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COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE FOR WALES & MONMOUTHSHIRE



SECOND ANNUAL REPORT 1948 - 1949

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COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE FOR WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE

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ANNUAL REPORT



INTRODUCTION

"There is a prevalent feeling that the increasing concern of the Central Government and of Local Authorities in the work of social reform, as shown in such measures as the Education Act, 1944, the National Health Act and National Insurance Act, will stifle voluntary action and make unnecessary the continued existence of voluntary organisations. Today there are not wanting indications—in the public statements of Ministers, in the actions of Local Authorities, and very recently in the trenchant challenge of Lord Beveridge's Report on "Voluntary Action"—that so far from this being true, there is a deepening conviction that voluntary action must still be an important force in the life of this country, whether in its existing forms or is a more closely integrated forms with stronger sanctions than were possible formerly."

Since this was written in our 1947-48 Report, Lord Samuel has initiated in the House of Lords (June 22nd, 1949) a debate upon "Voluntary action for Social Progress." The debate aroused great interest, and we consider it of such importance that we present to all our members the summary published by the National Cooncil of Social Service. Not the least important arowal was that of the Government spokesman, Lord Pakenham, who gave "the most deliberate, solemn and wholekearted assurance of belief in the necessity of voluntary action and of the determination of the Government to encourage it." The report is a heartening document and one that should sit every member of our Council like a tale told in a chinneyside corner.

Another document we wish to bring to the knowledge of our members is the attached reprint of an article in the "Times" for Saturday, June 18th, 1949: "Social and Cultural Life in the Countryside."

The validity of the phrase, "Changing World," is strongly evidenced in the history of our Council. From 1934 to 1939 it was chiefly concerned with the alleviation of unemployment and distress, with the attempt to bring encouragement and resource to those who through no fault of their own found life aid and purposeless. From 1939 to 1945 this gave way to the urgency of the manifold war problems—evacuation, shelter, sustenance, moral support. The aftermath of all these problems is still with us and as far as in us lies is being met.

It is of the utmost importance to pay tribute to the two Authorities of Glamorgan and Carmarthen who with understanding and, we are glad to feel, with conviction of the value of our work of informal education in their areas, have aided us generously with grants.

The grant of the Ministry of Education aids us to establish Community Associations where women and men, young and old, married and unmarried, may find in and through a lively system of informal education, relief and inspiration in their daily round. Now an increasing concern shows itself with the eternal riddle of the countryside, its reinvigoration, its reawakening, the reassertion of its values and the support of its economy. On the rural side the Development Commissioners charge us with the manifold concerns of the rural areas and aid us to fulfil that charge especially through the Rural Community Councils. There are five in Wales, three more have just been recognised by the Development Commission and another is in process of formation.

In addition, the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust (whose Secretary, Mr. James Wilkie, M.A., F.R.S.E., will address our Annual Meeting) looks to us and aids us to foster interest in Music and Drama throughout Wales.

The section on Finance gives a record of other Trusts and of Voluntary Bodies who support the Council's work.

These are Government, Local Authority and Trust aids, and the way in which the Council justifies its charge is shown in the reports by the various officers of the Council that follow. There remains the essential need of voluntary individual aid. The springs of benevolence are inevitably less fettle than ever before, but there are movements that cannot be allowed to die.

WOMEN'S CLUBS

Through the grants made by the appropriate Local Education Authorities, we were able to continue our full programme of scrivities in the Women's Clubs. In Glamorganshire, there are 78 active clubs, and in Carmarthenshire cight clubs, with a total membership of about 3,000. New clubs are in the process of formation, and there are also enquiries from interested groups in other Local Authority area.

The clubs are self-governing units, and the choice of activities is their own. All clubs, however, have regular instruction in Handiciaris and Homecrafi, and the exhibition of entries in the Annual Eisteddfod, held this year at Briton Ferry, was highly praiseworthy. Interest in these basic subjects was further stimulated by the holding of one-day schools in Dressmaking and Fruit-bottling in readiness for the winter. Many of the club members are keen choristers and ardent supporters of the Club Music Festivals and Inter-Club Concerts, Dramatic production becomes increasingly popular, and there was keen competition for the honour of staging one-act plays at the annual Festival of Drama, held at the Pavilion, Portheavl. Eight one-act plays were presented, and there was a noticeable improvement in the standard of production and individual performance. Lectures on topical subjects were very popular, and there were good audiences for the speakers and films provided by the Central Office of Information.

A recent survey shows that the Women's Clubs take a full part in the life of their community. Most of them are represented on Local Committees such as Housing, Maternity and Child Welfare, where specialised knowledge as the committee of the life of life of the life of life

The clubs are frequently used by visitors who are studying social conditions, and who are sponsored either by a Government Department, the British Council, or by the University of Wales. In this way, visitors from as far afield as Nigeria, Tanganyika and Canada were made welcome, and their studies assisted. University students taking the Social Science Course also made visits.

The lack of suitable premises plays a big part in limiting the scope of Women's Club work. Many of the groups have to meet in quite unsuitable premises, and much of the club equipment needs repair or replacement. The Local Education Authorities have helped with the loan of schoolrooms, but these have not always proved quite suitable for this particular work. But, in spite of these handicaps, there is evidence of much interest and keenness in the Women's Club movement.

MEN'S CLUBS

The position in respect of men's clubs has not altered materially during the year. Activities vary in different clubs and the character of these scens to depend to a great extent upon the quality of leadership which is available. Some of them are fortunate in having committees with vision of what a club should really mean in a neighbourhood. In such cases they have developed into small community centres, and are referred to in the section of the report dealing with that aspect of our work. In others, it is clear that if they are to develop into "all round" clubs and not merely centres for indoor recreation of various kinds, a complete re-organisation will be necessary.

The most popular activity, other than recreational, is craft work. Steps are being taken to arouse interest in drama and music and it is hoped that joint men's and women's groups will be established in some of the clubs.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS AND COMMUNITY CENTRES

In September, 1948, a Conference convened by the British National Committee of the International Conference on Social Work, in association with the National Council of Social Service, was held in London. Our Council was represented and there were representatives from 46 national organisations, five government departments and a number of individuals interested in various phases of social and welfare work, including a number of visitors from OVETEAS.

One of the topics for discussion was "the place of voluntary associations in relation to community work for youth and adults in urban and rural areas." A group was formed to consider this subject and to report its findings to the Conference. Much of the discussion centred around the relationship between the local authorities and the voluntary bodies in view of the provisions of the Education Act of 1944.

The practically unanimous conclusion was that in consequence of the pressure of other work, local authorities might realise that they could not tackle the whole task and might be prepared to make use of voluntary bodies. They would, it was felt, recognise the contribution that voluntary bodies could make in community work and might be expected to leave a definite share in it to them. The group then discussed whether voluntary bodies themselves felt that they had a place in this field of work, and if so, why. There was general agreement that they had such a place and the members could not foresee a time when this would not be the case. The majority felt, however, that the contribution they could make was different in kind from that made by statutory bodies. The movement to form community associations and centres, was a growth from below, from the people who themselves would share in the life of the group, and not something imposed from above. It was emphasised that whilst the work of the statutory bodies in this field was of immense value, it was only "through democratic groups, themselves voluntary bodies, that the mass of the people could obtain opportunities for practical citizenship."

It was agreed that because of their nature and their greater freedom to do joinner work of various kinds, the voluntary bodies were of especial value to the community, and to their members. This view has since been authoritatively recognised and it now remains to be seen whether it will be accepted by Jocal authorities in whom so much power has been vested.

There are encouraging signs that it will be so recognised. During the year under review, the movement to establish Community Centres and Community Associations in Wales and Moamouthshire has made considerable progress and, with some exceptions which it would be tille to ignore, there has been contial co-operation between our Council and the local authorities. At the time of writing three meetings have been convened by statutory bodies to consider the question of community centres in their areas and representatives of this Council have been invited to attend. There is every likelihood of many similar meetings being held in other places in due course.

In the London Conference referred to earliar, reference was made to the survival of clubs from the period of mass-unemployment in South Walss. This survival may be taken as evidence of a need and as, at least, a partial answer to the question put forward in some quarters, "do the people want Community Centres?" One thing is quite clear, that the provision of such a centre and its ultimate success will depend on the interest of the people in the neighbourhood where a centre is proposed.

One of the duties upon which the Council is engaged is that of (s) inding out where there is a need and desire for Community Centres, and (b) taking such steps as are open to it to satisfy this need. The first approach has been to our own clubs. It is clear that if they are to continue to be of real service to the neighbourhood in which they are situated, they must develop into centres open to all residents and not to one section only. Generally speaking the reaction of the best clubs has been favourable and they are now, in effect, Community Centres.

The other approach has been to call together representatives of various organisations engaged in welfare work, with the object of forming a group which would undertake the responsibility of ascertaining the needs of their neighbourhood, how far those needs are being met and what further steps can be taken in that direction—in other words, the formation of a Community Association. In every such case it has been made clear that such a body should include representatives of the Local Education Authority and the Local Authority.

Development in this direction is bound to be gradual. New ideas take some time to get over and there are often local prejudices to be overcome, before an "Association" can be formed. Even after it is formed there are practical difficulties to be surmounted before a Community Centmenty Centment of the Community Centment of the C

There are numerous other difficulties to be overcome, and the Council has been able to give helpful advice to many groups anxious to develop along Community Centre lines.

THE COUNTRYSIDE

"The truth is that the rural exodus is ceasing, has even in favourable places become a return to the land. There is more liveliness in the villages, well based on the old fondness for the country scene and the good sense of communities in touch with elemental things and thoughts."

Social legislation during the last two decades has made progressively available physical and practical amenities in the form of adequate water supply and satisfactory sewerage systems, good roads, regular refuse collection, electric light and telephones.

The Development Commissioners, the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust and the various Voluntary Organisations have done much to develop the general cultural amenities of rural life as is shown in the above statement from one of our great eye-witnesses of the rural scene.

The following sections of the report show how under the influence of these bodies the work of the Council in this respect is earlied on.

RURAL INDUSTRIES (Wales)

Any organisation selected by the State to preserve and enhance tural industries must needs have many and varied connections. This has been found very true in the case of the Rural Industries Bureau. Established at a time when rural life, in all its aspects, appeared to be declining, when agriculture, the mainstay of all life, was at a very low ebb and when the young life of our country was seeking its existence in the towns, the Bureau was faced with the problem, not only of assisting the few trades which existed, but of endeavouring to revive those which had been well nigh forgotten. A review of those early days, only tends to emphasise the very formidable task the Bureau had undertaken. It was immediately appreciated that for the successful execution of the work there would have to be local points of contact throughout the country. The bodies appointed to maintain these contacts were the Rural Community Councils, where such existed. Where this was not the case, the parent body of the R.C.C.s, the National Council of Social Service, assumed responsibility, and in Wales the Welsh Council of Social Service, assumed responsibility, and in Wales the Welsh Council of Social Service, assumed

The function of the Rural Community Councils in their relation to rural industries work, is two-fold: (a) the carrying out of the approved national policy, as set by the Rural Industries Council, in relation to existing rural crafts; (b) the exploring of further avenues of development. The machinery for implementation of the policy is simple. The R.C.Cs employ Rural Industries Organisers, the appointments are approved by the Rural Industries Bureau, and the salary and administration costs are covered by a Treasury Grant.

* Sir W. Beach Thomas.

In Wales, which for the purpose of administration is divided into six areas, four Rural Industries Organisers are employed by R.C.C.s as follows:

Caernaryonshire R.C.C., covering the counties of Caernaryon and Anglesey,

Montgomery County Recreation Association, covering Montgomery, Merioneth and Radnorshire.

Pembrokeshire R.C.C., covering Pembroke and Cardiganshire.

Monmouthshire R.C.C., covering Monmouthshire and Glamorgan.

The remaining counties of Denbighshire and Fliatshire in the North, and Carmarthenshire and Becconshire in the South, are covered by two Rural Industries Organisers employed by the Council of Social Service for Wales and Monmouthshire.

The Organiser makes direct personal contact with each craftsman in his area and ascertains his needs. He is then in a position to submit all applications for assistance to the appropriate department of the Bureau as the technical advisory body. These services are varied and expert technical advice is available on:

Engineering; Woodworking; Clay Industry (brickmaking and pottery); Saddlery; Thatching; Wrought Iron Work; Farriery; Blacksmithing; Blook-keeping and Costing; Texilles; Boar Building.

With the continued expansion of the work, the Rural Industries Bureau and the respective bodies in each area. A Welsh Area Office was established in 1946 with a resident Area Officer for Wales. Based on this office are the Welsh Textile Adviser and the Book Keeping and Costing Officer for Wales. It is anticipated that the appointment of a Designer, for the Welsh Textile Adviser and the Book Keeping and Costing Officer for Wales. It is anticipated that the appointment of a Designer, for the Welsh Textiles, also a Woodworking Instructor, will soon follow.

There are three travelling Instructors in Wales, who give tuition in is on an itine-ran principle, so that craftsmen receive the training in their own workshops, under their every-day conditions. The number of Certificated welders in Wales following this training, is 208:

To enable craftsmen to equip their workshops so as to be able to cope with in 1900 and later the Workshop Loan Fund to enable better premises to be set up. The Equipment Loan is interest free, for a period of two years, and the Workshop Loan is at a 3 per cent interest rate. These loans are now available to both the Welsh Textile and small Boat Building Industries. The value of equipment supplied in Wales through the Equipment Funds is 20,830. It is creditable to report that Welsh craftsmen have responded favourably to all the services offered by the Bureau.

Reports from the six Organisers from Wales, only tend to confirm that there have been revolutionary changes in rural life, and the best of the craftsmen have been alert to sense the change and to adapt themselves accordingly. There remains, however, the oft-mentioned problem of the dearth of apprentice to the rural trades, and after all herein lies the only certainty of the survival of any craft. There is need to emphasise the value of craftsmanship as much as of University education.

Rural Wales is very deficient in the supply of electricity. Were this condition improved, workshops could be made more attractive to the young craftsman.

VILLAGE HALLS

The National Council of Social Service has done excellent pioneering work in establishing village hall schemes for communities of less than 4,000 inhabitants. It was enabled to do this through grants and interest-free loans from funds provided by the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, and by the Treasury on the recommendation of the Development Commission.

The Carnegie Trust Fund set aside for this work has now been exhausted, and the Minister of Education has amounced his willingness to consider support and approval of Local Education Authority Grants, and of other expenditure involved in securing the provision and maintenance of Village Halls. He is also prepared to make direct grants under the Physical Training and Recreation Act to local representative committees towards the capital cost of Village Hall schemes in Rural Areas. The applications for grants in respect of capital cost of the provision and extension of village halls are to be forwarded to the Ministry of Education via the respective Local Education Authority. The procedure to be adopted by a village representative committee contemplating a village hall scheme is:

- (a) Choosing of site—if the freehold cannot be obtained, a long lease will normally be required,
- (b) Obtain approval of site from the appropriate Planning Authority.
- (c) Ascertain from the County Education Authority whether it is prepared to approve the scheme.
- (d) Where food-producing land is involved, it is essential to obtain the approval of the Rural Land Utilisation Officer.
- (e) Obtain the services of a solicitor to draw up the necessary deed of conveyance and trust deed. It is advisable to use the N.C.S.S. Model Trust Deed, because the Village Halls must be settled upon Charitable Trusts satisfactory to the Ministry of Education.
- (f) Consult an Architect and obtain plans and specifications of the proposed building. If these are accepted he will be required to provide itemised estimates of costs and invite tenders.
- (g) Complete the necessary forms.

It should be noted that no contractual obligation can be entered into in anticipation of a grant from the Ministry, and the Central Land Board has stated its policy in respect of the assessment of development charges. New Village Halls will be assessed at one quarter of housing value, wherever housing value is less than four times agricultural value, which will be taken in the year majority of instances, and the charge will be practically nil.

All the work of advising, guiding, etc., comes under the aegis of the R.C.C. Coerceary or Rural Officer of the Welsh Conroll and it is always advisable to contact the Welsh Office or R.C.C. Secretary in order to obtain the necessary advice and guidance. The respective officers are able to obtain professional advice from the N.C.S. Headquarters, as all forms, legal documents and plans are submitted to a professional body of men at the London office of the N.C.S. for their considered opinion before delivery to the Education Authority for submission to the Ministry of Education

Many Village Hall committees in Wales have accumulated funds varying from £400 to £1,400, and an average population served would be 400. It is essential that the local group continues to raise money, as local initiative and interest for a hall can only be measured by the monetary results shown.

There are now about 300 Village Hall schemes. Some are well advanced, other stan early stage of development. The greater number aim at permanent halls—some only at temporary halls. Committees tend to be pessimistic and discouraged in face of those difficulties that inhibit progress, but in the main good though slow progress is being made.

THE PARISH

The problem of the rehabilitation of the rural areas is not one of merely introducing new industries or even of building village halls and social centres. In truth, the introduction of certain industries might well go a long way towards destroying the traditional life of the countryside. Schemes for adding to the amenities of the rural areas will have little effect unless a spirit of independence and self-reliance can be fostered among the inhabitants of the countryside. And it is this spirit of self-respect and interest in their own affairs which has developed to so marked a degree among people living in the rural areas during the last decade or so. There are undoubtedly a number of factors responsible for this, among them the new sense of importance engendered in the agricultural community as a result of their greater economic importance in the life of the nation.

But whatever may be the influence of these other factors, we can claim with justice that the existence of the National Association of Parish Councils has brought about a great change in the life of the country districts. Up to a few years ago, the Parish Councils, whose setting up in 1894 stirred up high hopes amongst all friends of the countryside, had not realised these hopes; but during the last few years something like a revolution has taken place in the field of local government in the rural areas. Parish Councils have acquired a new sense of dignity and self-respect and are determined to seek extended powers while making effective use in the meantime of those they already possess, Parish Council elections, which used to be tame affairs of an acquiescent meeting raising its hands in favour of a few big farmers and other local magnates, have developed into lively contests around public issues. The Parish Councils have taken an active part in promoting local amenities, especially village halfs and playing fields. Banded together in a national body with thousands of other Parish Councils they have acquired a new confidence, especially as their national representatives have won the sympathy of the Government, and made their voices heard in high places.

In no part of the country has the Association of Parish Councils made greater progress than in Wales. The people of Wales have long-established traditions of voluntary action and democratic initiative, as winness their sacrifices, unaided by State help or private benefaction, to build up a national system of education. The same spirit has led to the growth of strong and influential Associations in most of the thirteen counties of Wales. All the six counties of North Wales are now organised in Country Associations, while in the rest of Wales only Cardigan and Radnor are as yet without one. Our of a total of 659 Parish Councils and Parish Meetings in the twelve counties for which we have statistics, 365 are members of the different County Associations.

There is no conceivable problem facing dwellers in the countryside which notice of the higher authorities concerned, often with a considerable measure of success. Questions of telephone facilities in the rural areas, better and more frequent bus services, electricity, water supplies to the farms and villages, planning, and the effects of the closing of rural schools upon the life of the countryside—all these questions and many more have been discussed by the various County Associations and followed by action often with very satisfactory results.

Another valuable service performed by the County Associations is to act as an information bureau for the individual Parish Councils, which tend more and more to turn to the Associations for legal and other advice upon their various problems. To expedite this service and to relieve the burden on the National 'Association in London many County Associations have appointed their own honorary legal advisers.

The Denbighshire County Association has been instrumental in raising one question with national implications. The County Education Committee prepared a memorandum on the National Health Service in its application to the rural areas, which contained a number of valuable suggestions. This memorandum deals with problems common to rural areas throughout the country and is now being considered by the National Executive Committee. Another success for the Association is the readiness of the Welsh Federation of Local Authorities to accept, in response to the request of the Denbighshire Association, the Country Associations in Wales to membership of the Federation. This claim has been conceded in principle, and the practical details are now being worked out. The same County Association also prepared a memorandum on the Recommendations of the Boundary Commission in so far as Wales was concerned.

Another important activity is that of propaganda and education, and many of our Area Committees hold lectures and schools on various aspects of local government. Some of the County Associations also publish bulletins.

The lame of public life in Wales has always been the lack of national unity, and the tendency of the nation to split into North and South. Our County Associations are determined to end this dualism, and the next important stage in our development is the setting up of a Welsh body to unite all the County Associations in our Country, so that they can discuss problems common to Wales and, within the framework of the National Association, determine upon a common policy for the Welsh Parish Council. This question has been discussed in practically all the County Associations in Wales and general

agreement has been arrived at on the principle of an all-Wales body. This will come up for final decision during the Annual Meeting of the National Association in London where a special meeting has been arranged for the representatives of the Welsh County Associations.

The achievement of this unity on an All-Wales basis will form an important landmark in the development of our movement in Wales and enhance still further the influence and prestige of the Parish Council as the one unit of local government which is close to the people, and best able to voice their interests and aspirations. In a world where the tendency is perhaps necessarily and inevitably towards centralisation and larger administrative units the Parish Council remains the citadel of local effort and voluntary codeavour, and the unit of a real democracy in the countryside.

		Number	of Parish G	nuncils or	
County			arish Meeting		Affiliated
Carmarthen			63		46
			. 95		
			115		58
			71	- 4	18
			-		777
Monmouth			. 39		32
Merioneth .			34		26
Caernarvon			39		31
	 1.4.6	4.4	55		28
Montgomery			52		37
	 0.0	4.0	70		53
			41		36
Radnor .	4.4		-		-

MUSIC AND DRAMA

The Carnegie United Kingdom Trust with sympathetic understanding of the claims of Wales awards a grant to the Council so that it may act as its agent for the promotion of County Music and County Drama Committees.

Music.

It will be of interest here to state the Music policy of the Trust,

The beginnings of the present music policy of the Carnegie Trust go back to 1927 when a small experimental grant was made to the Joint Committee of the National Federation of Women's Institutes and the National Council of Social Service. The success attending this and other musical schemes sponsored by the Trust led to the appointment of a Committee under the chairmanship of Lionel Hitchens in 1908, to collect evidence from musical organisations and to advise the Trust on the further development of its music policy. The Report of this Committee was issued in 1939. Despite the war the Trust decided to implement the recommendations of the Hitchens Committee. In 1941 a national music adviser was appointed and large funds were made available to be administered through recognised county music committees everywhere. Assistance took the form of grant for specified music activities and financial aid towards the appointment of county music organisers. In 1945, the same policy was maintained, except that activities were reduced while the financial assistance for the appointment of organisers was increased.

The Trust has now announced its intentions for the quinquennium 1950-1955. Activities grants will cease after 1950. Organiser's appointments already existing will be placed on a diminishing grant scale. And any new appointments will be considered only on a five-year plan, i.e., full grant for three years, two-thirds for the fourth year and one-third for the fifth and final year. In the meantime, the Trust has undertaken to maintain, until 1955 at least, their central office and advisory services at 106, Gloucester Place, London, W.

Drama.

During the year under review the Council has carried out an intensive programme for the encouragement and development of drama in Wales. Earlier in the year the Director convened a conference of representatives of voluntary in the year the Director convened a conference of representatives of voluntary. The Conference, which met at Cardiff on June 11th, 1988, was well attended and enthusiastic. The Director explained that the object of the meeting was to form a Drama Association for Wales. The Council's Constitution made it competent to set up such an Association and to deal with drama on a national basis. The Association, when formed, would be a Committee of the Council acting under the Council's legal Constitution. To enable the Association to function efficiently it would be necessary to appoint a full time organiser of drama for Wales. The Council proposed to approach the Carnegic Trust for a grant enabling them to make such an appointment. After discussion the Conference passed the following resolution:

"That this conference constitutes itself as a Drama Association for Wales and Monmouthshire and that the Council's officers convene the first meeting of the Association in the early Autumn."

This meeting was held at Shrewsbury on November 20th. Attendance was disappointing and it was not possible to report progress. It was understood that the Carnegic Trust is unable to make a grant rowards the salary and expenses of a National Organiser. Other measures are being considered and it may be that the swift development of the Rural Community Council movement in Wales will aid the formation of such a National Association.

A panel of advisers has again been called upon to moet the demand for lectures, criticism and practical assistance. The total number of advisory visits for the period was forty-one. Requests for advice have been met wherever possible but it has not been easy to meet requests from the trual areas. It is felt that advisory visits are more necessary in the case of rural companies than in the case of companies situated in the industrial areas. The former have to rely almost entirely on their own local resources while the latter enjoy the privileges provided by County Drama Leagues. It is eminently desirable that funds should be available to enable the Council to extend its advisory service into the rural areas.

Drama Tours

The Council has for some years organised a tour of Welsh drama in North and South Wales, and this year it was decided to tour South Wales. The tour was arranged in conjunction with the Arts Council of Great Britain and the Miners' Welfare Commission. The Company was again a specially selected one—Chwaryddion y Genhinen—and the producer was Mr. D. Haydn Davies. The play performed was a translation by Mr. T. Rowland Hugbes of "The Late Christopher Bean," by Mr. Enlyn Williams.

Sisteen performances were given and reached a high standard. The tour proved that there is still a demand for Welsh Drama and that an assured audience is available. The best audiences were obtained in the places where the local committees had carried out their work efficiently but in a few places there were indications that the local work had not been carried out conscientiously with the result that audiences were adversely affected. Some incentive will be offered on future tours to these local committees.

The choice of play was frequently criticised. For future tours the writing of new plays should be encounged, or plays might be especially commissioned, for in this way the funds now being expended on translation work could be diverted to encourage the writing of a special play for the touring company. Thus playwrights would have the great inducement of assured performances of their plays under favourable conditions.

Schools and Courses.

Great interest in Drama has been shown in the Women's Social Service. Clubs and new drama groups have been formed. With a view to helping them a number of Drama Schools have been held on Acting and Production. Such enthusiasm was shown that it was decided to hold a Drama Festival once more at the Pavilion, Portheawl, on May 27th. The preliminary rounds were held in April and six clubs were selected to play at the Festival. There was a marked improvement in standard and the Festival was a very successful event.

This year it was encouraging to note that all plays selected had been recommended by us. Advice is given to the clubs on choice of plays and it would be a great help if advisers during actual rehearsals could assist them on points of production; more ambitious plays could then be attempted. Costume plays for instance might be produced and the cost would not be great if the costumes were made by the handicerafts section of the Women's Clubs. In this way there would be combined two of the activities of the Women's Clubs and it will be very interesting to see the result at next year's Festival.

There is a very heavy demand for one-act plays for women from the Women's Social Service Clubs and this is being kept in mind when ordering new additions to the library.

The Drama Library

The Drama Library, comprising over five thousand copies of plays, is supplying the demands of numerous drama lovers in Wales, and the number of plays taken out in sets and single copies numbered some thousands during the past year. The spread of the litting was highest in the three following counties—Glamorgan, Momouthshire and Carmarthenshire.

We are constantly besieged with demands for new plays and if the library service is to be maintained adequately, new additions should be made yearly, it should be remembered when ordering that the amateur player's greatest need is a play with one set throughout, which is not too ambitious, and which demands a cast with a distribution in the region of four men and six women. Advice has been given on choice of play, and comprehensive caralogues compiled to assist societies.

Heavy demands have been made on the Stage Curtains and Lighting Equipment, but this year we have not been able to meet all demands as our equipment has been in constant use during the Drama Tour. If we are to organise a rour each year and meet the demands for equipment from dramatic societies, separate equipment should he purchased and set aside for the tour.

PLAYING FIELDS

Firm in their belief that the provision of Playing Fields today is a necessity and not merely something to be desired, the Council has been glad to undertake the office of Regional representative of the National Playing Fields Association in Wales for another twelve months period. The Council has thus encouraged and advised many organisations in respect of their schemes for the provision of playing fields activities and has fully supported all applications for grant aid to the Ministry of Education. It is gratifying to report that many new schemes are being launched in all parts of the country and to testify that never before have Local Authorities and Voluntay Organisations shown greater interest in the provision of recreational facilities. We are confident that this interest will be maintained and that important developments will take place, so long as the Government continues to encourage local effort by giving grants-in-aid to approved schemes.

Regular and close contact has been maintained with all County Associations. In counties where County Associations have not yet been formed the Council has maintained a full advisory service throughout the year with the result that several new schemes are now near completion and will, no doubt, be the subject of application for grant-aid.

Efforts are shortly to be made to establish a Standing Conference of County Playing Field Associations and Sports organisations throughout the principality. This move has the full support of the National Association and will ultimately provide a much needed consultative body for Wales, but it cannot be stressed too strongly that there is no desire to set up a separate movement from the National Association but to offer fuller and hetter co-operation in every way.

A quick glance at the position of the country as a whole shows that our greatest problem in this field of activity is not so much to stimulate or even encourage as to assist in finding suitable sites. The technical and legal Advisory Department of the National Association is only too well aware of the fact that many of the sites chosen are too small to provide the facilities required and in this sphere alone the Advisory panel have done really worthwhile work by inspecting and advising on problems of preparation and layout.

CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAUX AND PERSONAL WELFARE

The past year has shown that the decision to continue Citizens' Advice Bureaux in the post-war period has more than justified itself. Statistical data may provide some indication of the volume of work which has been done during the year, but they cannot, of themselves, convey with any degree of adequacy what the services rendered by the various Bureaux have meant to those who came to seek guidance and information. The sympathy and understanding of the persons responsible for the working of the Bureaux dispel the diffidence which people feel when asked personal questions which are so often necessary if there is to be proper advice and direction.

The utility of the service to the individual citizen has manifested itself by the helpful guidance which has been given on the various forms of Statutory and delegated legislation. For instance, the number of Acts and Regulations administered by the Ministry of National Insurance alone are five: Family Allowance Act, 1955; National Insurance Act, 1966; National Insurance (Industrial Injuries) Act, 1966; National Health Act, 1965; and the National Assistance Act, 1968. These five Acts with about 150 or more Regulations will give some indication of the complexity of the problem—the necessary consequence of new legislation, Since the "appointed" day, July 5th, 1948, the number of enquiries on "Social Insurances" has been ever-increasing.

There has been a considerable increase in Case-work throughout the Principality, as apart from the domestic and personal problems dealt with by individual Bureaux. This has involved a great deal of travelling, interviewing and following-up, together with reports and recommendations on individual cases to the Pamily Welfare and other Charitable Organisations.

Students from the Social Science Departments of the University Colleges have been attending Citizens' Advice Bureaux for observation courses during their training.

Practically all the existing Bureaux in Wales are those which gave such excellent and worthwhile service during the War years. At the present time there are over fifty Bureaux; Registered, Associated and Local Authority. In some of these there has been a considerable widening and strengthening of the service since the end of the War. Newport may be cited as an example, where 21,216 enquiries were dealt with during the year. Other Bureaux in rural and remote areas have become "one-man" bureaux where the voluntary worker has carried on the work for the sake of the humanitarian service he or she is able to give to fellow villagers and, more especially, to the aged and infirm. Service of this kind, often involving considerable sacrifice of time and leisure, has been and still is invaluable and the social worker in this field deserves the highest commendation and encouragement highest commendation and encouragement.

On behalf of the Ladies' Committee of the St. David's Society of Brisbane, Australia, thirty cases of foodstuffs were distributed by the Council and associated organisations to aged, sick and needy persons and families throughout Wales. Many letters of gratitude and appreciation were received, and were forwarded to the Society whose members so generously retain this practical link with the homeland. A further consignment of twenty cases is expected, and arrangements for distribution have been made.

The B.B.C. Children's Hour Annual Christmas Appeal Fund has entrusted the Council with the distribution of £500 for Invalid and Crippled Children. In response to our invitation, we are receiving applications and recommendations from individuals and organisations, and will shortly proceed to allocate greats for such items as Hobbies, Toys, Entertainments, Outings, etc., which do not come within the scope of State provision.

THE WELFARE OF OLD PEOPLE

The National Assistance Act, 1948, is the final step in the break-up of the existing Poor Law, and Local Authorities responsible for its administration are enjoined by the Minister of Health to have the will and the vision to substitute a modern welfare service for one based on out-moded legislation for the relief of the destitute. They are furthermore encouraged to make full use of the many voluntary organisations working towards the same end, and to

co-ordinate their work with the Authorities' own services. "Any other course could not fall to be wasteful and contrary to the best interests of those whom the Act is designed to assist."

There are in Wales numerous voluntary bodies actively concerned with the welfare of the aged, and much of the work of the Scerctary of the Council's Old People's Welfare Committee has been to co-ordinate their work with that of the Local Authorities in the Principality. In this task full and profitable co-operation has been fortheoming from the Directors of Welfare Services, now appointed under the Act by County and County Borough Councils, with the result that much valuable work has been done during the year to implement many of the provisions of the Act, and to improve conditions generally for the aged. The provision of Hontes and Hostels is now mainly the active concern of the Local Authorities; but the provision of recreational facilities for Old People continues to be of primary concern to voluntary organisations.

Under the guidance of the Council's Committee, there are three new County Welfare Committees in process of being established; and more than a dozen new and virile local Old People's Welfare Committees are now active in their efforts to establish permanent recreational premises for the sole and full use of their local old people. There are in South Wales and Monmouthshire, especially, numerous Old Age Pensioners' Clubs formed under the auspices of the "Old Age Pensioners' Association," or "The Federation of Old Age Pensioners." They meet periodically in Welfare Halls, Institutes, Libraries or Chapel Vestries, and, since January, the Secretary has been invited to more than a score of these Clubs to talk to them on the welfare of the aged, and on other subjects of interest. This contact has been of great value, inasmuch as these clubs are presented with a newer and wider aspect of their welfare than is contained in their narrowly defined efforts at increasing the weekly rate of their pensions. In some cases it has resulted in the formation of a more widely representative local Old People's Committee determined upon the more ambitious project of providing club premises of their own for the daily use of all their local old people.

Lectures by the Secretary on "Old People's Welfare" and all it stands for no ur modern social services, have also been given, and are planned, to Social Service Clubs, Rotary and Inner Wheel Clubs, W.V.S., and Red Cross Groups, Women's Institutes, the Y.W.C.A., Youth Conferences and to the Joint Conference of Rural Community Council Secretaries and Rural Industries Organisers, thereby establishing a valuable co-operative link in developing practical interest in the Care of Old People, especially in respect of clubs meals and home visitations. This phase of the work is to be extended by similar lectures to be given to students of Social Service at the Cardiff and Swansea University Colleges during the forthcoming academic year.

Co-operation with the national movement is being closely maintained by the artendance of the Secretary at the meetings of the National Old People's Welfare Committee, and its General Welfare Sub-Committee; The Annual National Conference; The Conference of Regional Old People's Welfare Committee Secretaries, etc., all of which are held in London.

The year has been one mainly of pioneer work and of propaganda in all possible fields, tangible results from which should become increasingly evident as the months go by, with sound foundations well and truly laid.

THE STANDING CONFERENCE FOR WALES OF VOLUNTARY YOUTH ORGANISATIONS.

In our last Report reference was made to the invitation received by the above Conference from King George's Jubilee Trust, to consider plans for the establishment of a Youth Camp in Wales. The special committee appointed for this purpose decided, after careful consideration, that as such a camp was being established in South Wales at Kilvrough Manor, Gower, by the National Association of Girls' Clubs and Mixed Clubs, their camp should be located in North or Mid Wales. Several possible places were considered and, eventually, the choice fell upon "Rhownias," a modern mansion with 61 acres of freehold ground occupying a delightful position on the shore of Cardigan Bay mid-way between Towyn and Aberdovey. It is within easy distance of the sea and the mountains of North Wales and should be an ideal centre for holiday camps. The house and adjoining buildings can accommodate forty guests, and there is ample space in the grounds for camping under canvas. The gardens, which provide a perfect setting for the house, are considered to be amongst the most beautiful in Wales.

The Council has consented to act as Custodian Trustee of the property. the running of the camp itself being in the hands of a Management Committee selected by the constituent organisations of the Standing Conference. The Warden appointed is Mr. L. F. Rimbault, formerly organiser for Wales of the Boys' Brigade. He will also act as the Secretary of the Management Committee. In addition to camping, it is intended to use the house as a conference centre and for training courses for youth leaders. Although the camp will not be formally opened until the early Summer of 1950, considerable use has already been made of it, and the favourable reports received from those who have been in residence encourage hope for its future success.

The following information is taken from the Warden's Interim Report :

Period J	ULY 8th	TO S	EPTEMB	ER 10th	i, 1949		
Camping in the grounds:							
Boy Scouts (3 group	s). To	tal o	ver 3 w	veeks		56	
Girls' Friendly Socie	cy (Wal	es an	ea).				
Total over	1 week					30	
							86
House (7-Night periods):						
Club members						74	
Leaders and others						36	
							110
Less than 7 nights (Leaders	and	others)				109
		-7	otal				305

The Standing Conference continues to meet at regular intervals and is now recognised as a body to be consulted on various matters concerning the interests of youth. During this year it was invited to send an observer with a knowledge of rural life to the first Council meeting of the World Assembly of Youngheld at Lacken, near Bryssels. Miss Particia Davies of the Young Farmers Union was chosen and attended. The Conference was also invited to send representatives to give evidence before the Commission which visited Cardiff in connection with an enquiry into the effect of the cinema on young people, with particular reference to Cinema Youth Clubs. Mr. Malcolm Capener (Organising Secretary of the Welsh Association of Youth Clubs) and Mr. Pate, Jr. (V.M.C.A.), attended for this purpose.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE

It is obvious from the constant references made in this report to the National Council of Social Service, that it plays a highly significant part in the life of our Council.

Through its Quarterly Magazine "Social Service" and through its greatly expanding Publication Department it provides for voluntary organisations and individuals authoritative guidance on all questions affecting social welfare. The Conferences instituted by it are of the greatest value in establishing the sense of partnership and in helping to co-ordinate voluntary effort. It provides leadership of the highest quality.

To our Council it gives unfailing support and resource and seeks ever with sympathy and deep interest to sustain voluntary service in Wales.

CHANGE IN STAFF.

Members of staff have resigned for promotion, for domestic exigencies for other spheres of work. The Council wishes them well and expresses gratitude to them and to existing members of the staff for their willing service under stress, for their constant goodwill and their pride in identifying themselves with the achievements of the Council.

Three new appointments should be especially noted:

Mrs. R. R. Williams, as C.A.B. Officer.

Llewelyn Evans, as Secretary of the Council's Old People's Welfare Committee.

Richard Mills, as Officer for Community Associations—generously seconded to us by the National Council.

Obituary.

We regretfully have to chronicle the death of Major Burdon Evans. A member of the Council from its inception, he unfalteringly supported the Council and did much with wise advice to help in its formation.

FINANCE

The Statement of Accounts shows that the work of the Council described in this report involved an expenditure of \$18,194 \$8.9d. This expenditure was made from funds derived from the following sources:

Grant Aid.

irant Aid.						
				£	S.	d.
Ministry of Agriculture and	Fisheries			5,122	19	0
Ministry of Education				1,500	0	0
Glamorgan Education Author	city			4,262	10	0
Carmarthenshire Education A	uthority			400	0	0
Swansea Education Authority				180	0	0
The Carnegie United Kingdo	m Trust	200	1925	1,000	0	0
The National Council of Soc	ial Service			1,000	0	0
The National Corporation fo	r the Care	of				
Old People				1,000	0	0
The National Playing Fields	Associatio	n		125	0	0
ther Income.						
Anonymous Donor				1,000	0	0
Subscriptions				478	6	0
Donations from the Council's				618	19	4
Money-raising efforts and fees	earned by	the Cor	uncil's			
Headquarters Staff				246	12	2
Fees earned-drama library				203	13	10
Rent, Cwmbran House				100	12	9
Rent, 2, Cathedral Road, and	sub-lettin	107		186	17	9
Other Sources		-		768		11
				210 101	0	0

£18,194 8 9

Of this total, £14,590 9s, 0d, was received from direct grants. The remainder, £3,603 19s, 9d., was raised from voluntary sources.

Our list of subscribers is appended to the Report. We thank them heartily but we naturally would wish to see the list extended—through firms, corporate bodies, as well as individuals.

BALANCE SHEET-31st MARCH, 1949

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REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE FOR WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE (INC.)

63 14

In our opinion proper books of account hart-hear lays by the Council to the a superar from our examination of those books. We have assumed as both ballows and the countries account with the Books of Account. The Ballows Store is accidented for the account of the Books of Account. The Ballows Store is accidented applied of for financial action even by the Council from its problemses and any expedition of a finalize name made by the We have obtained all the information and explanations which so the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit. Council is written off in the Expenditure Accounts referred to

Accounts give the information required by the Companies Act, 1948, in the minimar so required and the Balance Sheet gives a true and fair view of the affairs of the Council as at 31st March, 1949, and the Income and Expenditure Accounts give a true and fair view of the transactions for the year In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given us and subject to the remarks made above, the said ending that date.

WENTWORTH PRICE, GADSBY & CO.,

8. WINDSOR PLACE, CANDIFF.

3016 Navember 1919.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CLUBS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1949

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INCOME DURING THE YEAR. Glamongan Education Authority—Grant approved 4,292 10 0 Carmarthenshire Education Authority—Grant 400 0 0	60				* 8 929'87
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Deficits on other accounts transferred reansferred to Rural Services

Men's and Women's Clubs

To Proportion of Voluntary Income

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£5,075 418

BALANCE AT 31st MARCH, 1949 ...

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SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS For the year ended 31st March, 1949.

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Mr. B. F. Bennett	5	1	- 0		Authority	1	1	0
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The Hon. J. H. Bruce	10	0	1		National Campa Corporation	5	0	0
Mr. G. T. Cantlay	10	10	- 0		Mr. Gwynne Nicholls	1	1	0
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Mr. Max Come	5	n	- 0		Mr. Tom Owen	1	1	0
Captain Geoffrey Crawshay	5	5	0		Col. J. Grismond Picton			
Mrs. J. Clement Davies	15	5	0		Philipps	2	1	0
Miss Gwendoline Davies	100	0	-0		Mr. R. Richards		10	9
Miss Margaret Davies	100	0	0		Miss A. Rogers	1	1	0
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