

“GOREU LLYW DYSG.”

ABERDARE COUNTY SCHOOL.

THE SECOND

ANNUAL REPORT

PRESENTED BY THE

HEAD MASTER

TO THE

Meeting of the Governors

HELD IN THE SCHOOL

ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6TH, 1898.

ABERDARE:

JENKIN HOWELL, PRINTER, &c., 16 VICTORIA SQUARE

1898

COUNTY SCHOOL, ABERDARE

HEAD MASTER'S REPORT

December 5, 1898

LADIES & GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Report on the working of the Second Year of the existence of the School, which has been one of great progress in organization.

CHRISTMAS TERM 1897.

During the first half of this term, I was unfortunately unable on account of illness to attend to my duties. I have to express to you and to my Staff my sincere thanks for the kindness and consideration shown to me during that period. I should like to mention especially the services rendered by Mr. J W DODGSON, B.Sc., who undertook the task of the organization of the school until my return. My thanks are also due to MISS ROSE GEORGE, whose kind assistance at the beginning of the term was of the utmost value.

NUMBER OF PUPILS.

The number of pupils on the School Roll during the Summer Term 1898, was 153—86 boys and 67 girls. During the Xmas Term 1897, the number was 159—87 boys and 72 girls. During the Spring Term 1898, the number rose to 174—96 boys and 78 girls. During the Summer Term 1898, the number was 172—94 boys and 78 girls. The increase in the number of pupils is very satisfactory, especially in view of the fact that the number on the roll of so many County Schools in Wales has gone down very considerably.

AUGMENTATION OF STAFF.

By the beginning of the Xmas Term 1897, the Staff was increased by the appointment of MISS DIA G. HAGERTY. MISS HAGERTY'S special work has been the teaching of Cookery, Drill and Dressmaking. Without in any way disparaging the value of the services rendered by the Visiting Teachers of the Glamorgan Technical Instruction Committee, by whom Cookery and Drill were previously taught, it must be said that these subjects have been much more thoroughly taught, as is only to be expected, since they have been taken by a permanent member of the staff. It is obvious, too, that Dressmaking is a most desirable addition to the curriculum.

In August last, Mr. E. OGWEN WILLIAMS, A.C.P., was appointed. His special department will be Drawing.

THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT.

The Chemical Laboratory, fitted up with working benches for 20 students and excellently provided with new and “up-to-date” apparatus, and the Lecture-room adjoining, fitted up with lecture-table and gallery, capable of accommodating as many as 40 students, were ready by the beginning of the school year and rendered possible the introduction of Chemistry, Theoretical and Practical, into the curriculum. Excellent work has been done in this department, as the report shows. Last term, it was decided to build a new Physical Laboratory, Balance Room and Store-room. When these have been fitted up, and the apparatus which has been ordered, has arrived, the school will be particularly well equipped for the teaching of Natural Science.

MANUAL INSTRUCTION.

The room which you had built for Manual Instruction was ready for use by the beginning of the Xmas Term 1897, and the work, which during the Summer Term 1897, had been carried on under some difficulties in an ordinary Class-room, went on under very favourable conditions. The boys were much interested in the subject, and worked with a will. There can be no doubt that the introduction of Manual Instruction has had a beneficial influence.

SCHOOL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM.

The grant which you voted, enabled me to start a School Library—an institution which is absolutely necessary in any properly organized school, and since its inception, gifts of books have been received from persons interested in the school, members of the staff and the pupils. Limited though the number of books necessarily is as yet, the Library has been a great boon. It has been divided into two sections which are kept separate—Books of Reference and Books of Recreation. Of the former, it has not been found possible to purchase many, as they are expensive, and I should like to call your attention to the desirability of extending this section as soon as possible. As the work becomes more advanced in each subject, the need of large dictionaries and similar standard works, to which both the staff and the pupils can refer, becomes more and more urgent. I have to thank Mr. W. C. COX for undertaking the cataloguing and general management of the Library. The nucleus of a school museum has been got together, and I hope to bestow more attention to this question in future. It would appear that in a neighbourhood like this it would not be difficult to get a collection of fossils, &c., which would be both interesting and instructive.

SCHOLARSHIPS 1897–98.

The following pupils held Scholarships during the year:— “COUNTY,” Scholarships consisting of the remission of

the whole of the school-fees, awarded on the result of the Entrance Scholarship Examination, conducted by Mr. G. FLEMING, Higher Grade School, Merthyr, Sept. 10, 1897:— Gwilym Hicks, D. J. Evans, Jeffrey Tinney, Rhys Jones, Thomas Daniel Jones, John Albert Jenkins, Lizzie Rees, Annie Evans, Eleanor John, Ethel Millard.

“D. P. DAVIES” Scholarship, consisting of the remission of one-half of the school-fees: David H. Parry.

Renewed on the Headmaster’s recommendation, July, 1897:—

“COUNTY” Scholarships, consisting of the remission of the whole of the school-fees : Norman Picton, W. J. Harris, Samuel Shipton, Alfred Morgan, Henry B. Jones, D. J. Rowlands, D. P. Roberts, David Davies, May Daniel, Maggie Perkins, Eliza J. Manuel, Edith M. Evans, Catherine Jenkins, Mary G. Davies, Gwen Morgan, Annie Walker.

“COUNTY” Scholarships consisting of the remission of one-half of the school fees : Willie Mason, W. R. Davies, Willie Jones, Daniel Griffiths, M. I. Jones, Sydney Reed, Lizzie Shaw, Mary Richards, May Davies, Sarah Kate Evans, Mary Bronwen Griffiths, Lizzie Bishop, Alice Evans.

“HERBERT C. LEWIS” Scholarships, consisting of the remission of the whole of the school-fees : Daniel Morgan, Elizabeth Evans, Blodwen Jones, Emily Griffiths.

“D. P. DAVIES” Scholarship, consisting of the remission of one-half of the school-fees : Gwen E. Garrett.

Awarded on the result of the Central Board Examination, July, 1897 :—

“W. J. DIXON” Scholarship of the value of £7 10s. per annum : Eynon Davies.

“ABERAMAN” Scholarship, consisting of the remission of the whole of the school-fees : Winifred Roberts.

Also the following, all consisting of the remission of one-half of the school-fees:—

“COUNTY” Scholarships: May Heppell, Grace Grier, Winifred Howells, Isaac D. Morgan, Pollie Thomas, Sidney Rake.

“D. A. THOMAS” Scholarships : William E. Probert, Margaret A. Williams, Henry Morgan, John Lewis.

“CHARLES KENSHOLE” Scholarships : Arthur Pullin, Gertie Harris.

“SPECIAL” Scholarships : Idris T. Davies, Gladys Rake, E. H. Foster, Alice Teague.

The fees of Emily Rowe and Margaret Harris were also paid by the Aberdare Co-operative Society, and the Vaynor & Penderyn School District Governors, maintained Scholarships held by John Rees Jones, Rupert Hughes, Richard Harris, Ernest Lancey, Wyndham T. Evans and William Richards.

INSPECTION AND EXAMINATION, 1898.

Mr. OWEN OWEN, M.A., the Chief Inspector, visited the school on June 28, 1898. The written examination conducted by the Central Welsh Board took place from July 11th to July 15th, and from July 18th to July 20th inclusive, practical examinations in Chemistry, Woodwork, and Cookery, and an oral examination in French and English subjects having previously taken place. If I might be allowed to indulge in criticism on the papers set, I might say that some of them were prepared by Examiners, whose acquaintance with the conditions of work in secondary schools was limited, and that not enough time was allowed for the mathematical papers. The Report, which is in your hands, is on the whole, as you will see, exceedingly satisfactory. I may, perhaps, be allowed to call your attention to the paragraph which says that "good work is done in the Technical and Scientific Departments and that not at the expense of the literary subjects, as is sometimes the case." Time was when Technical and Scientific Subjects were totally neglected. Nowadays, there seems to be a tendency in the educational world to think that so much attention is paid to them that the "humane" studies are in danger of being dropped. It is satisfactory to think that the Chief Inspector appears to be of the opinion that the "golden mean" is being observed in this school.

DISTINCTIONS.

The following pupils are mentioned as having distinguished themselves in the examination :—

English Grammar: Lizzie Bishop, David Davies, Eynon Davies, W. R. Davies, E. H. Foster, Eliza J. Manuel, Isaac D. Morgan, May Morris, Margaret Price, Winifred Roberts, Lizzie Shaw, Samuel Shipton, Alice Williams.

History: Lizzie Bishop, Eynon Davies, Mary G. Davies, E. H. Foster, Goronwy Jones, John Roes Jones, Levi Jones, Eliza J. Manuel, Maude Manuel, Isaac Martin, Alfred Morgan, Norman Picton, Margaret Price, Gladys Rake, D. P. Roberts, Winifred Roberts, D. J. Rowlands, Lizzie Shaw, Samuel Shipton, Alice Teague, Annie Walker.

Arithmetic : Daisy Allen, Eynon Davies, Virgil R. Davies, W. R. Davies, John Howells, J. M. S. James, William James, Catherine Jenkins, Blodwen Jones, Goronwy Jones, John Lewis, Alfred Morgan, Norman Picton, Margaret Price, Samuel Shipton, Richard Rees, D. P. Roberts, Winifred Roberts.

Algebra : Mary G. Davies, E. H. Foster, Catherine Jenkins, Maude Manuel, Willie Mason, Maggie Perkins, D. P. Roberts, Winifred Roberts, Annie Walker.

Euclid : Eynon Davies, Mary G. Davies, John Howells, Alfred Morgan, Norman Picton, Richard Rees, Winifred Roberts, Samuel Shipton, Annie Walker.

Latin : Eynon Davies, Goronwy Jones, Alfred Morgan, Norman Picton, Winifred Roberts.

French : Lizzie Bishop, Eynon Davies, Goronwy Jones, Alfred Morgan, Norman Picton, Margaret Price, Gladys Rake, Winifred Roberts, Annie Walker.

Chemistry : Ernest Davies, Eynon Davies, E. H. Foster, John Howells, J. M. S. James, William James, Goronwy Jones, Morgan I. Jones, John Lewis, Alfred Morgan, Norman Picton, Richard Rees, Samuel Shipton.

Hygiene : Daisy Allen, Lizzie Bishop, Mary G. Davies, May Davies, Gwen E. Garrett, Mary Bronwen Griffiths, Eliza J. Manuel, May Morris, Maggie Perkins, Margaret Price, Gladys Rake, Winifred Roberts, Lizzie Shaw, Annie Walker, Alice Williams.

Physiology : Sarah Kate Evans, Emily Griffiths, Alice Teague.

Book-keeping : Richard Rees.

Shorthand: Eynon Davies, David Davies.

It should be pointed out that the standard necessary for distinction varied greatly in the different subjects. For instance in English Grammar it was 70 per cent., in Latin and French 60, whereas in Chemistry and Hygiene it was 40.

SCHOLARSHIPS 1898–99.

The following pupils hold Scholarships for the present school-year:—

“COUNTY” Scholarships awarded on the result of the Entrance Scholarship Examination, held on July 1 and 2, 1898, (when 132 candidates presented themselves,) consisting of the remission of the whole of the school-fees: Morgan Jones, Myfanwy Harris, Mary E. Protheroe, Aenid Picton, Mabel Shaw, Henry James Williams, Edwin J. Williams, David John Evans, Gladys H. Kate Jones, Thomas H. Morgan.

“FRIEND’S” Scholarship, consisting of the remission of the whole of the school-fees : Philip Jones.

“COUNTY” Scholarship, consisting of the remission of one-half of the school-fees: Mary R. J. John.

Renewed on the Headmaster’s recommendation :—

“COUNTY” Scholarships, consisting of the remission of the whole of the school-fees : Rhys Jones, T. D. Jones, J. A. Jenkins, Lizzie Rees, Annie Evans, Eleanor John, Ethel Millard.

Awarded or renewed on the result of the Central Board Examination, and in the case of pupils of the lower forms on the result of the School Examination, held in July, 1898 :—

“COUNTY” Scholarships, consisting of the remission of the whole of the school-fees: Norman Picton, Alfred Morgan, D. P. Roberts, David Davies, E. H. Foster, W. E. Probert, John Howells, Eynon Davies, May Daniel, Eliza J. Manuel, Catherine Jenkins, Mary G. Davies, Annie Walker, Lizzie Shaw, Lizzie Bishop, Winifred Roberts, Winifred Howells, Margaret A. Williams, Annie M. Williams.

“COUNTY” Scholarships, consisting of the remission of one-half of the school-fees: Willie Mason, W. R. Davies,

Daniel Griffiths, Sarah Kate Evans, Mary Bronwen Griffiths, Alice Evans, Sydney Reed, May Heppell, Isaac D. Morgan, H. B. Jones, Edith Thomas II., Morfydd May Evans, Maggie Gwen Lewis, M. H. Arnold.

“D. A. THOMAS” Scholarships, consisting of the remission of one-half of the school-fees : John Lewis, Beatrice Jones, Maggie Morgan, Maggie Grier.

“SPECIAL” Scholarships, consisting of the remission of one-half of the school-fees : Gladys Rake, Alice Teague, Caradoc Walters, Blodwen Jones.

“CHARLES KENSHOLE” Scholarships, consisting of the remission of one-half of the school-fees : Gertie Harris, Fred Goodwin.

“D. P. DAVIES” Scholarships, consisting of the remission of one-half of the school-fees: David H. Parry and Emily Griffiths.

The Vaynor and Penderyn School District Governors also maintain Scholarships at the school, held by Ernest Lancey, Wyndham T. Evans, John Harries, F. G. Thomas, Elizabeth J. Meyler and Lily Goodwin.

PRIZES.

Prizes have been awarded on the result of the Central Board and School Examinations held in July, to the following : Form VI.—Form Prize, Winifred Roberts; Languages, Norman Picton; Mathematics, Winifred Roberts; English, Eynon Davies. Form V.—Form Prize, Annie Walker; Languages, Annie Walker; Mathematics, John Howells; English, Lizzie Shaw. Form IV.—Form Prize, D. J. Rowlands; Languages, Catherine Jenkins; Mathematics, Catherine Jenkins; English, Levi Jones. Form III.—Form Prize, Winifred Howells; Languages, Sarah Kate Evans; Mathematics, Winifred Howells; English, Edith Thomas II., Form II.—Form Prize, Eleanor John; Languages, Eleanor John; Mathematics, Gwilym Hicks; English, T. D. Jones. Form I.—Form Prize, Maggie Gwen Lewis; French, Maggie Gwen Lewis; Mathematics, J. A. Jenkins; English, Maggie Grier. Chemistry, Eynon Davies; Hygiene, Margaret Price; Shorthand, David Davies; Book-keeping, Richard Rees; Drawing—Boys, J. M. S. James; Girls, Mary Williams; Music, Daisy Allen; Cookery, Daisy Allen; Dressmaking, Eliza J. Manuel; Welsh, D. E. Jones; Woodwork, W. Harmston; Physiology, Alice Teague; Regular Attendance, Mary G. Davies.

SCIENCE AND ART EXAMINATIONS.

The following pupils were successful in the Science and Art Examinations, held last June :—

Mathematics (Stage I).—First Class, John Lewis, Norman Picton, Winifred Roberts, Annie Walker. Second Class, Eynon Davies, Margaret Price, Lizzie Shaw, D. P. Roberts, David Davies.

Chemistry (Stage I).—First Class, Richard Rees, John Lewis, Alfred Morgan, Goronwy Jones, Eynon Davies, Norman Picton. Second Class, William James, E. H. Foster, S. Shipton.

Hygiene (Stage I).—First Class, Daisy Allen. Second Class, Lizzie Bishop, Margaret Price, Winifred Roberts, Mary G. Davies, Mary Bronwen Griffiths, May Morris, Lizzie Shaw, Annie Walker, Alice Williams, Eliza J. Manuel, Gladys Rake.

Physiology, (Stage I)—Second Class, Alice Teague.

WORKS OF ART.

The County Governing Body at the end of last term kindly allowed me to select a number of reproductions of standard Works of Art to the value of £20. A sufficient number of pictures has been obtained from this source to decorate the walls of the Assembly Hall. I am in hopes that a sufficient number of engravings and etchings may before long be obtained from private donations or otherwise to furnish the classrooms also, as the influence of pictures in the cultivation of taste can scarcely be over-estimated. In connection with this subject, I may perhaps be allowed to mention one special want of the school, i.e., a bust or portrait of the late LORD ABERDARE, to whom the Educational Movement In Wales generally, and this school in particular owe so much.

CO-EDUCATION.

The system of mixed classes adopted in this school, and by this time approved by every authority on education, continues to work very successfully. It may perhaps be interesting to mention that in the Central Board Examination held in July, a girl, Winifred Roberts, came out head of the school, that girls came out top of every Form but one, and that the average of marks obtained by the girls was higher than that obtained by the boys. In this connection, however I should mention that out of 118 distinctions obtained in the examination 63 were obtained by the boys, and 55 by the girls.

EARLY REMOVAL OF PUPILS.

In my first Annual Report I referred to the serious evil of the early removal of pupils from the school. I am afraid this evil has not abated. Eleven pupils left at the end of the Xmas Term, 15 at the end of the Spring Term, and 36 at the end of the Summer Term. The efficiency of the school will be very seriously impaired unless parents can be induced to allow their sons and daughters to remain longer than they do at the school. It will be absolutely impossible for this school to confer the benefits which it is expected to confer upon the Town and District of Aberdare, unless the prevalent idea that just a few terms' stay at school is amply sufficient for all except a favoured few, can be thoroughly stamped out.

RECENT IMPROVEMENTS.

I have already touched on the new Physical Laboratory and the Works of Art; mention must also be made of the new Gymnasium—a fairly large and lofty room which when fitted up with apparatus will be an invaluable acquisition to the school; the Refreshment Department recently started at the request of parents of pupils living at a distance—this provides a wholesome dinner and other refreshments at reasonable prices in the dinner hour, an institution which is much appreciated: the wooden dado round the Class-rooms, which adds so much to their appearance; and the fitting up of the Art-Room for the purpose of lantern displays during the day time—it is intended to make extensive use of the lantern in teaching History, Geography, Science, &c.

SUGGESTIONS.

According to custom, I venture to offer a few suggestions for the further improvement of the School. A new class-room is wanted, as at present the Assembly Hall is used for ordinary Form-work; the present kitchen, the stove in it, and the scullery are, as the Examiner in Cookery says in her report, altogether inadequate; a Dining Hall would be a most desirable addition, and I venture to cherish the hope of seeing Lockers, a Music Room (at present the Art Room is used for pianoforte teaching) and a Laundry. Would it be possible to convert the present kitchen into a new Class-Room and to build a new Dining Hall (which could also be used as a Music Room and Store-room) with a Kitchen, Laundry and Scullery above it?

In conclusion, I wish to express my thanks to you for the kind consideration which you give to all my requests and suggestions and to my colleagues for their able and loyal co-operation at all times.

I remain,

Yours obediently,

W. JENKYN THOMAS, M.A.,

Head Master