degree in French.

Music Success At the recent examinations in pianoforte playing held at Merthyr Tydfil, Miss Joyce Evans, Moore's-row, was successful in gaining high marks in Grade 1 section.

23 December 1950 Music Success At the recent Royal Schools of Music examination in pianoforte playing held at Merthyr Tydfil, Miss Joyce Evans, only daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Evans, Brook-row, was successful in Elementary Grade II.

10 March 1951 St. David's Day The Fochriw Council Schools had their usual programme, and the scholars had been carefully trained under the care of the head teacher, Mr. D. Jenkins, and staff. At Penybank Council School, the children gave a very fine miscellaneous programme. They had been trained by the acting head teacher, Mr. T. Lawrence, and staff. The new head teacher, Mr. B.M. Griffiths, commenced his duties on St. David's Day.

7 April 1951 Presentation A presentation, to which the teachers, children and kitchen staff contributed, was made recently to Mr. Trevor Lawrence, who for the past two years has been acting head teacher of Penybank School. The gift of a wallet and money was given to Mr. Lawrence by Miss R.J. Davies, a member of staff, who said he had won the respect of staff and scholars during the two years he had spent at Penybank. Mr. Lawrence said he appreciated their kindness. He wished the new headteacher, Mr. B.M. Griffiths, Bedlinog, every happiness.

9 February 1952 "The Way to Jerusalem" The Nativity play, "The Way to Jerusalem," was performed at Carmel Chapel on Sunday by the pupils of Fochriw Primary Mixed School. Mr. S. Lewis presided. Gillian Jones read the Scripture and the devotions were led by Jill Farley. The narrator was Miss M. Owen, and the children taking part were Neville Hann, Dorian Jones, Derrick Hann, Jennifer Thomas, A. Davies, Brian Davies, Alan Powell, Glyn Jones, Gary Llewellyn, Dilwyn Evans, Phillip & Herbert Jones, Willie Edwards, Peter Morgan, Nesta Russell, Edna Hughes, Pam Hughes, Jeanette Burrows, Joyce Evans, Alun Jones, Michael & Alun Shankland. The part of Mary was ably played by Miss Rosalind Russell and Joseph by Delfryn Jones. The producer was Miss M. Jones, and the accompanist Mr. T. Walters, A.L.C.M. Assistance was rendered by Miss Mimmie Lewis, Mesdames B. Jones, M.A. Ballard, B. Rees, Messrs. Howell Jones, D. Jenkins, B. Rees.

14 June 1952 Children's Concert A delightful concert of fairy tales, nursery rhymes and action songs was given by the children of Fochriw Schools at the New Hall on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. Those taking part were Jennifer Thomas, Allison Davies, Carol Williams, Margaret Shankland, Wendy Hann, Gloria Dummett, Mary Morris, Willie Edwards, Enid Shankland, Delphine Chapman, Pat Morgan, Eunice & Annette Jones, Ann Ballard, Yvonne Davies, Pamela Hughes, Michael Shankland, Norman & Alun Jones, Peter Morgan, Phillip Jones, Neville Hann, Ann Morris, Joyce Lewis, Pam Yeoman, Pam Ross, Jeanette Burrows, Irene Games, Dd. Brain Davies, Herbert Jones, Dilwyn Evans, Alun Powell, Glyn Jones, George Dummett, Garry Llewellyn, Islwyn Jones, Frank Tunley, Glanville Hollister, Alan Shankland, Celia Fisher, Gwyn Hughes, Nesta Russell, Edna Hughes, Joyce Evans, Edith Williams, Jill Parry, Lilian Jones, Malvina Pugh Matthews, Dawn Games, Sandra Marshallsea, Janice Powell. In charge were Miss M. Jones and Mrs. D. Jenkins, with Mr. T. Walters, pianist. Coun. W.J. Payne was the compere: chairman, Mr. A. Palmer; stage manager, Mr. E. Lewis.

20 December 1952 Music Success At the recent examination Grade I Primary held under the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, the following were successful: Willie Edwards, son of Mr. & Mrs. Bert Edwards, 21, Dynevor-street, and Neville Hann, son of Mr. & Mrs. Frank Hann, 18, Brook-row.

7 March 1953 St. David's Day: Fochriw Schools The festival was celebrated in traditional style at the local schools, with fine programmes prepared at Fochriw School, by Mr. Dan Jenkins and staff, and at Penybank, by Mr. Ben Griffiths and staff.

6 March 1954 St. David's Day at Fochriw Schools The day was celebrated in Fochriw Primary and Infants' School with an excellent programme prepared by Mr. Dan Jenkins,

headteacher, and staff, which was well portrayed by the scholars. At Penybank Primary and Infants, a fine programme was carried out by the scholars under their headteacher Mr. B. M. Griffiths and his staff. In the Junior Department there were competitions in recitation, solos, duets, and pianoforte solo. In the Infants Department, the competitions were in action songs, verse speaking, solos and duets, and dialogues.

21 August 1954 State Scholarship Miss Morfydd E. Owen, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. E. Owen, Brook Row, a pupil of Lewis Grammar School for Girls, Hengoed, has been awarded a state scholarship. She will be going to Aberystwyth University.

21 August 1954 Educational Successes Leonard Evans, son of Mr. & Mrs. R. Evans, Martins Street, and Mr. John Sullivan, son of Mr. & Mrs. T. Sullivan, Aelybryn, pupils at the Bargoed County Grammar School have passed Part II of the City and Guilds first handicraft examination.

1 January 1955 Success In Music At the recent examination of the Associated Board of the Royal School of Music, Willie Edwards, son of Mr. & Mrs. B. Edwards, The Anchorage, Pleasant View, was successful in passing Grade 3.

2 July 1955 Honours Degree Mr. Hugh Jones, a student at Aberystwyth University, has obtained his B.A. degree with honours, Class 2, Division 1, in geography. He is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Evan W. Jones, 14, Guest-street. He is a former pupil of Bargoed Grammar School.

31 December 1955 Party The children of the Fochriw Primary School held their Christmas party at the school on Wednesday. The main Hall was tastefully decorated with a Christmas tree on each table. Nearly 240 children sat down to tea, followed by games and singing. The headteacher, Mr. Bryn Davies, and staff are most grateful for the valuable financial assistance given by the trades-people of the village. Tea was served by the teaching and non-teaching staff. Among the visitors were Councillors S. Lewis and W. J. Payne.

6 July 1957 Honours Degree The many friends of Miss Morfydd Elizabeth Owen, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Eddie Owen, Aelybryn, will be pleased to know that she has obtained Class I Honours in Welsh at Aberystwyth. She was formerly at Lewis School for Girls, Hengoed.

3 August 1957 Music Success William Edwards, son of Mrs. Dilys Edwards, and the late Mr. Bert Edwards, Anchorage, Pleasant View, Fochriw, was successful in gaining a first class certificate in the intermediate grade of the examinations of the London College of Music held recently at Cardiff.

3 August 1957 First Class Jean Elizabeth Davies, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Tom Davies, 2, Plantation-terrace, was successful in gaining a first class certificate in the elementary grade of the examination of the London College of Music held at Cardiff recently.

24 August 1957 State Scholarship Miss Eunice Harris, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Harris, Brynteg Street, has been awarded a State Scholarship. She is a pupil of Lewis School for Girls, Hengoed. Mr. Keith Walters, son of Mr. & Mrs. J.R. Walters, Pleasant View, has passed his G.C.E. Advanced Level examinations. He is a pupil of Lewis School, Pengam.

11 January 1958 Music Examination At the London College of Music examination at Cardiff in December, the following were successful in pianoforte section (junior): Marilyn Hollifield, Council Houses; Avril Morgan, Glanynant; Ken Williams, Heol Iago; all 1st class.

11 January 1958 Successes in Music In the December music examinations held in Cardiff, Jane Sedgemore, The Vicarage, and Corinne Morgan, Aelybryn, both secured first class certificates.

11 January 1958 School Parties Fochriw Infants' School children had a Christmas party, when the headmistress, Miss Olive Payne, and her staff, entertained them to an excellent tea. After tea, carols were sung, and then Father Christmas arrived and presented each child with a gift. Fochriw Junior School headmaster, Mr. Bryn Davies, and staff entertained the children to a fine tea. After tea, a film show was given at the New Hall. Penybank School children were entertained by the headteacher, Miss L. Vaughan, and staff to the usual Christmas tea and festivities. Pantywaun School, under headmistress Miss Eluned Lawrence and staff, enjoyed a fine Christmas tea and the usual Christmas fun.

1 February 1958 Examination Success Miss Jayne Lewis, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Evan Lewis of Swinton, formerly of Fochriw, was one of 45 children successful in the recent entrance examination for the Canon Slade Grammar School, Bolton. Her father is an ex-pupil of Lewis School Pengam.

26 July 1958 Musical Successes The following pupils of Mr. T. Walters were successful in the pianoforte examinations of the London College of Music held at Cardiff: Grade VI Senior, William T. Edwards (1st Class); Grade VI Intermediate, Jean Davies (1st Class); Grade II Elementary, Gerald Williams (1st Class); Susan Thomas (1st Class); Rosemary Tippett (1st Class); Barbara Robertson (1st Class); Jennifer Thomas (pass).

23 August 1958 B.Sc. Degree Mr. Tudor Rowlands, son of Mrs. Ethel Rowlands, and the late Mr. Tom Rowlands, 6. Glyn Terrace, has been successful in obtaining his B.Sc. Degree. He is on the staff of the Technical School Cheltenham. Formerly, Mr. Rowlands was on the staff of Bargoed Secondary Boys' School and Bargoed Technical School.

13 September 1958 Teachers Retire Two Fochriw teachers, Miss M. Jones and Miss E. Ballard, have retired.

3 January 1959 School Festivities Fochriw Primary School held their Christmas festivities during the week, and the scholars were entertained by the head teacher, Mr. Bryn Davies, and staff. Penybanc Primary School held their annual Christmas treat during the week. They were entertained by the head, Miss Vaughan, and staff.

3 January 1959 Festival of Wales 1958 At a recent meeting held at Pantywaun Primary School, Coun. W. J. Payne presented each pupil with a book of Welsh Folk Tales in commemoration of the Festival of Wales 1958. The tokens were purchased from a grant made by the Gellygaer Urban District Council, Festival of Wales Committee. The headmaster, Mr. W. C. Thomas, presided.

9 May 1959 Piano Success At the examination of the London College of Music held recently at Cardiff, Susan, daughter of Nurse P. Thomas, and the late D.J. Thomas, 20, Brook Row, was successful in gaining 100% pass in step 2, pianoforte playing. She is a pupil of Mr. T. Walters, A.L.C.M., Station Terrace.

9 May 1959 Successes in Music At the April examination of the London College of Music, the following pupils of Mr. T. Walters, A.L.C.M., were successful in passing their examination: Grade 2, Elementary Pianoforte, Janet Bowen, "Glanyrafon," Pontlottyn – Honours; Junior Grade, Susan Thomas, 200, Brook Row, 1st Class; Rosemary Tippett, Pontlottyn, 1st Class; Preparatory Grade, Ruth Browning, Pontlottyn, 1st Class.

9 January 1960 Music Examinations In the December examinations of the London College of Music held in Cardiff, the following pupils of Mr. Thomas Walters were successful: Advanced (Grade VIII) Senior Final - Mr. W. T. Edwards, 8. Pleasant View; Senior - Miss Jean E. Davies, 2, Plantation Terrace; Intermediate - Miss Janet Brown, Pontlottyn; Higher Junior - Miss Susan Thomas, 20, Brook Row; Junior - Miss Barbara Robinson, 27, Heol y Bryn, Council Houses; Preparatory - Miss Olive Mat Titcomb, 19, Aelybryn.

16 January 1960 Music Success Mr. Willie Edwards, son of Mrs. Dilys Edwards, and the late Mr. B. Edwards, The Anchorage, Pleasant View, has passed the advanced senior (Grade VIII) final examination in piano playing at the December examinations.

9 July 1960 Degree Successes Miss Eunice Harris, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Harris, Brynteg Street, has obtained her B.A. honours degree at Aberystwyth University College. Mr. Brian Pearce, son of Mr. & Mrs. W. Pearce, Brook Row, has obtained a B.Sc. degree at University College Swansea.

30 July 1960 Musical Successes At the recent examinations of the London College of Music in pianoforte playing, the following were successful in obtaining first class passes: Miss Susan Thomas, Jennifer Jones and Ann Vewilcinski, Masters Carey Kent and Carl Blunt.

6 August 1960 Fochriw School Fochriw Junior Mixed and Infants School is to become two schools – one for Juniors under Mr. Bryn Davies, and one for Infants under a head to be appointed.

6 August 1960 City and Guilds Mr. Dilwyn Evans, son of Mr. & Mrs. Tudor Evans, 8, Glyn Terrace, has passed his City and Guilds examination in gas-fitting, intermediate grade. He is employed by the Wales Gas Board at Pontlottyn.

14 January 1961 Fochriw School's New Headmistress Miss Olive May Payne, for several years deputy headmistress of Bargoed Girls' Secondary School, commenced duties on Monday as headmistress of the Fochriw' Infants School. To mark her appointment, she had received a gold watch from the staff of the Girls' School, the presentation being made by the headmistress, Miss Gwladys Cowles, B.A., who in a meeting of the school governors last month, said that she could not speak too highly of Miss Payne's efficiency as a teacher, and her loyalty as a colleague. A former student of Barry Training College, Miss Payne taught at Dagenham before joining the staff of Bargoed School, 25 years ago. During her teaching of arts and crafts at Bargoed many pupils gained awards at eisteddfodau and exhibitions for their work. Miss Payne is the daughter of Coun. W.J. Payne, who is a member and former chairman of the Gellygaer Urban Council. She is secretary of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund of the Gellygaer Association of the National Union of Teachers.

18 February 1961 Music Successes In the London College of Music examinations, the following were successful: Preparatory, Step 1, Jane Sedgemore (pass); Junior, Linda Southworth (pass); Olive Titcombe, Allison Davies (1st class); Primary, Grade 1, R. Tippet (honours); Senior, Grade 6, Janet Bowen.

11 March 1961 Art Success A pupil at Fochriw Infants' School has had a picture, "The Circus," accepted for hanging in the circular gallery at the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff. The picture was in a St. David's Day competition organised by the "Western Mail."

5 August 1961 Piano Successes At the recent examinations of the London College of Music, held at Cardiff, the following were successful: Higher Junior, Ruth Browning, Pontlottyn, 1st Class; Junior, Robert Carl Blunt, The Villas, 1st Class; Higher Junior, Gary Kent, Council Houses, 1st Class; Grade 2, Susan Thomas, Brook Row, Honours.

14 October 1961 Children's Gifts A harvest festival service was held at Fochriw Infants' School on Wednesday afternoon last week. The children had brought gifts of fruit, flowers and vegetables, which were later taken to Ystrad Mynach Hospital. The matron, Mrs. Baker, expressed her thanks. The headteacher, Miss Olive Payne, and teachers, Mrs. F. Gwynne, Miss I. Morris and Miss A.P. Jones, had prepared the service. Taking part were: Jacqueline Millward, Ann Davies, Jean Kewiecinski, Kasewierz Chetnik, Janet Hann, Elizabeth Meade, A. Watkins, P. Evans, K. Games, G. Morgan, Hilary Moore, Geraint Evans, Dilys Lanford, Terance Scanlon, Mervyn Thomas, Stephen Edwards, Mary Sedgemore, Mark Scanlon, Gary Watson. After the service, the children sat down to a harvest tea. The accompanist was Mrs. F. Gwynne, who took the gifts by car to the Hospital.

16 December 1961 Highest Marks At the examination of the London College of Music held in Cardiff, Miss Susan Thomas, Aelybryn, obtained the highest marks (Honours) at the Centre. The London College of Music has presented her with a book prize for her excellent playing on the pianoforte.

11 August 1962 City and Guilds Mr. Dilwyn Evans, son of Mr. & Mrs. Tudor Evans, 8, Glyn Terrace, has passed the final City and Guilds examination in gas fitting. He works at the Pontlottyn depot of the Gas Board.

8 September 1962 G.C.E. Success Miss Elaine McDonald, who is a pupil of Manchester High School for Girls, has been successful in gaining her G.C.E. O Level in nine subjects. Elaine is the daughter of Mrs. Elinor McDonald, formerly Angell, of Fochriw, and Mr. R. McDonald, of Oldham, Lancs., and the grand-daughter of Mrs. B. Angell, Dynevor Street, and the late Mr. B. Angell.

20 October 1962 Executive Supports Fochriw School Fares Protest Unless bus fares are reduced for pupils travelling from Fochriw to Pontlottyn County School – a distance of two miles – parents of the village are likely to boycott the school by keeping their children at home. This was the threat in a letter from Mrs. Enid Lewis of Iscoed House, Fochriw, considered by Caerphilly and Gelligaer Education Executive on Monday. Writing on behalf of the parents who had signed a petition to protest against the high cost of bus fares, Mrs. Lewis stated, "We, the people of Fochriw, have decided to make communal protest against

the high cost of our children's education in a country whose proud boast is free education for each child. We feel we are just in doing so. Our children are compelled to attend Pontlottyn County School by public transport, and the recent increase in bus fares means that it costs our children 7d. a day to do so. There are instances in the village where there are mothers with three children attending the school, and paying a total of 8s. 9d. a week in bus fares. We think consideration should be given to the fact that the two-mile limit rule, which prevents secondary modern school pupils from using free transport, was made when travel was only 1d. per mile for a child's ticket. Feeling is very high in Fochriw, and unless some form of help is given, we will have to consider the extreme step of taking our children away from school until we have satisfaction. With the prospect of the school leaving age being raised to 16, we think the question should be given every consideration now." Coun. W.J. Payne, of Fochriw, said that he favoured the protest and had every sympathy with the parents concerned. Because Gelligaer Urban Council was recently forced to increase its bus fares, the people now had cause to complain. Mr. D.W. Davies, Divisional Educational Officer, said that the two-mile limit for secondary school pupils was enforced by the County Council, and was a mile shorter than the national limit. Primary school pupils attending schools in Glamorgan were allowed one-and-a-half miles. Coun. Alex Jones said that the Executive should support the protest by showing agitation on the matter. "These bus fares could cause hardship among families with three or four children attending the school," he said. Mr. W. Beynon of Caerphilly moved that the details of the petition be sent to Glamorgan County Council with the suggestion that the present two-mile limit be reduced to one-and-a-half miles. This was accepted unanimously by the members.

20 October 1962 Fochriw Parents and School Meals A protest from parents of Fochriw children attending Pontlottyn County School, complaining about school meals, came before Caerphilly and Gelligaer Education Executive on Monday. The Divisional Education Officer said that the complaints had been investigated thoroughly by the School Meals Organiser and the headmaster, and the petitioners had been informed of the outcome. There appeared to be no grounds for the complaints, and an invitation had been given to the correspondent, and one other parent, to observe the service in operation at any time, without warning. The Divisional Education Officer added that the parents had complained that the meals were cold and insufficient, and that various things had been found in the meals, including ants. He said that it was true that ants had been found in the food, but this was due to an infested consignment of flour that had been sent back to the mill.

9 March 1963 Concerts St. David's Day concerts were held in Fochriw Infants and Junior Mixed Schools on Friday last. Miss O. Payne presided at the Infants' School, and Mr. B. Davies at the Junior School.

7 September 1963 Pupils Transferred Twenty-one children from the villages of Pentwyn and Penybank commenced at Fochriw School on Monday last. Their school at Penybank closed in July last.

26 October 1963 School Service Fochriw Primary School held their harvest recently. Each class gave an item and prayers were said by Alison Moon, Sian Lewis, Diane Jenkins and Cheryl Hall. The assembly hall was decorated with the pupils' gifts. The service was conducted by Miss Olive Payne, assisted by Miss I. Morris, Miss A. Jones, Miss M. Mundy, and Mrs. F. Gwynne was the accompanist. After service, the staff and pupils held a harvest tea. The gifts were given to Ystrad Mynach Hospital.

6 June 1964 Orchestra Selection Miss Jean Davies, only daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Davies, 2, Plantation Terrace, has been accepted to play with the Grade A class of the National Youth Orchestra of Wales as a double bass player. Miss Davies is an accomplished pianist and organist, and also plays the violin. She is a pupil at Bargoed Grammar Technical School, and was a pupil of the late Mr. Thomas Walters. She now studies under Madame K. Beddoe-Havard, Pontlottyn.

4 July 1964 Honours Degree David Gwyn Roberts, Fochriw, had gained his honours degree in electrical engineering at Cardiff University.

1 August 1964 Music Success Miss Ann Davies, 6, Plantation Terrace, passed her second junior piano examination of the Guildhall School of Music, held at Cardiff recently. She obtained 87 marks out of 100. Ann is a pupil of Madame Beddoe-Havard of Pontlottyn.

8 August 1964 Examination Success Miss Delphine Chapman, 3, Aelybryn, eldest daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Windsor Chapman, was successful in her qualifying examination for the teaching profession, gaining a credit in child education. She is a student at Trinity College, Carmarthen. She will take a teaching post with the Middlesex County Council Education Authority.

15 August 1964 Music Success Miss Jane Sedgemore has passed her Royal College of Music examination with merit in Grade II Class. She is the eldest daughter of Rev. & Mrs. Sedgemore.

5 September 1964 Plummers Exam Frank, the son of Mr. & Mrs. W. Davey, Pentwyn, was successful in passing his recent Plummers' Second Class examination at Rhydfelin, Pontypridd College. Frank is employed by the Gellygaer U.D.C.

5 September 1964 G.C.E. Emrys Parry, son Mrs. M.G. Parry and the late Mr. W.H. Parry, 9, Dynevor Street, gained eight subjects in his G.C.E. examination. He is a pupil of Bargoed Grammar Technical School. Howard Russel Palser, son of Mr. & Mrs. A. Palser, Cardiff, (formerly Miss Thelma Thomas, 13, Brynteg), was also successful in gaining eight subjects at G.C.E. He is a pupil at Cardiff High School.

17 October 1964 School Service Fochriw Primary School held their Harvest Festival service recently. Miss Oilve Payne, headteacher, conducted the service. All classes took part. Gifts were given to Ystrad Mynach Hospital.