

“Merthyr Express” 15 February 1908

Express Representative The representative of the "Express" in Fochriw is Mr. J. C. Payne, Railway-terrace, to whom all items of news and advertisements should be sent.

Obituary The hand of death has been very busy of late, and it is our duty this week to announce the deaths of three persons, all respected inhabitants of the village, and two, the oldest village inhabitants. They are Mrs. Elizabeth Jones, Guest-street, aged 82; Mrs. Jane Shankland, aged 84; and Mr. James Davies, Martin-street, aged 48. The funeral of Mrs. Jones took place on Monday afternoon, the remains being laid to rest at Pentwyn Churchyard. The funeral of Mr. James took place on Thursday, also at Pentwyn.

Dramatic Performance at Fochriw The Fochriw Amateur Dramatic Society, under the able direction of Mr. W. J. Payne, has scored another success in the performance of the drama "Simon Lee, or The Murder of the Five-Field Copse," which was given at St. Mary's Hall on Thursday, and repeated on Saturday. The hall seats 300 people, and was crowded on both occasions. Their efforts on this occasion were, if anything, in advance of any previous production, and won the plaudits of the audience. The interpretation of the drama was in every respect creditable, and nearly all present were at times moved to tears, being completely carried away by the seeming reality of the piece; at other times the hall was ringing with laughter. Characters were sustained by the following: Mr. Stephen Lewis, Mr. W. J. Payne, Mr. W. Williams, Mr. L. Richard, Mr. J. Edwards, Mr. T. Baldwin, Mr. J. Lawrence, Mr. W. Gwynne, Mr. J. S. Edwards, Mr. L. Reed, Mr. R. Evans, Mr. F. Atwell, Miss S. A. Evans, Mrs. S. Thomas, Miss M. M. Jones, Master J. Thomas, and Miss L. M. Lawrence. Excellent services were rendered by Messrs. T. Jones, C. Payne, and H. Seabourne as stage managers, whilst the accompaniments were played by Miss E. C. Morgan. Mr. E. Griffiths, stationmaster, proved a very energetic secretary. Thanks are also due to the ticket sellers, door keepers and all who helped to make the performances successful. The proceeds were devoted towards the new church building fund.

“Merthyr Express” 22 February 1908

Siloh A special service was held on Sunday last at the Siloh Baptist Chapel, Penybank, the Rev. H. Thomas, pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Chapel, Deri, preaching a stirring sermon from Matthew chap. 11, verses 28 - 30, to a large and appreciative congregation.

Entertainment Another of the series of popular entertainments was given on Tuesday evening, at the Church Institute, when Mr. J. C. Payne presided over an appreciative audience. An interesting programme was contributed to by the following: songs: W. Baker, L. M. Evans, G. Gough, Mary Tyler, Violet Curtis, A. Jones, Rees Kendrick, Bertie Way, Mary Tyler. Violin duet: J Phillips and A. M. Griffiths. Recitations: L. M. Jones, S. A. Gough and V. Curtis.

Fatal Accident A serious accident befell David John Davies, aged 15, of Dowlais, on Friday afternoon, in the Red Coal Seam of the No. 2 Pit, Fochriw, when a piece of engine from the top fell on him, fracturing his leg and causing other injuries. He was conveyed home, and from thence to Merthyr General Hospital, where he died of his injuries about midnight. The funeral took place on Wednesday last at Pant Cemetery.

Independent Order of Good Templars The Star of Fochriw Lodge of the I. O. G. T. was entertained on Thursday evening by the Juvenile Temple, who provided an excellent programme of music, etc. Songs were given by the Masters B. Cumpstone, C. Edwards, Cyril Cook, Misses Harriet Jones, Hannah Jones, Gwenny Gough, Gwenny Rees; recitations by Elsie Griffiths, Samuel Gough, Maggie Gough, Maggie Morgan, Hannah Jones, Myfanwy Cole; dialogues by M. H. Evans and Violet Curtis, and a duet by Margaret H. Evans and Sarah Cole. A vote of thanks to Mr Thomas Lewis, Superintendent of the Juvenile Temple, brought the entertainment to a close.

Funeral of Mrs. Shankland, Martin's-street The funeral of Mrs. Jane Shankland took place on Saturday. There was a large attendance, the deceased lady being greatly respected throughout the Fochriw district. The interment was at Pant Cemetery. A short service was conducted at the house by the Rev. Rhys Jenkins, assisted by the Rev. J. Roderick, both of whom again officiated in the chapel and at the graveside. Deceased had been a member of Carmel Chapel ever since she came to the village about 35 years ago. The chapel choir sang the following hymns as they wended their way to the cemetery: "Daeth yr awr im' ddiacn adre," "Gwel uchlaw cymulau amser," "Mae 'nghyfeillion adre'n myned," "Cofia, fenaidd, cyn it' dreulio," "Yn y drfroedd mawr a'r tonau," and "Bydd myrdd o ryfeddodau." The chief mourners were: Mrs. and Mr. David Davies (daughter and son-in-law); Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Shankland (son and daughter-in-law); Messrs. C. Shankland and T. Shankland (sons); Mr. and Mrs. A. Shankland (son and daughter-in-law); Messrs. T. Shankland, Ben Shankland, T. J. Shankland, D. J. Shankland, M. J. Davies, M. J. Lewis, Maggie Davies, J. E. Davies (grandchildren).

The Late Mr. J. Davies, Martin's-street The funeral of the late Mr. James Davies took place on Thursday afternoon at Fochriw Churchyard. A short service was held in the house conducted by the Rev. J. A. Rees, after which the procession left for St. Mary's Church, where it was met by the

surpliced choir, members of which carried the body into the Church, reciting as they went the opening sentences of the burial service. Then was sung the hymn, "They way, not mine, O Lord," and afterwards Psalm 39 was chanted. At the conclusion of the service, members of the choirs carried the body out of the Church, and the procession proceeded to the graveyard at the top of the hill, the choir singing as they went the following well-known hymns, "Let Saints on earth in concert sing," and "Guide me O, thou Great Redeemer." Rev. Rees again officiated at the graveside. The chief mourners were: Mrs. Davies (widow); James, Willie, and Lloyd (sons); S. A., M. M., and R. Davies (daughters); Mr. John Davies (brother); Mrs. J. T. Jones (sister - Brithdir); Mr. and Mrs. Price (sister and brother-in-law - Rhymney Bridge); Mrs. Davies (sister-in-law), Miss S. F. Davies (niece), Mr. J. Davies (nephew - Deri); Mr. D. J., J., F., & A. Price (nephews - Rhymney Bridge); Mr. Rees Walters (Builth), Mr. T. Davies (Dowlais), nephews; Mrs. Llewellyn, Mrs. D. Price, Mrs. J. Davies (Fochriw) nieces; Mrs. Matthews (Cardiff), Mrs. P. H. Thomas (Dowlais) cousins. At the close of the service, the choir sang the well known hymn, "Bydd myrdd o ryfeddodaw ar doriad boreu wawr."

"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.

Fire Brigade A public meeting was held at the Baptist Vestry on Wednesday evening week, for the purpose of forming a fire brigade for the village. Mr. John Jones presided. The following were appointed members of the Brigade: Mr. George Jones, Station-terrace; Mr. John Williams, Martin-street; Mr. Edward Lewis, Railway-terrace; Mr. William Payne, Railway-terrace; with Mr. P.S. Williams as lieutenant.

Lecture An interesting lecture was given at the Baptist Vestry on Thursday evening, under the auspices of the Star of Fochriw Lodge of the Independent Order of Good Templars, by the Rev. R. J. Jones, Aberbargoed. Councillor Charles Payne (in the absence of Bro. Dr. E. Davies) presided over a very large and appreciative audience, and introduced the reverend gentlemen in an appropriate manner. The lecturer was most cordially received, and after a few preliminary remarks, plunged into his subject - "Bendigo," the one-time champion prize-fighter of England and afterwards a missionary and an earnest worker for Christ. Mr. J. C. Payne proposed a hearty vote of thanks, seconded by Mr. Evan Evans, who advised all present, especially the young, to act upon the advice of the lecturer. Rev. Jones stated that the best way to thank him would be to join the most excellent Order of Good Templars. A short entertainment was also given, the following contributing: song, Miss Emma Davies, Fochriw; recitation, Bro. T. J. Harries, Rhymney; song, Bro. Peters, Rhymney; recitation, Bro. James, Rhymney.

"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.

Independent Order of Good Templars The weekly meeting of the Star of Fochriw Lodge was held on Thursday evening at the Baptist Vestry, and there was a good attendance. Bro. Thomas Lewis presided, and it being "Experience Night," the following took part: Bros. Charles Payne, Edward Lewis, William Griffiths, Thomas Thomas, D. J. Thomas, Thomas Griffiths, and Sisters M. A. Lewis, Bronwen Ballard, and Elizabeth Evans.

Obituary: Mrs. Mary Thomas, Moore's-row It is with regret that we have to chronicle the death of Mrs. Mary Thomas, Moore's-row, which took place on Sunday night. Deceased was well known in the district, and greatly respected. The funeral will take place on Saturday at Pant Cemetery.

Carmel Chapel The Rev. O. Evans, pastor of Moriah Chapel, Bedlinog, occupied the pulpit at Carmel on Sunday last, preaching stirring sermons to large and appreciative congregations.

Soiree On Monday night, a soiree was held in connection with the Mutual Improvement Society of Noddfa Baptist Chapel. There was a large number present. The tables were presided over and assistance rendered by the following ladies: Mrs. C. M. Jones, Aelybryn; Mrs. M. Williams and Mrs. (P.S.) Williams, Dynevor-street; Mrs. (Capt.) Edwards, Pleasant View, Miss Mary Evans, Miss Jones, Miss U. Jones, and Miss J. Thomas. Mr. James Williams, Brynawel, also lent assistance, and the

caterer was Mr. G. Phillips. A well-arranged programme of music, etc., followed. P.S. Williams presided. An address was given by Mr. John Williams; a recitation by Mr. David James Thomas; and songs by Messrs. John Edwards and Thomas Evans. The accompaniments were played by Mr. D. J. Thomas. A vote of thanks to the chairman brought an enjoyable evening to a close.

Entertainment Another of the series of popular entertainments was given at the Church Institute on Tuesday evening, when the Rev. J. A. Rees, curate-in-charge, presided over an appreciative audience. An interesting programme was contributed to by the following: recitation - Samuel Gough; song - Miss Mary Tyler; recitation - Miss Maggie Gough; song - Mr. Frank Way; song - Miss L. M. Evans; song - Miss Gwen Gough; recitation - Miss M. Lewis; song - Miss Maggie Lewis; song - Mr. Willie Barker.

Noddfa Chapel On Tuesday evening, a most successful soiree was promoted by the young people of Noddfa Baptist Chapel. There was a large number present. The ladies in attendance were the following: Mrs. J. Williams, Mrs. T. Davies, Mrs. P.S. Williams, Mrs. J. Williams, Miss T. Jones, Miss S. E. Williams, Miss Mary Evans, and Mrs. Captain Edwards, with Mr. James Williams as carver. After supper, games were indulged in, and musical items were contributed, the children enjoying themselves immensely.

“Merthyr Express” 14 March 1908

Golden Wedding at Fochriw: Mr. & Mrs. William Angell, 26, Guest-street Mr. and Mrs. William Angell celebrated their golden wedding on Monday last. They were married at the Parish Church, Rhymney, by the late Rev. Canon Evans, on 9th March, 1858. They have resided in the village for the last 40 years. Mrs. Angell has been midwife for the last 25 years, and has attended at the births of hundreds of local children. Mr. Angell is a night hitcher at the No. 1 Pit, and has worked at the Fochriw collieries for over 41 years. They have had 11 children, nine of whom are alive. There are 44 grandchildren and six great grandchildren, all of whom are living. A grand party was held at the house of the happy couple on Monday night, when a large number of the family and a few friends assembled to celebrate the event. The tables were beautifully laid, and an excellent spread had been provided, to which all present did ample justice. The following is a list of relatives were present: Mr. and Mrs. Burkley Angell, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Angel (sons and daughters-in-law): Mr. and Mrs. Elias Davies, Mr. and Mrs. William Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. James Davies, Mr. and Mrs. John Davies, (daughters and sons-in-law); Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Shankland, Mr. William J. Angell, Miss Blodwen Angell, Miss Laurie Angell, Mr. Howell Thomas, Mr. John Davies, Mr. John Davies, Miss Mary J. Davies, Miss Ceridwen Thomas, Miss Mary J. Angell, Mrs. D. J. Davies, (grand children). Friends present were: Mr. James Lawrence, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Payne, Mr. and Mrs. James Williams, Mrs. Esther Pugh, Mr. John Williams (signalman), Mr. Richard Pugh, and Mr. James Claude.

Mr. Charles Payne proposed the health of Mr. and Mrs. Angell and spoke in glowing terms of their good qualities. Mr. James Williams, Brynawel, in a very neat speech, responded on behalf of the aged couple. An excellent programme of music, etc., was contributed to by the following: song - Mr. W. J. Angell, grandson; speech - Mr. James Lawrence, Aelybryn; song - Mr. James Claude; speech - Mrs. James Williams; quartette - Messrs. B. & W. J. Angel, sons, Mrs. Maud Davies and Mrs. Jesse Davies, daughters; song - Mr. James Claude; song - Mr. Charles Payne; song - Mr. William Angell - "The Old Gentleman"; song - Mr. Payne. Mr. Richard Pugh gave several selections on the phonograph. Mr. Payne proposed a vote of thanks Mr. and Mrs. William Angell for their hospitality, seconded by Mr. James Lawrence. A vote of thanks to the chairman brought an enjoyable and memorable night to a close. [Photographs of Mr. & Mrs. Angell included]

Advert Raleigh Cycles Locally The local agents have now received stocks of the new 1908 models, with a complete range including the famous Sturmey-Archer three-speed-gear. This useful invention enables cyclists to negotiate hills with comparative ease. For those who cannot spare the time to call, the agents will send an illustrated catalogue on application. Certainly, no one thinking of cycling can afford to be without the "Book of the Raleigh," which even if one be not a buyer, contains a vast amount of the real information for the cyclist.

Methodist Chapel The Rev. Thomas Davies, Bargoed, occupied the pulpit of the Methodist chapel on Sunday last, preaching two very striking sermons which were much appreciated.

Baptist Chapel The Rev. R. S. Rogers, pastor of the Welsh Baptist Chapel, Pontlottyn, occupied the pulpit of the Baptist chapel on Sunday last, and preached impressive sermons to appreciative congregations.

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.

St David's Celebration The pastor of Nazareth Chapel, the Rev. Isaac Roderick, gave an address to the members of the Band of Hope last week on St. David, the Welsh patron of the Fifth Century. Very vivid sketches of the saint's character were related to the children, which were very interesting and

instructive to all, and created a very deep impression on the minds of the children. An excellent programme of recitations and songs was given by members of the Band of Hope.

Independent Order of Good Templars The weekly meeting of the Star of Fochriw Lodge was held on Thursday evening. Bro. T. Lewis read an excellent paper on "Character," from a book by Mr. Frank H. Randall. The paper was brimful of interest and good, sound, advice, and was much appreciated. Sister M. A. Lewis, Chief Templar, presided.

The Late Mrs. Mary Thomas, Moore's-row The funeral of the late Mrs. Mary Thomas took place on Saturday afternoon, and was well attended. The deceased lady had been a member of Carmel Chapel for many years, and had resided in the village for the last 38 years. The interment was at Pant Cemetery. A short, impressive service was held at the house conducted by the Rev. Rhys Jenkins, and the Rev. David Overton, Dinas Rhondda. The cortege then left for the station, the choir of the chapel singing the hymn, "Daeth yr awr im' ddianc adre," as they went. On the way from Pant Station to the cemetery, the choir sang the hymn, "Gwel uwchlaw cymylau amser," and during the service "Yn y dyfroedd mawr a'r tonau," and "Bydd myrdd o ryfeddodau." The chief mourners were: Mr. John Thomas (husband); Mr. and Mrs. W. Thomas (son and daughter-in-law) Pontlottyn; Mr. Joseph Thomas (son) Fochriw; Mr. D. W. Davies (nephew) Dowlais; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Thomas (nephew and niece) Cefn; Mr. E. Harries and daughter (cousin) Tylostown; Mr. William Hill (cousin) Dowlais; Mr. William Thomas (nephew) Gellideg; Mr. and Mrs. William Jones (cousins) Clwydyfagwr.

"Merthyr Express" 21 March 1908

Carmel The pulpit at Carmel was occupied on Sunday by Mr. Edwin Jones, student at Carmarthen College, whose sermons were highly appreciated by the large congregations.

Golden Wedding Mr. & Mrs. Angell, Guest-street, who celebrated their golden wedding on March 9th, have been the recipients of numerous congratulations and presents from their many friends, the latter including a handsome, inscribed, silver-mounted walking stick, from Dr. and Mrs. E. Davies.

Personal The numerous friends of the Rev. L. P. Davies, pastor of Noddfa Chapel, who has been seriously ill for the past three months, will be pleased to hear of his return home. He has been staying at Aberystwyth for the last few weeks for the benefit of his health. He returned home on Monday evening slightly better, but still very weak. It is the earnest prayer of all that he will soon recover, and be able to resume his ministerial duties. Rev. Rhys Jenkins, Fochriw, occupied the pulpit on Sunday.

Death: Willie George Davies, Aelybryn, aged 15 We have to announce the death of Willie George Davies, the son of David and Ann Davies, Aelybryn, which took place on Wednesday morning. He was 15 years of age. He was a young lad of deep religious tendencies, and was recently accepted into full membership of Nazareth Chapel. He associated himself with every good movement connected with his own Chapel, and worked very energetically in the Band of Hope and the Bible class. The funeral took place on Saturday, and was very well attended. A short service was held at the house, the Rev. Isaac Roderick officiating. The cortege then left for the station, and went by the 3:30p.m. train for Pant Cemetery where the interment to place. Two of the deceased's young comrades in the Band of Hope (Willie Davies, Brynteg, and Evan Davies, Aelybryn) collected for a beautiful wreath which was placed on the coffin.

Independent Order of Good Templars The weekly meeting of the Star of Fochriw Lodge was held on Thursday evening at the Baptist Vestry. The night was set apart for a Bible Reading, and the portion of scripture selected was Ephesians, chap. 5. It was beautifully read by Brother D. J. Griffiths, Rhymney. At the conclusion, a general discussion took place, most members taking part. A resolution was then passed by the lodge, on a motion of Brother Thomas Lewis, seconded by Brother Thomas Thomas, that a letter be sent heartily thanking the Government for the Licensing Bill now before the country, and strongly urging upon the Government the importance of resolutely refusing all amendments that would in any way strengthen the position the so-called "trade" in the country. Sister M. A. Lewis presided.

"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.

Gymnasium Mr. Harry Condy, Dowlais, visited the Church Institute on Thursday evening, and gave a lesson in gymnastics to the young men of the Guild, many being present.

Carmel The Rev. D. J. Thomas, pastor of the Bethania Chapel, Abercynon, occupied the pulpit on Sunday last. He preached two powerful sermons which were much appreciated.

Noddfa Mutual Improvement Society At the Baptist vestry on Tuesday night, a meeting of the Mutual Improvement Society of the chapel was held, when a paper was read by Mrs. G Phillips on "Dywylliad Ysprydol." It was a very interesting paper and was greatly enjoyed. The following took part in the discussion: Mr. John Williams, Mr. Richard Evans, Mr. D. J. Thomas, Mr. Samuel Evans, and Mrs. Captain Edwards. Police Sergeant Williams presided.

Independent Order of Good Templars The weekly meeting of the Star of Fochriw Lodge was held on Thursday evening at the Baptist Vestry, and there were a good number present, including many brothers and sisters from the Pride of Rhymney Lodge. The programme was "Typical Talks," for which Brother Ernest Cumpstone was responsible. A great number took part.

"Merthyr Express" 4 April 1908

The most up-to-date Records and Phonographs can be obtained from the LEVINSOHN'S STERLING PHONO STORES, DOWLAIS.

HIGH CLASS TAILORING - T. FINE & CO., TAILORS AND OUTFITTERS, PONTLOTTYN are now showing a fine range of patterns in Suitings and Trouserings for Spring and Summer wear. Suits to measure from 27s. 6d.. Trousers to measure from 7s. 6d.. 5,000 patterns to select from. Fit and style guaranteed.

Independent Order of Good Templars The weekly meeting of the Star of Fochriw Lodge was held on Thursday evening at the Baptist Vestry, and there was a good attendance, many members from the "Pride of Rhymney" and the "Star of Pontlottyn" Lodges attending. Bro. A. Thomas, Rhymney, gave an excellent address on the Licensing Bill. Bro. Cole gave an excellent address on "The Good of the Order," which was much appreciated. The Rhymney Valley district executive of the I.O.G.T. met at the house of Brother E. Cumpstone, Aelybryn, on Thursday evening, Brother Charles Payne, D.C., presiding. Several notices of motion came before the meeting, and the district secretary was instructed to place them on the agenda to come before the next district meeting to be held at Pontlottyn.

Gymnasium Mr. Harry Condy, Dowlais, visited the Church Institute on Thursday evening and gave a gymnastic display.

Carmel The pulpit and at Carmel on Sunday last was occupied by Mr. D. W. Owen, student of Bala College, Bangor, whose sermons were highly appreciated by the large congregations.

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.

New Magistrate The list of names of gentleman added to the Commission of the Peace for Glamorgan was issued last weekend. It included Dr. Eleazer Davies, Ivor House, Fochriw. Dr. Davies is a very popular gentleman in the district. It is assumed that he will sit at Hengoed, and so augment the short list of justices there.

Half-Yearly Services Successful services in connection with the half-yearly festival of Noddfa Baptist chapel where held on Sunday last. The preacher was the Rev. T. I. Jones, The Garn, North Wales, who preached three very stirring sermons to large and appreciative congregations. Miss Lilian Williams was at the organ, and Mr. Thomas Evans (junior) conducted for singing.

Who Shall Hold the Purse? At the Baptist vestry on Tuesday evening, the last of the series of meetings of the Mutual Improvement Society was held. The chair was occupied by Police Sergeant Williams. Two papers were read on "Who should keep the purse - the husband or the wife? They were read by Mr. David James Thomas and Miss T. Jones, the former in support of the husband, and the latter in support of the wife keeping the purse. The papers were highly appreciated by the crowded audience. A general discussion followed, in which Mr. Richard Evans, Mr. James Williams, Mr. John Williams, Mr. John Thomas, Mr. Edward Williams, Mr. Thomas Evans, Mrs. Captain Edwards, Mrs. P.S. Williams, and Miss E. A. Williams took part. A vote was taken, a large majority in favour of the wife keeping the purse. A recitation was given by Master Oliver Davies.

"Merthyr Express" 11 April 1908

Eisteddfod Numerous entries have been received for the Chair Eisteddfod, and given a fine day, the Eisteddfod will prove a huge success in every respect.

Carmel Chapel The pulpit at Carmel on Sunday last was occupied by the Rev. J. Tudor, Aberdare, whose sermons were highly appreciated by the large congregations.

Gymnasium Mr. Harry Condy visited the Church Institute on Thursday evening last and gave a lesson in gymnastics to the young men of the Guild.

In Memoriam Last Sunday evening at Nazareth Chapel, a service was held in memory of the late Willie George Davies, Aelybryn. The Rev. Isaac Roderick, pastor, was the preacher, and took as his text Job, xiv, v. 2.

Scripture Examination The scripture examination in connection with the Calvinistic Methodist Sunday Schools of East Glamorganshire was held on Thursday evening last. The following candidates from Nazareth Chapel entered the examination: Evan Davies, Aelybryn; Willie Davies, Brynteg; Berkley Davies, Brynteg; Mary J. Jones, Brook-row; Katie Jones-Davies, Guest-street; Annie Maud Jones, Central Stores. The result will be declared at the end of May next.

Lecture An interesting Welsh lecture was given at the Baptist vestry by Rev. T. Idwal Jones, North Wales. Dr. Eleazer Davies presided over a large and appreciative audience. The lecturer was most

cordially received, and plunged into his subject ("Hyn a'r Lliall") with real earnestness. He was listened to with rapt attention and his remarks elicited rounds of applause. Votes of thanks to Rev. Jones and Dr. Davies brought the evening to a close

"Merthyr Express" 18 April 1908

Licensing Bill A public meeting was held at the Council School on Thursday evening last, when a vigorous address on the Licensing Bill was delivered by the Rev. Tertius Phillips, Cardiff. Dr. Davies occupied the chair, and there was a large attendance. A resolution strongly approving the measure was passed unanimously, and it was also decided to forward copies of the same to Sir Alfred Thomas, M.P., Mr. Lord George, M.P., and Mr. Asquith, M.P. It was also decided to canvass the village for signatures in support of the Bill.

Examination A temperance examination in connection with the Church of England Temperance Society was held at the Church Institute on Thursday evening last. The following candidates from St Mary's Church entered the examination: Senior – Mr. M. D. Morgan; Intermediate - Master Willie Arthur Barker and Miss Lydia Mary Evans; junior - Masters Octavius Richards, John Thomas, Albert Prosser, Willie George White, Willie Angell, and Miss Gwendoline Gough. The superintendents were Miss Minnie F. Morgan, School House, and Mr. Charles Payne.

Carmel The pulpit at Carmel on Sunday last was occupied by a Mr. Daniel Adams, student of Carmarthen Presbyterian College, who preached powerful sermons which were much appreciated.

Funeral The funeral of the late Mr. Thomas Downing, Williams-row, took place on Saturday afternoon. There was a large attendance, the deceased being one of the oldest inhabitants of the village. A short service was held at the house prior to the interment at Pentwyn Churchyard. Rev. J. A. Rees officiated.

Cantata A cantata entitled "The Picnic Party" was performed in full character by the Juvenile Choir of the Independent Order of Good Templars on Saturday evening at the Church Institute. The 300 seats were filled at an early hour so eagerly was the performance looked forward to. Mr. Charles Payne thanked parents for the great interest they had taken in providing costumes, etc. The choir, conducted by Mr. David John Thomas, rendered the opening chorus with vigour and enthusiasm, thus winning the plaudits of the audience from the very start. The characters were sustained by the following: Miss Rachel Walters, Miss Lydia May Evans, Miss Gwennie Rees, Miss Hannah Evans, Miss Mary A. Walters, Miss Martha Thomas, Miss Edith Way, Miss Margaret Thomas, Miss Edith May Sibley, Master Freddie Williams, Master Rees Jenkins, Master Leyshon Rowlands, Master Willie J. Davies, Master Richard Jones, Miss Sarah Cole, Miss Hannah C. Jones, Miss Jennie Edwards, Miss Bessie Rees, Miss Maud Llewellyn. The artistes, choir and conductor are to be congratulated on the very successful performance. Excellent service was rendered by Messrs. Thomas Jones, Henry Seabourne, and Charles Payne, stage managers, and the accompanist was Mr. Roderick Jones. Mr. Edward Lewis proved in very energetic secretary.

Report on Health in the Parish of Gelligaer, 1907 [Fochriw Extracts]

Births and Birth Rate 134, 40.7; Deaths and Death Rate 53, 16.4. Birth Rate was higher in Fochriw than in any other ward. The highest illegitimacy rate was in Fochriw.

Water Supply Generally speaking, the supply in the parish of Gelligaer has been sufficient during the last two years except in Fochriw and in the vicinity of Gelligaer village. While the quantity supplied has, on the whole, improved and been sufficient, the quality is often unsatisfactory. Supply of water by the Rhymney and Aber Company to Fochriw is inadequate and precarious. Attention must be directed to the provision of adequate supply to Fochriw and District and Gelligaer Village.

"Merthyr Express" 25 April 1908

Carmel Mr. E. R. Dennis, student of Carmarthen College occupied the pulpit at Carmel on Sunday and preached two powerful sermons to large and appreciative congregations.

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.

Ambulance Examination At the Council Schools on Wednesday night week, Dr. H. Lewis-Hughes, Dowlais, examined the students of Dr. Eleazer Davies. The following sat for examination: Medallions – Mr. Henry Hughes, Mr. Evan Jones, Mr. Jesse Williams; Labels – Messrs. D. Jenkins, James Jones, Thomas Jones, Simon Cole, John Morgan, Thomas Evans, Thomas Jenkins; Vouchers – Messrs. Joshua Evans, David J. Evans; First Year – Messrs. D. C. Jones and John Walters.

Fochriw Chair Eisteddfod: Some Keen Competitions In weather which was not all that was desired, heavy showers falling at intervals during the morning, the first annual Eisteddfod of the Fochriw district, was held on Tuesday in the Brynteg field, kindly lent by Mr. Robert Slimmons, Llwyn Iago Farm. Proceeds this year are to go towards clearing off the heavy debt which remains on Noddfa Baptist Chapel, Fochriw, and afterwards the various places of worship will divide the profits in turn

annually. Excellent preparations had been made for the event. Several test rooms were provided, and the splicing and timbering competitions took place in the field, and the chief events in the large marquee. No detail, however trivial, had been overlooked.

The officials of the Eisteddfod were: Conductor - Rev. George Griffiths, Penuel, Rhymney; Presidents - Mr. H. S. Martin, Dowlais, Dr. Eleazer Davies, Fochriw; Adjudicators: Music - Mr. D. Thomas, Pontypridd; Mr. John Thomas, Penywern; Mr. John Evans, Dowlais; Literary - Rev. T. Davies, Bethel, Cardiff (the Chair Bard at the last National Eisteddfod); Ambulance - Dr. Cresswell, Dowlais; Timbering - Mr. J. H. Jones, Fochriw, Mr. John Bevan, Dowlais, Mr. George Evans, Bedlinog; Rope Splicing - Mr. Morgan Thomas, Bedwellty, Mr. Thomas J. Williams, Dowlais; Sewing (plain needlework) - Mrs. J. H. Jones, Martin-street, Mrs. T. Roberts, Aelybryn, Mrs. E. Cole-Jones, Bryngoleu; Art Work - Mrs. Capt. Jones, Guest-street, Mrs. W. O. Morgan, School House, Miss E. Evans, Martin's-street; Accompanist - Miss Lilian Williams, Brynawel, Mr. Roderick Jones, Station-terrace, Mr. Thomas Walters, Brynteg. General Committee - Chairman, Rev. L. P. Davies; vice-chairman, Mr. John Williams, Martin-street; treasurer, Mr. Thomas Evans, Iscoed; secretary, Mr. James Williams, Brynawel; assistant secretaries, Mr. Rhys Jenkins, Dynevor-street, and Mr. David John Thomas, Guest-street. Musical committee: chairman, Mr. J. Jones; secretary, Mr. D. J. Thomas. Literary committee: chairman, Rev. L. P. Davies; secretary, Rev. J. Roderick. Ambulance committee: Dr. Eleazer Davies, Mr. Daniel Jenkins, Mr. Edward Lewis. Timbering and Spicing committee: chairman, Mr. Thomas Roberts; secretary, Mr. Harry Evans. Sewing committee: Miss E. Jones.

Dr. Davies extended a hearty welcome to all, and said that there were 167 competitors in the various competitions. He spoke of the great importance of ambulance, timbering and rope-splicing in colliery districts - they were life-saving activities. He also said that the fact that there was just one entry in the handmade men's flannel shirt competition saddened him. There should be 131 not 1. For underground workers the flannel shirt was an essential garment.

The Eisteddfod song was rendered by Miss Elizabeth Jones, Brynmorlais, Fochriw, who selected the bright piece, "Nant y Mynydd," which she sang beautifully.

Awards Pianoforte solo - 12 competitors - winner, Master J. H. Beddoe, Pontlottyn; Violin solo - 6 competitors - winner, Mr. David John Roberts, Bargoed; Boys' solo - 20 competitors - winner, Master Idris Thomas, Dowlais; Baritone solo - 32 competitors - winner, Mr. Thomas George Davies, Fochriw; Englyn "Y Pasc" - 12 competitors - winner "Cendl-ddyn"; Plain Needlework - men's flannel shirt - Miss Ann Evans, Railway-terrace; Lady's Shirt Blouse - Miss Lucy Davies, Fochriw; Art Needlework (to work a cushion square in cross stitch on fine canvass) - Mrs. J. Roderick; Best Prize Bag - Miss A. G. Williams, Ivy Cottage, Fochriw; Recitation under 15 - divided, Miss Lilian Davies, Rhymney, and Master David R. Jones, Dowlais; Tombstone Inscription - 6 entries - Mr. Rd. Ingram, Bedlinog; Chief Choral Competition, "Magnify, Glorify" - 7 choirs appeared - (1) Penywern; (2) Pontlottyn; (3) Fochriw (conductor Mr. John Jones); (4) Abercanaid; (5) Dowlais; (6) Bedlinog; (7) Penydarren. Bedlinog were the winners, with Penydarren a close second; Contralto solo "The Valley of Shadow" - 12 entries - Mrs. S. Thomas, Pontlottyn; Tenor solo "Neges y Blodeuyn" - 18 entries - Mr. Walter Jenkins, Penywern; Recitation "O Hanl, aros" - 12 entries - Mr. John Thomas, Merthyr Vale; Soprano solo "Gwlad y Delyn" - 15 entries - Miss Maggie Jones, Merthyr; Ambulance - 8 entries - 1. Fforchwen, Cwmaman; 2. Nantwen; Girls' solo "Stand up for Jesus" - 26 entries - Miss Pearl Greenland, Deri; Recitation "Y Ffoadur" - 31 entries - Mr. R. Davies, Pontlottyn & Mr. J. Thomas, Merthyr Vale; Awdl "Carn y Bugail a'i Golygfeydd" - 2 entries - Mr. Richard Ingram, Bedlinog; Rope Wire Splicing - 1. Mr. D. Davies, Aberdare; 2. Mr. G. Jones; 3. Mr. E. Williams (Fochriw); Children's Choir "Cyssegriad" - three choirs entered - (1) Pantywaun Young Choristers (Miss B. Morgan); (2) Pontlottyn Council School Juveniles (Miss J. A. Jenkins); (3) Fochriw Minstrels (Mr. David John Thomas). The Fochriw choir were the winners. Bass solo "It is Enough" - 25 entries - Mr. Wm. Kendrick, Abertysswg; Duett "Arwyr Cymru Fydd" - 10 entries - Messrs. J. Evans & J. J. Lewis, Dowlais; Essay "History of Gelligaer Parish" - 2 entries - Mr. James Davies, Pontlottyn; Tenor solo "King of Love" - 12 entries - Mr. Wm. J. Jones, Rhymney.

Great praise is due to all who worked so hard to make the Eisteddfod such a great success. At the close, Mr. Will Stone, Dowlais, gave a fine display of living pictures on the bioscope which was much appreciated by the large crowd.

Orchestral Band The orchestral Band connected with St Mary's Church made their first appearance in Church on Sunday morning last, under the conductorship of Mr. Edmund Griffiths, station master. They played the Communion service, hymns, etc., very creditably. During the evening, the choir, under the conductorship of Mr. Berkley Angell, rendered a service of song, entitled "The Resurrection," compiled by the Rev. R. Lowry. The singing was of a very high standard throughout. Miss E. C. Morgan presided at the organ.

Soiree On Thursday evening, a soiree was held at the Council School. A very large number were present. The tables were gaily decorated, and an excellent spread had been provided. The tables were presided over by the following: Mrs. Sibley, Mrs. John Jones, Mrs. Howell Jones, Mrs. William Griffiths, Mrs. Howell Thomas, Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. William Lewis. The following programme of music was gone through, Mr. Evan Evans, Railway-terrace, presiding: solo, Miss Ceridwen Thomas; solo Mr. T. J. Davies; solo, Mr. Thomas Walters; solo, Mr. D. J. Thomas; duet, Mr. T. J. Davies and Mr. Albert Whale; song, Miss Mary Walters; song, Mr. James Jones; song, Mr. Benjamin Shankland; song, Mr. John Morgan; song, Miss Ann Griffiths. The accompaniments were played by Mr. Thomas Walters. Miss M. A. Ballard acted as treasurer, and Miss J. A. Jenkins as secretary.

Organ Recital A special service was held at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin on Sunday afternoon in connection with the installation of a new organ. The organ is made by Messrs. Blackett and Howden of Newcastle upon Tyne, Glasgow, and Cardiff. The instrument has a splendid tone, and is beautifully finished. It has been built to the following specification, drawn out by Mr. D. I. Jones, Pontlottyn: Manual compass, C.C. to A., 58 notes; pedal compass, C C C to F, 30 notes; great organ - (1) Double Diapason, 16ft.; (2) Open Diapason, 8ft.; (3) Dulciana, 8ft.; (4) Lieblich Gedackt, 8ft.; (5) Principal, 4ft.; (6) Harmonic Piccolo, 2ft.; swell organ - (7) Geigen Principal, 8ft.; (8) Rohr Flute, 8ft.; (9) Viol de Gamba, 8ft.; (10) Vox Celeste (Tenor C), 8ft.; (11) Gemshorn, 4ft.; (12) Oboe, 8ft.; (13) Tremulant; pedal organ - (14) Bourdon, 16ft.; (15) Bass Flute, 8ft.; couplers - (16) swell to great; (17) great to pedals; (18) swell to pedals; accessories - two composition pedals to great organ; two composition pedals to swell organ.

The following is the programme of the organ recital, the organist being Mr. Ernest A. Evans, late organist of the Parish Church, Great Ayton, and also the Parish Church, Middlesbrough: Hymn 125 from of the "Ancient and Modern" Hymn book; "Andante and Allegro" on the organ; solo "Onid oes Balm yn Gilead?" - Miss Ceridwen Price, Rhymney; Fantasia - organ; solo "Nazareth" - Mr. Edward Williams; Hymn 135; organ selections: "Song Without Words," "Postlude;" Hymn 140; solo "Arm, Arm, ye Brave" - Mr. Edward Williams; organ variations; solo "O Lord, thou hast searched me out" - Miss Price; overture by Rossini - organ. Praise is due to the artistes for their excellent performances. The church was well filled.

"Merthyr Express" 2 May 1908

Chair Eisteddfod: Thanks The Ladies' Committee deserve great praise for their efforts in assisting to make the Eisteddfod a success. Much credit is due to them for catering so ably for so large a number of visitors. The following were active throughout: Mrs. Williams, Brynawel, president; Mrs. Roberts, Aelybryn, secretary; Mrs. Jones, Morwylfa, treasurer; Mrs. J. H. Jones, Mrs. Robert, Mrs. Matthews, Mrs. J. Evans, Mrs. T. Jenkins, Mrs. B. Griffiths, Mrs. J. Davies, Mrs. B. Angell, Mrs. T. Evans, Mrs. S. Evans, Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. W. Griffiths, Mrs. J. Lewis, Mrs. T. Davies, Mrs. D. Davies, Mrs. M. Jones, Mrs. Howell Jones, Mrs. M. Davies, Miss G. Wright. Also special praise is due to Mrs. Sergeant Williams, Mrs. T. Llewellyn, and Miss S. E. Williams for managing the refreshment stall on the field. The committee also desire to thank Mr. Charles Payne, Mr. E. Parry, Mr. G. Sibley, Mr. M. Williams, Mr. J. Lewis, Mr. E. Davies, and Mr. Richard Davies for their invaluable assistance on the day. Also Mr. William Payne and Mr. Berkeley Angell at transfer office, and the Rev. R. S. Rogers, Pontlottyn, who adjudicated at the recitation preliminary test, his duties being especially arduous. Also, to members of the Fochriw Brass Band for playing selections during the day.

Personal The numerous friends of the Rev. L. P. Davies, minister of Noddfa Baptist chapel, will be pleased to learn of his recovery from a long and trying illness. He occupied the pulpit, Sunday last, and preached two powerful sermons which were much appreciated.

United Choir A meeting of the members of the United Choir was held on Sunday evening at Noddfa Baptist Chapel, when it was decided to compete at the Bedlinog Chair Eisteddfod, to be held on Whit Wednesday. The test piece is "Hallelujah Chorus." Mr. Daniel Jenkins, Emlyn House, was appointed conductor.

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.

Soiree On Wednesday evening week, at the Church Institute, a successful soiree was promoted by the members of the St. Mary's Guild, and there was a large attendance. The hall had been gaily decorated, and an excellent menu had been prepared. After supper there were games and dancing until a late hour. Mr. Austin Price proved himself to be an efficient M. C. Mr. Kinsey Llewellyn acted as treasurer, and Mr. Ernest Price as secretary. The accompaniments were played by Miss E. C. Morgan, School House.

Vestry Meeting The annual Vestry meeting was held at St. Mary's Institute on Friday evening last, the Rev. J. A. Rees presiding. The accounts were passed, and the following officers appointed for the coming year: vicar's sidesmen – Mr. Thomas Jones, Pentwyn; Mr. George Honeyburn, Aelybryn; Mr. Frank Attwell, Pentwyn; Mr. William Sibley, Guest-street; People's sidesman: Mr. John Mantle, Pentwyn; Mr. Alfred Evans, Pleasant View; Mr. Thomas Baldwin, Pentwyn; Mr. William Payne, Railway-terrace. The organists are: Welsh - Master O. Richards; English - Miss E. C. Morgan; choirmaster – Mr. Berkley Angell; precentor of choir- Mr. John Wood; superintendent of Sunday School – Mr. William Lewis, Pontlottyn.

Independent Order of Good Templars The weekly meeting of the Star of Fochriw Lodge was held on Thursday evening at the Baptist Vestry. The following officers were elected to act for the coming quarter: Chief Templar - Brother Thomas Lewis; secretary - Brother Edward Lewis; financial secretary - Sister M. Rees; vice-templar - Sister Catherine Jones; treasurer - Brother Thomas Thomas; chaplain - Sister Bronwen Ballard; marshal - Sister Beatrice Griffiths; deputy marshal - Sister Rachel Walters; assistant secretary - Sister Elizabeth Evans; guard - Mary Ann Lewis; Sentinel - Sister M. A. Walters; past chief Templar - Sister M. A. Lewis; choirmaster - Brother David John Thomas; lodge deputy - Brother Charles Payne; electoral superintendent - Brother Thomas Thomas; superintendent juvenile work - Brother Thomas Lewis. An excellent spread had been provided for the children. A musical programme was gone through.

“Merthyr Express” 9 May 1908

Advert Dr. Wells Corn Silk – the quickest cure for the worst corn. Painless, Speedy, Certain, 1s.2d. only. Sole Agent - Lloyd, Chemist, Victoria-street, Merthyr.

Pulpit The pulpit at Carmel Chapel was occupied on Sunday by the Rev. E. W. Thomas, Cefn Coed, who preached two excellent sermons.

Independent Order of Good Templars The weekly meeting of the Star of Fochriw Lodge was held on Thursday evening at the Baptist Vestry, and there was a good attendance. The installation of officers for the coming quarter took place, Brother Charles Payne performing the duties. An excellent report was given by each of the retiring officers on their work during the quarter.

Living Pictures On Friday night, at the Church Institute, Mr. Hall, Rhymney, gave a fine display of living pictures on the bioscope. The pictures were well worth seeing. Several marches, selections, etc., were also given on the Empire Tonograph. Mr. Hall had been engaged by the members of the Fochriw Brass Band, with a view to augmenting their funds, but unfortunately, not many turned up, with the result that there was not sufficient money to clear expenses. Mr. Hall accepted a reduced fee. Mr. Charles Payne on behalf of the band thanked the audience for their support and Mr. Hall for his pictures.

Daring Burglary at Fochriw Post Office In the early hours of Friday morning, the Fochriw Post Office was broken into, and coppers and other small coins, amounting in all to about 20 shillings, were taken; also a number of postage stamps. The pantry window facing the main road was the means of access. The catch was forced completely off, and thrown away, whilst some books on the window ledge were cast outside. The glass-panelled door separating the office from the house was carefully closed. Naturally, the cash-draw was the object of attention. This was smashed, and the contents taken. Luckily, Mr. Aneurin Jones, postmaster, had, before retiring, placed all the gold, money orders, valuables, etc., in the safe. The occupants of the Post Office did not go to bed until one o'clock, and then everything seemed to be quiet. Mr. Aneurin Jones (senior), father of the postmaster, aroused the household when he discovered the break-in, whilst on his way to work in the morning. Police Sergeant Gammon, Pontlottyn, and Acting-Sergeant Stead, Deri, were soon on the scene, and arrests were made by P.S. Nicholls and P.C. Williams at Bargoed on Sunday.

“Merthyr Express” 16 May 1908

Licensing Bill Under the auspices of the Star of Fochriw Lodge of the I.O.G.T., a public meeting in support of the Licensing Bill was held at the Noddfa Baptist vestry on Thursday night. The Rev. R. J. Jones, district chief Templar, Aberbargoed, presided, and there was a large attendance. After singing a hymn, and prayer led by the Rev. Fred Jones, Rhymney, the following resolution was moved by the Rev. Rhys Jenkins, Fochriw: "That this united meeting of Good Templars and Christian workers heartily and thankfully welcomes the Licensing Bill of the Government as a courageous and statesmanlike measure of social reform; we rejoice that the Bill provides for the Sunday closing of public houses in Monmouthshire, and also for the immediate application of the principles of local option to new licences in Wales and Monmouthshire, subject to funds at disposal of the compensation authorities; we are of opinion that the time limit proposed is unduly long, and also that it deals too lenient with clubs and grocers' licenses, and we hope the Bill will be amended and strengthened in these respects." Mr. Gus Thomas, district chaplain, Rhymney, seconded, and the Rev. Fred Jones supported the resolution, which was carried unanimously. An address was also delivered by Brother S.

Stanton, Grand Lodge agent, Cardiff, which thoroughly explained the Bill. Votes of thanks proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Charles Payne, closed the meeting.

Presentation to Brother David John Thomas On Thursday evening at the Baptist vestry, the members of the Morning Star Juvenile Temple and several other members of the I.O.G.T., met together to show their appreciation of the excellent services rendered to the Order by Brother David John Thomas by presenting him with a beautiful silver-mounted baton. Brother Thomas Lewis occupied chair, and paid high tribute to Brother Thomas's services. The presentation was not payment for work done, but a mark of appreciation of his services as conductor of the choir. Brother Lewis reminded the young people present that they had a duty to perform in this world. They should live a life of sobriety and usefulness, so that others might benefit by it. Brother Thomas had served them well for the last two years, and during that time the singing had greatly improved. He hoped that others would follow his example in doing good work. Brother William Griffiths made the presentation, and Brother Thomas thanked them one and all for their kindness. A solo was then rendered by Sister M. A. Walters, followed by short addresses from Sisters Bronwen Ballard and Mary A. Lewis.

Cantata A second performance of the cantata "The Picnic Party" was performed at the Council Schools on Saturday evening. As before, the performance was a great success.

"Merthyr Express" 23 May 1908

Carmel Chapel The pulpit at Carmel was occupied on Sunday last by the Rev. E. A. Jones, Merthyr Vale, whose sermons were very much appreciated by the large congregations present.

Independent Order of Good Templars The weekly meeting of the Star of Fochriw Lodge was held on Thursday evening at the Baptist Vestry, and there was a good attendance, including many friends from the Pride of Rhymney Lodge. The programme for the evening was "Ode Practice," and a very enjoyable evening was spent. The meeting was presided over by Chief Templar, Brother Thomas Lewis. The singing was conducted by Brother David John Thomas, choirmaster.

Rev. J. A. Rees, Represents Wales at I.O.G.T. Supreme Lodge in America The Rev. J. A. Rees, curate of Fochriw, left for America on Monday last, to attend the International Supreme Lodge of the Independent Order of Good Templars. He was elected to represent Wales at the annual session of the English Grand Lodge of Wales, held in the Cory Memorial Temperance Hall, Cardiff, in September last. Rev. Rees is treasurer of the English Grand Lodge of Wales, treasurer of the Rhymney Valley and District, and Past District Chief Templar of the Rhymney Valley District.

"Merthyr Express" 30 May 1908

Independent Order of Good Templars The weekly meeting of the Star of Fochriw Lodge was held on Thursday evening at the Baptist Vestry, and there was a good attendance. An interesting programme of music, etc., was contributed to by the following: solo, "Let me like a soldier fall," - Brother William Griffiths; recitation, "The Wreckers," - Sister Bronwen Ballard; paper, "A letter from Grandfather to Grandson," - Brother Thomas Lewis. Brother Charles Payne was responsible for the programme. Brother Thomas Lewis presided.

Conversazione The members of the Nazareth C. M. Sewing Guild held a conversazione on Thursday last. At 5p.m., the Juvenile members of the Guild were supplied with tea and refreshments. At intervals, the children sang sacred songs, and solos were rendered by Miss Mattie Jones and Miss Beatrice Jones. Psalms were recited. Six dozen china badges were presented to the chapel by the society, and the children received these. The meeting concluded with the singing of the hymn "Stand up, stand up for Jesus." Later in the evening, the adult members of the Guild partook of an excellent repast. A meeting followed, at which the Reverend Isaac Roderick presided. Miss Mary Rees rendered a solo - "The tears of Jesus," and a rousing speech was delivered by Mr. John Jones. The prize for the story competition was divided between Miss Maggie Davies, Mrs. Isaac Roderick and Mr. Jones. The singing of a Welsh hymn brought an enjoyable evening to a close.

"Merthyr Express" 6 June 1908

Annual Tea Party The people of Nazareth Chapel held their annual tea party on Monday, and it proved very successful. The tables were beautifully laid, and the following ladies served at them: Mrs. Ellen Edgar and Miss M. Pugh, Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Maggie Davies, Mrs. Jones and Miss E. A. Parry, Mrs. Alison Davies and Miss Katie Lawrence, Mrs. M. J. Roderick and Mrs. Evans. The following also rendered assistance: Mrs. J. M. Jones, Mrs. Budd, Mrs. H. Roberts, Miss Esther Mary Jones, Miss Mary Rees, Miss Mary Lawrence, Messrs. Peter Jones, T. Hopkins, John Davies, Tom Pugh, William Jones, James Lawrence. The managers were Mr. Griffith Pugh and the Reverend Isaac Roderick.

Independent Order of Good Templars The weekly meeting of the Star of Fochriw Lodge was held on Thursday evening at the Baptist Vestry, and there was a good attendance. A fruit banquet had been provided by the Brothers of the lodge. Excellent speeches were delivered by Sisters Mary A. Lewis, Elizabeth Evans, and Bronwen Ballard. Solos were rendered by Brother William Griffiths and Sister Mrs. Jones. Brother Thomas Lewis presided.

Gymnastic Display On Thursday night, at the Church Institute, under the auspices of St. Mary's Guild, a gymnastic display and miscellaneous concert took place. There was a large attendance. The chair was occupied by Mr. Samuel Thomas, Aelybryn, who referred to the ancient Roman and Grecian games, and the health and strength which accompanied gymnastic training. The programme was as follows: pianoforte overture – Mr. Robert Williams, Pontlottyn; comic song, Mr. John Clifford, Pontlottyn; dumb-bell drill by the gymnastic club; sleight of hand - coins, Professor Edwards, Dowlais; comic song, "I've brought the coal," – Mr. Wat Williams, Pentwyn; wrestling, Mr. Lewis Jenkins and Mr. Arthur Illes, Dowlais; Indian club display, Professor Spear, champion of the army; exhibition on the parallel bars - the gymnastic club; sleight of hand - cards; Welsh songs "Cymro Dewr" – Mr. Sam Llewellyn, Fochriw; boxing sketches – Messrs. Condy and Howells, Dowlais; mouth organ solo, with accompaniment on the bones, Mr. James Gunter and friends; dancing doll display, Mr. James Gunter, Fochriw; illustration of Ju-Jitsu - Professor Spear; display on the rings - the gymnastics club. Praise is due to the committee and Mr. Condy for carrying out all the arrangements. The accompanists were Mr. Robert Williams, Pontlottyn, and Miss E. C. Morgan, School House.

“Merthyr Express” 13 June 1908

New Ambulance Brigade Drill Hall At Fochriw: Munificent Gift of Messrs. Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds: Opening Ceremony by Mr. F. A. Gray, Chief Inspector of Mines Whit-Tuesday was a great day in the history of the little village of Fochriw, the occasion being the opening of a fine Hall, the gift of Messrs Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds, Ltd. to the Fochriw Ambulance Brigade. The village was gaily decorated, flags and streamers floating from nearly all the houses in the district. The hall was built by Mr. William Walters, Dowlais, from designs by Mr. Vaughan, mechanical engineer, Dowlais, and the splendid workmanship put into the building reflects greatly to his credit. The building is capable of seating nearly 200 people. A committee room has also been built in close proximity to the hall, behind which is an excellent drill ground, which has been made by the personal labour of members of the Brigade, who have worked hard for many days, conveying ashes from the tip close by. Previous to the opening ceremony, performed by Mr. Gray, Chief Inspector of Mines for the district, the annual inspection of the Dowlais Corps took place on the mountainside by the inspecting Officer, Mr. J. W. White, Iron Bridge, assistant commissioner of No. 7 District. The brigades present were: Fochriw Division (Superintendent W. J. Ballard); Dowlais Division; Bedlinog Division; Troedyrhiw Division. Also present were: Dr. H. Lewis-Hughes, chief surgeon of the Dowlais Corps; Dr. Eleazer Davies, honorary surgeon Fochriw Division; Mr. Tom Davies, chief superintendent of Rhondda Fawr Corps; Mr. Arthur Lucas, superintendent secretary Dowlais Corps; Mr. H. W. Martin, Cardiff; Mr. F. A. Gray, HM Chief Inspector of Mines; Mr. Herbert Lewis, assistant commissioner, St John Ambulance Brigade; Mr. Saint, Deputy Inspector of Mines; Mr. J. H. Jones, Fochriw; Sergeant Thorney, Dowlais; Inspector Edwards, Dowlais. The Fochriw Brass Band under Mr. William Mantle (in the absence of Mr. Wm. Powell who was in competition with the Deri Band), headed the huge procession up to the mountainside, and again, later, on the return journey which preceded the opening ceremony.

Mr. Martin, in a very neat speech, referred to the great usefulness of ambulance work, especially at the collieries. It was noble work. He was glad to see the drill done so well. He then handed Mr. Gray the key to the Ambulance Hall. Mr. Gray opened the door and declared the hall open. The room was soon packed, crowds failing to gain admittance. Mr. J. H. Jones, colliery manager, took the chair at the meeting which followed. He said that they were all very pleased to see Mr. Martin amongst them once again, and equally pleased to see Mr. Gray present. He was sure that there were not two gentlemen in Wales more in sympathy with ambulance work and they were. They were very grateful to Mr. Martin, and his son, Mr. Stewart Martin, for working so hard to attain this room for the use of the Ambulance Brigade. The Band was also to have use of the room for practice.

Mr. F. A. Gray spoke very highly of ambulance work, stating that first aid was often the means of effecting a speedy recovery. He felt proud of Messrs. Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds for their noble gift; also to Mr. H. W. Martin and his son for working so hard to obtain it.

Mr. White, assistant commissioner, said he was happy to see employers and managers taking such a great interest in ambulance work. Mr. Herbert Lewis, assistant commissioner, St John Ambulance Brigade, spoke of the rapid strides ambulance work was making throughout the country, but no where so rapidly as in Wales. He appealed to the women to form a nursing institution.

The Rev. L. P. Davies, proposed a vote of thanks to Messrs. G. K. N. Ltd., for their magnificent gift. Mr. Charles Payne, in rising to second the vote of thanks, referred to the great work done by Florence Nightingale, and hoped that the women of Fochriw would follow Mr. Lewis's advice and form a nursing institute in the village. He spoke in glowing terms of Messrs. G. K. N. Ltd, of Mr. H. W. Martin, of Mr. Stewart Martin, and also of Mr. J. H. Jones, for the interest they had taken in this great work. This was a veritable red-letter day in the history of Fochriw, and would be remembered for

many years to come. It would be another link to strengthen and lengthen the chain of peace and prosperity which bound master and man together, and he hoped that the chain of love would only be severed in death. He trusted that many valuable lessons in ambulance work would be learned between the four walls of this room, so that when they were called upon to alleviate the suffering of their fellow-workmen, they would not be found wanting.

Mr. Evan Evans, Railway-terrace proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Gray in a very neat speech, which Mr. Martin seconded, and spoke some very encouraging words. The good work that had been done by ambulance would be extended to rescue work. The employers would see that any apparatus brought out for rescue work would be given a trial. Ambulance men would be best to take on rescue work, but of course, the rescue brigade was as yet in its infancy. They hoped in time to have rescue stations in the Rhondda and Aberdare Valleys, and at other large centres.

Dr. E. Davies, J.P., moved a vote of thanks to the visitors, and spoke in eulogistic terms of Mr. H. W. Martin, who he stated was always ready to do good work. He also thanked Mr. White. It would be too much to mention all the names; so on behalf of the committee, he proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the visitors, one and all. Inspector Edwards, Dowlais, seconded.

The procession was reformed, and headed by the Fochriw Band, marched to the Council Schools, where an excellent spread had been prepared, and to which justice was done. The tables were presided over and assistance rendered by the following: Mrs. E. Jones, Mrs. J. A. Jenkins, Mrs. G. Williams, Miss L. Williams, Mrs. Griffiths, Miss M. A. Lewis, Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Evans, Miss Evans, Miss B. Jones, Miss M. A. Ballard, Miss B. Ballard, Mrs. Llewellyn (grocer), Mrs. A. Jones (grocer), Mrs. J. Jones (grocer), Mrs. J. Phillips, Mrs. D. Griffiths. Help was rendered by Mr. G. Thomas, Mr. J. M. Lewis, Mr. Edward Parry, Mr. William Griffiths, Mr. D. Morgan, Mr. D. L. Jones, and Mrs. Griffiths, Brook-row. The Band continued to play dance music at intervals in the station yard during the evening. Great praise is due to the committee for so ably carrying out all the arrangements necessary to make the opening and tea the great success they proved to be. The following gentleman composed the Committee: chairman, Dr. Eleazer Davies; secretary, Mr. Edward Lewis, Railway-terrace; treasurer, Mr. Charles Payne, Railway-terrace; Messrs. J. H. Jones, colliery manager; Sergeant Williams; Mr. H. Evans, Brook House, mechanic; Mr. James Williams, Brynawel, head clerk at collieries; Mr. David John Evans, under manager; Mr. Thomas Robert, senior under manager; Mr. Thomas Roberts, junior under manager; Mr. W. Davies, Capt. Jones, Mr. Edmund Griffiths, station master, who rendered very useful service to the committee. Mr. Edward Lewis deserves very great praise for carrying out his secretarial duties in so able a manner.

Independent Order of Good Templars The weekly meeting of the Star of Fochriw Lodge was held on Thursday evening at the Baptist Vestry, and there was a good attendance. An excellent paper was read by Brother Thomas Lewis entitled to, "After Many Days."

Eisteddfodic Successes The prize for the essay "The Golden Calf" at the Rhymney Eisteddfod was divided between Mr. Rhys Jenkins, Fochriw, and Mr. Griffiths, schoolmaster, Cardiff. The Fochriw Children's Choir under their conductor Mr. David John Thomas, secured the second prize at the Machen Eisteddfod on Whit Tuesday. Mr. Bert Evans and party were successful in securing the third prize for rope splicing at the Ferndale Horse Show on Whit Monday.

"Merthyr Express" 20 June 1908

Eisteddfod Success Mr William Lewis, Railway-terrace, was successful in securing the first prize for timbering at the Bedlinog Eisteddfod on Whit Monday.

Independent Order of Good Templars The weekly meeting of the Star of Fochriw Lodge was held on Thursday evening at the Baptist Vestry, and there was a good attendance. Brother Thomas Lewis, Chief Templar, presided. The programme for the evening was "How I spent my Whitsun holidays." The following took part: Brothers William Jones, Thomas Thomas, Edward Lewis, W. J. Angell, Austin Price, Thomas Lewis, and Sister Bronwen Ballard.

Anniversary The anniversary of meeting held in connection with Carmel Welsh Congregational Chapel took place on Sunday and Monday last, when the following ministers officiated: Rev. D. J. Thomas, Bethania, Abercynon, and Professor John Evans, Brecon College. The services were largely attended, and the eloquent and edifying sermons delivered by the reverend gentlemen were highly appreciated by the congregations. The singing, which was of a very high standard, was conducted by Mr. David Davies (Pencerdd Morganwg), and Mr. Thomas Walters ably presided at the organ.

Ambulance On Tuesday night, a meeting of the Ambulance Committee was held in the waiting room, Dr. Davies presiding. All those who helped at the opening ceremony of the Ambulance Hall on Whit Tuesday were thanked, including Mrs. Cooke, Blast Furnace Hotel, Mrs. W. Morgan, Picton Hotel, Messrs. J. S. Davies, Dowlais, for lending flags, etc., for decorating purposes. Mr. Stuart Martin, deputy agent for Messrs. G. K. N. was congratulated upon his recent appointment in South Africa. On

behalf of Mr. F. A. Grey, Chief Inspector of Mines, Mr. Charles Payne thanked the committee for the gift of the key used at the opening ceremony.

“Merthyr Express” 27 June 1908

Advert YOUR CHILDREN will be the best dressed in the neighbourhood if you buy their Clothing and Boots from T. FINE, & CO., PONTLOTTYN. A grand selection of Boys' Fancy Suits in Velvets and Tweeds, in New Styles and Fashions.

Carmel Chapel The pulpit at Carmel on Sunday last was occupied by the Rev. W. Davies, New Tredegar, who preached two powerful sermons to large congregations.

Band Parade The Fochriw Brass Band, under the conductorship of Mr. William Powell, paraded the streets of the villages of Fochriw, Pentwyn, and Penybank on Saturday afternoon last.

Independent Order of Good Templars The weekly meeting of the Star of Fochriw Lodge was held on Thursday evening at the Baptist Vestry, and there was a good attendance. The programme for the evening was a juvenile singing competition. The test piece was "Meet at the Fountain," No. 259 in Sankey's hymn book. The following took part in the competition: Sisters Lydia May Evans, Mary Tyler, Maggie Thomas, Gwenny Rees, and Hannah Jones. The prize was divided between the first and last singer. The adjudicators were Brothers David John Thomas, choirmaster, and William Griffiths, Superintendent Juvenile Temple. Brother Thomas Lewis, Chief Templar, presided.

“Merthyr Express” 4 July 1908

Death of Mr. William Evans, Aelybryn, aged 81 It is with deep regret that we record the death of Mr. William Evans, which took place on Monday afternoon at the home of his son, Mr. Edwin Evans, 9, Aelybryn, with whom he had resided for the last three years. Deceased had been unwell for some time, but had only been confined to bed for ten days. On the morning of his death, Mr. Evans received Holy Communion from the vicar, the Rev. Thomas Rees. Deceased was 81 years of age, and had lived in the village for the last 47 years. He was well-known and highly respected, and his kindly face and genial presence will be greatly missed by all who knew him. He was head blacksmith at the Fochriw Colliery for over 40 years, and retired five years ago. Deceased was the oldest member of the Good Samaritan Benefit Society at the Globe, Merthyr Tydfil. The funeral, which was for gentleman only, took place on Thursday afternoon at Pentwyn Churchyard. The body was enclosed in an oak coffin. A short service was conducted at the house by the Rev. B. Glover, curate of Pontlottyn. The funeral cortege left for St. Mary's Church, singing as they went the well known hymn "Daeth yr awr im' ddianc adre'." A service was held at the Church, and afterwards, the cortege proceeded to Pentwyn. The chief mourners were: Mr. Edwin Evans, Fochriw, Mr. William Evans, Dowlais, Mr. Henry Evans and Mr. Alfred Evans, Fowhriw, sons; Mr. Rowland Howells, Bedlinog, son-in-law; Mr. Alfred Evans and Mr. Bertie Evans, Fochriw, Mr. John Howells and Mr. Hugh Howells, Bedlinog, Mr. Thomas Evans, Fochriw, and Mr. Roderick Evans, Dowlais, grandsons. Among the floral tributes was one from the Fochriw Constitutional Club.

Rectorship for Fochriw Curate We understand the the rectorship of Rhoscolyn, Anglesey, has been offered by the Bishop of Llandaff to the Rev. J. A. Rees, the well-known curate of Fochriw. For the last eighteen years, Rev. Rees has laboured successfully for the Church, the Temperance cause, and social reform. Mr. Rees is a pronounced Welsh nationalist, and is a very popular figure not only in Glamorganshire, but throughout South Wales. He is in frequent demand as a preacher and public speaker in English and Welsh. He has just returned from a visit to America, where he was a delegate to the International Temperance Convention. Should Mr Rees accept the living of Rhoscolyn, his departure from his present sphere will be greatly regretted not only by his own people, but many others who have come into contact with him throughout Glamorganshire.

"Long Work" Pit, Fochriw: Coal Worked Out On Wednesday last, between 160 and 170 colliers, engineers and other colliery workmen, engaged at the Long Work Pit, Fochriw, which belongs to Messrs Guest, Keen, and Nettlefolds, Ltd, received notice to terminate contracts in one month, on July 31st. This is one of the oldest pits belonging to the company, and it is understood that the coal has given up. It is expected and hoped that places will be found for those who have received notice in the other pits of the company.

Concerts Mr. J. Tracey's Bioscope and Vaudeville Company of star artistes, opened at Fochriw on Friday last with a splendid programme. The antics of Joe Andy, Joey Oran, and the Two Jays, convulsed the large audience. Mr. John Tracy met with a hearty reception. Mr. Will Bluett, the pianist, sang two fine baritone songs, which were much appreciated. On Sunday evening, there was a crowded attendance at the sacred concert, "The Life of Christ" and other suitable pictures were shown on the Bioscope. Mr. Joe Andy gave a lecture, and also recited "The Blind Collier's Child." Mr. William Bluett sang "Ora Pro Nobis," and played suitable music to the pictures.

Tea Party The members of the Noddfa Baptist chapel held their annual tea party on Monday at the Vestry. The weather was beautiful and everything passed off successfully. The tables were beautifully

laid, and the following ladies presided at the tables, and assisted in other ways: Mrs. D. S. Williams, Mrs. M. Williams, Miss S. E. Williams, Mrs. T. Evans, Dynevor-street, Miss Mary Williams, Iscoed, Miss M. E. Morgan, Miss Mary Rees, Llwynhelyg, Miss Beatrice Jones, Martin-street. Miss M. Evans, Guest-street, Mr. John Davies, Mr. Richard Lewis, Aelybryn, and Mr. Walter Walters, Guest-street. The catering was in the capable hands of Mr. George Phillips. The secretarial duties were carried out by Mr. Thomas Evans, Iscoed, and the treasurer was Mr. Thomas Evans, Guest-street.

Independent Order of Good Templars The weekly meeting of the Star of Fochriw Lodge was held on Thursday evening at the Baptist Vestry, when an excellent programme of music, etc. was contributed to by members of the Pride of Rhymney Lodge. Solos: "The Holy City," "The Blind Boy," "I belong to the King," "Free as a bird," "Will you meet me at the fountain?," "Face to Face with God my saviour;" recitations - "Man Hunt," "Christmas Day in the Workhouse," "A night in a gypsy tent," "The Ship on Fire," "Yr Amddifod." Speeches were also given and were much appreciated. Brothers Charles Payne and William Griffiths proposed and seconded a hearty vote of thanks to the Rhymney brothers and sisters for the fine entertainment.

Organ Recital A most enjoyable evening was spent at the Church of St Mary the Virgin on Thursday, when an organ recital was given by Mr. E. A. Evans, the talented organist and choirmaster of St. Peter's Church, Abercanaid. The organist displayed to the fullest extent his abilities as player and composer in an "Overture in C minor," written by himself. The playing throughout was of the very highest standard. The soloists were: Madame Kate Williams, Rhymney soprano; Mr. T. Phillips, Dowlais, tenor, Mr. T. Griffiths, Dowlais, bass, all of whom performed in pleasing and excellent style. There was a large audience present, who very much appreciated the excellent singing and playing. Programme: hymn - "For ever with the Lord;" organ solo - "Overture in C Minor;" bass solo - "O, Star of Eve;" organ solo - "Jerusalem the Golden;" soprano solo - "The Light of the World;" organ solos - March (King Hall); Polanaisse (Hammel); Reminiscences (Meyerbeer); Extemporisation (E. A. Evans); tenor solo - "Comfort ye my people," "Every valley shall be exalted," (Messiah); organ solo - "Toccatto and Fugue," (Bach); bass solo - "It is enough," (Elijah); soprano solo - "Y Ddinas Sanctaidd;" organ solo - Sonata No. 6 (Mendelssohn); tenor solo - "Giver of Life," (E. Fortisque); organ solo - "Overture," (Van Suppe).

"Merthyr Express" 11 July 1908

Obituary: Mrs. Elizabeth Ann James, Railway-terrace, aged 67 It is with regret that we record the death of Mrs. Elizabeth Ann James, wife of Mr. Seth James, Railway-terrace, who passed away at an early hour on Wednesday. Deceased was 67 years of age, and had only been married a few months.

Pulpit The Rev. J. A. Rees, occupied the pulpit of St Mary's Church on Sunday last after an absence of six weeks, during which time he has been in America attending the International Temperance Convention. He preached four powerful sermons during the day, two in Welsh and two in English, which were much appreciated by his flock.

Carmel Chapel On Sunday, a preaching gymanfa was held by students of the Collegiate, Pontypridd, who preached in the following order: morning - Mr. D. Roberts, Coedpoeth; afternoon - Mr. Harris, Ferndale, and Mr. D. Powell, Maesteg; evening - Mr. Harris and Mr. Roberts. There were very good attendances, and the services of the students were much appreciated.

Independent Order of Good Templars The weekly meeting of the Star of Fochriw Lodge was held on Thursday evening at the Baptist Vestry. The evening was set aside for devotional purposes, in which the following members took part: Brother Charles Payne read the 14th chapter of St John's Gospel; Brother Connistone and Brother Cole, Rhymney, engaged in prayer; Brother Thomas Lewis, Chief Templar, delivered a stirring address. Ode singing was also indulged in.

Sunday School Treats On Monday afternoon, the children's annual tea took place, and the various Sunday schools paraded the streets of the villages of Fochriw and Pentwyn. The children presented a brilliant spectacle. The day was beautifully fine, and the children turned out in large numbers. The following is the order of the procession: Carmel; Nazareth; Noddfa.

During the march, the children of Carmel sung many well-known hymns very beautifully. They were conducted by Mr. David John Thomas. After the parade the Carmel scholars took tea on the mountainside opposite the chapel. The following ladies and gentlemen helped with the tea: Mrs. Howell Thomas, Mrs. Stephen Ballard, Mrs. M. A. Williams, Mrs. Sibley, Mrs. Lucy Jenkins, Mrs. Jane Jones, Mrs. A. Jones (grocer), Mrs. T. Llewellyn (grocer), Mrs. Margaret Thomas, Mrs. Martha Thomas, Mrs. M. Jones, Mrs. Mary Morgan, Mrs. Hannah Griffiths, Mrs. Ann Jenkins, Mrs. Catherine Phillips, Mrs. Martha Griffiths, Mr. John Lewis, Mr. David Griffiths, Mr. Ed. Lewis, Mr. Job Thomas, Mr. Rees M. Davies, Mr. Walter Jones, Mr. John Griffiths, Mr. S. Lewis, Mr. Wm. Wright, Mr. John Evans, Mr. Dd. Harris, Dr. E. Davies, J.P., Messrs. Rhys D. Jenkins, E. M. Davies, and Thomas Lewis. The secretarial duties were carried out by Mr. Arthur Ballard, Aelybryn.

The children of Nazareth Chapel sung the following hymns en route: "Fe elai plant at Iesu Grist," "Am yr ysgolrad Sabbothol," "Plant ydym eto dan ein hoed," "Calon lan." Their conductor was Mr. William Morris, Dynevor-street. The superintendent was Mr. J. M. James, Guest-street. Tea was provided at the chapel, and afterwards sweets were distributed. The tray-holders were: Mrs. J. Roderick, Mrs. Capt. Jones, Mrs. Ellen Edgar, Mrs. Katie Lawrence, Mrs. Maggie Jones, Mrs. E. A. Parry, Miss Jenny Jones, and Miss Maggie Pugh. The following persons rendered assistance: Mrs. J. M. Jones, Mrs. Maggie Davies, Mrs. Elias Davies, Mrs. James Lawrence, Mrs. Captain Jones, Mr. Peter Jones and Mr. Roderick Jones.

The children of the Baptist Sunday school also sung en route under the conductorship of Mr. S. Evans. The tables were presided over and assistance rendered by: Mrs. J. Matthews, Mrs. James Wilkins, Mrs. P. S. Wilkins, Mrs. Captain Edwards, Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Thomas Davies, Mr. David Davies, Mrs. J. Rees, Mrs. John Lewis, Miss M. E. Morgan, Miss S. E. Evans, Miss A. May Thomas, Miss May Evans, Miss Ann Edwards, Messrs. P.S. Williams, John Williams, Richard Evans, Albert Walters, S. Jones, John Evans, Thomas Evans, John Rees. After tea, the children were provided with fruit, the boys with bats and balls and the girls with skipping ropes. After tea, the children of the three schools played games of various kinds on the mountainside.

Entertainments At Mr. J. Tracey's Bioscope exhibition on Tuesday night, there was a comic singing contest, the prize being taken by Mr. Harry Wilcox who sang a very amusing parody of "Home Sweet Home," responding with "Following in Father's Footsteps" as an encore. Mr. John Tracy and Mr. Will Bluett also sang, and Mr. Joey Oran, a comedian, dancer and ventriloquist, greatly pleased the audience. The pictures shown on the bioscope were excellent. On Sunday evening a sacred concert was held.

"Merthyr Express" 18 July 1908

Fatal Accident Edward Ashley, a collier employed at the Fochriw No. 2 Pit, met his death on Wednesday morning being caught between a tram and a wall. The accident occurred at 9:50a.m., and the deceased died of his injuries 20 minutes later. The body was brought to Dowlais, and conveyed on the Dowlais Brigade Ambulance Car to No. 17 White Street. Deceased was 53 years of age and leaves a widow and children.

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.

Independent Order of Good Templars The weekly meeting of the Star of Fochriw Lodge was held on Thursday evening at the Baptist Vestry, and there was a good attendance. The juveniles provided an excellent programme of music, etc., which was contributed to by the following: solos - Miss Ruth Griffiths, Master Cyril Cooke, Master Charley Edwards, Miss Hannah Jones, Master Idris Cumpstone and Miss Sara Cole; recitations - Miss M. Cole, Master George Cole, Miss Bessie Rees, Miss Sara Cole; duet - Miss Hannah Jones and Miss Edith Way. The meeting was presided over by the Chief Templar, Brother Thomas Lewis.

Church of England Temperance Society: Successes The results of the examination in connection with the above society, held in April, have come to hand, and are as follows: senior division - Mr. Matthew David Morgan, second class; intermediate division - Master Willie R. Barber, first class, Miss Lydia May Evans, second class; junior division - Masters Albert Prosser, Octavius Richards, John Thomas, Willie Angell, and Miss Gwennie Gough, first class, and Master Willie White, second class. The report stated that the work done by the intermediate division was excellent. Master Albert Prosser, of the junior division, has gained the highest marks in the whole diocese. The Juvenile Branch has been awarded the challenge banner for the Llandaff Diocese for the winter season, 1908 - 1909, which will be kept at St. Mary's Church. The prizes consist of certificates and books. The successes reflect credit on the teachers, the Rev. J. A. Rees, curate, and Miss M. F. Morgan, School House.

Funeral The funeral of Mrs. James, Railway-terrace, took place on Saturday last at Pentwyn Churchyard, and was well attended. A short service was held in the house conducted by the Rev. J. A. Rees, and afterwards at the old Church. The chief mourners were: Mr. Seth James, widower; Mr. George James and Mr. Ernest James, sons; Mr. and Mrs. T. Prosser, Mr. and Mrs. T. Watkins, daughters and sons-in-law; Masters Ifor, Freddy and Ernest Prosser, great grandsons.

"Merthyr Express" 25 July 1908

Fatality at Fochriw Pit: Inquest Mr. R. J. Rhys, coroner, held an inquest at the Clarence Hotel, Dowlais, on Friday last, into the death of Edward Astley, an overlooker of underground traffic at No. 2 Pit, Fochriw. Present: Mr. W. Saint, HM Inspector of Mines; Mr. D. W. Jones, solicitor; Mr. H. S. Martin, colliery manager; Mr. Wm. Davies, under-manager Fochriw Pits.

After evidence of identification was given, Richard Vines, a rider in the West district, gave evidence. He said he was taking down 15 empty trams on the main rope, when some of them went off the rail; Astley came to him from the parting, and helped to get them on again. They were pulled back about 20

yards. There were manholes on each side of the road, and there was a space of 18 inches each side from the trams. In two or three minutes after the trams re-started, he heard a scream. When he got to Astley, he was sitting at the side of the road, and he said to witness in Welsh, "Y mae ar ben" (It is all over). He died in about 20 minutes. Vines said that he signalled in about three minutes after getting the trams right on the rails that the journey was going to start. Astley was not in a manhole, but was near one, about three or four yards away. Deceased was assistant over the traffic. Mr. William Davis, the under manager, gave orders to change the road after the trams were got right.

Mr. William Davies, under-manager, produced a plan of the area, and said that he was coming out of the "Red Coal" District, and give orders to take the empty trams to the "Red Coal," and Astley told Vines to get them pulled up. He (Mr. Davies) was in a manhole on the left hand side, and Astley was on the right hand side in a manhole - they were opposite each other. When Astley was found, he was 34 yards from where he saw him in a manhole. Witness saw Astley get on a shackle, but he had no right to be there, and he shouted to him saying so, but he could not say whether he heard him. The Coroner remarked that he was very much surprised to find that Astley rode on the tram right under the nose of Mr. Davies. He had heard that when the cat was away the mice would play, but it was reversed in this instance. Mr. Davies said that Astley was looked upon as a sort of official, and that he took the liberty. The road was in perfect condition, and Astley was a very careful man, of wide experience. He had only one arm. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death."

Entertainments On Thursday evening week, Mr. John Tracy gave another concert. There was a crowded audience, and a good programme was presented. A comic singing competition took place, the prize being won by Mr. W. J. Payne. The accompanist was Mr. W. Bluett. On Thursday evening, Mr Tracey gave his farewell concert to a crowded audience.

Independent Order of Good Templars The weekly meeting of the Star of Fochriw Lodge was held on Thursday evening at the Baptist Vestry, and there was a good attendance. It was an open session. Addresses were delivered by the following: Brothers Charles Payne, Thomas Lewis, Thomas Thomas. Solos were rendered in fine style by Sisters G. Rees, Ann Griffiths, Maggie Griffiths, and M. A. Walters. The meeting was presided over by Brother Thomas Lewis.

I.O.G.T. Outing to Crickhowell On Monday, a party of 25 of members, and a few friends, journeyed to Crickhowell by brake and trap. The weather was beautifully fine, and the trip proved to be very enjoyable. On arrival, the party took luncheon at the Institute. After this, some visited St Edmund's Church, and others the famous Glanusk Park. Many took boat trips on the canal.

The Rev. J. A. Rees, B. A. At the quarterly meeting of Rhymney Valley District of the I.O.G.T., the following resolution was passed: "That this District Lodge, held at Bethel, New Tredegar, having learnt that our District Treasurer, the Reverend J. A. Rees, B.A., Fochriw, has decided to accept the appointment offered him in Anglesey, which will make it necessary for him to leave the district, take advantage of this occasion to place on record our appreciation of his valuable advocacy and effective work in the Order of Good Templary, which has been recognised in the past by the Order in his election to perform very important duties; and last of all, in his appointment to represent the Grand Lodge at the International Supreme Lodge in the United States of America. We rejoice because of the honour conferred upon him by our Order, and we desire to express our gratitude to Almighty God for his safe return home after his absence in America. Now we pray that the blessing of our Father in Heaven may rest upon him and his work in his new sphere, and that prosperity may follow him throughout his life."

"Merthyr Express" 1 August 1908

Obituary: Mr. Howell Jones, Guest-street, aged 52 It is with regret that we record the death of Mr. Howell Jones, 17, Guest-street, who passed away on Monday evening. Deceased, who was 52 years of age, leaves a widow.

Eisteddfod Successes The united adult choir, under the conductorship of Mr. Daniel Jenkins, Emlyn House, secured the first prize at the Eisteddfod held at Bargoed on Monday last. The Children's Choir was also successful under the conductorship of Mr. David John Thomas, they too securing first prize.

Independent Order of Good Templars The weekly meeting of the Star of Fochriw Lodge was held on Thursday evening at the Baptist Vestry. The following officers were elected for the coming quarter: Chief Templar - Brother Thomas Lewis; vice Templar - Sister M. Griffiths secretary - Sister M. A. Lewis; assistant secretary - Sisters C. Jones; financial secretary - Sister E. Evans; treasurer - Brother Thomas Thomas; chaplain - Sister Beatrice Griffiths; marshal - Brother E. H. Lewis; deputy marshal - Brother J. Walters; guard - Brother D. Evans; sentinel - Brother W. J. Angel; past chief Templar - Brother William Griffiths; lodge deputy - Brother Charles Payne; electoral superintendent - Brother T. Thomas; superintendent juvenile work - Brother Thomas Lewis; choirmaster - Brother David John Thomas. Interesting speeches were delivered by Sisters M. A. Lewis, E. Evans, C. Jones, and Brothers William Griffiths, Charles Payne, Thomas Thomas, and E. Lewis.

“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.

Obituary The funeral of the late Mr. Howell Jones, Guest-street, took place on Saturday last, and was very well attended. The deceased gentleman had lived in the village for a number of years, and was greatly respected. The internment took place at Pant Cemetery. A short service was conducted at the house by the Rev. Rhys Jenkins. The cortege then left for the station amidst every manifestation of regret. The choir of Carmel Independent Chapel, of which deceased had been a faithful member for many years, sang of the well-known hymns "Mae 'nghyfeillion adre'n myned," "Daeth yr awr im' ddianc adre'," "Gweiuchlaw cymylau amser." At the chapel, the service was conducted by Rev. Jenkins, assisted by Rev. I. Roderick, Fochriw, and Rev. J. H. Hughes, Penywyn. After the service, the hymn, "Yn y dyfroedd mawr a'r tonnau," was sung with great feeling. At the graveside, the service closed with the singing of "Bydd myrdd o ryfeddodau."

Tea Party The annual tea party in connection with the Fochriw Church was held for the first time in the Hall of the new Church on Thursday last. The procession, which was a large one, paraded the streets of Fochriw and Pentwyn, headed by the Fochriw Brass Band, under the conductorship of Mr. W. J. Powell. The day was beautifully fine, and the children turned out in large numbers. The following rendered assistance at the tea: Mrs. Ted Evans assisted by Misses M. M. Jones, Judith Angell and Lydia M. Evans; Mrs. Thomas assisted by Misses M. F. Morgan, E. C. Morgan, and Miss Stephens, Pontlottyn; Mrs. Curtis assisted by Mrs. Adams and Misses Curtis and Summer; Mrs. Wellings assisted by Mrs. Cogen and Misses Mary Wellings and M. A. Powell; Mrs. G. Way assisted by Misses L. and E. Way; Mrs. Richards assisted by Misses A. M. Sibley, Nan Prosser and B. Gough. Others who assisted were: Mrs. Davies, Mrs. W. White, Mrs. J. White, Mrs. C. Payne, Miss Summers, Mrs. S. Way, Mrs. Thomas Roberts, Mr. C. Payne, Mrs. G. Honeybun, Master James Davies, Mrs. B. Angell, Mrs. Gough. The catering was in the able hands of Mr. Thomas Llewellyn and Sons. After the tea, there were sports at Pentwyn, with the following competitions: half mile bicycle race; 120 yards foot race; tug of war; 100 yards foot race; three-legged race; 100 yards girls' foot race; 80 yards boys' race; skipping contest.

“Merthyr Express” 15 August 1908

Pulpit: Carmel The pulpit was occupied on Sunday by Mr. D. Picton, New Quay, student at Newcastle Emlyn Grammar School, whose sermons were much appreciated by large congregations.

Independent Order of Good Templars The weekly meeting of the Star of Fochriw Lodge was held on Thursday evening at the Baptist Vestry, and there was a good attendance. Encouraging addresses were given by Brother Charles Payne, William Griffiths, and Thomas Thomas. The officers for the coming quarter were installed by Brother Payne, and good reports were received from the past officers, to whom a vote of thanks was passed. The chair was occupied by Brother Thomas Lewis.

I.O.G.T. Outing On Wednesday, the Juvenile Temple had a delightful outing to Abergavenny. The lodge was accompanied by a large number of friends, and travelled by special train from Pontlottyn at 9.30am. On arrival at Abergavenny, an excellent spread was provided, to which ample justice was done. The children spent most of their time in the castle grounds, playing games, while the older members and friends set out to enjoy the many attractions for which the place is noted. Fine weather helped to make the day's outing a great success. Credit is due in particular to Brothers Thomas Lewis and William Griffiths.

“Merthyr Express” 22 August 1908

Carmel Chapel The pulpit at Carmel on Sunday was occupied by a Mr. Beynon, student of Carmarthen College, whose sermons were much appreciated by large congregations.

Independent Order of Good Templars The weekly meeting of the Star of Fochriw Lodge was held on Thursday evening at the Baptist Vestry, and there was a good attendance. The following took part in the programme: Brothers Charles Payne, Thomas Thomas, William Griffiths, Sisters B. Ballard, M. Griffiths, & C. Lewis, and Brother Thomas Lewis, Chief Templar.

“Merthyr Express” 29 August 1908

Independent Order of Good Templars The weekly meeting of the Star of Fochriw Lodge was held on Thursday evening at the Baptist Vestry, and a good number were present. The subject for discussion was "How to spend a winter evenings," and the following took part: Brothers William Jones, William Griffiths, Thomas Thomas, Charles Payne, and Thomas Lewis, Chief Templar.

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.

From Fochriw to Anglesey: Departure of Rev. J. A. Rees: Presentation at Pontlloftyn On Tuesday evening, the Good Templars of the Pontlloftyn, Rhymney, Abertysswg and Fochriw Lodges congregated at Nazareth Vestry, Pontlloftyn, in order to bid farewell to the Rev. J. A. Rees, upon his departure to Rhoscolyn, Anglesey. Among the many speakers was Bro. Charles Payne of Fochriw.

“Merthyr Express” 5 September 1908

Independent Order of Good Templars The weekly meeting of the Star of Fochriw Lodge was held on Thursday evening at the Baptist Vestry, Bro. Thos. Lewis presiding. The programme was "Ode Singing."

Obituary: Mrs. Mitchell, Guest-street We have to report the death of Mrs. Mitchell, wife of Mr. Edward Mitchell, firemen, Guest-street. Deceased had resided in the village about three years, during which time she had suffered greatly. She was only 31 years of age, and she leaves a husband and four children. The funeral took place on Monday and was well attended. The interment was at Cefn Cemetery. A short service was held at the house led by the Rev. Rhys Jenkins. The cortege left for the station amidst every manifestation of sorrow, the choir singing "Mae 'nghyfeillion wedi myned."

“Merthyr Express” 12 September 1908

Wire Rope Splicing Mr. Edward Lewis and party were successful in securing the second prize for wire rope splicing at the Blackwood Show on Monday last.

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.

Independent Order of Good Templars The weekly meeting of the Star of Fochriw Lodge was held on Thursday evening at the Baptist Vestry, and there was a good attendance. An excellent paper on "Alcohol" was read by Sister M. A. Lewis. The paper was brimful of interest, and was much appreciated by members. Brother William Griffiths presided.

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.

Noddfa Chapel Successful services in connection with the annual festival of Noddfa Baptist chapel was held on Sunday and Monday when the Revs. D. Thomas, Abercarn, and T. Edwards, Porth, preached very stirring sermons to large and appreciative congregations. Miss Lilian Williams presided at the organ, and Mr. Thomas Evans, junior, conducted the singing. The meetings were presided over by the Rev. L. P. Davies, pastor.

Eisteddfod Successes for Fochriw Choirs The United Choir, under the conductorship of Mr. Daniel Jenkins, the Children's Choir, under the conductorship of Mr. David John Thomas, and the Ladies' Choir, conducted by Miss Elizabeth Jones, were successful in securing first prizes at Pontlloftyn Eisteddfod on Monday last. A rehearsal was given at the Baptist Chapel on Sunday evening, when each of the choirs gave excellent renderings of their respective test pieces. Mr. John Williams, Martin's-street, presided.

Temperance Tea and Parade On Saturday afternoon, the members of the Independent Order of the Rechabites and of the International Order of Good Templars, paraded the streets of Fochriw and Pentwyn headed by the Fochriw Brass Band, under the conductorship of Mr. William Powell. After the parade, a tea was held at Carmel Vestry, to which a large number did ample justice. The tables were presided over and assistance rendered by the following: Misses M. A. Lewis, Catherine Jones, S. J. Lewis, Mrs. Martha Griffiths, Miss Maggie Griffiths, Miss E. Evans, Mrs. I. Roderick, Mrs. David Griffiths, Mrs. H. Howell Thomas, Mrs. S. Ballard, Mrs. Griffiths (Brook-row), Mrs. Howell Thomas, Mrs. Martha Thomas, Mrs. Morgan (Pentwyn). Assistance was also rendered by the following gentleman: Messrs. W. L. Wright, J. Lewis, P. Jenkins, James Williams, S. Lewis, C. Ballard, S. Ballard, and James Davies. An interesting temperance lecturer was afterwards given in the vestry by the Rev. R. S. Rogers, Pontlloftyn. Mr. T. Llewellyn, Martin's-street, presided over a large and appreciative audience. The lecturer, who was cordially received, plunged into his subject with real earnestness. He was listened to with rapt attention, and his witty remarks elicited rounds of applause. Votes of thanks to the rev. gentleman and to the chairman brought an enjoyable evening to a close.

“Merthyr Express” 19 September 1908

Farewell Sermon: Rev. J. A. Rees Leaves for Anglesey The Rev. J. A. Rees preached his farewell sermon at St. Mary's Church on Sunday evening. The Church was packed to overflowing, a large number being unable to gain admission. The reverend gentleman preached from I Corinthians, vii, 29-31. The sermon greatly impressed the large congregation, many being moved to tears. Mr. Rees leaves for Rhoscolyn on Thursday next. His departure will be keenly felt by his flock and by his many friends in Fochriw and the surrounding districts.

Independent Order of Good Templars The weekly meeting of the Star of Fochriw Lodge was held on Thursday evening at the Baptist Vestry. Brother Thomas Thomas was in the chair. The members were entertained by members of the "Pride of Rhymney" Lodge.

“Merthyr Express” 26 September 1908

Presentation to the Rev. J. A. Rees On Wednesday night, a meeting was held at St. Mary's Hall, to present the Rev. & Mrs. J. A. Rees with a gold watch and a case of silver afternoon tea spoons, respectively, on their departure for Rhoscolyn, Anglesey. Mr. A. Evans presided, and he, Mr. Charles Payne and Mr. J. Richards, spoke in glowing terms of Rev. Rees' excellent qualities as priest and Church-worker. The new Church, organ and Institute were entirely the fruits of his labours on behalf of the Church. No harder worker could be found anywhere. They were glad of his promotion, but deplored his removal from South Wales to a parish so far away. After a solo from Mr. Teddy Jenkins, Pontlottyn, Mr Josiah Richards presented the case of spoons to Mrs. Rees, and Mrs. J. Davies, presented the gold watch to Rev. Rees. In thanking the people for the presents, Rev. Rees said that he would look back on the nine years he had spent amongst them, as the brightest, pleasantest, and most enjoyable years of his life.

Collieries Idle The annual demonstration of the Dowlais District of the Miners was held on Monday at the Oddfellows' Hall, Dowlais, and as a result, both pits were idle on that day

Fatal Accident Mr. John Davies of Dowlais, was killed at the South Tunnel Pit on Monday last. He was a repairer, and was in the act of putting up some timber when a stone from the roof fell on him.

Death: Mr. Owen Davies, Hill-row, aged 81 We regret to announce the death of Mr. Owen Davies, which took place on Saturday last after an illness extending over a long period. He was 81 years of age, and was a native of Cardiganshire. He had resided in the villages of Pentwyn and Fochriw for the last 24 years. Deceased was well known in the locality, and was held in the highest esteem, and his death is deeply deplored by a large circle of friends. He leaves a widow and two children. The funeral took place on Thursday at Pentwyn Churchyard, the Rev. Rhys Jenkins officiating. There was a large attendance at the funeral.

Independent Order of Good Templars The weekly meeting of the Star of Fochriw Lodge was held on Thursday evening at the Baptist Vestry. The lodge was opened in due form by the Chief Templar Brother Thomas Lewis. The Grand Lodge report was delivered by Brothers Thomas Thomas and Charles Payne, for which they were heartily thanked by the lodge. Brother Charles Payne was congratulated on his recent appointment to the office of Grand Sentinel. After the completion of other business, a fruit banquet was given by the sisters for members and visitors, for which a hearty vote of thanks was accorded them.

The Library The library has been renovated throughout by Mr. Z. Watkins, Penydarren, and everything has been done to add to the comfort of the place. The rooms look beautiful and inviting, and should be an incentive to those who are not members already to join. There is one room provided with a bagatelle and draft tables, and various other games, in which the young people may indulge. There is another room set apart for reading, at which a large number of papers and periodicals are provided. There is also a plentiful supply of good books by the best authors. Great praise is due to Dr. Eleazer Davies, J. P., and Mr. T. Llewellyn, who so ably carry out the duties of treasurer and secretary respectively. Praise is also due to Police Sergeant Williams, who has laboured hard and unceasingly to make the library a power for good in the village. He has always had the welfare of the villagers at heart, and anything tending to their elevation has always had his sympathy and support.

Servants can easily be obtained by the use a small Wanted Ad in these columns.

“Merthyr Express” 3 October 1908

Gelligaer District Council Election: Fochriw Ward (3 Members) Elected: Mr. J. Edwards 283; Mr. J. Jones 215; Mr R. Jenkins 175; Unsuccessful Mr. W. Kinsey 139.

“Merthyr Express” 10 October 1908

Independent Order of Good Templars The weekly meeting of the Star of Fochriw Lodge was held on Thursday evening at the Baptist Vestry. The lodge was opened in due form by Brother Thomas Lewis, Chief Templar, and after the usual business had been concluded, an excellent programme was given on a phonograph which belonged to, and was manipulated by, Brother William Parry, Pentwyn. There were good number present, including many visitors from Rhymney.

“Merthyr Express” 24 October 1908

Records and Phonographs The most up-to-date records and photographs can be obtained from Levinsohn's Sterling Phono Stores, Dowlais.

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 tray-holders were: Mrs. W. O. Morgan, School House, and Miss Jones, headmistress of the Fochriw Infants' School.

Eisteddfod A meeting was held at the Baptist Chapel on Thursday night to decide how the proceeds (if any) of the next annual chair eisteddfod should be applied. There was a good deal of discussion, and eventually consideration of the matter was postponed. It is hoped that some definite arrangement will be arrived at. The meeting was presided over by the Rev. J. Roderick

Interment The funeral of the late Mr. Edwin Carter of Deri took place on Saturday at Pentwyn Churchyard, and was well attended. Deceased was following his employment as a collier in the No. 1 Pit, Fochriw, on October 8th, when he was suddenly seized with apoplexy, from which he died the following Tuesday. He leaves a widow and two children.

Fire A fire took place at No. 2, Williams-row on Friday evening last, a house occupied by Mr. Thomas Thomas. The fire is supposed to have been caused by a spark from the fire igniting some clothing on the line, which in turn set fire to the roof, which is made of wood. Damage to the extent of about £15 was caused. Fortunately, the fire was quickly got under control, otherwise the damage would have been very great. The Fire Brigade, under the direction of Lieutenant W. J. Payne, was quickly on the scene.

Independent Order of Good Templars The weekly meeting of the Star of Fochriw Lodge was held on Thursday evening at the Baptist Vestry. The evening was set apart for devotional purposes. Brother William Jones was responsible for the programme, and Brother Thomas Lewis, chief templar, presided. Brother Charles Payne was heartily congratulated on his election to the office of District Chief Templar of the Rhymney Valley Lodges.

“Merthyr Express” 31 October 1908

Presentation to Mr. Edward Lewis, Secretary of the Fochriw Ambulance Brigade On Friday last, at the Fochriw Ambulance Hall, Mr. Edward Lewis was presented with a photograph of himself by the Fochriw Ambulance Brigade, for services rendered as their secretary for a long time. The 15in. by 12in. enlargement was mounted on a 24in. by 19in. mount, finished in black and white, framed in carved oak, with flat moulding and gilt inside. A large number were present, and the chair was taken by Dr. Eleazer Davies, honorary surgeon of the Brigade. Dr. Davies spoke of Mr. Lewis's excellent qualities, and of his untiring efforts to raise money for the Brigade by sending out appeals for subscriptions to various parts of the county, and in other ways. Songs were given by Mr. David Cole ("Teithiwr a'i Gi,"), and Mr. T. Jenkins ("Under the Desert Star,"), before Mr. J. H. Jones, M.E., deputy agent, Messrs. G.K.N. Ltd. made the presentation. After speeches from Mr. Jones and Superintendent W. J. Ballard, and a reply from Mr. Lewis, there were songs from Mr. James Jones - "Mor o Gan yw Cymry," and Mr. J. Morgan - "Britons, raise your Banners High," before the meeting closed with the usual votes of thanks.

Nazareth Anniversary Services The annual meetings in connection with Nazareth Calvinistic Methodist Church were held on Sunday and Monday. The preachers were the Rev. John Evans, Llanfaircaereinion, and the Rev. Dr. H. D. Jones, Dowlais. The meetings were largely attended, and the impressive sermons were much appreciated. The singing, which was of a very high standard, was conducted by Mr. William Morris, and Mrs. Captain Jones presided at the organ.

Eisteddfod At a meeting held at Noddfa Baptist vestry on Friday night, it was decided that the proceeds (if any) of the next annual eisteddfod should be divided between the three places of worship - St Mary's Church, Carmel Congregational Church, Nazareth Calvinistic Methodist Church. The following officers were appointed: chairman - Rev. Isaac Roderick; vice chairman - Mr. Charles Payne; secretary - Mr. T. H. Llewellyn; treasurer - Mr. Thomas Roberts, junior, Aelybryn. There was a large attendance, and the meeting was presided over by Mr. John Williams.

Ambulance The annual Church Parade of the St. John Ambulance Brigade took place on Sunday morning, when they marched in full dress order to Carmel Congregational Church, under the command of Supt. W. J. Ballard. The men were accompanied by Dr. Eleazer Davies, honorary surgeon, and they presented a very smart appearance. The pulpit was occupied by Mr. Mathias, student of Carmarthen College, who preached an appropriate sermon from St John, xi. 50.

Harvest Festival Harvest thanksgiving services were held at St. Mary's Church on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, the preachers being the Rev. T. Rees, vicar of Pontlottyn, and the Rev. T. Hughes Roberts, curate, on Sunday; the Rev. Frederick Rowlands, curate of Tredegar, on Monday; and the Rev. Evan Davies, Vicar of Llanover, on Tuesday. The services were well attended, and the sermons much appreciated. Mr. B. Angell and Mr. John Wood conducted the singing, and Miss E. C. Morgan and Master Octavius Richards presided at the organ. The Church was beautifully decorated.

“Merthyr Express” 7 November 1908

PRELIMINARY NOTICE: FOCHRIW CHAIR EISTEDDFOD will be held on Easter Tuesday, April 13th, 1909. Programmes ready shortly. 1d each from The Secretary, Mr. T. H. Llewellyn 10, Martin-street, Fochriw

Collier Boy Killed A lad of 13 named Harry Kington was struck on the head by a stone at the Fochriw No. 2 Pit on Wednesday afternoon and died in the course of a few minutes. A sad feature of the case is the fact that the family had only recently moved to the district from Ynishir, and the deceased, with two elder brothers, commenced work just three weeks ago.

Fire Brigade The Bargoed Fire Brigade, under Captain Tom Jones, visited Fochriw on Wednesday night, when they were joined by the Fochriw Brigade. The men presented a very smart appearance and performed their drills very creditably.

Church of England Temperance Society At the Cory Hall, Cardiff, on Monday last, the Lord Bishop of Llandaff presented the diocesan banner to Miss M. F. Morgan, School House, Fochriw, who represented the St. Mary's Branch of the Society. Miss Morgan and the Rev. J. A. Rees were the teachers of the children who scored so highly in the examinations.

Sale of Property: No. 2 & 3, Station-terrace At the Rising Sun Inn on Wednesday evening, Mr. J. Lloyd Atkins, F.A.I., Dowlais, disposed of the leasehold dwelling house and shop, known as No. 2 & 3, Station Terrace, now in the occupation of Mr. Edward Worman, as a yearly tenant, at the annual rental of £18, the owner paying rates and taxes. The property, which is held for a term of 99 years, from 1st November, 1865, at an annual ground rent and £1.18s, was secured for £255 after spirited bidding by Mr. Sibley, Fochriw. Messrs. F. James and Sons, solicitors, Merthyr, acted for the vendor.

Independent Order of Good Templars The weekly meeting of the Star of Fochriw Lodge was held on Thursday evening at the Baptist Vestry. There were a good number present. The following officers were elected for the coming quarter: Chief Templar - Bro. T. Lewis; vice Templar - Sis. M. Griffiths; financial secretary - Sis. E. Evans; treasurer - Bro. T. Thomas; chaplain - Sis. C. Jones; marshal - Sis. C. Lewis; deputy marshal - Sis. M. A. Lewis; assistant secretary - Sis. M. McArthur; guard - Bro. Bert Taylor; sentinel - Bro. J. Davies; past chief Templar - Bro. Wm Griffiths; secretary - Sis. M. A. Lewis; choirmaster - Brother David John Thomas. The following hold annual offices: lodge deputy - Bro. Charles Payne; electoral superintendent - Bro. T. Thomas; superintendent juvenile work - Bro. Thomas Lewis. Addresses were afterwards delivered by Brothers Charles Payne, W. Jones and Thomas Lewis. A solo was given by Bro. William Griffiths. Brother Thomas Lewis presided.

Dance A Cinderella Dance took place at the Church Institute on Tuesday, under the auspices of the St. Mary's Guild. There was a large attendance, and there was dancing up to a late hour. Mr. Ted Maskill carried out the duties of M. C., whilst Mr. J. W. Hinton, Penydarren, presided at the piano. The secretarial duties were carried out by Mr. Samuel Thomas, Aelybryn.

“Merthyr Express” 14 November 1908

Harvest Festival Harvest Thanksgiving services were held at the Carmel Congregational Chapel last week and were largely attended.

“Merthyr Express” 28 November 1908

Fire Brigade Captain Tom Jones and Bugler Jones of the Bargoed Fire Brigade, visited Fochriw on Friday night last, and sounded the fire alarm. The firemen were quickly out, the last man arriving within five minutes of the sounding of the bugle. The alarm was given solely to test the alertness of the men. The Captain spoke very highly of the Brigade.

Independent Order of Good Templars The weekly meeting of the Star of Fochriw Lodge was held on Thursday evening at the Baptist Vestry. A paper was read by Sister Bronwen Ballard entitled "The Art of Noble Living." Brother Thomas Lewis presided.

St. Mary's Hall The first of a series of popular entertainments was held on Monday night, and there were a large number present. The chair was taken by Mr. Charles Payne, who gave an interesting address. The programme was contributed to by the following: recitations - Miss Nellie Angell, Masters John Thomas, Willie Way, J. R. Walters; songs - Mr. C. Payne, Miss Mary Tyler, Miss Lucy Rowlands, Miss James, Master Jim Sheady, Mr. Albert Prosser, Mrs. E. J. Williams, Miss Nellie Maud Angell; violin solo - Master Jenkins; comic song - Master A. Pritchard; dialogue - Misses V. Curtis and M. H. Evans. A laughable speech - "John, Betty and the Bear" - was given by the Chairman. Then followed impromptu speeches on "A Clock." The prize was divided between Masters Willie Barker and A. Jones. The accompanists were Mr. B. Angell and Miss E. C. Morgan.

“Merthyr Express” 12 December 1908

Fire Brigade The Fire Brigade turned out for drill on Thursday night week.

Independent Order of Good Templars The weekly meeting of the Star of Fochriw Lodge was held on Thursday evening at the Baptist Vestry. The programme for the evening was "Ode Singing," in which a good number took part. It was full of good advice. Brother Thomas Lewis presided.

Carmel Chapel The half-yearly meetings in connection with the chapel were held on Sunday and Monday last, when the following ministers officiated: Rev. Gwilym Rees, Llandysul, and the Rev. D. Silyn Evans, Aberdare. The church was crowded, and the sermons, which were of a very high

standard, were much appreciated. The singing was conducted by Mr. David Davies, whilst Mr. David John Thomas presided at the organ.

St. Mary's Guild A soiree and dance was held at the Church Institute of Thursday night week. A large number of invitations had been sent out. The room was beautifully decorated, and presented an inviting appearance. The tables, which were beautifully laid out, were presided over and assistance rendered by the following: Mrs. T. Llewellyn (grocer), Mrs. J. Richards, Mrs. A. Evans, Mrs. S. Thomas, Mrs. Price Jones, Mrs. Seaborne, Mrs. Atwell, Mrs. E. Griffiths, Mrs. F. Everett, Miss Gwen Wright, Miss Lucy Jenkins, and Miss Maud Llewellyn. Messrs. Joseph Richards and Alfred Evans also assisted. After the tables were cleared away, there was dancing until midnight. Mr. Ted Miskell was M.C. and Mrs. L. Herbert was at the piano. Mr. Bert Hill was at the violin. The catering was in the capable hands of Messrs. T. Llewellyn and Sons, Fochriw, (who were successful in securing a prize for Hovis bread at the London Exhibition, 1908). Praise is due to the committee and to Mr. Samuel Thomas secretary.

Entertainment Another in the series of entertainments took place at the Church Institute on Monday night last, and there was a large number present. The chair was taken by Mr. Charles Payne. The following contributed to the programme: solo – Mrs. M. Lewis, Pentwyn; recitation “Curfew must not ring tonight,” Miss May James, Pontlottyn; comic song “The galloping major,” Mr. A. Prichard, which delighted the audience; recitation, Miss Irene Davies, Pontlottyn; recitation, Miss Maggie Morgan, Pentwyn; solo. Miss Mary Watkins, Pentwyn; solo “The beautiful land,” Miss Maggie James, Pontlottyn; recitation, Mr. W. S. Williams, Pentwyb; recitation, Miss Mary Morgan; solo, Miss Blodwen Watkins; solo, Miss Lizzie Rowlands; recitation, Master Tom Edwards; comic song “The hob-nailed boots his father wore,” Mr. A. Prichard. There was an impromptu speech competition, the subject being “The Donkey.” The following took the prizes: Masters Arthur Way, A. Pritchard, Albert Prosser and Willie Barker. The prize for the open singing competition, “The Lifeboat,” was secured by Miss M. Lewis, Pentwyn. The duett, “A light in the valley,” was sung by the Sisters Kendrick, Pontlottyn. Mrs. Everett, Pentwyn, presided at the organ, whilst Mr. John Williams (Llew Brycheiniog) adjudicated the singing. A vote of thanks to the chairman was proposed by Mr. Wm. Lewis, Pontlottyn, seconded by Mr. John Mantle, Pentwyn, and unanimously carried, bringing an interesting evening to a close.

“Merthyr Express” 19 December 1908

Colliers Idle Both pits were idle on Saturday last, owing to the shortage of waggons.

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.

Independent Order of Good Templars The weekly meeting of the Star of Fochriw Lodge was held on Thursday evening at the Baptist Vestry. A very interesting programme was contributed to by the following: recitation - Miss Gwennie Gough; duet - Sisters M. A. Powell and G. Gough. The remainder of the evening was spent discussing the Licensing Bill, Bro. Charles Payne being the main speaker. Bro. Thomas Lewis presided.

Entertainment An entertainment took place at the Church Institute on Monday night. The chair was occupied by Rev. T. Hughes Roberts, and the following contributed to the programme: recitations - Miss N. Maud Angell, Miss Bessie Gough; songs – Mr. Arthur Pritchard, Miss Maggie James, Master Ed. James, Miss Mary Taylor, Miss Nan Prosser; duet – Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Morgan, Pentwyn. Mr. Watkin Williams delighted the audience with a few conjuring feats, and the duet “Through the Valley of the Shadow,” was sung by Misses Nan Prosser and Mary Tyler. The prize for the best verbal account of John the Baptist was divided between Masters Willie White and Arthur Pritchard. There was an impromptu speech competition on “Snow.” Six competed and the prize was awarded to Master Albert Prosser. A keen competition took place in the open solo, “Only the Armour-bearer,” and the prize was divided between Miss Nan Prosser and Miss May James. Mrs. E. Everett, Pentwyn, was at the organ, and Mr. Berkley Angell adjudicated the singing.

“Merthyr Express” 26 December 1908

Independent Order of Good Templars The weekly meeting of the Star of Fochriw Lodge was held on Thursday evening at the Baptist Vestry. The meeting was opened in due form by the Chief Templar Bro. Thomas Lewis, and after the business of the Lodge had been transacted, two excellent papers were given by Brothers Wm. Griffiths and Wm. Jones, the former on “Obedience,” and the latter (in Welsh) on “Faithfulness and Punctuality.” Both papers were well read, and much appreciated.

Rehearsal A singing rehearsal by the choir of the three chapels took place at Noddfa on Saturday night. The singing was of a very high standard, and was conducted by Mr. Thomas Evans, junior. The organists were Mr. Roderick Jones, Mr. David John Thomas and Miss Lilian Williams.

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.

Entertainment Another in the series of popular entertainments was given at the Church Institute on Monday night. A good number were present, and Mr. Charles Payne took the chair. The programme was of a high standard, the following contributing: recitations - Masters J. Thomas, Robert White, Tom Williams, Misses S. G. Williams, and Sarah J. Williams; songs - Masters Jim Sheady, Arthur Pritchard (comic), Misses May Angell, Mary Angell (in Welsh), Emma Davies, Mrs. M. Lewis, & Mrs. M. Williams. There was an impromptu speech competition on "Love," in which eight competed, the prize being won by Miss S. J. Williams, Pentwyn. Mr. Austin Price gave a violin solo, and Miss E. C. Morgan was at the organ.

Brass Band The Brass Band, under their conductor Mr. Wm. Powell, paraded the streets of Fochriw, Pentwyn and Penybank on Thursday and Friday nights last, playing appropriate Christmas music, which was much appreciated by the inhabitants.