

“Merthyr Express” 14 January 1888

Entertainment On Tuesday, an entertainment was held at the Mission Room, Pentwyn, being the first held this year. It was well attended. After a speech by the Rev. D. Lloyd Rees (curate), the following programme was gone through: recitations, A. Radley; song, Mr F. Hier; recitation, Tommy Greening; dialogue, Mr. Roberts and party; recitation, Lizzie Wood; song, Mr Harris (station-master); recitation, M. Gwynne; recitation, Ada Young; song, Mr. F. Hier; recitation, Miss Castle; song, Flory Mantle; recitation, H. Jones; song, M. Harris. The National Anthem led by Mr. Harris, closed a very good entertainment.

“Merthyr Express” 28 January 1888

Entertainment A popular entertainment was held at the Church Schoolroom on Tuesday evening, the 24th. when the Rev. D. Rees, Pontlottyn, occupied the chair. The following programme was gone through: Song, Miss M. M. Gwynne; recitation, Mr. Fred Radley; song, Mr. T. F. Jones; recitation, Master George Radley; song, Mr. Hier; recitation, Miss E. C. Wood; song, Mr. T. Howell (encore); dialogue, Master T. and Miss A. Greening; recitation, Miss M. M Jones; song, Mr. Ryder (encore); duet, Mr. & Miss Harris; song, Mrs. Powell; recitation, Miss M. Lewis; violin solo, Rev. D. Lloyd Rees; recitation, Mr. D. Phillips; song, Mr. J. Wood; reading, Miss Castle; song, Mr. Ryder. After a short speech by the Chairman, the National Anthem brought one of the most successful entertainments ever held in the parish to a close. These entertainments will be held every alternate Tuesday throughout the season.

Presentation On Wednesday evening the 18th, the teachers and scholars of Vochriw Church Sunday School met to present Miss Ann Mantle with a slight token of their appreciation of her services to the church in the form of a lady's tourist companion. Miss Mantle who has been most energetic in the Sunday School, and will be greatly missed, has also received numerous other tokens of kindly feeling and regard from friends in the neighbourhood. She has during her short scholastic career won several scholarships, and lately took one first-class at Swansea College, which she has now entered for a further course of training.

“Merthyr Express” 28 January 1888

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

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

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

“Merthyr Express” 4 February 1888

Temperance The usual weekly Band of Hope meeting was held at Nazareth C.M. Chapel when the following officers were elected:- Chairman, Mr. Griffith Pugh; Secretary, Mr. John Adams; Treasurer, Mr. William Adams; Conductor, Mr. Evan

Jones. We are very pleased to state that the society is in a very flourishing condition, members being 90 in number.

“Merthyr Express” 11 February 1888

Band of Hope The usual weekly meeting was held on Thursday se’nnight when suitable addresses, recitations and songs were delivered.

Concert On Monday evening the 6th, a grand concert was given at the Vochriw Board Schools for the benefit of Mr. Samuel Davies, a very deserving young man, who has also been an assistant master under the Gelligaer Board School, and recently gained a scholarship at Bangor University College. The schoolroom was completely filled with an interested and appreciative audience. We would congratulate the committee on the excellent choice of artistes. The chair was ably filled by Dr. Davies, and after a few opening remarks by the chairman, the following programme was ably gone through:- duet (violin and piano), “I’l Travatore,” Miss Kent-Jones and Mr. E. H. Duck; song, “I’m a merry Singara,” Mrs. C. M. Jones, whose excellent voice delighted the audience. “The village blacksmith” was next given in good style by Mr. James Powell (Ap Dewi), and encored; song, “Y teithiwr a’i gu,” Mr. A. M. Williams, who has a good baritone voice; Eos Wenallt then favoured the audience with “I seek thee in every flower,” encored and responded to. It is only necessary to say that “yr eos” sang in his usual captivating style; he needs no further praise. Song, “Bwthyn yr amddifad,” Bronwen Morlais (encored); glee, “Nyni yw’r meibion cerddgar,” Vochriw Glee Party, conductor Mr. Evan Evans; the party was loudly applauded. Part II – Song, “The Lost Chord,” Miss J. Angell; duet for violin and piano, “The Bohemian girl,” Miss Kent Jones and Mr. Duck; song, “Can y Tywysog,” Eos Wenallt; song, “Powder monkey Joe,” Mr. James Powell (encored); song, “Never again,” Bronwen Morlais, vociferously encored, and Bronwen responded by singing “Hiraeth” in splendid style; trio, Miss M. Morgans, Mrs. C. M. Jones, and Mr. James Powell; song, “When the stormy winds do blow,” Mr. E. Evans; song, “The maid of the mill,” Eos Wenallt, encored and responded to with “Nid dyna’r ferch I fi,” glee, “Awn I ben yr Wyddfa fawr,” glee party, conductor Mr. B. Angell. After the usual votes of thanks, the singing of the National Anthem brought the evening to a close. We are glad to say that the concert was a success, and we hope that a large sum will be raised for this worthy object.

“Merthyr Express” 11 February, 1888

Entertainment A popular entertainment was held at the Schoolroom on the 7th, when the Rev. T. J. Jones occupied the chair. The following programme was gone through: recitation, Miss M. Gwynne; song, Mr. John Davies; recitation and song, Master B. Newman; song, Mr. Ryder (encore); recitation, Miss Greening; song, Mr. P. Hennesey (encore); dialogue, Master Willie Gwynne and party; song, Miss Humphreys; reading, Miss S. Davies; song, Mr. T. Howells; recitation, Master W. Newman; song, Mrs. Powell; dramatic sketch, Messrs. Boucher and Wood, and Misses Castle, Wray, Lewis and Roberts; song, Mr. Hennesey (encore); recitation, Miss M. Lewis; song, Mr. Ryder (encore); recitation, Master T. Greening; song, Rev. T. J. Jones. After the usual votes of thanks and the singing of the National Anthem, a very successful entertainment closed.

“Merthyr Express” 25 February 1888

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

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

“Merthyr Express” 3 March 1888

Welsh Deputation to Ireland On Tuesday evening the 21st, Rev. Aaron Davies (one of the Welsh deputation to Ireland) addressed a meeting at Nazareth C.M. Chapel. The meeting was well attended and there was an enthusiastic audience. The subject was, “A visit to Ireland.” Rev. Davies gave a vivid description of how the Coercion Act is administered in the country, and the great suffering of the people under the tyrannical rule of the chief secretary Balfour and his uncle. The chair was occupied by Dr. Davies, and an enthusiastic vote of thanks was given to the lecturer by Rev. J. Jones, and seconded by Mr. W. Mathias.

“Merthyr Express” 17 March 1888

Merthyr Board of Guardians: Rural Sanitary Authority: Smallpox It is reported that there have been two fresh cases of smallpox at Penybank, one doubtful case, and one death. An agreement between the owners of three cottages proposed to be converted by the authority into a smallpox hospital was signed and arrangements were ordered to be made as soon as possible for the reception of the patients. Dr. Eleazar Davies was prepared to take charge of the temporary institution.

“Merthyr Express” 24 March 1888

Death of Mr. William Mathews of Vochriw We regret to announce the death of the noted and respected old character, Mr. William Mathews, who died on Sunday, the 11th, at his residence in Guest-street, Vochriw, from bronchitis, at the age of 68 years. He was a man who will be very much missed. He was a specimen of the intelligent working man, who had arrived at advanced manhood before the days of the Board School. He was well known to the parishioners of Gelligaer for the past 45 years. He was the son of the late John Mathews, Tyrlan Farm, Llanon, Carmarthenshire, and came to Dowlais in 1840. The last 34 years of his life he spent at Vochriw. He was fortunate in having a noble, erect form, and a crown carrying an abundance of curly silvery hair, which gave him a fine appearance. From boyhood until his twenty first year, he worked as a farm servant in the parishes of Llanon, Pontardawe, and Mynyddislwyn. At Dowlais he became a collier, in which capacity he worked under the Dowlais Iron Company for many years. Afterwards, he became a butcher, and he transferred the business to his son a few years ago. Finally, he became a contractor. He was a man of good discernment, and a shrewd man of business. He was a manager of the Fochriw Board Schools, and had served as treasurer to the managers since the opening of the schools with considerable benefit to the ratepayers, by exercising judicious economy in the management. The government auditor invariably complimented him on the accuracy and neatness of his accounts. He was also a member of the Rural Sanitary Authority for Gelligaer, whose meetings he attended regularly at whatever point in the parish held; and was always found traveling to and fro mounted on his horse “Jack.” It was customary to call him the Mayor of Vochriw (and he was never known to be displeased with the title) on account of the intense interest he took in the welfare of the village. It is to his exertions mainly that the inhabitants of Vochriw are indebted for the good system of sanitation and water supply which they now possess, and to the lighting of the streets by lamps. He had many excellent traits which we should like to dwell upon, but space forbids. He was a deacon of the Welsh Calvinistic Methodists, and a more zealous “corph” never breathed.

On Thursday last, he was buried at Pant Cemetery, the Rev. Aaron Davies, Pontlottyn, officiating at the house, and the Rev. Thomas Davies, Hermon, Dowlais, at the grave. Mr. Matthews was a deacon at Nazareth C.M. Chapel; indeed he was one of the founders of the church. He was also a staunch Liberal, and always took a great interest in the Liberal movement. His death will be felt as a great loss. Great sympathy is felt for the sorrowing family.

“Merthyr Express” 31 March 1888

The Outbreak of Smallpox at Gelligaer At the ordinary weekly meeting of the Merthyr Board of Guardians on Saturday, the vaccination officer for the parish of Gelligaer reported four fresh cases of smallpox - three at Penybank and one at Pentwyn, Vochriw. He suggested that notices should be issued warning persons against visiting infected houses and advising re-vaccination. The Board adopted the suggestion. The Rural Sanitary Authority met later on under the presidency of Mr. Jenkin Matthews, when the surveyor notified that during the past fortnight, eight cases had occurred at Penybank, Tymawr and Deri, making in all, nineteen cases since the commencement of the malady. One patient had died, seven had recovered, and eleven still remained under treatment. Great credit is due to the Authority for the prompt and energetic measures which they have taken to arrest the spread of the disease and to stamp it out. Three cottages in Stoney Houses, Brithdir, have been secured for use as a hospital, and a matron and nurse are in constant attendance. Dr. Eleazer Davies has been appointed medical officer, and an ambulance has been obtained from the Merthyr Board of Health for the conveyance of patients to the institution. The hospital has been visited by Dr. Dyke, who has expressed himself highly pleased with the arrangements made by Mr. James Jones, the Authority's surveyor, and Dr. Davies.

“Merthyr Express” 7 April 1888

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

remain on condition of her complying with the regulations of the Board.” It was seconded by Rev. Ll. M. Williams and accepted by Mrs. Rees.

“Merthyr Express” 14 April 1888

Rural Sanitary Authority: Monthly Meeting: Smallpox at Penybank It was reported that since last week, 3 new cases have been reported making a total number of 23. Ten patients were received into the temporary hospital and four discharged. The Local Government Board pointed out that the expenses of the hospital must be charged to the general fund of the Authority.

“Merthyr Express” 21 April 1888

Eisteddfod An eisteddfod was held on the 14th, at Noddfa Baptist Chapel. Mr. Thomas Bevan presided. Vochriw winners included: Tenor solo – Mr. Burkley Angel; Quartet singing at first sight – Mr. Daniel Jenkins and party; Map of New Zealand – 1st W. J. Angel, 2nd J. Moore; Poetical composition for recitation – Mr. John Adams.

“Merthyr Express” 5 May 1888

Smallpox and Typhoid Fever at Gelligaer At the weekly meeting of the Merthyr Board of Guardians on Saturday, the vaccination officer for the parish of Gelligaer reported six fresh cases of small-pox - one at Pentwyn, two at Deri, one at Mount Pleasant, and two at Penybank. A young man of 27, George Phillimore, died at the Penybank hospital on the 24th. At a meeting of the Rural Sanitary Authority held subsequently, the surveyor also reported on these cases, saying that 33 persons had now contracted the disease since its outbreak. Seven patients were now in the hospital. Typhoid fever had made its appearance at Bargoed, and there had been seven cases during the last month, one of which proved fatal. Mr. Jenkin Matthews, chairman of the Authority, said that it had been reported that the nurses at the hospital were in the habit of going into the village of Vochriw to the displeasure of the inhabitants. The Surveyor said the nurses had assured him that they did not leave the institution at all.

“Merthyr Express” 12 May 1888

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority: Monthly Meeting: Smallpox at Gelligaer The Surveyor reported that there had been 35 cases altogether and no fresh cases since April 20th. All the patients in the temporary hospital were well and would leave within a week. The expenses incurred by the hospital were: fitting up - £75-13-2½; maintenance - £35-12-7. The Report concluded with a recommendation that a permanent institution be established. This would be considered.

“Merthyr Express” 12 May 1888

Caerphilly Eisteddfod Two choirs have been recently formed at Vochriw to compete at the above eisteddfod on “Through the Valley” (Sankey), the conductors being: Carmel, Mr. Burkley Angel; Noddfa, Mr. Henry Jones. We wish them success on Whit Monday. Entertainments are held weekly at the above chapels in aid of a fund for the support of the children at Caerphilly.

Eisteddfod On Saturday evening the 5th, an eisteddfod was held at Carmel Independent Chapel, which was well attended. Rev. James Jones, pastor, very ably presided, and Mr. William Beddoe, Pontlottyn, who is always very ready to render help when needed, very ably played the accompaniment. The respective adjudicators were: music – Mr. J. Jones; poetry, essays, recitations – Mr. Jn. Adams. The following were the competitions, with number of competitors in brackets: - alto solo. “Yr hogyn drwg,” (3), best, Miss Ann Jane Beddoe, Pontlottyn; recitation under 15, “Mam y morwr,” (2), prize divided between Master Samuel Evans and Miss Elizabeth Thomas; best composition of a hymn tune, (15), the prize was divided between Mr. Phillip Morgan and Mr. John Williams, both of Pontlottyn; soprano solo. “Y deryn

pur,” (5), best, Miss Mary Powell, Pontllytyn; best map of Ireland, prize to “Vonvoltia,” whose name did not transpire; bass solo, “Ellyll yr ystorm,” (4), divided between Mr. Daniel Jenkins, Vochriw, and Mr. James Powell (Ap Dewi) Pontllytyn; essay competition, “Cwypm Babilon,” the prize was withheld; song over 40’s, “Aberystwyth,” (4), Mr. Samuel Richards, Deri; baritone solo, “Boed yspryd ein cyndadau,” (8), joint winners Mr. Evan Evans, Vochriw, and Mr. James Powell, Pontllytyn; three verses in commemoration of the late Mrs. Ruth Davies, (6), joint winners, Mr. John Jenkins, Vochriw and Mr. J. C. Jones, Bargoed; best recitation, “Y bywydfad,” (3), best Mr. James Davies, Vochriw; tenor solo, “Wyt ti’n cofio’r lloer yn codi,” (4), best Mr. Burkley Angell, Vochriw; the best love letter, (8), Mr. J. Thomas, Deri; best trio, “Fair Flora decks,” (1), Daniel Jenkins, Burkley Angell and Jessie Angel, Vochriw, who were awarded the prize. Mr. James Cole proposed and Mr. Thomas Jenkins seconded, the usual votes of thanks, which brought a very enjoyable evening to a close.

“Merthyr Express” 19 May 1888

Entertainment On Monday evening last, an entertainment was held at Noddfa Welsh Baptist Chapel, which was very fairly attended. The following programme was gone through: song, “The missing boat,” Miss S. A. Davies; recitation, “Hen gadair wag tad,” Mr. John Davies; song, “Goleu ar y” Miss M. A. Jones; recitation, “Storom ..geu,” Mr. D. Daniel Jones; song, “Drummer boy,” Master George Jones; song, “Canig ychau,” Miss A. J. Beddoe; duet, “Angry words,” Misses Ada and Mary Jones; recitation, “The thatched cottage,” Miss A. S. Jones; song, “I’m Simon Jenkins, the miller’s boy,” Master Thomas Owen, Pontllytyn; reading, “Y ddau ddarlun,” Mr. John Jenkins; recitation, “The tempest,” Miss A. J. Beddoe; recitation, “The little boy,” Master David Evans; competition, reading music at first sight, adjudicator, Mr. Henry Jones, best, Mr. Thomas Evans; impromptu speech, adjudicator, Mr. John Jenkins, best, Mr. David Thomas; song, “The very worst girl in school,” Miss A. J. Beddoe; recitation, “Y goardotes fach,” Miss S. A. Davies; song, “See that my grave’s kept green,” Master Thomas Owens; recitation, Mr. Samuel Evans.

“Merthyr Express” 16 June 1888

Merthyr Board of Guardians: Weekly Meeting The vaccination officer for Gelligaer reported another case of smallpox that had appeared at Penybank. This made the thirty seventh case since the start of the epidemic.

“Merthyr Express” 23 June 1888

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority: The Small-Pox Outbreak An adjourned meeting took place on Saturday at the Merthyr Workhouse. It was reported that the Authority had received a letter from the cottage owners pointing out that the establishment of the hospital at Stoney Houses had affected the tenancy of the adjoining houses, and suggesting that the remaining seven should be purchased. The Authority admitted the reasonableness of the proposal and a committee was appointed to visit the place, inspect the cottages, and report to the Board. For the guidance of the committee, Mr. Jones, the surveyor, was directed to prepare a small plan of what was intended to be done to make the hospital a permanency. On the proposition of Mr. Jenkin Matthews, it was decided that the services of the nurse, and the man employed about the hospital (which the Authority had decided to dispense with) be retained for the present. The surveyor reported that three fresh cases of small-pox had occurred in Brithdir.

“Merthyr Express” 30 June 1888

Prize Day at Gelligaer Endowed School The annual distribution of prizes to the successful students of Lewis’ Endowed Schools, Pengam, took place on Friday last. G. M. Evans of Penybank was placed in the 3rd class for the Cambridge local

examination. He received second prize of £2 and a book in the Senior Class prize giving. In the female pupil teachers examination, those successful included:- 3rd year, second prize, Annie Morgan, Vochriw schools. Other prizes were given to Annie Wynne and Lydia Rees, Pantywaun Schools.

“Merthyr Express” 5 January 1889

Cantata On Monday last a most amusing cantata was performed in character at St. Tyfaelog’s Schoolroom entitled “A Childrens’s Holiday,” by a children’s choir from Vochriw, under the able leadership of Mr. John Harris, Stationmaster, Fochriw. It was very well received and greatly complimented. Miss Lilly Rutter, accompanied at the pianoforte. Reference was made to her dedication and faithfulness in view of the fact she had to walk over the mountain in all weathers for practices.

“Merthyr Express” 2 February 1889

Ten shillings reward, with reasonable expenses: lost, two pony mares, one elderly, black; the other red, rising 4 years, with black legs. Apply John Jones, 31 Guest-street, Fochriw.

“Merthyr Express” 23 February 1889

Eisteddfod An eisteddfod on a small scale was held at Nazareth Chapel under the presidency of Rev. D. Morgan. The adjudicators were: music, Mr. Thomas E. Jones, Rhymney; poetry and recitation, “Twynog,” Rhymney, who also conducted the meeting. The prizes were awarded as follows:- alto solo, “Pan ddel Efe,” Wyres Fach, Deri; reading music at first sight, W. J. Angel; recitation, M. A. Ballard, Vochriw; soprano solo, “The beggar girl,” E. Jenkins, Bedlinog; religious letter to a sick person, Edward Jones, Fochriw; tenor solo, “He stood and measured the earth,” Burkley Angel; poem, “The plains of Bethlehem,” Min y Mynydd; children’s choir, Carmel Choir, “I like to tell the story,” conductor, Mr. B. Angel; bass solo, “Hen wlad y cymanfaedd,” John Thomas, Bedlinog; quintet, “O that I had wings,” Dewi Buallt and party; recitation, “The last storm,” B. Summers, Pontlottyn, and J. David, Rhymney; choral competition, “Praise to God,” (prize £1 10s. and a chromatic pitch-pipe to the conductor). Two choirs competed, viz. Noddfa and Carmel Choirs, the former taking the prize with their conductor by Mr. Evan Jones, Fochriw.

“Merthyr Express” 23 March 1889

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

“Merthyr Express” 20 April 1889

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

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

Appointment to Vochriw School The chairman proposed, and Rev. T. J. Jones seconded, that an assistant mistress be appointed to the vacancy at Vochriw Board School caused by Miss Humphrey’s resignation, and that the one who obtained the

highest number of marks at the last examination by H.M. Inspectors be appointed. The Rev. R. O. Jones moved an amendment, which was seconded by Mr. W. C. Beddoe that a mistress be appointed to the vacancy. The motion was declared carried. Miss Jane Edwards, who lives at Vochriw, but is at Hengoed School, was appointed to the vacancy at Vochriw, and it was arranged that Miss Ann Edwards of Gelligaer, go to Hengoed School.

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

Advert: Go to GOLDSMITHS' PIANOFORTE AND MUSICAL WAREHOUSE 50, Portmorlais, Merthyr for Pianos, Harmoniums, American Organs and all kinds of Musical Instruments. Cheapest house in the district for English and Foreign Flutes, Violins and All Small Instruments. Superior Roman Violin Strings. All kinds of Musical Fittings. Bands supplied on advantageous terms. Write for designs and price lists. All the newest music kept in stock. Pianos tuned by yearly contracts.

The Vochriw Reading-Room Concert This came off at the Board School, when the following programme was gone through: Miss Kent-Jones (Plasycod, Deri) accompanist, commenced with a well-played selection on the piano. Then Miss Jones of Deri sang "Somebody," followed by "Ye breezes that blow," both with very much sweetness. Miss Phillpots of Deri sang two songs in very good style, and also joined in a duet with Mr. Thomas, Deri, "Howell and Blodwen." Mr. W. C. Williams of Merthyr, set the audience roaring with the "Lodging-house cat," and "My wife's relations." The Vochriw Glee Party under the leadership of Mr. Evan Evans, gave "Yr haf," which was well sung. Mrs. C. M. Jones sang "Yr eneth ddall" with a splendid, clear, soprano voice, and afterwards joined Mr. Samuel Richards of Deri in a duet, "I've wandered in dreams," which was well appreciated. Messrs. B. Angel, D. Jenkins and E. Evans sang two catches, creating much merriment. Mr. Samuel Richards's party from Deri gave "Angels ever bright and fair" in very good style. Mr. J. Richards, Merthyr, sang "Cymry fydd" and "Banner ein gwlad" excellently. At the close of the concert, Rev. James Jones, Congregational Minister, Vochriw, said a few well-chosen words on behalf of the Reading-room Committee, thanking the artists for their services, and also referring to gentlemen who had given assistance towards obtaining the much-required institution of a reading-room. Mr. Henry Martin, Dowlais, and Mr. Richard Cory, Cardiff, came in for special mention.

"Merthyr Express" 27 April 1889

Eisteddfod An eisteddfod was held at Noddfa Baptist Chapel on the 19th, Mr. J. Davies, Bedlinog, presiding. The adjudicators were: music, Mr. J. Evans, Dowlais; recitations (poetry and prose), Mr. J. Adams, Vochriw; the accompanist, Master D. Jones, Rhymney. There were keen competitions for the chief prizes. In the bass solo, "The noble boy" (Dr. Parry), five competed, and the prize was awarded to Mr. Wm. J. Williams, Dowlais. The other prizes were awarded as follows: recitation, "Ymson y llofrydd," Mr. B. Summers, Pontlottyn; quartet, "Ti wyddost beth ddywed fy nghalon," prize divided between a party from Vochriw, and a party from Dowlais; chief choral competition, "Blodeuyn bach wyf fi mewn gardd" (Gwilym Gwent), one Dowlais choir only appeared, and was deemed worthy of the prize. Their leader was Mr. Henry Smith. The meeting terminated with the usual votes of thanks.

"Merthyr Express" 11 May 1889

Er Cof Am Mr. John Thomas, Martin-street, Fochriw

1. B'le mae'r cyfaill difyr, diwyd,
Fu'n cyd-ddringo gyda mi,
Dros lechweddau heirdd ieu'nctyd
I wastwadedd oedran bri;
Collais ef! yn ngorsf eglur,
Canol oes; tra'n cydfwynhau,,
Melus ffrwythau addfed natur,
Diliau mel y bywyd drau.

2. Collais ef, mal colli bbreuddwyd,
Neu fel tARTH ar ael y bryn,
Neu fel bwrlwm disglauer siglwyd
I ddiddymdra ar y llyn;
Ow! Lle'r aeth fy nghyfaill tyner,
Yn ei harddwch uchel fri,
Cyn llwchwyno'r wedd gan amser,
Nodydd ein myndau ni.

3. Ateb ddaw dwy'r du gymylau
Sydd yn wylo uwch ei fedd, -
Ateb ddaw dros for a ddaagrau -
"Marw wneuth, mmae yn ei fedd."
Beth! Ai breuddwyd neu ddychymyg
Sydd yn dallu'm llygaid i;
'Nawr 'rwy'n cofio'r nef-anedig,
Fynydd hono, ger y lli.'

4. Pan oedd John yn mreichiau Angeu
Yn gweddio ar ei Dduw,
Gan ddywedyd - "maddeu'm beiau,
Dyma'r noson ola'i fyw;
Gorchwyl caled ydyw marw.
Ond mae'r adeg wedi d'od, -
Rhaid yw myned, y mae'r galw -
Derbyn f'ysbryd uwch y rhod."

5. Cyn cyfarchiad gwawr y borau,
Enaid John a ffodd drwy ffydd
Fry at wrthrych ei weddiau,
Megys saeth i wlad y dydd;
Ond siomedig ydyw'r teimlad
Ar ol colli cyfaill mad,
Un a;n casglai at ein gilydd
Drwy ei gariad megys Tad.

6. Mor ddymunol as mor siriol
A'r goleuni yn y nos,
Sangai'n ddistaw ac yn ddenol,
Fel y gwllith ar rudd y rhos;
Llaw a chalon gyda'u gilydd,
Yn cyd-redeg megys un, -
Anhawdd cwrdd a dyn mor ddedwydd,
Hyd yn riniog nef ei hun.

7. Dyn yn llawn o ddefnyddioldeb
Gyda phobpeth, bach a mawr, -
Dyn na fedrai ffugio gwyneb,
Gydag amgylchiadau'r llawr;
Priod tyner, tad gofalus,
A chymydog di-led ryw, -
Anhawdd canfod gwrid cynhyrfus
Ar ei wyneb tra fu byw.

8. Peidiwch wylo ac och'neidio,
Ni ddaw ddoe'n ol fyth mwy, -
Ni ddaw John yn ol byth eto
Atto'm ni i ddyffryn clwy';
Ond nyni sy'n teithio'n eglur
Ar ei ol I'r byd a ddaw,
Drwy sigledig gorsydd natur,
Rhwnng gelynnion ar bob llaw.

9. Tua'r bydrhyfeddol hwnw,
Er mor belled, sy' gerbron, -
'R awr ni thybiwn y daw galw
Arno'm ninau'i groesi'r don;
Arglwydd ar arglwyddi, tywys
Ei berth'nasau sydd ar ol
Drwy yr anial garw, dyrus,
Megys engyl I dy gol.

Ifor Morlais. Dowlais.

"Merthyr Express" 15 June 1889

The Bible-Reading-Question at Gelligaer A public meeting took place at the Assembly-rooms, Bargoed, on Wednesday evening, 5th, to consider the above matter. There were present: Revs. Aaron Davies; T. J. Jones, vicar of Pontlottyn; B. Davies, Tirphil; W. T. Williams, Gelligaer village; R. Evans, Hengoed; Jones, curate Bargoed; Lloyd, curate Cwmfelin; Morgan, Vochriw; and D. W. Hopkins, Deri; Messrs E.

Lewis, Moses Davies, Deri; Jonathan Williams, William Jones and Makepeace, Bargoed; Williams and Davies, Pontlottyn. Mr. Jonathan Williams was voted to the chair. It was agreed that every effort should be made, consistent with the voluntary principle, to get the Bible taught in the schools of the Board. A general committee is to be formed of two representatives from all the Sunday Schools throughout the parish, and all the head teachers of the Board are invited to join the committee. A sub-committee was appointed to formulate a scheme for consideration composed of the following persons:- A. Davies, T. J. Jones, J. P. Williams, R. Evans, J. L. Meredith, Jonathan Williams, D. W. Hopkins. The best feeling prevailed throughout the meeting.

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

“Merthyr Express” 29 June 1889

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

Opening of a Reading Room and Library at Vochriw Wednesday se’nnight was a red letter day in the history of Vochriw, the occasion being the opening of a reading room and library by the popular colliery manager, Mr. H. W. Martin. The building is an exceedingly commodious and appropriate one. It was originally built at a cost of some £300 and owned by the Primitive Methodists, who sold it to Mr. Richard Cory. Mr. Cory, in his turn, made a present of it to General Booth. The Salvationists, however, did not prosper long, and the building was going into disrepair when Dr. Davies took the matter up and obtained the generous aid of Mr. Cory in prevailing on General Booth to sell it at a nominal figure. Through the interest of Mr. Martin, the Dowlais Iron Company supplied the funds for the purchase of the building. This is briefly the history of the movement.

The band met Mr. and Mrs. Martin some distance from the village, and they were conducted by a procession to the reading room and library. The building having been declared open, a large meeting took place at the Board Schoolroom, Dr. Davies in the chair. Dr. Davies thanked Mr. Martin for his active interest in the movement; he had negotiated the purchase of the building by the Dowlais Company; he had set the workmen to put the building in thorough going order and now he had come himself to open the institution.

Mr. Martin was then called upon and said: My wife and I are extremely pleased with the reception you have accorded us. The little services that I have rendered have been over-rated. It is the Dowlais Iron Company who are deserving of thanks. We are glad to assist you in that you have assisted yourselves, and it is highly creditable to you that you have organised the matter in the way you have. I believe you are much indebted to my friend, Dr. Davies, and the committee. I have certainly taken great interest in the movement, and as far as my official capacity has allowed have aided your efforts. When in Cardiff some time ago, I brought the matter before Messrs. Cory Bros.; and Mr. Richard Cory promised to send some books, and gave besides, a cheque for £5, which I now have pleasure in handing to your worthy chairman (loud cheers). Your number, and your enthusiasm tonight, proves that a reading room and library in Fochriw was just what was wanted. I hope that God will bless us in this

undertaking, and that you will make good use of the reading room. Not only come yourselves, but send your children. You may be sure if you so I shall always be on your side. Mr. Martin closed amidst loud applause, stating that he, and the Dowlais Iron Company would watch with interest the development of the institution, and still further assist them. This is only a beginning.

Rev. T. J. Jones, vicar of Pontlottyn, spoke next, and enrolled himself as a member amid cheers. Rev. D. Morgan, Calvinistic Methodist minister, Mr. Joshua Williams, Mr. Richard Jones, Mr. James Cole, Mr. John Morgan and Mr. David Phillips of Pentwyn, expressed hearty sympathy with the movement. Then followed Mr. John Adams, who read some excellent verses composed for the occasion. Mr. Evan Evans followed, saying that several attempts had been made to get a reading room, but now it was an accomplished fact.

Rev. D. Lloyd Rees, curate of Fochriw, proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Martin, seconded by Rev. James Jones, Congregational minister, Vochriw.

Finally, Mr. Evan Evans sang "Hen wlad fy nhadau," and the successful function concluded.

HOLLOWAYS PILLS: Easy Digestion. These Pills cannot be too highly appreciated for the wholesome power they exert over all disorders of the stomach, liver, bowels and kidneys. They instantaneously relieve and steadily work out a thorough cure, and their course dispels headache, billiousness, flatulence, and depression of spirits. It is wonderful to watch the daily improvement of the complexion as Holloway's Pills purify the blood and restore plumpness to the face which had lost both flesh and colour. These pills combine every excellence desirable in a domestic remedy. The most certain and beneficial results flow from the occasional use of this regulating medicine; even persons in health, or when following sedentary occupation, will find it an invaluable aperient.

"Merthyr Express" 3 August 1889

Reading Room The Secretary of the Fochriw Reading Room and Library wishes to acknowledge, with best thanks, the gift of books from the following ladies and gentlemen:- Mrs. John Matthews, Railway-terrace, Fochriw; Messrs. C. H. James, Brynteg, Merthyr; Richard Cory, Cardiff; George Houlson, Dowlais; Rev. J. L. Meredith, Gelligaer; Rev. T. J. Jones, Pontlottyn; Charles Wilkins, Merthyr; Jonathan Williams, Bargoed; Rev. Thomas Morgan, Dowlais; D. A. Thomas, M.P.; Alderman Thomas Williams, Merthy; Councillor J. P. Williams, Pontlottyn; Dr. Leigh, Llanfabon; Mr. Sandford Kent Jones, Deri; Mr. T. F. Harvey, Merthyr.

"Merthyr Express" 10 August 1889

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority Monthly Meeting Dr. Dyke, the medical officer, reported that the number of births registered in the district during the quarter was 162, and deaths 83. On an estimated population of 17,732, the annual rate of births would be 36.5 and of deaths 18.9 per thousand. Five fatal cases of enteric fever were recorded. In each locality where the sickness occurred, cesspit closets in a bad condition were found, but the authority's inspector had been careful to have the nuisances remedied. Measles was fatal to two children, which was prevalent at Pontlottyn, Deri and Trelewis. The infant schools were temporarily closed and the malady ceased to spread.

"Merthyr Express" 17 August 1889

Cricket: Dowlais Juniors v Vochriw The match between the above teams was played on the ground of the latter on July 20th., and resulted in an easy win for Dowlais by one run, with five wickets to fall. The scores were: Vochriw 20; Dowlais 21 for 5 wickets.

“Merthyr Express” 14 September 1889

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

“Merthyr Express” 14 September 1889

Mr. William Powell's tender for 3 street lamps at Fochriw for 14s. for one year was accepted.

“Merthyr Express” 7 December 1889

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

Presentation On Thursday se'nnight, an interesting presentation took place at the White Horse Inn, the recipient being Mr. Castle, late of the Glamorgan Constabulary, who was until recently stationed at Vochriw. P. C. Castle was lately superannuated. After a substantial supper, the cloth was removed, and Mr. Harris, stationmaster, was voted to the chair. Mr. Charles Payne made the presentation of a watch and chain, valued at ten guineas. P.C. Castle, who was visibly affected, responded in penitent terms, and Mr. R. Castle (jun.) also acknowledged the honour done to his father. Other speeches followed, interspersed with a good variety of songs given by the following gentlemen: Messrs. J. M. Howells, D. Prosser, Davies, Dr. Probert, C. Payne, E. Evans, W. Evans (pitman), and R. Castle, jun..

COLMAN'S SINAPISM The Improved Patent Mustard Plaster - wholly of pure flour of mustard. Cleanly in use; safe for young children and delicate women. Does not scorch or blister, and ready at a moments notice. Sold at all Chemists and Grocers or Post, seven penny stamps for a packet of three to Colman's, 108, Cannon Street, London.

To Overcome Weakness **PEPPER'S QUININE AND IRON TONIC** gives New Life, Appetite, Health, Strength, Energy. Cures Neuralgia, Indigestion, Nerve Debility. Bottles, 2s. 6d. Insist on having Pepper's Tonic.

“Merthyr Express” 25 January 1890

FOOT RACE at Penydarren Park, Merthyr on Monday, February 3rd between D. DAVIES, MERTHYR and D. JONES, VOCHRIW 120 yards level for £10 aside. To be on the mark at 3.00 p.m.

“Merthyr Express” 29 March 1890

Cattle Fair The March cattle fair was held on Tuesday when the weather proved very unfavourable being wet and cold. A great many head of cattle were sold at about average market rates. The pleasure fair was held in the afternoon and evening.

Advert AFTER THE INFLUENZA All patients who have suffered from the influenza agree in stating that the after effects are more disagreeable than the malady itself. The feelings of depression, low spirits, helplessness, and want of ‘go’ are almost unbearable. The best treatment for this is generous diets and pleasant tonics. The best tonic yet prepared, and one peculiarly suitable for this malady is

GWILYM EVANS’ QUININE BITTERS Each table spoonful contains a full-dose of Quinine as well as the following medical herbs:- sasparilla, gentian, burdock and saffron.

“Merthyr Express” 12 April 1890

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

6. Finally, the small village and country schools, so numerous in the Principality, may for the purposes of class teaching, re-arrange the standards in three groups: Group 1 - Standard 1 & II; Group 2 - Standard III; Group 3 - Standards IV, V, VI, VII. This will be a material relief to under-staffed schools.

ADVICE TO MOTHERS Are you broken in your rest by a sick child suffering with the pain of cutting teeth? Go at once to a chemist and get a bottle of MRS. WINSLOW’S SOOTHING SYRUP. It will relieve the poor sufferer immediately. It is perfectly harmless and pleasant to taste, it produces natural, quiet sleep by relieving the child from pain, and the little cherub awakes “as bright as a button.” It soothes the child, regulates the bowels, and is the best known remedy for dysentery and diarrhoea, whether arising from teething or other causes. Mrs. Wimslow’s Soothing Syrup is sold by Medicine dealers everywhere at 1s. 1½d. a bottle.

“Merthyr Express” 12 April 1890

VALUABLE DISCOVERY FOR THE HAIR If your hair is turning grey or white, or falling off, use "THE MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER," for it will positively restore in every case Grey or White hair to its original colour, without leaving the disagreeable smell of most "restorers." It makes the hair charmingly beautiful, as well as promoting the growth of hair on bald spots, where the glands are not decayed. Price 3s. 6d. For an oil to make the hair soft, glossy and luxuriant ask for "CARTER'S COLOGNE OIL." Price 1s. to all dealers at the wholesale depot, 33 Farringdon-road, London.

"Merthyr Express" 12 April 1890

Disestablishment On Tuesday 1st April, a disestablishment meeting was held at Fochriw, when a resolution was read to the effect - "That this meeting is in favour of the disestablishment and disendowment of the English Church in Wales, and that the endowments should be used for national purposes." The chair was taken by Dr. Davies, Fochriw, and the following gentlemen took part:- Rev. Alderman Davies, Rev. James Jones, Rev. D. Morgan and the well-known speaker, Mr. Matthews of Swansea, who supported the resolution with an abundance of strong arguments.

Go To GOLDSMITHS' Pianoforte and Music Warehouse, 50, Pontmorlais, Merthyr, for Pianos, Harmoniums, American Organs, and all kinds of Musical Instruments. Cheapest house in the district for English and Foreign Flutes, Violins and Small Instruments. Superior Roman Violin Strings! All kinds of Musical Fittings. Bands supplied at advantageous terms. Write for Designs and Price lists. All the Newest Music kept in stock. Pianos tuned by yearly contracts.

"Merthyr Express" 3 May 1890

Advertisement To the members of "BLODEUWYN Y MYNYDD LODGE" All members are requested to attend a general meeting to be held at the Mount Pleasant Inn, Vochriw on Saturday evening, May 10th when important business will be under consideration.

Operetta An interesting and well played children's operetta called "Golden Hair and the Three Bears," was performed by the Vochriw Church Choir and others, and was most ably conducted by Mr. John Harris, stationmaster, Vochriw, on Wednesday, 23rd April at Deri. Leading parts were taken by Mr. Burkley Angel, Miss Roberts, Miss M. M. Jones, Miss Florie Mantle, all of Fochriw. The proceeds went to the Vochriw Working-men's Reading-room. Due to its great success, the operetta was also performed at Fochriw and at St. Tyfaelog's School, Pontlottyn. The general opinion was that it was the best of its kind ever performed at Pontlottyn.

"Merthyr Express" 17 May 1890

Great Increase of Colliers' Wages: 13¾% Advance On Saturday, at the Angel Hotel, Cardiff, a series of meetings was held of the South Wales and Monmouthshire Sliding-Scale Committee, on which sit representatives of the owners and the workmen. The following report of the sliding-scale audit for the three months ending 31 March, 1890, was supplied for publication, and it resolved that the wages paid to the workmen of the associated collieries shall be 46% above the standard of December 1879, being an advance of 13¾% on and from the 1st May 1890.

"Merthyr Express" 2 August 1890

The Rhymney Workmen's Doctor's Fund Once more, we have to record a most successful year for the Rhymney Workmen's Doctor's Fund, as shown by their annual balance sheet. Two years have now elapsed since the fund was carried on under the management of a committee representing all the different departments of the works, while the agents of the Rhymney Iron Company, and the employees of Messrs A. Buchan and Co. also, as contributors to the funds, have each a representative member.

All members of the committee, and the trustees, have carried out their duties excellently. Sir Henry Tyler, M.P., chairman of the Rhymney Iron Company, has given ready assistance to the committee since its formation, and takes a great deal of interest in its progress. In this, he is loyally seconded by Mr. Trump, the general manager, and the stopping of the workmen's contributions at the work's offices, with the consent of, and at the request of the workmen, is a service which tends materially to assist the committee in the successful management of the fund. The balance sheet just presented has been duly audited and shows the most encouraging results. It is as follows:-

Receipts – To balance in favour of fund in London and Provincial Bank Ltd., 31 March, 1889, £250 9s 8d; workmen's stoppages, £1,429 7s 11d; agents' contributions, £25; A. Buchan and Co. contributions, £49 16s.; sale of rules, £1 13s 2d; £1,756 6s 9d. Expenditure: by doctors, assistants and dispenser, £845 19s 6d; caretaker, £31 11s; committee and officers, £9 8s; medical and surgical appliances, £158 16s 4d; rent, fuel and light, £157 3s 5d; printing and stationery, £3 14s; repairs, surgery and surgery house, £19 5s; balance at 31 March, 1890, £530 9s 6d; total £1,756 6s 9d.

It should also be noted that £526 17s 2d due to the Rhymney Iron Company has also been repaid. We cannot close this notice without mentioning the most amicable relations which exist between not only the members of the committee and each other, but also between the committee and the head of the medical staff, Dr. T. Hall Redwood, M.A., M.D., and his assistants, Doctors Evans and Jones, who, by the cheerful and efficient manner in which they discharge their onerous duties, give the utmost satisfaction to the whole community.

To Cure Skin Diseases **SULPHOLINE LOTION** Drive away all Eruptions, Pimples, Blotches, Eczema, Acne, Disfigurements, Roughness and Scurf, leaving a clear, spotless skin. Sold Everywhere.

“Merthyr Express” 2 August 1890

Liver Complaints **DR. KING'S DANDELION AND QUININE LIVER PILLS, WITHOUT MERCURY**, are a potent remedy; remove all Liver and Stomach Complaints, Billiousness, Headache, Sickness, Shoulder Pains, Heartburn, Indigestion, Constipation.

To Darken Grey Hair **LOCKYER'S SULPHUR HAIR RESTORER** It is the quickest, best, safest and cheapest. Large Bottles, 1s. 6d. Everywhere

FRAUDULENT COUNTERFEITS We are particularly anxious to caution the public against substitutes, even counterfeits of our preparation. **ASK PLAINLY FOR GWYLIM EVANS' QUININE BITTERS**, and see that the name Gwyllim Evans is on the Label, Stamp and Bottle. Sold at all Chemists in 2s 9d and 4s 6d bottles or in cases containing three 4s 6d bottles at 12s 6d per case, or direct from the proprietors by Parcel Post.

“Merthyr Express” 13 September 1890

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority: Infectious Diseases Dr. Dyke said that typhoid fever was prevalent at Deri, there being 18 cases in 13 houses, and out of these, two deaths had occurred. There were 14 cases of scarlet fever at Tirphil, 1 at Pontlottyn and 1 at Cefn. There were also several cases of typhoid at other places. He got no information whatsoever “until the horses were sold.” He asked if it was nor possible to put the Contagious Diseases (Notification) Act into force. At one place, there had been five children affected in one house, and he had heard nothing about it until the thing was all over. In the past, he had recommended the closing of the schools, but this would cost fifty times more than the working of the Act. It was unanimously carried that the Act should come into force that day month.

“Merthyr Express” 1 November 1890

Testimonial A committee was established to organise a testimonial to the Rev. Aaron Davies.

Tithe Audit On Thursday afternoon, the yearly tithe audit was held at the Harp Hotel, Gelligaer, when the farmers attended and paid their tithes. After the business, the company sat down to one of host Jones's capittally served dinners. Rector, Rev. T. Jesse Jones, successor to Rev. J. L. Meredith, now vicar of Llanelly, presided.

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

“Merthyr Express” 8 November 1890

The Rural Sanitary District of the Merthyr Tydfil Union The Infectious Disease (Notification) Act 1889, 52 & 53 Vict., Cap. 72. Notice is hereby given that at a Special Meeting of the Authority held on the 1st November 1890, the following resolution was passed, namely:- “That the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889, be and is hereby adopted by this Authority, and that the said Act shall come into operation on the 10th day of December, 1890.” By Order of the Authority Frank T. James, Clerk.

“Merthyr Express” 22 November 1890

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

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

“Merthyr Express” 29 November 1890

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

“Merthyr Express” 6 December 1890

Order of Rechabites On Thursday evening last, a concert was held at the Board School in connection with the “Blodeuyn Dirwest” Tent of the Independent Order of Rechabites. The schoolroom was crowded, and the concert was a complete success. The members of this flourishing tent are to be congratulated upon the efficient manner in which the arrangements were carried out. Dr. Davies made a most able chairman, and commenced the proceedings with a most stirring address, in which he spoke of the great progress made recently by the order, of which he was an honorary member. Miss E. Kent Jones presided at the pianoforte in her usual able manner. The following programme was gone through: overture, piano, Miss Kent Jones; bass sol, “The bugler,” Mr. James Powell; tenor solo, “Bwthyn bach melyn fy nhad,” Mr. Wm. Griffiths; treble solo, “Y fam a'i baban,” Miss Mary Powell; baritone solo, “Forth to the battle,” Mr. Mial Williams; solo. “Rocked in the cradle of the deep,” Mr. Ben Lewis, accompanied by Mr. John Randle; duet, violin and piano, Messrs. Isaac Thomas and Ben Lewis; baritone solo, “Can y marchog,” Mr. Thomas Evans; solo, “Darby and Joan,” Miss Thomas (Penybank School); tenor solo, “Death of Nelson,” Mr. Burkley Angell; party, “Blodeuyn bach wyf fi mewn gardd,” conducted by Mr. John Jones, A.C.; overture, piano, Miss Kent Jones; bass solo, “Simon the cellarer,” Mr. James Powell; treble solo, “The song that reached my heart,” Miss Ellen Pugh; baritone solo, “Y morwr a'i fachgen,” Mr. Thomas Evans; tenor solo, “O na byddai'n

haf o hyd," Mr. Wm. Griffiths; baritone solo, "She must be mine," Mr. Mial Williams; duet, violin and piano, Messrs. I. Thomas & B. Lewis; treble solo, "Angels ever bright and fair," Miss M. Powell; tenor solo, "Baner ein gwlad," Mr. B. Angell; bass solo, "The little hero," Mr. J. Powell; baritone solo, "The village blacksmith," Mr. B. Lewis.

"Merthyr Express" 6 December 1890

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

"Merthyr Express" 13 December 1890

Dowlais Rangers v Vochriw United The above teams met at Vochriw in cold weather, and a very one-sided game ended in an easy victory for the Rangers by 3 goals and 4 minors to nil. The visitors played with 3 short.

"Merthyr Express" 20 December 1890

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

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

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

"Merthyr Express" 31 January 1891

The New Fire Brigade for Merthyr On Tuesday evening last, at a public meeting, it was unanimously agreed "That this meeting is of the opinion that a fire brigade should be established for the town of Merthyr and district."

"Merthyr Express" 7 February 1891

Alleged Attempt to Commit a Rape upon Two Girls on the Rhymney Mountain

John Williams, a rough looking customer, was charged with attempting to commit a rape upon Eliza Ann James and Mary Lewis on the Vochriw road on Monday last. Eliza Ann James, 4, Railway-terrace, said she was a single woman. About 5.45 on the 2nd February, she was going along the road to Vochriw. When she was about sixty yards away from the gate, the prisoner came behind her, caught her round the throat, and pulled her down on his knees. He then meddled with her clothes, and said, "You mustn't go any further tonight; you must stay here with me." She saw a man coming and struggled with the prisoner. She got away and ran to the man who was approaching. The man was Mr. Tozer, the postmaster at Pontlottyn. Mr. Tozer spoke to the man and was cheeked by him. Mr. Tozer said that the girl who rushed up to him said "Save me from this man." She was in an exhausted state. The prisoner then came up, and he (witness) asked him why he had insulted the girl on the road, and he replied that he hadn't. When the trap approached, the prisoner ran away. Mary Lewis, 24, Market-street, Vochriw, said that as she was going home at 6 o'clock on 2nd February, the prisoner, who pretended to be drunk, passed her. He then turned around and caught her by the waist, saying "Oh my little love." Two men then approached and the prisoner ran away. Mr. North said that it was abominable that two modest girls could not walk along a mountain road without being molested by a scoundrel like the prisoner. Williams was sentenced to three months imprisonment for each offence, the sentences to run consecutively.

Football A match between Pant and Fochriw was played on February 2nd. The match was drawn.

“Merthyr Express” 21 February 1891

Rev. Aaron Davies Testimonial Fund The movement in aid of this fund has met with very encouraging support from all classes of the community irrespective of creed or politics. Subscriptions have been received from many leading gentlemen of the area and Principality. All further contributions should be sent before the 28th when the list becomes closed.

FLORILINE - FOR THE TEETH AND BREATH A few drops of the liquid sprinkled on a wet tooth brush produces a pleasant lather which thoroughly cleanses the teeth from all parasites or impurities, hardens the gums, prevents tartar, stops decay, gives to the teeth a peculiar pearly-whiteness, and a delicate fragrance to the breath. It removes an unpleasant odour arising from decayed teeth or tobacco smoke. Being composed in part of Honey and sweet herbs, it is delicious to the taste and the greatest toilet discovery of the age. Price 2s. 6d. at all Chemists.

“Merthyr Express” 28 February 1891

A Month in Canaan The eminent Welsh bard “Dyfed,” delivered his popular lecture on the above subject to a crowded and appreciative audience at Nazareth Chapel, Vochriw, on Monday night last. The lecturer was in the best of moods and continuously elicited the applause of the audience. He also exhibited himself in the different costumes of the Holy Land to the great amusement of the young people assembled. The proceeds go to defray the debt of the chapel.

The Disestablishment Question: Important Debate in the House of Commons The resolution before the House was “That as the Church of England in Wales has failed to fulfil its professed object as a means of promoting the religious interests of the Welsh people, and ministers only to a small minority of the population, its continuance as an Established Church in the Principality is an anomaly and an injustice which ought no longer to exist.” It was stated that in 1676, the Church of England in Wales boasted 391,297 adherents, and the Nonconformists only 10,960. The Church then claimed 96% of the worshipping people of the Principality. In 1801, they provided sitting-room for 223,730, and of these it might be safely said that 200,000 were never filled. The Nonconformist churches provided sittings for 115,107, but that did not take into account the open-air meetings, where people would assemble in thousands to worship. In 1851, the public worship census showed that while the Church of England in Wales provided accommodation for 263,953 persons, churches outside the pale of the Church of England provided for 599,520. Though Mr. Gladstone pronounced himself in favour of the motion, it was nonetheless defeated by 235 to 203 votes.

“Merthyr Express” 7 March 1891

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

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

“Merthyr Express” 21 March 1891

Dramatic Performance On Thursday evening, the 12th, the popular drama “Jack, y bachgen drwg” by Mr. D. Evans, Hirwain, was performed to a crowded audience at the Fochriw School by a party of friends from Noddfa Baptist Chapel. The drama,

which is in Welsh, seeks to demonstrate the temptations to which young persons are exposed once they leave the parental roof. The characters were taken as follows:- Historian, Mr. D. Thomas; father, Mr. T. Morgan; mother, Miss J. Edwards; daughter, Miss S. A. Davies; son, Master E. Williams; Jack, Mr. R. Thomas; Jane, Miss A. Thomas; Arthur, Mr. S. Evans; Mr. Lodwick, Mr. T. Evans; Mary, Miss C. Moore; minister, Mr. J. Davies; Mr. Jones (Full Moon), Mr. J. Thomas; Mr. Reynolds (Crown), Mr. J. Jones; waitress, Miss L. Roberts; Tom, Mr. D. J. Davies; Dai y Stag, Mr. D. Bowen; Mary Cilfryn, Miss M. G. Davies; policeman, Miss S. Edwards; postman, Mr. E. Jones. The proceeds of the drama were in aid of the Noddfa Chapel building fund, which object was fully realised, several having to go away for want of room. The drama is to be performed shortly at Pontlloftyn.

“Merthyr Express” 11 April 1891

Tiger Livery Stables Pontmorlais, Merthyr. Samuel Dix, Posting Master & Cab Proprietor, Begs to return his best thanks to the public for the liberal support which he has received from them, since he succeeded his father in the business, and wishes to inform them that no effort will be spared on his part to merit their continuing support. S. Dix is prepared to undertake arrangements for Funerals in town and country. He will supply a Hearse and Shillibeer (to carry four persons besides the corpse) for 10s. Mourning coaches can be supplied to order. For commercial men and pleasure parties, S. Dix has a great number of vehicles of all kinds, suitable for small parties or large, and for one or more horses, which he is prepared to let at Prices which he will challenge to be THE CHEAPEST IN THE TRADE. A new Handsome Glass Panel Hearse has been added to the S. Dix stock of vehicles.

A good Stock of WRINGING AND MANGLING MACHINES at very low Cash Prices. Agents for the Torpedo Washer THOMAS THOMAS & SONS, IRONMONGERS, MERTHYR

“Merthyr Express” 9 May 1891

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority: Brithdir Hospital According to the instructions, the Surveyor stated that repairs to the Brithdir Hospital would cost £190.

Medical Officer's Report I have received during the month of April, 34 notices of infectious disease: 13 at Bedlinog, 6 at Vochriw, 5 at Pontlloftyn, 1 at Tirphil, all in Gelligaer parish; 3 at Cefn in Vaynor parish; 6 at Rhigos-road in Rhigos parish. The malady is becoming less prevalent at Tirphil, Pontlloftyn and Cefn, but at Fochriw and Bedlinog it is becoming more prevalent. At Rhigos-road, there are six children ill in one house. So many cases have occurred last week at the High-street, Bedlinog, all being children of the school-going age, that I am of the opinion that it would be wise to close the schools for a fortnight. T. J. Dyke. It was decided to write to the school telling them of the medical officer's suggestion.

The Great Foot-race at Merthyr On Saturday and Monday last, the much-talked of 120 yards handicap for prizes amounting to £100, promoted by Messrs Kendal and Dent, watchmakers, London, came off on the grounds of the Recreation Company at Penydarren Park, Merthyr. The attendance on Saturday was not large, and consisted of a heterogeneous crowd of local athletes, bookmakers, and roulette-table proprietors, very few of the general public being present.

“Merthyr Express” 30 May 1891

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

“Merthyr Express” 20 June 1891

Vochriw: Entertainment and Presentation On Thursday se'nnight, an entertainment was held at Carmel Chapel, under the presidency of Dr. E. Davies, who explained that

the evening had two purposes: to provide a literary and musical treat for the audience, and to make presentations to three persons who well deserved them in connection with the recent dramatic performances given by the members of this chapel. The programme was as follows: overture, Mr. W. R. Beddoe; song, Mr. John Cole; recitation, Miss L. Ballard; song, Mr. B. Angell; song, Miss A. Davies; recitation, Mr. James Davies; song, Mr. E. Evans. Dr. Davies was compelled to leave at this juncture owing to a call of duty, and Mr. E. Williams was elected to the chair. Dialogue, Messrs. Jenkins & Harris; song, Mr. A. Walters; recitation, Master D. J. Thomas; song and chorus, Mr. E. Evans and party; recitation, Mr. James Davies; song and chorus, Mr. E. Evans. The chairman then called upon Mr. Rees Morgan and Mr. T. Davies, two of the oldest members of Carmel, to present a Bible each to Miss G. Jones and Master D. J. Morgan, for their services in connection with the Welsh drama "Owen Llwyd." Mr. E. Evans was then called upon to present a beautiful silver cruet stand and tea pot to Mrs. Edward Sibly. The gift was given because she had prevented postponement of two performances of the drama, by returning to take her part as 'Lady Cadvan' on the eve of her wedding day, instead of going away to Somersetshire, to spend her honeymoon, as originally intended. After the usual votes of thanks and the singing of "Brightly gleams our banner," by Mr. D. J. Davies's party, the meeting terminated. We are glad to say that the drama performances realized £40, which has been handed over to the Chapel funds.

A Fair, Beautiful Skin SILPHOLINE SOAP gives the natural tint and peach-like bloom of a perfect complexion, makes the skin smooth, supple, healthy, comfortable. 6d. Tablets. Everywhere.

"Merthyr Express" 27 June 1891

Presentation to Rev. Aaron Davies On Monday evening, the Rev. Aaron Davies received an illuminated address and a purse containing £220. The presentation was made at Bethlehem Methodist Chapel, Pontlottyn where Rev. Davies ministers, as his father did before him.

"Merthyr Express" 1 August 1891

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

Advert EADE'S GOUT AND RHEUMATIC PILLS__Are sold by all chemists in bottles 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d.

Advert POWELL'S HEALTH-GIVING EXELSIOR BELT Dear Mr. Powell, - I am very pleased to say that Mrs. Cordelia Evans derives much benefit from your Exelsior Belt. She promised to sing at Llangefni on Good Friday, and again at Holyhead the following Tuesday. To have done so would have been impossible without your invigorating belt. Mrs. Rees can most sincerely recommend it to all vocalists. Wm. Rees, Baptist Minister, Islington, May 7, 1891

"Merthyr Express" 22 August 1891

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

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

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

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority: Brithdir Hospital Dr. E. Davies of Fochriw wrote asking if the Board were prepared to enter into some kind of contract for medical attendance at the above hospital. It was decided to defer the matter.

Merthyr Board of Guardians: State-Aided Old Age Pensions The Board discussed the issue but decided to postpone a decision on its attitude for another month. Rev. Aaron Davies outlined the proposed ideas that the pension would be secured by contributions from the contributor from his or her own resources to the value of £6-10-0 a year, payable at the age of 65. The State would guarantee a similar amount; so that a pension of £13 per year would be payable at age 65. The Post Office and Friendly Societies would be involved in the collection of funds. Other members stated that the State's contribution would have to come from somewhere and until this was known it would be sensible not to form a definite opinion on the issue.

“Merthyr Express” 29 August 1891

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority It was reported that the number of patients admitted to the Brithdir Hospital from April 7th to the present was 28. It was decided to appoint Dr. E. Davies, Vochriw, permanent medical officer, for a fee of £1-1-0 each case, including medicine.

Lighting of the Villages The contracts for the lighting of the villages of Dei, Vochriw, Gelligaer, and Brithdir, will expire on the 29th September. The Surveyor asked if it was the Board's intention to ask for new tenders for the work.

“Merthyr Express” 12 September 1891

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

“Merthyr Express” 19 September 1891

Advertisements Eisteddfod: Blackwood, Monday, October 5 (Mabon's Day);

Eisteddfod: Hirwaun, Monday, October 5 (Mabon's Day);

Eisteddfod: Dowlais, Monday December 7;

Comic Opera: 'The Old Guard.' Temperance Hall, Merthyr, 21, 22, 23 September;

Grand Sacred Concert: 'Pepper's Ghost.' Drill Hall, Merthyr, 20 September;

All England 130 Yards Handicap, First Prize £40: Penyardarren Park, October 5. Also, All England Three Miles Bicycle Handicap, First Prize £40.

“Merthyr Express” 26 September 1891

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

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

Rural Sanitary Authority Tenders for lighting street lamps at Vochriw: Wm. Powell, £2 per lamp per year. Accepted.

“Merthyr Express” 3 October 1891

Anniversary Last Sunday and Monday, 27th & 28th September, the Methodist Church at Vochriw held their anniversary services. The officiating ministers were the Revs. Thomas Rees, Cefn, and John Thickens of Aberystwyth College, whose ministry attracted most appreciative audiences. It is most gratifying to the pastor, church, and friends to know that the collections now enable them to clear £50 of debt, in addition to the £50 cleared at the start of the year, a total of £100 in on year.

Forthcoming Plebiscite (Under Pontlottyn) The committee for carrying out the plebiscite of the people of this locality upon the local option and prohibition clauses in the licensing question, met at Nazareth Chapel on Thursday night, when it was decided to enlist the services of some of the leading temperance men in every congregation to explain the motive. This having been done, the papers will be distributed on Monday next, and collected on the following Friday. It is specially requested that every householder should vote one way or the other.

“Merthyr Express” 10 October 1891

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority: Medical Officers Report Notifications of 110 cases of infectious diseases were received during the quarter; 83 of them were for scarlet fever. The total for scarlet fever in the northern part of Gelligaer since last December has been 318. The medical officer stated that the spread of the fever might be limited if masters and mistresses forbid attendance at school of children from an infected house.

“Merthyr Express” 24 October 1891

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

“Merthyr Express” 9 January 1892

Strayed Children The inhabitants of Fochriw and Pontlottyn were in a state of wild excitement on New Year’s Eve and Day, consequent upon discovering that two boys, named Tom and Sam Jones, aged 8 and 5, and living at Martin’s-row, Fochriw, had strayed from home since the morning. Scores of people were engaged in scouring the mountains and surrounding districts all night and up to the following mid-day, when

they were found at Groesfaen Wood, near Bargoed. The father was inconsolable at their loss.

“Merthyr Express” 3 March 1892

Lecture on Astronomy On Thursday se’nnight the Vochriw Board School was crowded to excess for the purpose of hearing a lecture on astronomy by Mr. James Morgan, late student of Cardiff University. The chair was taken by Dr. Davies, who in introducing the lecturer, said that Mr. Morgan was a native of Vochriw, he having commenced his career in this room. He was subsequently appointed schoolmaster under the Gelligaer School Board, but being of an ambitious mind, he tried and won a three years’ scholarship at Cardiff, and also matriculated at London. Mr. Morgan has obtained the degree of B.Sc. in the first division in July 1890. The lecture was copiously illustrated by means of a lantern, and was exceedingly interesting to all. The customary votes of thanks concluded the meeting.

“Merthyr Express” 12 March 1892

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority: The Nurse at Brithdir Hospital A complaint had been received that the nurse at Brithdir Hospital had been employed outside the hospital. Dr. E. Davies admitted that he had employed the nurse when there were no patients at the Hospital, using the married daughter of the nurse as cover. He stated that this would not happen again. The Surveyor was instructed to inform the nurse that she must not undertake any cases outside the hospital.

Tenders for Scavenging Vochriw: Mr Evan Kinsey, 15s. per week; Pantywaun: Mr. D. Davies, 12s 6d; Penybank, Mr. Thomas Evans, 8s. 9d; Accepted.

“Merthyr Express” 30 April 1892

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

“Merthyr Express” 25 June 1892

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority: Water The Surveyor recommended that a greater storage would be made on the mountain above Fochriw near Tymawr, and it was decided that the surveyor should report fully on the matter at the next meeting.

“Merthyr Express” 2 July 1892

Carmel Congregational Church The above church held its anniversary recently, which was likewise its jubilee meeting, celebrating therefore its freedom from all debts, and rejoicing in the extension of its liberty to do good in a wider circle than before. The ministers officiating were the Rev. E. Richards, Tonypany; Rev. J. T. Evans, Brynmawr; and the Rev. H. Elvet Lewis, Llanelly. The meetings throughout were numerously attended and the ministers were at their very best. The debt was formally and publicly buried by the secretary and the minister of the church in the presence of a very large congregation. In five years the church had cleared off £639. There remains in the treasury above and beyond what was necessary to clear all outstanding accounts the sum of £19-3-0 to begin life with anew.

“Merthyr Express” 9 July 1892

Bazaar at Vochriw On Wednesday and Thursday last, a grand bazaar was held at the Board Schools, Fochriw, in connection with Carmel Congregational Church. Every nook and corner of the building was put to some useful purpose. All the rooms were tastefully decorated with flags of different kinds and with pretty festoons in profusion. On the outside, from different points of the building, Union Jacks were waving in the breeze, and festoons stretched across the streets made Fochriw unusually gay. The bazaar proper was in the principal room: three large stalls of very pretty articles of all

description. In addition there was a sweet stall, a toy stall, a fortune-telling booth, a lucky sack, and a table holding two electric batteries. Another room contained an exhibition kindly loaned by the Baptist Church at Fochriw for two days. In a third room was Professor Blavatsky, the phrenologist, a character very humorously sustained for the two days by Mr. Evan Evans. The two remaining rooms were for refreshments. The bazaar was liberally patronised by the residents of the locality for considerable distances around. By the end of the second day, every article had been exchanged for its value in money. The ham in the refreshment room was in great demand, and no wonder. It had been cooked to perfection by an old hand, Mrs. Davies, Brook-row. Mrs. H. W. Martin opened the bazaar, and was presented with a pretty terra cotta vase, made at Watcombe Potteries, inscribed "A Memento of Fochriw Bazaar opened by Mrs. H. W. Martin, June 29th 1892." During the first afternoon, the Fochriw Brass Band was in attendance outside, under the leadership of Mr. W. S. L. Berry of Merthyr. Inside, the Fochriw Glee Club, under Mr. B. Angell, rendered good service. The accompanist for the day was Miss Kent Jones of Deri. An admirable programme of entertainment was gone through, in which the following took part: Fochriw Brass Band, Fochriw Glee Club, Miss Ettie Kent Jones, Miss Davies, Mr. W. L. Berry, Mr. B. Angell and Mr. D. Jenkins. On Thursday, the bazaar was opened by Rev. J. Jones, who was also presented with a beautiful terra cotta vase by Dr. Davies. The musical programme for the afternoon included the same parties as appeared on the first day, with Miss Pugh, Miss S. A. Davies, and Mr. T. Francis, the accompanist being Miss M. J. Harries of Fochriw. Mr. James Davies also gave a recitation. The musical attraction of the afternoon was the performance of "The Japanese fan" by a party of little girls, trained by Miss Harris, assisted by Miss Mantle, Penybank School. They were all dressed in white, and carried Japanese fans in their hands. During the two days, about one thousand people visited the bazaar, which was a thorough success, far beyond expectation. The weather was glorious and contributed to the success. Great credit is due to Mrs. Davies, Ivor House and a committee of ladies for the way the whole affair was managed, and a host of willing hands who assisted them. The proceeds will at least reach £100 after paying expenses.

"Merthyr Express" 9 July 1892

The Representation of East Glamorgan: Mr Alfred Thomas at Fochriw and Pontlottyn

Public meetings in support of the candidature of Mr. Alfred Thomas were held on Tuesday night at Fochriw and Pontlottyn. Mr. Thomas was met about half way to Fochriw by his supporters and they proceeded to the Board School led by the Brass Band. The audience was made up entirely of working men. Mr. Thomas told the gathering that he was in good fighting trim, but the fight was one of principles. Two great issues now faced the electorate: Should Ireland have Home Rule and Should the English Church be Disestablished and Disendowed? After dealing with these issues he sat down to loud applause. Rev. D. Morgans proposed a resolution of confidence in the Newcastle programme, Mr. Gladstone and Mr. A. Thomas, and pledged the meeting to do its best to return him by an overwhelming majority. The Rev. Levi John seconded, and it was carried with ringing cheers. The Rev. Alderman Davies, Mr. John, Pontypridd, and Mr. Richard Davies, Cardiff, also addressed the meeting.

"Merthyr Express" 6 August 1892

The Site of the Proposed Girls' School for Gelligaer The Governors had already decided to build the school on their own land at Groesfaen, near Bargoed, but many people from Hengoed thought that Hengoed would be a more suitable site. Two deputations presented their cases to the Board. Dr. Davies, Fochriw, said that a public meeting had been held at Fochriw on the previous Thursday, at which the following

resolution had been passed unanimously: "That this meeting is of the opinion that the Groesfaen land is the proper place for building the girls school proposed by the governors of Lewis's Charity," After listening to the presentations, the Board confirmed its original decision.

"Merthyr Express" 31 December 1892

Concealment of Birth A lad named Pritchard, whilst playing on the banks of the stream past the corner of Brook-row, Vochriw, discovered the body of a male child lying among some stones. The body was removed to the surgery by Dr. E. Davies who pronounced it to be the body of a premature child. P.S. James and P. C. Williams have the case in hand.

"Merthyr Express" 28 January 1893

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

"Merthyr Express" 18 February 1893

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

"Merthyr Express" 25 March 1893

Eisteddfod at Deri Vochriw individual winners: soprano solo, Sarah Ann Davies; David Davies (Dewi Buallt); Burkley Angel; William John Angel (music sight reading). Chief Choral competition: Vochriw United, conductor William Adams, who was awarded a chair.

"Merthyr Express" 20 May 1893

Terrible Death of a Boy by Falling Down a Shaft at Vochriw A shocking fatality occurred on Monday afternoon at the North Tunnel Pit, Fochriw, when a lad named William James Spacey, 14, employed to wheel stones across the mouth of the upcast shaft, by some means fell down the pit, and was literally smashed to pieces. An inquest was held at the Ivor Castle Inn, on Wednesday evening before Mr. R. J. Rhys, coroner, and a jury of whom Mr. R. J. Pryce was foreman. Mr. Lewis, H.M. Inspector of Mines, and Mr. Snape, Dowlais Iron Company, attended, as well as James Spacey, father of the boy, and Thomas Thomas, foreman to Mr. William Watts, contractor for masonry under the Dowlais Company. It appeared that the deceased had been employed for the last six weeks to attend the masons engaged in the building of a drift from the top of the upcast shaft at North Tunnel Pit Vochriw, towards the fan. Masons were working on both sides of the pit which was oval in shape - 18ft. by 10ft.. To avoid going all round, a strong wooden platform was thrown across the shortest diameter. It was made of a 12 inch square baulk, with two 3 inch by 12 inch planks

either side of it. The planks were their own thickness above the baulk. Along the baulk, in this depression, it was the boy's work to wheel stones for the masons - from one side to the other - a brick being placed at the end for tipping. The boy had been wheeling on planks for some time, but began this work on Monday morning. He had been working all right till 4.35 p.m. when the accident occurred. Thomas Thomas walked across the planks and was being followed by the boy with his barrow. He stepped aside at the end to allow the boy to tip, when on looking around, he missed him. It was an occurrence of the moment, and there was not a sound to indicate that anything had happened. The weight of the barrow and the stones would be about three quarters of a cwt. The pit was 330 feet deep. Mr R. Snape, the colliery agent, said that as this was the upcast shaft, it was impractical to cover it over entirely, and the requirements of the Act had been complied with. The platform was fully five feet wide and free from vibration. The coroner said that the evidence pointed to the fact that the deceased had in some way stumbled and fallen. A verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned. The remains were recovered from the bottom of the shaft by David Lewis, fireman.

"Merthyr Express" 27 May 1893

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority: Vochriw Water Supply The Surveyor presented a plan proposing a new tank for storage of water for the supply of Penybank and Vochriw. The tank would be 200 feet by 40 feet with a depth of 5 feet, which would afford a week's supply of water at a rate of 8,750 gallons a day or 35 gallons per house. At present only one day's supply could be stored. Total estimated cost would be £450. The matter was referred to the Parochial Committee, and subsequently agreed.

"Merthyr Express" 8 July 1893

Brass Band Contest at Merthyr On Monday last, the third annual contest under the auspices of the South Wales and Monmouthshire Brass Band Association was held in delightful weather at Penydarren Park. The second section was proceeded with first, the test piece being "L'Elizir D'Amore," Donizetti (arranged H. Round), the prizes being:- 1st - £12; 2nd - £7; 3rd - £4; 4th - £2. The competitors were: - Trebanos, Pontyberem, Pontardawe, Fochriw, Tillery Colliery Band. Fochriw were second prize winners. The Fochriw Band:- (conductor, Mr A. R. Seddon, Derby; bandmaster, Mr W. S. L. Berry); C. Shankland, Jenkin Pugh, David Jones, A. Berry, William Mantle, William Evans, Edward Jones, D. J. James, William Lewis, T. S. Powell, D. Rowlands, T. J. Jenkins, W. J. Powell, David Jenkins, A. Walters, T. J. Mantle, George Jones, David Jenkins, T. Shankland, T. Edwards, William Thomas, William Taylor, W. Williams, T. J. Jenkins and W. Sayman.

"Merthyr Express" 15 July 1893

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

"Merthyr Express" 12 August 1893

Cricket: Fochriw v Pontlottyn The match was played on Saturday in splendid weather on the Gwyrd Ground. The game was very one-sided, Fochriw winning by an innings and 24 runs. The main Fochriw scorers were George James, 35 not out, Job Thomas, 17, and John Evans, 12. D. J. Morgan and W. Lewis bowled extremely well for Fochriw, the former taking 9 wickets for 16 runs, and the latter 10 wickets for 25 runs. D. L. Jones was also very smart behind the stumps. Scores: Fochriw 95. Pontlottyn 26 and 45.

"Merthyr Express" 19 August 1893

Cricket: Fochriw v Pontlottyn The return match was played at Pontlottyn on Saturday last. On this occasion Pontlottyn won an exciting game by 5 runs. Scores: Pontlottyn 29 and 46. Fochriw 19 and 51.

“Merthyr Express” 2 September 1893

Gelligaer School Board: The Military at Fochriw The Clerk reported that Mr. E. P. Martin, Dowlais, had applied to him to obtain permission to station a detachment of troops in the school at Fochriw during the strike crisis. Capt. G. Hamilton, 14th Hussars, had also written to the chairman or vice-chairman asking to use the school for a short time. Permission was given by the vice-chairman and the Clerk had written to the Education Department, who stated that as this was an exceptional case, it would be taken into account at the examination. They also required to know of the captain the exact amount of time the school would be wanted. At the next meeting, Rev. J. P. Williams was to be asked to explain why he had given permission.

“Merthyr Express” 9 September 1893

The Vochriw Affair Sir, - We, the undersigned members of the Pontlottyn Cricket Club, challenge anyone to prove that we met the Vochriw team on Gwyrd mountain for any other purpose than to play a game of cricket on the day when the now celebrated “black brigade” of Dowlais came with sticks, iron bars, mandrils etc., to drive us away from the ground, and that we had no other object in view. The slander, threats, and abuse of the Rev. J. P. Williams for defending us, we cannot allow to pass without a protest. The rev. gentleman has done more to advise, assist, and guide us as working men than any other gentleman in the district, and he surely deserves better treatment than to be ridiculed and held up to scorn of men by a careless Dowlais journalist, who probably was not near the scene of action until everything was all over. And let there be no mistake about that. We are, yours faithfully, T. B. Fisher, Darwin Jones, Dan Fisher, Wm. Morris, Alf Jenkins, David Fisher, Thos. Hancock, Ed. Gardner, John Mackey, Noah Rees, Howell Jones. Members of the Pontlottyn Cricket Club.

“Merthyr Express” 16 September 1893

Cricket: Fochriw v 2nd Battalion Bedford Regiment The above match was played at Fochriw on Monday last in splendid weather. The soldiers went in first and scored 87. Fochriw followed and at first wickets fell rapidly until D. L. Jones went in. He made a brilliantly played 63 not out, over half the Vochriw score of 121. The game throughout was of the most pleasant nature, and goes far to show the good feeling that exists between the soldiers and the people.

Fochriw v Lewis’ School Pengam The match was played on the school ground on Saturday last in glorious weather. The school batted first and scored 39. Fochriw then scored 44 to win by 5 runs or 5 wickets ahead.

“Merthyr Express” 30 September 1893

Football: Fochriw Rangers This team wish to arrange matches with any local junior team. Apply to Secretary W. J. Ballard, 7, Dynevor-street.

“Merthyr Express” 2 December 1893

Cantata On the evenings of Thursday and Saturday last at the Fochriw Board School to crowded audiences, a cantata “Playmates” by J. C. Grieve, was performed under the leadership of Mr. Burkley Angel, assisted by Miss A. Mantle and Mr. James Davies, when the following instrumentalists took part: pianoforte, Miss M. J. Harries; harmonium, Miss M. J. Jones, Deri; violins, Messrs. Henry Francies, J. Evans, John Harries, Jnr., D. Williams and Messrs. Phillips, Pontlottyn. On a number of raised benches on the platform were seated the tiny host of choristers, singing with all their might, and seeming very happy in their white dresses and red sashes. The dancing in

two circles around the maypole was well done. What created considerable amusement was the marching and dancing of the little soldiers dressed in the Highland regimental dress and carrying guns. The chief characters were performed by Elizabeth Jones, Albert Griffiths, David J. Thomas, Theophilus Shankland and Willie Angel, Ann Davies, Gwen Jones, Maud Angel and Edith Ann Jones. The performance went off extremely well. The takings, amounting to more than £20, will be handed over to the Reading-room and Library Funds. We shall be glad to see "Playmates" played before a larger audience in the Oddfellows' Hall, Dowlais.

Advert Nerve Worry, Depression "PEPPER'S QUININE AND IRON." It must be Pepper's.

Advert COLEMAN'S WINCARNIS or Liebig's Extract of Meat and Malt Wine is the finest tonic in the world. Recommended by thousands of medical men. Bottles 2s.9d. and 4s. 6d. Everywhere.

"Merthyr Express" 10 February 1894

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

"Merthyr Express" 10 March 1894

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

"Merthyr Express" 10 March 1894

Fochriw Rangers v Llancaiach Harlequins The match was played at Fochriw on Monday last, and ended in victory to the home side by 1 try to three minors. Up to half time play was very even, neither side scoring. On crossing over, Vochriw showed better combination and scored a try, Aneurin Jones the scorer. Fochriw were without three of their regular forwards and two three-quarters. Substitutes had to be picked up on the field. A rather unpleasant incident occurred on account of a free kick. A forward asked for an explanation and was struck by the referee - a man from Bedlinog. Spectators rushed on to the field and the game was stopped a few minutes before time. Fochriw team: Full back, J. Lewis; Three-quarters, Wat Jones (captain), Abram Jones, Evan Jones, M. M'Arthur; Half-backs, Aneurin Jones, D. L. Morgan; Forwards, J. Williams, D. L. Jones, C. Edwards, R. Evans, T. Evans, B. Thomas, D. Griffiths, Job Thomas. The Rangers have March 17th open. Apply to David Jones, 33, Guest-street, Fochriw.

"Merthyr Express" 24 March 1894

Marriage On Thursday, 13th, Miss Claudia Ursula Davies, daughter of the late Rev. John Davies of Cwmaman, and sister of Dr. Davies, Fochriw, was wedded to Mr. George Davies, son of Mr. John Davies, Treffynon, Pembrokeshire, and a member of the firm of B. S. Davies & Co., drapers, Neath. The marriage took place at Cwmaman, and the couple left to honeymoon in London. The old-fashioned practice of letting off firearms were freely indulged to mark the event. The present were numerous, the Fochriw people alone contributing nearly a hundred.

Advert Himrod's Cure For Asthma Established nearly a quarter of a century. Prescribed by the Medical Fraternity throughout the World. It is used as an inhalation, without any bad effects afterwards. Testimonials from the late Lord Beaconsfield, Sir Morrel Mackenzie. In tins at 4s.3d.

Advert Allcock's Plasters are of great efficacy in INDIGESTION if worn over the right side of the Pit of the Stomach. At all Chemists 1s.1½d.

"Merthyr Express" 24 March 1894

Fochriw Rangers v Merthyr Pupil Teachers F.C. The match was played at Fochriw on Saturday last, and ended in victory for Fochriw by two tries and six minors to one minor. The teachers were a few men short, but picked up good substitutes. The visitors were penned in their half for much of the game.

“Merthyr Express” 7 April 1894

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

Obituary The funeral of Mrs. T. Lewis, Fochriw, the respected wife of Mr. Thomas Lewis, foreman of the mechanical departments of the Dowlais Iron Company’s Pits at Fochriw, who succumbed to an attack of pneumonia, took place at Pant Cemetery on Wednesday afternoon last, and was largely attended by workmen employed at the collieries.

“Merthyr Express” 14 April 1894

Gelligaer Parochial Committee It was recommended that the Clerk should write to the Dowlais Iron Company asking them to fix proper grates in the mains at Caeglas, Fochriw.

Medical Officer’s Report The number of cases of infectious illness reported was 26, with 2 fatalities. In addition, 3 deaths were due to measles and 16 to whooping cough.

“Merthyr Express” 21 April 1894

Cricket: Fochriw C.C. A meeting was held on Tuesday evening last at the Rising Sun Inn. The following officers were elected for the season: W. Williams, captain; W. Lewis, vice-captain; J. Thomas, treasurer; David Jones, secretary - 33, Guest-street, Fochriw, who would like to arrange matches with junior teams only.

“Merthyr Express” 28 April 1894

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority: Annual Medical Report Dr. Dyke presented his twenty first annual report which was full of interesting statistics relating to the health and condition of the district.

Total houses: 3,812. Total population: 19,264.

Number of births 1893/4: 714 {381 male; 333 female} Deaths: 354 {193 male; 161 female}

Birth rate: 37 per 1,000. Death rate: 18 per 1,000.

Rates of birth by parish: Gelligaer 39.5; Rhigos 23.5; Vaynor 33.8; Penderyn 30.

Rates of death by parish: Gelligaer 17.7; Rhigos 22.4; Vaynor 18.5; Penderyn 20.8.

Deaths in infancy and old age: under age 1:128 deaths; under age 5: 43 deaths;

Total under 5 = 171.

48% of total deaths were infants under 5. Deaths aged over 65: 16.

Average age of death by parish: Gelligaer 23; Vaynor 31; Penderyn 43; Rhigos 25.

Average age of death for the district was 26 years 4 months.

Notification of infectious disease 1893-94: 203. Infectious disease by parish: Gelligaer 110; Vaynor 67; Penderyn 15; Rhigos 11. Type of infection: Scarlet fever 97; Diphtheria 16; Typhoid 47; Child bed fever 8; Erysipelas 35. Deaths: scarlet fever 11; diphtheria 3; typhoid 3; child bed fever 3; erysipelas 2; measles 12; diarrhoea 23. Diarrhoea : particularly in Tirphil; suggests link with the water supply there.

Bronchitis and pneumonia: 77 out of the 354 deaths. Accidents were fatal to 13 persons, while 18 very young infants perished from sheer weakness.

“Merthyr Express” 28 April 1894

Fochriw Rangers’ Football Club: Supper The annual supper took place at the Rising Sun Inn. A splendid spread was prepared by Mrs. Morgan to which about 20 club members did ample justice. After supper, the record of the team was read: Played 15; won 8; Lost 3; Drawn 4. Points for - 53; points against - 17. Top scorer: D. L. Jones with 5 tries. Vote of thanks to the captain, Walter Jones.

Performance On Saturday evening, a party from Noddfa, Fochriw, played the popular drama “Jack, y bachgen drwg,” to a crowded audience at the Board School. The performance was opened by the Fochriw Brass Band. The parts were played by C. Williams, R. Thomas, T. Morgan, Mrs. Williams, A. Thomas, A. Evans, T. Evans, S. A. Davies, S. Evans, Wm. Davies, J. Davies, E. Davies, T. Evans, J. Evans, J. Beavan, M. J. Davies. Between the acts songs were given by Mr. T. Evans and Miss M. J. Davies. The proceeds of the evening will be given in aid of the brass band, who are making rapid strides in the brass band world.

“Merthyr Express” 12 May 1894

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority: The Streets of Vochriw A letter was read from the Dowlais Iron Company asking the Board to take over certain streets at Vochriw. It was decided to inform the Company that if they would place the streets in proper repair, the authority would take them over.

“Merthyr Express” 7 July 1894

Cricket: Pontlottyn v Fochriw The match was played on the Gwyrd Ground last Saturday and ended in victory by 47 runs for Fochriw. Fochriw batted first and scored 80 runs, the chief contributor being W. Williams (captain) 32. Pontlottyn scored 33. The Fochriw team would like to arrange matches with local teams. Saturdays only. Apply to David Jones, 33, Guest-street, Fochriw.

Brass Band Success On Monday last, the Fochriw Brass Band journeyed to the Bridgend eisteddfod. They took second prize with a silver medal. The competition was incomparably the largest held in South Wales, with 16 bands competing. Since securing the services of Mr. R. Dawson, the present conductor, the band has made rapid strides forward. This is the second success under Mr. Dawson, having previously taken first prize at Caerphilly on Whit Monday. We wish the band and their young conductor every success.

“Merthyr Express” 28 July 1894

Rechabite Demonstration On Saturday afternoon last, the three Rechabite tents of Fochriw - Adult, Female, Juvenile - held a demonstration. The demonstration started from Carmel Vestry in the following order: Heading the procession were Brothers Dr. E. Davies; Rev. J. Jones & Mr. T. Jenkins; then the Fochriw Brass Band; then adults, females and juveniles numbering between 100 and 150. After parading the principal streets, the processionists wended their way to Nazareth Chapel where a tea party was held. The tables were very neatly decorated with flower, and were superintended by the following ladies: Miss Jones and Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Sibly and Mrs. M. A. Thomas, Mrs. E. James (Guest-street) and Mrs. M. Arthur. Valuable assistance was also rendered by Mrs. G. Pugh, Mrs. M. Jones, Mrs. E. Jones, Messrs. E. Parry, W. Adams & Rees Thomas. In the evening at 8 o’clock, a public temperance meeting was held, the chair being held by Rev. Evan Morgan, the newly elected pastor of the C. M. Church at Fochriw. The programme consisted of addresses, songs and recitations when the following Fochriw people took part: Rev. T. Jones, W. Adams, James Davies, W. T. Angell, Rhys Jenkins, Rees Thomas, and Misses S. A. Davies, E.

Ballard, M. A. Lewis, Martha Davies, Catherine Lewis. After the usual votes of thanks, the meeting terminated

“Merthyr Express” 18 August 1894

Guest Majority Festivities Fochriw was *en fete* for this celebration. From early morn, the inhabitants of this colliery district were actively engaged in bedecking the streets, and by noon a complete metamorphosis had been effected. A procession, consisting of upwards of 600 children, gathered from Vochriw, Pantywaun, Brithdir and Cwm Bargoed, started at 1.30 from the Board school, led by the Fochriw Brass Band. A Welsh goat immediately following, while Mr T. Bevan, the manager, and the majority of the principal inhabitants occupied prominent positions. After parading the village, a return was made to the Board School, where the children had tea and cake. After tea, sports and other amusements were held on the mountain, where swings, a greasy pole and an “Aunt Sally” had been erected. The sports included tug of war and various races. A timbering competition was also promoted, the winners being 1st (15s.) W. Lewis; 2nd (10s.) W. Griffiths; 3rd (5s.) D. Morgan. Messrs. T. Roberts, E. Williams (under-managers), and E. Williams (check-weigher), acted as judges, and the racing arrangements were in the hands of Messrs. J. Evans, E. Davies, H. Jones and J. Edwards. In the evening, a huge bonfire was kindled on the tips, and a grand display of fireworks, supervised by Messrs. John Bevan, T. Williams and T. Grainger, concluded the day’s festivities.

“Merthyr Express” 25 August 1894

Induction to Nazareth C. M. Chapel On Monday evening, Mr. Morgan of Trefecca College was inducted as pastor of Nazareth Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Chapel, Fochriw, the chapel being crowded to excess. A fellow student of the pastor elect, in the person of Mr. J. Adams, opened the meeting by reading a portion of Scripture and offering prayer. The chair was taken by the Rev. J. Evans, Abermeurig, Cardiganshire, who said he had known Mr. Morgan from boyhood. He felt sure that the new pastor would prove a hard-working and conscientious man, who would do his utmost to push on the good cause. Mr. Evan Morgan then spoke, promising to advance the cause amongst them. The following then spoke: Mr. David Morgan, New Tredegar; Rev. David Davies, Hermon, Dowlais; Mr. Thomas Jones, Dowlais; Rev. G. Davies, Deri; Mr. J. Adams; Rev. J. Thomas, Brynhyfryd, Rhymney; Mr. Evan George. Appropriate hymns were sung, and the proceedings were closed in prayer.

“Merthyr Express” 1 September 1894

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority A special meeting of the authority was held on Saturday morning, Mr. John Rogers (vice-chairman) presiding. Present were: Rev. J. E. Jenkins, Messrs. R. H. Rhys, J.P., H. P. D. Phillips, J.P., Jonathan Williams, J.P., Thomas Morris, David Evans, Edmund Lewis, Lewis Evans, and F. T. James (clerk). It was decided that the parish of Gelligaer should form a separate sanitary district.

Dreadful Accident at Vochriw: A Boy Falls into a Tank of Boiling Water A terrible accident, ultimately fatal, occurred at Vochriw on Monday afternoon. It happened to a young fellow of 16, named John Lewis, who was in charge of an hydraulic pumping engine, commonly termed a donkey engine, at the Dowlais Iron Company’s Collieries. He had been engaged in the oiling of the machinery, and whilst crossing a narrow plank over a tank of boiling water, which accumulated from the boilers, he somehow missed his footing and fell into the tank beneath. He was observed by Mr. Thomas the mechanic, who immediately went to the boy’s assistance and rescued him. Dr. Davies was called but his services were of little use as the boy had been dreadfully scalded. There were no hopes of recovery from the first, and the boy died a few hours later. The deceased was the son of Mr. John Lewis, Dynevor-street, and the

grandson of Mr. John Davies, sawyer, Alma-street. He was a member of the "Henry Lloyd" section of the Cadets of Temperance. The funeral took place on Thursday at Pant Cemetery.

Advert "In every case I know of HUGHES'S BLOOD PILLS have done more good than anything else." For both sexes Hughes's Blood Pills purify the Blood, clear the Skin, strengthen the Nerves, remove Dyspepsia and Indigestion, revive the Liver, cure Headache, Skin Rash and Constipation. They cure when all else fails. At any Chemist. The Box the shape of a Heart. 1s.1½d., 2s. 9d., 4s. 6d. Jacob Hughes, Manufacturing Chemist, Penarth.

"Merthyr Express" 8 September 1894

The Fochriw Fatality Mr. R. H. Rhys held an inquest at the Rising Sun Inn, Fochriw on Thursday on the body of John Lewis who met an awful death by scalding. His father said that he had been employed on the pit bank, working a donkey engine, about one week only. Henry Evans, engineman, stated that he worked about 50 yards from the boy. He had been with him at 2 p.m., and on going back to the engine, the lad must have fallen into the tank of boiling water. He could not say how he fell. David Roberts, mechanic, said that he was returning to his pit at about 2 p.m. when he saw the boy in the tank. He was on his feet trying to get out. A plan of the surroundings was then supplied by Mr. Turnbull the engineer. The pool was about 2ft. 2in. deep at the time. He must have fallen in bodily as he was wet all over. The engineer said that the boy had to go over these planks to get to the donkey engine. The plank was 11 inches wide. There was no handrail. He considered them quite safe to go over. There was no night work at that place. Judging from where he saw him in the pool, he believed he must have slipped his foot by the overflow, and not have fallen from the planks. He lived for about two hours after he was taken home. The jury foreman, Mr. W. O. Morgan, schoolmaster, returned the verdict of "Death from misadventure."

Gelligaer School Board: Scarlet Fever Scarlet fever having broken out in the caretaker's house at Pontlottyn, the school has been closed for two weeks, on the advice of Dr. Simons, deputy medical officer.

"Merthyr Express" 22 September 1894

Football: Fochriw Stars v Pontlottyn This match was played last Saturday, and ended with a win for Fochriw by one try. The Fochriw Stars would like to arrange matches with neighbouring teams, average age from 12 to 14. Apply to David Jones, 33, Guest-street, Fochriw.

"Merthyr Express" 6 October 1894

Fochriw Stars v Dowlais Stars Played at Fochriw on Monday last. Victory to Fochriw by 2 concerted goals and one try to nil. The Fochriw team was: Back, J. Davies; Three-quarters, E. Jones, Abram Jones, David Jones, J. Lewis; Half-backs, R. Evans, T. Pugh; Forwards, B. Thomas, W. Cole, T. Evans, T. J. Jenkins, T. D. Jones, T. Ballard.

"Merthyr Express" 6 October 1894

Fochriw Farm Sale VOCHRIW FARM, VOCHRIW, GLAMORGANSHIRE Situate within a few minutes walk from Vochriw Station on the Brecon & Merthyr Railway, about two miles from Cwmbargoed Station on the G. W. and Rhymney Railways, and about the same distance from Pontlottyn Station on the Rhymney Railway. Important Sale of 657 Mountain Sheep, 15 head of Cattle, 10 Horses and Ponies, Crops, Ruffage etc. Messrs Henry Lewis and Son, having been favoured with instructions from Mr. Evan Kinsey who is leaving the farm, to sell by Public Auction

at the Farm on Monday 8 October 1894 the whole of the following: FARMING STOCK

Sheep - 240 mountain breeding ewes, 150 fat wethers, 120 wethers in forward condition, 140 lambs, 7 rams, all of the pure mountain breed.

Cattle - 1 cow in calf, 1 heifer in calf (to calve at the end of October), 5 two-year-old heifers in calf, 1 fat heifer, 7 three-year-old steers.

Horses - 1 three-year-old filly about 13.3 hands, suitable for underground purposes; 1 strong cob mare (with foal) about 14½ hands, quiet to ride or drive; 1 four-year-old pony about 13½ hands, quiet to ride; 1 three-year-old gelding pony; 1 yearling ditto; 2 yearling mountain ponies; 1 two-year-old mountain pony; 1 four-year-old mountain pony; 2 aged mountain ponies and foals.

Crops - About 14 tons of prime meadow hay well harvested. Ruffage of land will be let from day of sale to 2 February 1895.

Three months credit will be given upon a good, approved security to purchasers of £10 and upwards, or discount will be allowed for cash at the rate of £5 per cent per annum. Luncheons on the table at 11 a.m., sale to commence at 12.30 punctually. The whole of the stock is young, healthy, and in prime condition. Auctioneers' Office, Gellihir Farm, Nelson, Glam. September 26th, 1894.

“Merthyr Express” 20 October 1894

Fochriw Stars v Rhymney Roses The match was played at Fochriw on Saturday last. The Rhymneyites were much heavier than their opponents, but, nonetheless, Fochriw were victorious by the only score of the match, a try by T. Ballard.

“Merthyr Express” 1 December 1894

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

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

Liberal Meeting A large and enthusiastic meeting of the Liberal electors was held at the Board School, Fochriw, on Tuesday evening last, in support of the candidature of the 26 Liberal candidates who have been selected to contest all the seats on the Parish and District Councils for the Gelligaer district at the forthcoming elections. The Rev. James Jones presided, and stirring speeches were delivered by Messrs. Evan Evans, Fochriw, Robert Hughes, Deri, and Alfred Jenkins, Deri (three of the Liberal and Labour candidates), and they were supported by Mr. T. C. Thomas, Bedlinog, who exposed the tactics of the Tory party, headed by the Rector of the parish, who had succeeded in securing the services of Rev. J. P. Williams, Pontlottyn, to endeavour to smash up the party in the parish by raising false and misleading issues. The following resolution was unanimously agreed to: “That this meeting of Fochriw electors do pledge ourselves to do all we can to return the candidates adopted by the Gelligaer Liberal Party at the forthcoming Parish and District elections.” The question affecting Lewis's charity is now practically beyond hope of reversal, and the movement of the Rector is looked upon as simply a blind for drawing the elector's attention to a false issue.

Advert Dr. Locock's Pulmonic Wafers For Asthma, Consumption, Bronchitis, Coughs, Colds, Rheumatism and any Hysterical and Nervous Complaints, instant relief and a rapid cure is given by the wafers which taste pleasantly. Sold at all Druggists. 1s. 1½d., 2s. 9d., 4s. 6d., 11s. a box.

“Merthyr Express” 16 February 1895

County Council Election: Gelligaer Division A large and influential deputation of 60 to 70 people, representing all political creeds and different denominations of the electors of Gelligaer, waited on Mr. H.W. Martin, Dowlais, at his residence on Saturday afternoon (9th inst.), to invite him to represent them once again on the County Council. Among the speakers was Mr. James Davies, Vochriw. The assembled persons passed a hearty vote of thanks for his past services, and promised if a contest should take place, that they would do their utmost to return him again.

“Merthyr Express” 6 April 1895

Gelligaer Parish Council The ordinary meeting was held at the Fochriw Board School on Monday.

The Wards Question The County Council had proposed the following five wards: Pontlottyn polling district, population 4,145; Tirphil, 1,985; Fochriw and Deri, 2,520; Bargoed, Brithdir, Hengoed and Gelligaer, 3,740; Bedlinog and Trelewis, 2, 535. It was agreed that a copy of the scheme be sent to each member for consideration at the next meeting.

Sanitation Dr. Davies moved that the inspector of nuisances should leave an address in each locality where complaints could be lodged against any nuisance. Mr. D. Jones stated that after laying a service of water pipes at Troedrhwiwuch, it was found no water could be got. The frost had damaged the tank there, but no one took any notice of it. Mr. E. Evans said the position was exactly the opposite at Fochriw - a good reservoir, but no pipes. Many of the houses had not a drop of water this year. It was unanimously agreed to point out these grievances to the District Council.

“Merthyr Express” 18 May 1895

Fochriw Brass Band Annual Concert The concert was held at the Board School on Thursday se’night. An excellent array of artistes appeared, all from Dowlais. Due to the very full programme, no encores were allowed. Mr. James Williams (timekeeper), and Mr. John Beavan, manager, were responsible for the arrangements.

“Merthyr Express” 22 June 1895

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

Our Brass Band at Welshpool The Fochriw Brass Band competed at the Eisteddfod held at Powis Castle Park, Welshpool on June 13th and 14th, and on Wednesday evening, June 12th. Through the generosity of Mr. Harris, stationmaster, a special saloon carriage was provided for them, and amidst the shouts and well-wishings of the inhabitants, the journey North began under the most favourable conditions and buoyant spirits. On reaching Brecon, their destination for that night, the band played a lively march through the town, and afterwards had some good practice. Next morning there was a further practice before leaving Brecon on the 7.45 a.m. train. At Newtown, they were joined by the celebrated "Newtown Prize Silver Band," who were destined for the same field of action. In the contest, seven bands competed, one, St. Mary's Prize Silver Band, coming from England, as well as five well-known bands from North Wales, and Fochriw. The prizes were: 1st - £20; 2nd - £10; 3rd - £5. The first prize on the "March" went to Oak Alyn of Wrexham, with Newtown second. Fochriw though unsuccessful on the March were strong favourites. In the "Selection,"

Oak Alyn were again first, with the second prize divided between Fochriw and Wrexham Borough. The return journey was especially pleasant. Having received permission to break their journey at Builth, they spent Friday night there, playing on the "Grove" in the evening to a good audience. Leaving Builth on Saturday morning, a short stay was made at Brecon. The next stop was Dolygaer, where the Fochriw teachers and their friends, and also the members of the Rising Sun Money Club, had their outings. The band joined them, and after a most enjoyable afternoon, the whole party returned home, where the band had an enthusiastic reception.

“Merthyr Express” 20 July 1895

Mr. Alfred Thomas at Fochriw and Pontlottyn: Enthusiastic Reception On Monday last, Mr. Thomas, and the Tory candidate Mr. Jackson, both arrived at Pontlottyn Station at 5.15 p.m. The Brass Band had come to the station to meet the Tory candidate as pre-arranged. A procession was then formed to the Picton Hotel. We counted a dozen followers in this procession, and half of these were non-voters. At 6.15, the Brass Band went to the home of Alderman Aaron Davies. Here a procession was started and escorted Mr. Thomas to Fochriw. The political feeling of Pontlottyn was clearly displayed in this procession which included hundreds of electors. When the mountain was reached, the Pontlottyn Band returned, and then the Fochriw Brass Band led the procession to the village where an open-air meeting was held with Dr. Davies as chairman. In Mr. Thomas's speech, he said that if he was returned he would support Home Rule for Ireland, Disestablishment of the Church in Wales, Local Veto, and a Land Bill for Wales. He had served them for ten years and would happily do so for ten years again. After further speeches, a triumphant party marched to Pontlottyn for a great Liberal meeting timed for 8 o'clock. Fochriw must have been fairly empty when it left. It had been arranged to hold a meeting at Soar Hall, but seeing such a crowd in the Square, it was wisely decided to hold the meeting in the open-air. When Mr. Alfred Thomas spoke, he added support for an eight-hour-day for miners to the earlier list of measures he supported.

“Merthyr Express” 31 August 1985

Cricket: Fochriw v Pontlottyn This match was played on the mountain on Saturday last, and ended in a win for Pontlottyn by nine wickets. Fochriw 1st innings 40; 2nd innings 8. Pontlottyn 1st innings 37; 2nd innings 15 for 1 wicket.

Gelligaer School Board The resignation of Miss Phoebe Davies, assistant mistress at Vochriw school, was received and accepted, she having obtained an appointment under the Bedwellty Board. It was decided to appoint Mr. Don Davies, Pontlottyn to the post. Miss Lottie Davies, pupil teacher at Penybank School also sent in her resignation, and the Clerk was directed to ask her for the reasons that prompted her action. The tender of Mr. Robert Davies of £269 10s. for alterations at Pantywaun School was accepted.

“Merthyr Express” 14 September 1895

Cricket: Fochriw v Pontlottyn The return match came off last Saturday in front of a large crowd of spectators. Scores: Pontlottyn 1st innings 19. Fochriw 1st innings 36. When stumps were drawn at 7 o'clock Pontlottyn in their second innings were 17 for six wickets. W. Williams and Evan Jones captured five Pontlottyn wickets each. Evan Jones has only recently made his debut as a bowler: he has bowled in only four matches. His record to date is: 40 overs; 26 runs; 27 wickets. An extraordinary average of less than one run per wicket! For Pontlottyn, the performance of the season was the bowling of W. Lewis, up until last season a Fochriw player.

“Merthyr Express” 8 February 1896

Football: Deri v Fochriw Played at Fochriw on Saturday last in ideal football weather, and ended in a win for Fochriw by 1 converted goal and 4 tries to 1 try (17 points to 3).The tries for the winners were scored by Evan Jones (2), D. Jones, J. D. Williams and Aneurin Jones. The Fochriw team was superior behind the scrum, but at forward Deri had the advantage.

Lecture On Wednesday week, the popular lecture on “Gwlad Y Pyramidiau” was delivered at Nazareth Chapel by Mr. Rees (Dyfed). The lecture, as usual, was delivered in a most competent style, and gave general satisfaction to the crowded audience. The Chair was ably filled by Mt. T. Beavan.

Brass Band On Monday last the band succeeded in winning two prizes at Merthyr: 1st prize for the selection, and half prize for the march. The competing bands were Pontllytyn, Blaenavon, and Abercanaid. During the past two months, the band has carried away seven prizes, six of which were first prizes. Heartiest congratulations to the band and its able conductor on the splendid successes which have crowned their efforts.

“Merthyr Express” 29 February 1896

Football: Bedlinog v Fochriw The match was played at Fochriw. Fochriw were pinned in their half for long periods. They then began to play very rough. In the second half, Bedlinog had a free kick but failed to convert. Spectators then began hooting the captain because of this failure. Final score: Bedlinog 1 minor, Fochriw 1 minor.

“Merthyr Express” 14 March 1896

Fochriw Eisteddfod Successes The numerous friends of Mr. James Davies will be glad to hear that at Deri on Monday the 2nd, he succeeded in adding still another victory to his already long list of successes. Miss Blodwen Angell, daughter of Mr. A. Angell, Dynevor-street, was also a prizewinner.

Gelligaer Parish Meeting: Elections to the Parish Council There were 23 candidates for 15 seats. The election was by “show of hands.” The votes were as follows: Thos Andrews, checkweigher, Trelewis, 63; Thomas Bevan, colliery manager, Vochriw, 13; Evan Evans, Vochriw, 77; John Brown, timber merchant, Bargoed, 3; G. Clement Davies, surgeon, Pontllytyn, 31; Thomas Ellis, mining engineer, Bargoed, 23; Thomas Edwards, farmer, Groesfaen, 30; Evan Evans, checkweigher, Guest-street, Fochriw, 77; Rev. Richard Evans, Hengoed, 76; T. B. Fisher, fireman, Pontllytyn, 64; Joseph Arch Greenhow, master mechanic, Bargoed, 23; Geo. Griffiths, retired miner, Tirphil, 88; Evan Hughes, retired collier, Bedlinog, 78; Thomas Jenkins, collier, 18, Butetown, Newton, 57; David Jones, collier, Craig Rhymney, Tirphil, 79; John Daniel Jones, tailor and draper, Deri, 61; Thomas Crugwen Jones, superintendent, Pontllytyn, 54; William Jones, grocer, Brithdir, 85; William Mathews, stationmaster, Bargoed, 81; Wm. A. Morgan, innkeeper, Picton Hotel, Pontllytyn, 23; John Price, draper, Pontllytyn, 55; Edmund Richards, insurance agent, Ystrad Mynach, 9; David Williams, collier, 1, Tucks-row, 64; Edmund Williams, collier, High-street, Troedrhifwuch, 66 Pontllytyn. The chairman then explained that if any elector was dissatisfied with the result of the election by show of hands, then he had a perfect right according to the Act, to demand a poll. Mr. James Williams, 17, Martins-row, Vochriw, demanded a poll, and this was agreed. Several persons present tried to speak to prevent a contest, but they were ruled out of order.

Juvenile Choir We are pleased to see that the Juvenile Choir, led by Mr. Burkley Angell, intends entering the lists at the great eisteddfod to be held at Mountain Ash on Easter Monday. Last Easter, at the same place, they succeeded in carrying away the substantial prize of £10, and a gold medal. We hope they will repeat their success.

Eisteddfod On Saturday evening last, an eisteddfod was held under the auspices of the Methodists at the Board School. The president for the occasion was Mr. John Jones, grocer, while the adjudicators were – music, Mr. S. George, Dowlais; recitation, Mr. James Davies, Fochriw; accompanist, Miss M. A. Thomas, Fochriw. The following were the competitions: alto solo, “Free as a bird,” Eliz. Jones; recitation, “Jim yr ysgubwr,” Stephen Lewis and Catherine Lewis; cornet solo, “Y fwyalchen,” W. Mantle; soprano solo, “Dros y gareg,” S. A. Davies; recitation, “Guilty or not guilty,” M. A. Ballard; tenor solo, “Plas Gogerddan,” Dan Davies; writing 1st Psalm, J. A. Jenkins & Rees Jones; duet, “Larboard watch,” Dan Jenkins & D. R. Williams. Five parties entered on the test – Pentwyn, Noddfa, Pantywaun, Carmel and Sandonites. After a very close competition, the Pentwyn choir was declared the winner, and their leader, Mr. Simon Cole, was invested amidst applause. The eisteddfod throughout proved a success, and reflects great credit on the secretary (Mr. T. Roberts) and treasurer (Mr. D. Ll. Evans).

“Merthyr Express” 18 April 1896

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

Juvenile Choir We congratulate the juvenile choir, under their able conductor, Mr. B. Angel, on their success at the Mountain Ash Eisteddfod on Easter Monday. It will be remembered that last year they carried away the first prize of £10 and a gold medal. This year they were awarded second prize. Seven choirs competed, all old and experienced combinations. To be second in such a contest is a distinction which needs no comment.. We understand the choir intends competing once again at Caerphilly, and maybe at Porth on Whit Monday. We extend to them heartiest wishes for further success.

“Merthyr Express” 6 June 1896

Eisteddfod Success We extend our heartiest congratulations to Miss Blodwen Angel, daughter of Mr. A. Angell, on her recent success at the Porth Eisteddfod. There were nineteen competitors, and four were picked to appear on the stage. Miss Angel took first prize. She also won first prize at the Pantywaun Eisteddfod on Saturday last.

Juvenile Choir Once more we have the pleasant task of recording another victory to the credit of the Fochriw Juvenile Choir, who carried away the first prize at the Caerphilly Eisteddfod. Six choirs competed, one of whom, Abercanaid, took first prize at the National Eisteddfod, Llanelly, on the same test piece, “Come, praise your Lord and Saviour,” (T. Price). This was not, however, the first meeting of the two choirs. They have met twice before at Mountain Ash, once when Fochriw were first, and this year, when Fochriw were second. Mr. D. Jenkins, Aberystwyth, in awarding Fochriw the prize, set them as a model to the other choirs. On arriving home, the victors were accorded a hearty reception. The baton was wielded by Mr. Burkley Angell who has filled the post of conductor from the commencement.

Interesting Wedding at Fochriw The marriage took place at Gelligaer Church on Wednesday, 20th ult., of Mr. W. Morgan of Llandrindod, and Miss A. Mantle of Pentwyn, Fochriw, and late mistress of Penybank School. The bride’s wedding gown was of electric blue cloth trimmed with white; hat, tulle toque trimmed with orange

blossoms. Miss Gertie Mantle, cousin of the bride, acted as bridesmaid, and was also dressed in electric blue with hat to match. The bride was given away by her father. The officiating clergyman was Rev. Jones, Trelewis. On the return from Gellygaer, luncheon was partaken at the home of the bride. Among those present were Mr. & Mrs. Mantle, Mr. & Mrs. Cook, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Williams (Dowlais), Mr. & Miss Jones (Deri), Mr. John Mantle, Miss Mantle, Mr. & Mrs. R. Booth (Abercarn), Miss E. Jones (Guest-street), Miss Harris, Miss Morgan (Rising Sun), W. Mantle and Wat Williams. The happy couple left Fochriw by the afternoon train for Llandrindod, where the first part of the honeymoon will be spent. The couple received a very large array of costly presents. The carriages were supplied by Mr. Seth James, Post Office, Fochriw.

“Merthyr Express” 20 June 1896

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

Eisteddfod at Vochriw A highly successful eisteddfod was held at the Board School on Saturday last in aid of the Fochriw Brass Band. The adjudicators were: music, Mr. John Price, Rhymney; recitations, Rev. J. Jones, Fochriw. Miss Thomas proved an excellent accompanist, and Mr. J. Harris an admirable conductor. Mr. Bevan, manager, Fochriw, was the president of the gathering. Fochriw prize winners were: girls solo, “Jubilee,” Miss Blodwen Angel, 1st., recitation under 15, “Heb groes, heb goron,” Catherine Lewis, 1st., Stephen Lewis, 2nd; boys solo under 12, Rees Jones, 1st., violin solo, Mr. W. J. Barry, 1st., Mr. David Williams, 2nd; bass solo, “Cymro dewr,” divided between Mr. David Cole and Mr. Daniel Jenkins; duet for tenor and bass, Mr. Daniel Jenkins and Mr. William Adams, 1st. There was considerable interest in the chief choral competition. Three parties sang, namely, Fochriw, Pantywaun and Pentwyn. The prize of £1 1s. was for the party not less than 20 in number that would best render “Huddersfield,” and a gold medal to the successful conductor. The prize was awarded to Pentwyn, conducted by Mr. Simon Cole, Fochriw. The party was accompanied by Miss Philpot, Pentwyn, whose tasteful accompaniment was praised by Mr. Price. The usual votes of thanks closed a very interesting gathering.

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

“Merthyr Express” 18 July 1896

Cricket: Fochriw English v Welshmen The game was played on Mabon’s Day, and ended with a victory for the Cymry by 35 runs. Scores: Welsh 83, English 48.

Fochriw Married v Single Played on Mabon’s Day, and ended in defeat for the fossils by one run. Scores: Singles 31, Married 30. The return match is to be played on Thursday evening next, and we hear that the fathers are confident of turning the tables on their sons. We admire their pluck, and wish them every success in their uphill task.

Demonstration The Nonconformist Sunday Schools held their annual demonstration on Monday last. The churches took part in the following order: Carmel Independent, 300; Nazareth Calvinistic Methodist, 100; Noddfa Baptist, 130. Tea was subsequently taken by the processionists in the respective chapels. The scholars having done ample justice to the good things provided, an adjournment was made to the cricket and football grounds, where the usual games were freely indulged in. A novelty which

greatly added to the attraction of the afternoon was a course of military manoeuvres which were gone through by Corpl. John Francis and his band of raw recruits.

Cymanfa On Saturday evening, and Sunday, the 4th and 5th, the students of Gwynfryn Academy, Ammanford, held a series of services at Carmel Independent Chapel. The following students delivered impressive sermons: Saturday evening: D. Overton, Berthlwyd, and E. O. Evans, Llanbryn-mair; Sunday morning: M. W. Davies, Trelewis, and E. O. Evans; Sunday afternoon, H. W. Thomas, Blaenavon, (English) and D. Overton; Sunday evening: T. J. Morgan, Llanhithel, and R. Jenkins, Fochriw. J. T. Williams, Trecastell, and D. Williams, Trelewis, also took part. Large and appreciative congregations attended the services, and the sermons gave ample proof of the abilities of the young men who are just entering a course of training for a ministerial career.

“Merthyr Express” 25 July 1896

Fochriw: Eisteddfod A very successful eisteddfod was held on Saturday the 11th at the Board Schools, under the auspices of the Lily of Fochriw Lodge. Mr. E. Williams, under manager, made an excellent chairman. Mr. Myall Williams, Dowlais, was the musical adjudicator, while the Rev. J. Jones, Fochriw, was the adjudicator for essays and recitations. Fochriw winners were: solo for children, “Fair Magdalen,” Miss B. Angel; recitation for children, “Peidiwch lladd yr adar bychain,” divided between S. and C. Lewis; contralto solo, “O rest in the Lord,” Miss E. Jones; violin solo, “The Ash Grove,” Mr. W. J. Barry; duet, “Mae’n iath yn fyw,” divided between Mr. D. Scourfield and friend, Penydarren, and Mr. D. Jenkins and partner, Fochriw; essay on “Dyngarwch,” Mr. Thomas Lewis; bass solo, “Merch y cadben,” Mr. D. Jenkins; prize bag, Miss M. J. Lewis; trio, “Duw bydd drugarog,” Mr. D. Jenkins and friends; recitation, “Ship on fire,” divided between Mr. James Davies, Fochriw, and Miss E. A. Jones, Penydarren, with Miss E. Ballard, Fochriw, in second place; Choral, “Y ffynon ger fy mwth,” two choirs competing for the prize of £1 and silver medal for the conductor; winners Pentwyn Choir, conducted by Mr. Simon Cole.

“Merthyr Express” 29 August 1896

Cricket: Mr Watkin Jones’s Team v Fochriw Played at Penydarren Park on Saturday last and ended in a victory for Mr. Jones’s team by 31 runs. The scores were 30 and 61.

“Merthyr Express” 19 September 1896

Cricket: Bedlinog v Fochriw Played at Bedlinog on Saturday, and resulted in a win for Bedlinog for 2 runs. The scores were 38 and 36.

“Merthyr Express” 17 October 1896

Dinner: Mr James Morgan B.Sc. On Thursday the 8th instant Mr. James Morgan, B. Sc., headmaster of Tredegar Intermediate School, and a native of Fochriw, was entertained at dinner by the managers of the Fochriw School Board. The company included the committee of management and Technical Education Committee, and the following ladies graced the proceedings with their presence: Mrs. Bevan, Mrs. Roberts and Mrs. James Williams (Martin-street), Mrs. Edwards (Cwmbargoed), Mrs. Phillips, Mrs. Evans (Brook House), Mrs. Jones (Guest-street), and Mrs. Worman. The main room of the school for the time being had been completely transformed, and for the evening was an inviting banquet hall. Skillfully arranged draperies, appropriate mottos, and a good display of choice plants assisted to make the transformation complete. Mr. Thomas Bevan, manager of the Fochriw Pits, presided. Grace having been said by Mr. Worman, the first toast was “Our noble Queen,” the company singing the national anthem. The next was “Our honoured guest,” proposed by the President in a pertinent speech, and supported by Rev. J. Jones and Dr. Davies.

Dr. Davies present Mr. Morgan with four volumes of "Chips from a German Workshop," by Prof. Max Muller. Mr. Morgan thanked the company for the gifts and their kind words. The company could not refrain from singing "For he is a jolly good fellow." Next came the toast "The Fochriw industry," spoken by Mr. Thomas Roberts, Mr. James Williams and Mr. Henry Evans, who, between them, enlarged upon the good quality of the Fochriw coal. The President proposed a toast to "Cycling," to which the Rev. James Jones replied in a genuinely humorous speech. Sport brought to his feet the well-known sportsman, Mr. George Phillips, who complained of the scarcity of grouse and snipe in Gelligaer parish, as compared with year's gone by. The toast, "Vocalists and musicians," was responded to by Mr. John Jones in a thorough Celtic fashion, the breeze having got into his saild so that we had the "hwyl." The toast, "The teachers of Gelligaer," received excellent treatment by Mr. W. O. Morgan, who was highly pleased to see an old pupil receive such a signal honour. The next toast, "The railways of our district," was well dealt with by Mr. John Edwards of Cwmbargoed, and the last toast, but not the least, "The ladies," was responded to by Rev. Evan Morgan and Mr. James Morgan. While the company was discussing the good things set before them, the following young ladies contributed largely to the evening's entertainment: accompanist, Miss M. A. Thomas; vocalists, Misses S. A. Davies, Elizabeth Jones, Maud Angell, Addie Phillips and Lilian Williams. The proceedings came to a close by singing "Hen wlad fy nhadau," but not before Mr. James Morgan had proposed a vote thanks to the president, to Mr. Worman, to the young ladies mentioned, and to the attendants.

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