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COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE FOR WALES & MONMOUTHSHIRE

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FOURTH Annual Report 1950 - 1951

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JAMES HOWELL

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N.U.T	-			+	GWYNNE REES
Joint Four :	-	-	-	-	Miss O. STEWART and G. DAVIES
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Goleg Harlech:	-	-	-	14	THE WARDEN
W.E.A.:	-				D. T. Goy
Settlements:		2	-		JOHN DENNITHORNE GEORGE JONES
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Cymmesdorion: -	-	20	-	-	D. A. Lewis
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World Friendship Federation: -	-	-	-	A. McTaggary Short
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National Agricultural Advisory Service	128			D. WALTERS DAVIES
National Assistance Board: -		2 8	- 11	EMRYS THOMAS, O.B.D.
Rural Industries Burson				TREVOR WOOD

At the Annual General Meeting held on December 21st, 1951, the following were elected Honorary Officers for the ensuing year:

President:			Captain GEOFFREY CRAWSHAW, D.L.
Chairman: -			Sir LEONARD TWISTON DAVIES, M.B.E., D.L.
Vice-Chairman:			Sir Wynn Powell Wheldon, D.S.O.
Treasurer: -	200	-	The Hon. JOHN H. BRUCE, D.L.

As additional Vice-Presidents:

LL WYN GRIPPITH, O.R.E. Sir Herbert H. Merbert SIT MICHAEL VENABLES-LEBWELYN, M.V.O. Alderman THOMAS WAYERHOUSE, O.B.E.

As new members of the Executive :

ROBERT E. PRESSWOOD PRINCIPAL ANTHONY B. STEEL

Miss Frances Ress. C.B.E.

As additional Assessor: Miners' Welfare Committee, South Wales Area. ALBERY E. TAYLOR -

ANNUAL REPORT



INTRODUCTION

This—the Fourth Annual Report of the Council—follows the usual pattern. The feature introduced last year of an appendix of special articles is continued. Mr. Havelock kindly consented to allow us to publish his inaugural address to the Conference of R.C.C. Secretaries and R.I.B. Organisers in Wales, held at Llandudno. The article on Welsh textiles is timely, informative and suggestive. The article on "Music in Wales" we hope will arouse interest and even provocation and lead to effective co-ordination. This year we include a Table showing analytically the work done by the Council in each County in Wales. Many of these activities are closely interwoven with the work of the Rural Community Councils.

The Council was incorporated for the whole of Wales in December 1946. Since that time it has grown and extended its scope considerably. Growth is an important feature in the life of a voluntary organisation—as is change of emphasis. Old causes ome to fruition and either assume an independence of their own, or are adopted by Local Authorities. At the same time, new causes, new needs emerge which have to be nursed and brought to adult stature.

The activities and interests shown in this Report are manifold and varied-comprehending Old People's Welfare; Youth through S.C.N.Y.Y.O.; Informal Adult Education through Clubs; Community Centres and Associations; Village Halls; Association of Parish Councils; Citizens' Advice Bureaux and Personal Welfare; Music, Drama and Local History. This is not merely a fortutious collection of activities. It follows a consistent purpose—the encouragement and co-ordination of social effort in town and country, with a special emphasis upon the reinvigoration of life in the countryside. There are now nine Rural Community Councils in Wales if we include Glamorgan, for which the Council acts virtually as the Rural Community Council. To complete the Welsh picture, there remain to be formed four others—Cardigan-shire, Flinsthier, Brecknock and Radnorshire.

The essential purpose of Rural Community Councils is to promote the welfare—social, cultural, aesthetic, and even economic—of people living in the rural areas. We are all familiar with the factors that have threatened the integrity of village life—isolation; migration; decline of traditional craftsman-ship through modern mechanical and industrial competition; the impact of modern amusements and relaxations made possible by improved means of communication; the reorganisation of educational facilities, forced sometimes through considerations of economy, sometimes through considerations of economy, sometimes through conviction.

There is a Government Department—H.M. Development Commission (whose godfather was Mr. Lloyd George, as he then was) which makes all this one of its principal concerns. Through its support of the Rural Industrial Bureau and the Rural Community Councils, it is slowly but surely transforming life in the countryside. The Rural Community Council is a fascinating organisation where Development Commission, Local Authority and Voluntary Organisation

SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

1961

by the Council of Social Service for Wales and Monmouthshire, and the Rural Community Councils (Wales) in the Counties and County Boroughs of Wales and Monmouthshire

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combine to the grand purpose of reviving and re-establishing the ancient influences of roral life, nive, traditional, cartful—in the modern sophisticated life of Britain. The Development Commissioners recognise our Council as liaison between them, the Rural Industries Bureau and the Rural Community Councils. As a consequence, our relationship with the Rural Community Councils is steadily depending, to our mutual advantage. We hold six-monthly conferences of secretaries of Rural Community Councils and Rural Industries Organisers.

An interesting example of co-operation is that the Council of the University of Wales has entrusted the administration of the income of the Welsh Industries Fund to the Rural Industries Bureau in association with our Council.

"for the purposes of making grants to enable foremen, workers or owners of small mills to attend refresher courses in the Textile Departments of Leeds University, or Galashiels Technical College."

The Fund is limited and it will not be possible to send more than four students a year to such training courses. It is expected that even this small number on their return to Wales will do much to influence technique and design. Over the years the cumulative effects should be considerable. We hope that Local Education Authorities and interested individuals will help to supplement the Fund, so that more than four a year may benefit. The selection of suitable students, it is hoped, will be done by a Selection Board, representing the Rural Industries Bureau through its Welsh Textile Committee, University Council, Welsh Council of Social Service. Already two students have gone to Galastitels.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CLUBS

The year has been a very active one in the Clubs, the main emphasis being on the many exhibitions in which the members have participated, both with their local Councils and also with the Local Education Authorities at Carmarchen and Bridgend. Other exhibitions have been held in Maessig, Ogmore Vale, Pontrycymmer, Pencoed, Ystalyfera and Gowerton, finishing with our own exhibition of all the Council's activities in the Pavilion at Porthcawl in July, Much interest has been aroused by these exhibitions and we hope that many new members have been been continued demand for women in industry has adversely affected many Clubs in the industrial areas.

An important event is the taking over of the organisation of the Pontypridd group of Clubs by the Council. These Clubs—24 in all—were formerly organised by the Pontypridd Educational Settlement, which has now ceased to function. This brings the total number of Women's Clubs to 109—

9 in Carmarthen, 100 in Glamorgan, Membership—over 3,500,

All arrangements have been completed to establish a Club at Stormy Down, near Pyle. This Club should prove of inestimable value to the housewives who live on the housing estate, which replaces the old Aerodrome. There is a continued demand for Women's Clubs in Breconshire and it is hoped that the Brecon Education Authority will give its support to this need of the housewives in that area, in order that they may have full advantage of the facilities available for and suitable to their needs.

Inter-club visits have been arranged by many groups and have proved very popular, providing the means of establishing good social contacts between the Clubs—an excellent way of broadening the aims of Club life, creating new interests and giving opportunities to know and discuss their various problems. Visits have been made to factories and places of interest in the localities and during July, representatives of the Pontypridd group chartered a bus for a week's tour of Cornwall. Group Meetings and Area Meetings where individual members ventilate their own particular Club problems have been excellently attended. These meetings are of great value to the Clubs and are held each term in different centres. Representatives from these meetings are chosen to attend the Annual Meeting of the Welsh Association of Women's Clubs and also the National Association to which the Clubs are affiliated.

The Annual Meeting of the Welsh Association was held this year at the deardon Smith Lecture Hall, Cardiff. The morning session was attended by chosen delegates from each club. The afternoon session was thrown open to all club members when the guest speaker was Mrs. H, Glyn Davies, Llanarth, Cardiganshire, who chose as her subject "WomAn's PLACE THROUGH THE AGES," with special reference to her place in the Community. An Executive Meeting of representatives of the Clubs is also functioning and several interesting meetings were held during the year.

Day schools, which were well attended, have been held throughout the seas or eraftwork and bottling and fruit preserving. Lectures, demonstrations and film shows have also proved popular. Every opportunity has been taken to get the clubs to take their place in the life of the community and many groups interest themselves in particular charitable causes, successfully organise special collections for Cancer Research Work and Blind Societies, etc., and help with the distribution of ration books, at Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, outlings and entertainments for Old People and Orphans.

We continue our close co-operation with the University Colleges and cach term Social Science Students have been able to study the work done in the clubs. During the past year, a number of foreign students from Nigeria, Gold Coast and India have visited the clubs and discussed methods and activities. This practical international work should establish a close bond between the women of all nations. At home, many demonstrations have been given by the Council's carls staff to other groups, such as Townswomen's Gullds, Women's Institutes, etc. Several clubs have thrown open their meetings to visitors, thus encouraging the enrolment of new members. Drama and Music Groups (dealt with more fully clsewhere) are actively supported in a number of the clubs.

The exhibition of the Council's activities at Portheawl in July showed clearly the marked improvement made by the whole of the men's cubs. In the past, the exhibits have been confined to a few clubs where craftwork was being done. The exhibits this year came from all of the 20 clubs. Clubs under the auspieces of the Council are now receiving instruction, either in woodwork or upholstery, every week. This regular weekly instruction has been the main reason for the increase in membership.

During the year three new clubs were opened, one at Penyfai, one at Ynysydarren, and one at Abergarw. All, by real team work, have overcome the obstacle of shortage of tools and equipment, and lave now progressive handlearfe classes. The Allygrug Club this year has been forced by necessity to change its premises. The old club became too small for the woodwork section, and the members are now renting premises belonging to the Ystalyfera Urld Section. Pyle, one of the many clubs that suffered during the war years, has staged a revival and has now a very energetic upholstery group. In due course a woodwork section will be formed. Pontrycymner and Mantymood are two other clubs that by introducing careftwork into their scheme of work, have attracted new members). The increase in membership has been marked.

Two clubs, Neath and Glynneath, changed their emphasis this year by becoming Old People's Clubs. The members have shown deep appreciation of the needs of the aged.

In September, Cwmllynfell, always noted for its handicraft work, staged an exhibition entirely of its own work, thus for the first time enabling the members inhibited in the past by transport difficulties to exhibit the larger articles of furniture.

A fine example was set by the members of the Dunvant Dramatic Section when they visited Ystalyfera to aid the funds of the Ynysydaren and Ystalyfera Clubs. Many more groups are anxious to start, but are finding the initial outlay on equipment rather an obstacle.

COMMUNITY CENTRES AND ASSOCIATIONS

The division of the Council's Community work under the head of Runal and Urban is simply an administrative convenience. The essential unity of the work is demonstrated by a number of references to rural communities and border-line cases in this section of the report, although it deals in the main with urban areas, that is to say, places with a population of 2,000 and over. The report takes no account of the numerous Miners' and Workmen's Halls and Institutes (which fulfil many of the functions of Community Associations) nor of Educational Centres; nor of Men's and Workmen's Clubs (referred to elsewhere in this report) with the exception of a few which are developing on Community Association lines.

In order to appreciate the scope of the Council's work in this field, it would perhaps be helpful to give the bare statistical position at the end of the period under review:

Number of Community Associations and similar bodies		82	
Number of Community Centres		34	
Number of full-time paid Wardens	4.4	7	
Number of new Associations formed during the year		20	
Number of new Centres provided during the year		9	
Number of new Centre Schemes under way		36	
Number of Wardens appointed during the year		4	
Number of "Live" contacts and Schemes where no C	om-		
mittee is not prompted		70	

By "Community Association" or similar body is meant any group which has as its main object the task of uniting the whole Community in an effort to provide improved amenities for social, cultural and educational life. By "Community Centre" is meant any building of which an Association or similar body has full-time used.

The Council has assisted in the formation of most of the new groups memorism of the new stores of the new centres and in most of the 30 new building projects. A majority of the organisations and contacts mentioned above have received advice and assistance on one or more of a wide range of problems, including initial steps of calling and publicising public meetings and forming working committees; drafting and adopting constitutions; raising money; completion and submission of forms of application for grant aid; committee procedure and problems of Centre Administration, and assistance in improving the range and quality of activities. In all, the Community Centres Officer made over 200 visits to 114 places all over Wales to attend interviews and address public meetings and committees. Further details are given elsewhere in this report under the heads of the Country and County Boroughs.

Three issues of a new series of "Information Bulletins" were circulated to all concerned with Community Associations and Centres, including all Borough and Urhan District Councils. Book-lists and special information circulars were also distributed and there has been a steady sale of community centre literature. The officer gave talks to social science students of the University Colleges in Cardiff and Swansea and participated in three broadcasts. He assisted in three courses and summer schools, and advised a number of prospective Community Centre Wardens. Interviews took place with people from overseas and visits were arranged on their behalf.

Easy and regular inter-change of experience and knowledge is essential for the best development of Community Associations and Centres. The officer provides a channel whereby this can take place, but the Council realises that, in addition, there should exist the means for representatives of different centres and associations to meet each other. A beginning was made in arranging for the Rumney Village Community Association, Cardiff, to visit Centres at Swansea, and in instituting the means for groups to affiliate to this Council, and, if desired, to the National Federation of Community Associations. Affiliations to date include the Bonymaen and St. Thomas Centres (Swansea), the New Queen's Park Tenants' Association (Wrexham), and the Penllwyn Community Association (Pontllanfraith). It is hoped, in time, to develop a democratic self-governing Federation providing such services as its members require, including conferences and courses. The County and County Borough reports bear ample testimony to the importance attached to consultation and co-operation with the chief agencies concerned with the same work. In addition, perhaps a special tribute should be made to the splendid assistance received from the various Government Departments, the many national voluntary bodies, and particularly the National Federation of Community Associations.

RURAL ACTIVITIES

The aim and policy of the Council has always been to infuse new vigour into the countryside, to bring to the rural community the cultural, social and recreational pursuits that are necessary for the preservation of rural life. At the present time, when so many forces are tending to disorganise social and communal life, it is of ever increasing importance to maintain as fully as possible the essential services undertaken by voluntary organisations. The most effective way of maintaining, and where necessary, strengthening voluntary social service work of all kinds is by co-operation among the voluntary corrangisations themselves.

The Rural Community Council is undoubtedly the ideal organisation or centre pivot for maintaining essential services within the rural area. There are at present eight in Wales—Anglesey, Caernarvon, Carmarthen, Denbigh, Merioneth, Monmouth, Montgomery, Pembroke, toggether with Glamorgan, where the Welsh Council virtually acts as such. The reader is reminded that while the general parts of this report apply to the country as a whole, the more detailed aspects apply to those counties where Rural Community Councils have not yet been established, those counties where Rural officers of the Welsh Council serve as rural community council secretaries—Beccon, Cardigan, Plint and Radnor.

In Wales today there are 116 Village Halls schemes at different stages of development, some of which can undoubtedly be regarded as the nuclei of community centres. It is widely recognised that were building conditions slightly easier, or were temporary buildings available, a real up-surge of activity in this field would occur throughout the whole country. The absence of a suitable meeting place in a village is a severe obstacle to any attempt to promote the social well-being of its inhabitants.

There is still a great deal of work that can be done while waiting for the restrictions to be removed, and it is most encouraging to find that one or two localities have managed to overcome or by-pass present-day difficulties. Caerwedros Village Hall is practically completed, Penthiwllan, tired of waiting for grant-in-aid, went ahead, skilled and unskilled labour joining voluntarily together to build the hall.

The Council still continues to act in an advisory capacity for the National Playing Fields Association. Help and guidance have been given to numerous groups and organisations. The conditions under which the Ministry of Education is willing to provide grant-in-aid have been outlined, assistance given in regard to the purchase and lay-out of the ground, and legal advice on technical matters. The scope and magnitude of grants depend upon the state of the national economy. In times like the present, grant-aid thowards more expensive schemes may have to be curtailed, and assistance offered only to recreational schemes of a more simple nature.

This year we are able to report that a County Parish Council Association has been established in each county in Wales. We have already learnt by experience that the movement has been the medium of promoting a widespread interest in Local Government. Not so very long ago, the voices of the Welsh village and countryside dwellers were heard in the City Hall, Cardiff, when parish councillors from all parts of the principality came to the city for their first-ever all-Wales conference. In forthright speeches they put the country-mar's point of view on vitally important matters such as over-centralisation in local government, and reminded all and sundry that the parish council, its actions and decisions, form an integral part of the British democratic system.

The Council has been responsible for a great awakening in the field of Local History, and complete coverage and immediate contact have been arranged between the Counties and the Standing Conference. Close liaison has been maintained between the Area office and all organisers of the Rural Industries Bureau. The rural officers maintain close relationship with all kindred movements, and while these activities are difficult to categorise, they do play a considerable part in our every-day activities.

DRAMA AND MUSIC

The Council, as in the past year, has a special responsibility to the Carnegie Trast in respect of Music and Drama in the County of Glamorgan. The County Drama Adviser has extended largely his field of work, more attention having been paid to Women's Institutes, Townsvomen's Guilds, and Clubs. Efforts have been made to secure adequate leadership in the Women's Clubs, etc. Now that there is increased publication of women's plays, there should be greater activity possible amongst the various types of women's groups. Splendid material was secured from these groups for a Festival of Beitain Production which took place at the end of the summer of 1961. The County Drama Committee is keeping in very close touch with the Youth Drama Groups, and encouraging them by means of grants to enable selected students to attend the County Committee Drama Schools (day and neriod).

The County Drama Committee organised several discussion meetings during the past year and was also responsible for the conduct of the National Festival of One Act Plays in the preliminary rounds and the county final. The Annual Drama School which is held for a week at Easter has now become a County Event much looked forward to by a large number of antateurs, and the tutors—Miss Lyn Oxenford and Mr. Graham Suter—have done excellent work.

Drama Schools of two sessions have been held at Porthcawl, Bryntirion, Pencoed, Raglan, Brecon, Caerphilly, Neath, Lampeter and Seven Sisters.

Over one hundred and eighty advisory visits have been made to groups drawn from the Social Service Clubs, Townswomen's Guilds, Women's Institutes, Church Companies, etc. The Organiser has also produced Oneact Plays with selected groups. The standard of the work produced by many of the clubs has been very high.

In addition, the Council provides a comprehensive service for the whole of Wales. It has an extensive library containing 7,177 copies of plays. During the year 1950/51, 642 sets of plays and 2,592 single copies were borrowed by drama societies and individuals all over Wales. Good use has also been made of our Stage Curtains and Lighting Equipment. The stage curtains were borrowed by 89 groups and the lighting equipment by 42.

Playwriting Competition

The Council, with the support of the Arts Council, once again held a Playwriting Competition. Playwrights were invited to submit new original plays in English but with a Welsh background. A selection panel was formed to read the plays, and of the twenty-eight plays submitted, two were awarded the first prize—"Beanwen" by Ken Etherdige, and "The King of the Castle" by Mansel Thomas. Both plays will tour selected places in South Wales.

A tour of South Wales was once again made possible by the support of the Arts Council. The Council's Drama Company "Cwmni's Genlinen" toured in Molière's "Miser," translated into Welsh by Mr. D. J. Thomas, under the title "Y Cybydd," and produced by him. The first performance of the play

was at Garthewin. Later it was performed at the following centres—Maesteg, Llanelly, Bridgend, Pontyates, Trecynon, Gorseinon, Pontyberem, Tregaron and Morriston.

A very successful Drama School for Producers was held at Garthewin in October, 1950. The Directors of the course were Mr. Eric Capon (Principal of P.A.R.A.D.A.) and Mr. Haydn Davies of the B.B.C. Producers from each county were invited to attend and there were present nineteen students.

In the field of Drama, the Council performs a function in Wales that is the concern of no national body. As is to be seen above, it provides services through liberary, stage equipment, drama schools, encouragement of playwirting, advisory visits to local companies—available to and eagerly sought but the whole of Wales.

In music, the position is different. There is a University Council of Music concerned deeply with the whole of Wales. Our function therefore, is co-operation with that Council in all possible ways, with the R.C.C.s in their music activities and in particular with the servicing of the clubs under our care in Glamorgan and Carmarthenshire. In all these matters we are aided by the Carnegel Trust and especially in the country of Glamorgan.

OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE

The continued expansion in Wales of County and of Local Welfare Committees is an encouraging feature of the developments in this field of social activity during the past year. Such Committees can do much in co-ordinating and in harnessing the practical activities of statutory and voluntary bodies, especially in organising visiting services to the house-bound, and in helping the ever growing need for recreational premises. In this latter effort, continued assistance is being generously provided by the National Corporation for the Care of Old People. Its grants to such projects in Wales amount to date to over £5,000, Giamorgan and Monmouthshire being the major recipients. The continued expansion, however, of County and Local Committees elsewhere throughout Wales, will result, in time, in a more general distribution of financial assistance from this source.

New recreational centres for full and daily use by old people have recently been opened at Gelligaer, Crumlin and Llanbillert, at least a dozen other building projects are well under way elsewhere in Wales. In his newly published book "Adding Life to Years," Lord Amurice, M.D., Fir.C.P., stares that "this development is very striking in Wales, and certainly displays an independent spirit worth encouraging." Equipment grants to new clubs have been received by a number of organisations from the National Old People's Welfare Committee, and with the co-operation of Courty and other Libraries, several thousand books have been distributed to Old Polks' Clubs both in North and South Wales.

A pleasing aftermath to the Wales Regional Conference held in September, 1950, has been the evidence of increasing practical interest in the Welfare of the Aged shown by many Welsh local authorities, and by the numerous voluntary organisations in the Principality. Increasing requests for lectures and talks on the Welfare of Old People are heing made from such organisations as Rotary, Inner Wheel, Soroptimists, Church Guilds and Societies, the Women's Institute, and similar organisations; and an annual lecture to Social Science Students at both the Cardiff and Swansea University Colleges is now an established practice.

Visitors from overseas in increasing numbers are seeking information of the work in Wales. Official contacts of this nature within the last year have been made by visitors from South, East and West Africa, China and the U.S.A. In September for example, the Research Professor in the School of Social Service and Administration of the University of Chicago, spent three days with the Secretary meeting Government Officials and Directors of Welfare, visiting voluntary and statutory Homes for the Aged, and meeting groups of old people at their clubs and rallies.

It is abundantly clear that, although the "spirit of good neighbourliness" is said to be on the wane in some parts of the country, there is evidence, in Wales at any rate, that "ysbryd cyfeilligarwch" unabatedly prevails. This is emphasised by Lord Amulree when he writtes of the varying ratio of old people throughout the Kingdom who are living alone. For the country as a whole, the figure is 124 per cent; in two London Boroughs it is as high as a By ner cent; but in mid-Rhonda it is as low as 1 per cent. "The existence of a strong family feeling in South Wales" is held by him to account for this. May this spirit long prevail to the benefit and comfort of the seed.

CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAUX AND SOCIAL WELFARE

There are, in Wales, 48 Bureaux. The number of recorded enquiries continues to be about forty-nine to lifty thousand, thus showing that the work in the Bureaux has continued undiminished through the year in spite of the difficulties encountered. The decision of the Ministry of Health to discontinue grant aid to central and regional services has, of necessity, curtailed the work of the travelling officer in the field. However, the Secretariat for Wales is maintained and functions actively through the Council. The experience of the staff has been at the disposal of the Bureaux, despite the enforced cessation of the personal contact and advice on problems peculiar to a given bureau which the C.A.B. Officer was able to give during her visits.

It is interesting to note that the Rural Community Councils of Carmarthenshire and Denhighshire have now established C.A.B services at their Headquarters' offices, thus meeting the inner need of their respective rural areaand rendering a service which shall be more voluntary than official. In this way, areas of sparse population and relatively poor communication may be able to obtain the advantage of direction, guidance and help in the same measure as is afforded to more populous areas.

Students from the Social Science Departments of Universities at home and overseas have attended the Citizens' Advice Bureaux for observation and lectures during their training.

Work in the field of Family Welfare has considerably increased. Apart from the Family Case work and domestic and personal problems brought directly to the Welsh Office, and dealt with by the Welsh Officer, a large number of investigations, enquiries and reports have been made on behalf of the Family Welfare Association and kindred organisations.

At the invitation of the British Epilepsy Association—Tyler Fox Memorial a two-day school dealing with the "Social Aspects of Epilepsy" was strended. Close attention was focussed on the social problems arising out of epilepsy and on the function of the social worker in connection with the epilepsy. Some idea of the prevalence of epilepsy is reflected in the figures showing the number of epileptics registered as disabled persons in April, 1950. Of the 15,078 registered in Great Britain, 578 were in Wales, and of the 1,773 unemployed at that date, 66 were in Wales.

LOCAL HISTORY

Following upon a representative All-Wales Conference on this subject held at Cardiff in January, 1959, under the chairmanship of Sir J. F. Rees, much activity on a county level has resulted. Up to date, in most of the Welsh Counties, meetings have been held to discuss the formation of a County Historical Society. In several cases the stimulus afforded by the Cardiff Conference has resulted in retiving long established Local History Associations, whereas in others, new Societies have come into being, planned to function on a generally accepted pattern. Most of the preliminary "spade-work" in establishing these County Societies have come into being other than the control of the country of

Linking up and guiding this nation-wide movement, is the Standing Conference for Local History, in association with the National Council of Social Service, with representatives upon it from all properly constituted County Societies.

The objects of this Standing Conference are :-

- (a) to assist in the development of the study of Local History, and in the provision of necessary services for the furtherance of that object,
- (b) to bring together representatives of local and national authorities and organisations in membership of the Standing Conference, and where necessary to co-operate with other bodies in the achievement of the above purposes.

It issues bulletins and informative pamphlets for the guidance of Local Committees.

Summarising briefly the present situation in the Welsh Counties, the following are the salient facts:—

- ANGLESEY—A County History Committee has been formed, and steps have been taken to form a number of local Committees, some of which are already actively functioning.
- BRECON—An existing Local History Committee works under the aegis of the L.E.A. with which close touch is maintained by the Brecknock Museum.
- CAERNARYON—The long-established Caernaryonshire Historical Society is most active, and is supported by keen and energetic members from every part of the County.
- Gardigan—It is hoped that the Cardiganshire Antiquarian Society, together with the L.E.A. will determine to take up membership of the Standing Conference, thus co-ordinating the work of local history throughout the county.
- CARMARTHEN—The inaugural meeting of the Local History Society was held in March of this year, and further meetings have since been held.
- DENSIGH—Following a Conference in September, 1950, a County History Society was formed, and has made considerable progress since. Financial encouragement to this project was given by the local Committee of the Colwyn Bay National Eisteddfol for 1947, by means of a grant of £60, As early as October, 1950, this Society had almost 100 subscribing members.

- FLINT—A meeting of the surviving members of the Flintshire Historical Society resolved at the end of last year to revive the Society. Further meetings have since been held, and a series of lectures have been given to encouragingly large audiences.
- GLAMORGAN—The County Local History Society is now well established with a membership of over 80. The Committee hopes in due course to publish interesting articles, and to develop the formation of local History Groups throughout the County.
- MERONETH—The County Historical Society and the Merioneth Community
 Council have combined to set up seven Area Committees, each of which
 has started a full programme of activities including, a lecture service,
 surveys of place names and farm names, the study of folk lore, and a
 series of excursions.
- PENHROKE—The Pembrokeshire Local History Society under the Chairmanship of Sir Frederick Rees, M.A., LLD., M.Comm, has published an address by Sir Frederick on "Local History in Pembrokeshire." Provision is being made for a Maniment Room and Students' Room at the proposed County Museum at Haverfordwest. Active branches have been formed at St. Davids, Pembroke Dock and Tenby, and individuals are engaged on research work at Milford Haven (Sir Frederick Rees), Tenby (A. Leach, Esq., M.A.), Carew (R. F. Walker, Esq., M.A.), and Manorbier (Wilfred Harrison, Esq., M.A.). At a recent Festival Exhibition at Haverfordwest, a comprehensive display of Maps, Prints, etc., relating to Pembrokeshire was staged. While certain lectures have been arranged, the Society concentrates more on active research work.
- RADSOR—The Radnorshire History Society is one of long standing, and it is hoped that in its existing form, it will be possible for this Society to meet the requirements of the Standing Conference, and so be represented upon it. To seek to form a separate Society in this County of less than 20,000 people would be unwise and unnecessary.

THE FESTIVAL OF BRITAIN IN WALES

When the Welsh Committee of the Festival was set up under the Chairmanjor Sir. Wynn P. Wheldon, the secretarial duties were carried out at first by Mr. Huw Wheldon, later by Mr. Morgan Nicholas of the Welsh National Council of Music. Towards the end of 1949 however, it was found that the services of a full-time secretary would be required, and Mr. A. G. Prys-Jones was appointed to take over these duties from the beginning of 1950.

Office accommodation together with the services of a clerical assistant were provided by the Welsh Council of Social Service at 2, Cathedral Road, Cardill, by arrangement with the Festival Organisation: and thus the work of the Welsh Committee of the Festival, as far as its secretariat was concerned, functioned under the aegis as it were of the Welsh Council and its Director. This proved a most satisfactory and convenient arrangement, as the Director, this proved a most satisfactory and convenient arrangement, as the Director, this proved in the Welsh Committee of the Festival as well as of the Welsh Committee of the Pestival as well as of the Welsh Committee of the Patrial as well as of the Welsh Committee of the Patrial as well as of the Welsh Committee of the Patrial as well as of the Welsh Committee of the Patrial as well as of the Welsh Committee of the Patrial as well as of the Welsh Committee of the Patrial as well as of the Welsh Committee of the Patrial as well as of the Welsh Committee of the Patrial as well as of the Welsh Committee of the Patrial as well as of the Welsh Committee of the Patrial as well as of the Welsh Committee of the Patrial as well as of the Welsh Committee of the Patrial as well as of the Welsh Committee of the Patrial as well as of the Welsh Committee of the Patrial as well as the Welsh Committee of the Patrial as well as the Welsh Committee of the Patrial as well as the Welsh Committee of the Patrial as well as the Welsh Committee of the Patrial as well as the Welsh Committee of the Patrial as well as the Welsh Committee of the Patrial as well as the Welsh Committee of the Patrial as well as the Welsh Committee of the Patrial as well as the Welsh Committee of the Patrial as well as the Welsh Committee of the Patrial as well as the Welsh Committee of the Patrial as well as the Welsh Committee of the Patrial as well as the Welsh Committee of the Patrial as well as the Welsh Committee of the Patrial as well as the Welsh Committee of the Patrial as well as the Welsh Committee of th

Though many Local Authorities were rather slow at first in formulating their Festival programmes, nevertheless, as 1950 went on, a good deal of enthusiasm became manifest, until, finally, there were very few localities in Wales which had not made very creditable arrangements for the Celebrations.

A substantial stimulus was given by the Festival to the provision of permanent public amenities by Local Authorities, and numerous schemes were earlied out to commemorate the Festival Year. One of the most important of these civic memorials is the Sophia Gardens Pavillon at Cardiff.

The contribution of the Arts Council to the success of the Festival in unlike was a very valuable one. This body assisted substantially in the four official Festivals, the National Elisteddfod at Llanysus, the International Musical Eisteddfod at Llangollen, the new Festival at St. David's and the Swansea Festival of Music. It also supported the St. Fagan's Festival, and encouraged the Welsh National Opera Company to embark upon its ambitious and highly successful programme for the Festival period; as well as rendering valuable aid in several other directions as for instance the provision of a safety curtain and water sprinkler at the Trecynon Theatre, Aberdare, thus preserving these premises for permanent use as a dnama centre.

The programme carried out by the Welsh Committee of the Festival from its own resources included:—

- (1) The publication of a preliminary booklet of suggestions regarding the possible scope and nature of celebrations in Wales. This was followed later by a Calendar of Events, listed by counties, giving the principal events, their dates and venues throughout the Principality. This second booklet was issued in co-operation with the Welsh Tourist and Holidays Board.
- (2) Substantial co-operation with and financial assistance to the Committee responsible for carrying out the Dolhendre Hillside Farm Scheme at Llanuwchllyn, Merioneth.
- (3) The production of an original Welsh feature film based upon the typical life-story of one man and related to the community and cultural traditions which bred him. This film, "David," has now been extensively exhibited throughout Britain.
- (4) The assistance given to the Council of the National Museum of Wales in respect of the development of St. Fagan's Castle as a Welsh Folk Museum. The gifts made consist of three significant old buildings which will provide valuable historical memorials in perpetuity for the people of Wales; a 16th century barn, an early woollen mill and a 17th century farmhouse.
- (5) The production, in Cardiff, of a pageant-play delineating broadly the major landmarks of Welsh History. This was staged at the new Pavilion at Sophia Gardens.
- (6) The Committee, also, through its Secretary, arranged for the reception ceremony on board the Festival Ship Campania, on its visit to Cardiff.
- (7) The assistance given, in conjunction with the University Council of Music and the Arts Council, to the Welsh Festival of Britain Choir, a corps d'elite of 180 voices specially brought together for the Festival period.

In conclusion it can be said that the rich variety of Welsh national life was fully revealed during the months of celebration: and that the people of Wales can feel proud of their contribution to a gay, colourful and memorable year.

THE MABINOGION MURAL PAINTINGS

When the first post-war Eisteddfod was held at the Mountain Ash Pavilion in 1946, it was felt that something was needed to brighten the somewhat bare interior. The Mabinogion panels were conceived and initiated by Mr. Stevens of the National Council of Social Service, Paul Matt and Miss Jeffrey of this Council, and Miss Grainger of Pontypridd Settlement. Others who helped with advice were Professor W. J. Gruffydd, Mr. D. T. Davies and Mr. J. D. Powell and Mr. Charlton of the Ministry of Education. An experiment in co-operative artistic effort was carried out by the Art Departments of Art Schools and Technical Colleges, Art Teachers and senior pupils of Secondary Schools. The tales dealt with in a series of 21 panels, each 10 feet by 4 feet, were the tale of Branwen, the tale of Manawyddan, the tale of Math, son of Mathonwy. They were first shown at Mountain Ash in 1946, then lent to the Welsh Industries Exhibition in Olympia. In turn they decorated the Eisteddfod Pavilions at Colwyn Bay 1947, Bridgend 1948, Dolgelley 1949, Caerphilly 1950, Llanewst They were lent free of charge, the cost of transport being met by the particular Eisteddfod Committee. On the other hand the cost of storage and repairs was met by us. Now the National Eisteddfod Council has suggested that we should make a free gift to the Council for use at forthcoming Eisteddfodau. Your Executive Committee unanimously agreed to make Council. The gift is unconditional.

UNCLE MAC'S CHILDREN'S HOUR ANNUAL APPEAL FUND

We are much indebted to the many individuals who took a personal interest in the 274 crippled and invalid children who benefited from the sum of £686 2s. 9d. distributed during the year, from "Uncle Mae's "grant of £660. Among these were members of the BaB.C. Welsh Appeals Committee and Officers of such organisations as Rural Community Councils, Parish Councils, Citizens' Advice Bureaux, Education Offices, County Nursing Services, Hospitals, and of our own staff in North and South Wales. Grants were made in 41 of the 13 Welsh Counties, and arrangements are being made for distributions in all the Counties during the next financial year. With satisfaction, we record that the Fund at our disposal has been increased to £690 for 1951/52.

GENERAL.

We gratefully acknowledge the continued co-operation of the National Conneil of Social Service. Their resources, through publications, staff and administration are willingly and generously placed at our disposal.

It is a pleasure to refer to the loyal and devoted service on the part of our staff, whether working in the field or at headquarters.

The subscription list is again headed by the splendid financial contributions of the members of the clubs in Glamorgan and Carmarthenshire. They reached the high total of £661 13s. 1d. This is an admirable recognition of the instructional and other services of the Council's staff.

ORITHARY

For over a quarter of a century the field of social and cultural effort in Wales has been strengthened and stimulated by the "Ladies of Gregynog," through their bountiful generosity. They have exercised a widespread yet wisely selective philanthropic influence. Our Council, particularly at its conversion into a Council for the whole of Wales, owes them an inestimable debt. Now we have sadly to chronicle the death of the elder sister—Miss Gwendoline Davies, C.H.

Another loss is sustained by the death of Mr. G. H. Hoare, formerly Editor of the South Wales Argus. From the inception of the Council he was a faithful and helpful member.

THE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION AND SOME ASPECTS OF THE RURAL PROBLEMS OF WALES

(The Inaugural address at the Council's Annual Conference of Rural Community Council Secretaries and Rural Industries Bureau Organises, November, 1951, Llandudno, by E. H. E. HAVELOCK, C.B., C.B., Secretary of Development Commission.)

I am very greatly honoured by your most kind invitation to speak here tonight and I know well that by your invitation you wished to express your regard and friendship for the Commission which I serve. You have in the kindness of your heart termed this an inaugural address. To inaugurate has been stated to have as one of its meanings "to celebrate the opening of, with formality, pomp and dignity." That obviously could never apply to me; but if we interpret inaugurating as meaning "to install or induct into an office," I am on humbler and more familiar ground.

As you know, the Commission is a Great Britain body and its aim is always to get to know at first hand those in England, Scotland and Wales, whose welfare in the countryside it was created to promote and to try to understand what are in each country the fundamental problems of rural life falling within the scope of the Development Arc and how best, in the opinion of those who are in constant touch with them, they can be approached and, if possible, lessened, if not overcome. It is from this point of view that I feel that you may allow me to exchange thoughts with you, and to suggest some aspects of rural development which you may think worthy of discussion On my journey here I could not, naturally, help thinking of Offix's dyke, which, as I have said before, I think it should be our object to destroy insofar as it may be a barrier and to maintain insofar as it may be a symbol of the strength of the ties which join us. I think the definition of a dyke as "a natural or artificial channel" is the most appropriate, and I suggest that the flow may profitably be in both directions.

You are rightly proud of the Welsh language and the Welsh way of life, but I hope that instead of regarding these as a private preserve you may be ready to share them with the other parts of Great Britain and to take account of their experience and their contributions to our common heritage.

You are a nation which does great honour to poets, which does not regard them as odd sports of nature until they are long dead and buried. There are, no doubt, many poets here lonight. Is it not time that you shared the richness and variety of your language and song, poor things though translations may be; and may there, to look at the obverse of the coin, be a tendency, arising from sensitiveness and pride, to overstress the things which separate us. There are undoubtedly rural industries which are peculiarly Weish, coracle making to take an extreme example, but there are also many industries in Wales, and more that should be there, that have the same characteristics and the same needs as their fellows in other parts of Great Britain. I plead, Sir, for the channel in which the water flows both ways.

We have been thinking of the distinctively Welsh way of life, the product of the racial origins of its people, the conformation of its land, its climate, its natural resources and its history. Do we think enough of a way of living for the countrymen and women of Wales, of providing variety of occupation in the rural areas as well as in the industrial south? As you know, this must be the road of approach along and over the dyke for the Development Commission; for their Act directs them to promote economic development in relation to agriculture, rural industries and fisheries and to use all other means to that end.

In the field of agricultural development the Commissioners are proud to have taken their part in collaboration with the Agricultural Departments in framing the scheme which led to the building up of the whole system of agricultural research and advisory services in Great Britain and in making their contribution to the capital expenditure needed for the expansion of agricultural and veterinary education. I need not remind you of the place world of research; of the services which Welsh Agriculture owes to the Colleges at Aberystwyth and Bangor, in particular; of the influence on Welsh policy of aid for agriculture the Commissioners owed a heavy debt to Mr. Henry Jones-Davies of Carmarthenshire, for so many years the Welsh member of the Commission and still President of the Welsh Agricultural Organisation Society. By 1946 the Commissioners came to the conclusion that, especially with the firm establishment of the Agricultural Research Council accomplished. they should now withdraw from this field in order to give more attention to other aspects of rural development. They continue, however, to recommend response to the methods of co-operation which suit the needs and temperament of Welsh farmers so well. The Society is applying the co-operative technique in a number of new and adventurous ways. I am not sure how strong are the links between the Society and the Rural Community Councils or, to be frank, whether Community Councils may be combining as closely with the organised farming industry as a whole, as it is most clearly essential that they should do. This is a matter on which the Conference may throw light,

The Commissioners are also deeply concerned in the interesting and important experiment in farming on the estate basis, with small dairying units and central servicing and guidance, which is being started in Anglesey by Welsh Agriculture and Industries; and may I remind you that the Constitution of this Company, debarred from distributing profits, is such that through subsidiaries it can initiate other experiments whether in agricultural interests, and it is an example of development in action. You have explained to me, Sir, that Opera expecially suits the Welsh genius because it is a combination of music, drama and rhetoric. These are essentials in the life of any cultivated people; but they have special value and significance when they are the accompaniment to action rather than when they are expressed in prolonged periods of rectaitive, to which perhaps we are all prone.

The central problem of rural Wales is, if I have read aright, the problem of traril depopulation and this has been thrown into strong relief by the report of the Council for Wales and Monmouthshire. Among the bitter and challenging facts to which the Council draws attention is the one that the proportion relative to the total population of those who left tural Wales between 1911 and 1948 is nearly as high as that of those who left tural Wales between including the industrial areas, and that this migration was accompanied by a decline of 8 per cent in the rural population. Moreover, the Council finds that migration still continues in spite of the comparative prosperity of agri-culture and the rise in 1949 in the number of regular male workers in agriculture.

Those who leave are mainly the younger male workers and the younger women. The Council refers to the special investigation in Brecon made by in isolation. Unfortunately the Commissioners are not able to help in regard to the basic amenities-water, sewerage, roads, transport and electricity-but aid that their powers and funds allow. As regards the typical industries and crafts of the deep countryside, the Council sefer to the reduction in the number of craftsmen due to the break-up of large estates and to the need for centres with good workshops where those who can service agricultural properties (bricklayers, carpenters, joiners and others) might come together and act in co-operation, and of other centres which would provide for the maintenance and even the hire of agricultural plant and machinery. The along these lines and I cannot help wondering whether there should not be collaboration between Rural Community Councils and the Society in finding ways and means of meeting the needs of small farmers, whether of the hill and marginal lands or of the lower lands and valleys, for services which the programme of land improvement and use will call for and may have great difficulty in finding. The Council for Wales and Monmouthshire are still pursuing their inquiries and they did not feel able at this stage to make any drew attention, however, to the possible handicaps to be faced, such as additional freight charges involved in the transport of raw materials and of manufactured goods, and the possibly higher costs, as compared with those in recognised industrial areas, of essential services such as electricity. Professor Beacham, however, in his survey of "Industries in Welsh Country Towns," which was financed from the Development Fund and is reviewed by Sir Wynn Wheldon in the current issue of "The Village," while expressing the view that there is little scope for the further development of native industries dependent on bulky raw materials, such as grain milling, saw-milling, the manufacture of milk products, tanning, brewing or the making of mineral waters, or for industries on a large scale which require the importation of heavy materials, does see possibilities in "foot-loose" industry, "which," as he puts it "generally does not feel itself strongly pulled by economic considerations to any particular location." Professor Beacham brings us, I suggest, to the core of our problem of providing for ways of living as well as a way of life for Welsh countrymen and countrywomen, when he says that, failing some further industrialisation (of course of the right kind) in country towns, " it is difficult to see how the drift from the countryside is to be arrested and how the rural population is to be provided with those amenities for work and leisure which are nowadays demanded." Incidentally, the Commissioners, as you. Sir, know particularly well, recommended funds some two years ago to the Survey Council for Rural Wales for investigations bearing on the influence of country towns on the amenities of the surrounding areas and the

The Development Commissioners have felt strongly the need for diversity of those engaged in farming, who themselves have other interests and skills. It was for this reason that they promoted the surveys to which I have referred; but they have also, since they were asked at the end of the war by

Sir Stafford Cripps to give attention to the special problem of what are termed "pockets of unemployment" in Welsh rural areas, attempted to make some practical experiments with the object of attracting or starting new industries or developing those which exist. In this very difficult experimental field they have been greatly beloed by most valuable contacts with the North-West District Committee of the Welsh Board for Industry, and they also had the advantage of personal consultation in Shrewsbury in 1950 with the Chairman of the Council for Wales and Monmouthshire and the Chairman of that Council's panels. Loans have been made available to the Local Authorities at Blaenau-Pfestiniog and in the Nantlle Valley for the erection of small factory units with the necessary services and these are now being built. The carpet industry at Blaenau has also been re-organised and provided with loan capital and it is hoped that it will give us comparative data for the operation of hand and machine looms which will be of great value in judging how best similar industries might be started elsewhere. The provision of suitable small factory space and services may help, as it has done in the development areas, to attract the industrialist to come to Wales or provide for the expansion of an existing industry, but we are left with the problem of encouraging Iscal initiative in starting industries which depend on an intimate knowledge of the needs and resources of the countryside. It seemed that what might be needed here was a small full-time Secretariat and an active and well informed Development Association for all Rural Wales. It has, however, been decided, as you will have read in the press, not to take action until the Council for Wales and Monmouthshire has carried its inquiries further.

These, then, are some of the facets of the stubborn problem of arresting rural depopulation and providing ways of living for the Welsh countryman and woman. You know well that the Commissioners realise to the full that the enrichment of the Welsh way of life is the essential complement to a satisfactory way of livelihood. I have stressed the economic aspects of Welsh development because a study of the reports of Welsh Rural Community Councils has led me to wonder, probably through sheer ignorance, whether Community Councils, who are doing so much for rural industries in the narrower sense; for village halls, which are the essential framework on which community life depends; for music, drama, the care of the ageing and the general welfare of the villages, are yet making their full contribution in the sphere of planning and economic development. If it is literally true in each county that the Rural Community Council is actively representative of the statutory and voluntary bodies, if the Executive Committees of Rural Community Councils and their staffs have the confidence of the Local Authorities, then, as independent bodies who are all the time in the most intimate touch with the villages, they can surely play a unique part in guiding plans, so that all the relevant facts and considerations and the human needs are before the authorities, and in helping to foster and bring to success new forms of industry and occupation. The evidence which the Commissioners have recently been taking from Rural Community Councils has shewn what can be done by bringing together local authorities at all levels with village people to discuss and interpret development plans.

I have referred, in particular, to development plans, but planning of this type is only one example of the way in which the volume of recent legislation affects intimately the people of our villages or more scattered communities. The evidence which the Commissioners have heard points to the need for personal advice on the rights of the countryman under a wide variety of new Acts, on the services he may claim, on the duties he owes and on the part

which he can play in ensuring that country needs and country conditions are understood, not only in general but in detail. It would seem that country people like to consult, if they can, one well-known and trusted friend, perhaps not always too near a neighbour, on many different matters. The officer of a Rural Community Council cannot at once answer their questions, but he can find the answers. In the best sense he can be an intermediary, a good contact man. Here is a real opportunity, whether it be in relation to footpaths, the physically handicapped, legal aid or old people's welfare. I realise only too well the strain which these services of neighbourtiness and informed advice entail. Even the necessary contacts cannot, I suggest, be made by the Secretary alone.

It has been suggested that country people are confused by the visits of a succession of organisers and experts. Dr. Alwyn Rees, in his book "Life in a Welsh Countryside," has said:—

"The absence of real society in advanced circles is also manifested in the diversity of organisers, maintained by official and unofficial bodies, who visit the parish in turn, each offering his own particular brand of social activity; an adult class-to study any subject under the sun, with local option, a Youth Club, a Young Wales Club, a Young Farmers' Club, a Women's Institute, a Branch of the Farmers' Union. It is profoundly significant that none of these activities is designed for the community as a whole. They appeal, respectively, to the intellectually-minded, the young, the young farmers in particular, the women, and the farmers-the Old Age Pensioners' Club has not vet arrived. Each local group established in this way is linked organisationally with others of the same type in other localities and with a central office. The officials of the various organisations may meet occasionally at some county or national "co-ordinating committee," but there is nothing to tie the local units together on the spot, or to justify the one to the other. Indeed, one often finds them in competition, and there are several hamlets in Montgomeryshire where a succession of them has been established, each on the ruins of its predecessor. Thus does modern society try to instil new life into the countryside by commending to it its own specialisms. It is true that the pre-industrial rural society also had its itinerant specialists in the arts and crafts, but these, far from founding new social groups, were content to enrich the native life as they found it on the hearth and at other meeting places."

I have not made reference to fisheries, but I would like you to know that constant attention is being given by the Commissioners to ways of assisting their development and improvement, through research (you are probably familiar with the pioneering work in shellfish development of the Conway Station of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries), through co-operation in buying requisities and marketing fish (maintenance grants are given from the Development Fund to the Fisheries Organisation Society to stimulate and assist co-operation among fishermen), and through better harbour facilities,

You have listened with great patience and restraint to the very obvious considerations affecting future policy which I have outlined. I am pushing, I know, an open door when I suggest that during this conference and afterwards we should give attention to fuller opportunities for "earning a living in the Welsh countryside," to use the admirable phrase of the Rural Industries Bureau, no less than to preserving and adoming the Welsh way of life; that we should seek for opportunities of exchanging knowledge and experience and should ask ourselves whether our contacts with agriculture, with rural planning, with economic development and with the manifold activities of central and local authorities are as close and as profitable as they might be. If we do this, we shall, perhaps, find that our journeys here have been really necessary.

MUSIC IN WALES

by Dr. SYDNEY NORTHCOTE.

Music in Wales is, instinctively, a domestic art, a communal activity, a native enjoyment rather than a purely creative cult or intellectual pursait. It has been harnessed, in the main, to some powerful native institutions which are still with us. Few will deny the influence of estreddiedau, whether nationed local; of the cymanfa ganu; of the university music departments at Aberystwyth, Bangor and Cardiff; of the choral energies of industrial Wales; and, at later date, of the Council of Music now shorn of much of its former power.

It can be said, both with pride and some regret, that the best musical products of the Eisteddford and the universities have mainly "gone for export." The established English orchestras, as well as Covent Garden, Sadlers Wells and the like, owe much to the Principality. Moreover, the musical enthusiasm of many English schools is due, nor infrequently, to the zeal of Welsh-trained teachers. All this is quite understandable. Wales is too small, and too trutal, to sustain any extensive professional musical life for the somewhat prolific musical genius of her children.

This does not excuse, though it may partly explain, the untidy musical progress of Wales over the past forty years. Complacency may not recognise any decline. Condemnatory criticism often exaggerates the disease without suggesting any remedy. In any event, extremes of opinion cannot promote understanding.

Quite recently, a young Welsh composer of unusual talent, was complaining that there was no tradition of Welsh music on which to draw. T. S. Ellor has reminded us that "tradition cannot be inherited and if you want it you must obtain it by great labour. It involves, in the first place," he goes on, "the historical sense, ... and the historical sense involves a perception, not only of the pastness of the past, but also its presence." The complaint was utered in Swansea, where once lived Dr. Vaughan Thomas, who, with his Cywyddau and Sach O Gancuon, was well on the way to a unique and authentic Welsh art-melody. But then, one remembers with no little dismay, that his lovely String Quinter, first heard in South Africa some twenty years ago, has yet to be published in Wales. Perhaps the same fate awaits David de Lloyd's scholady experiments with a kind of instrumental penullion.

Can it he that Wales is roo concerned with the pastness of the past? And is that why the idolatry of Joseph Parry, being nurtured on sentiment and not discrimination, seems to outweigh the recognition of his far more efficient successors? Happily, there are some signs to the contrary. The Welsh B.B.C. and the Arts Council are doing a great deal to improve public taste and understanding. The Welsh National Opera Company increases its efficiency and influence with every performance it gives. Of the Cardiff Academy of Music ore is, perhaps, not so sute. Where it does not overlap the work of the university music department it is difficult to see how it can challenge comparison with the Royal schools and colleges in London, which are as accessible to most parts of North and Mid-Wales as is Cardiff itself.

But it is the inflexibility of some of the older institutions which gives rise to anxiety. The university music departments, naturally enough, tend to be more concerned with musicology than with music making. But the National Eisteddfod is in danger of becoming an anachronism when it ought to be an acrive and progressive force in establishing musical tuste and standards. Some

of the more important local eisteddfodau are showing commendable enterprise, though the choice of test pieces and the out-dated categories of events do need overhauling. And far too many of the small eisteddfodau have for their ration above the ration of the trains above the ration of the small eisteddfodau have for their ration above the ration of the standards are quite forgotten in the choice of backneyed items and tempting prize money just to attract entries. Is it not time to form a federation of esteaddfodau which, by alliance with the British Federation of Festivals, would gain much from the thriving efficiency and progressive standards of so many of the English competitive festivals?

The cyman's ganu, which in the past has helped to establish a Welsh hymnody of real beauty and power, still continues, too often, to perpetuate Welsh anthems which are quite banal, if not biasphemous. But I have no doubt that Welsh chapel choirs could bring a new and thrilling fervency to the vast exalogue of sacred choral which is at hand for their exploring.

Two further developments are worth considering. If music in Wales is rightly regarded as a social art is there room for some kind of council of the amateur arts, which could bring order and information to a mass of unrelated effort? Perhaps the Welsh Council of Social Service might consider this idea. And, instead of emulating training establishments in other countries, I feel the ideal thing for Welse would be a small residential college; a musical power-house where professional and amateur alike could go for short courses of specialised instruction or for master-courses in some particular aspects of musical technique and so on. The mental stimulus and artistic refreshment afforded by such opportunities would send them back to their work in the field with invigorated zeal and a progressive purpose.

Finally, I would say that the Welsh choral traditions of the first decade of this century are due for a revival. But though they may draw their strength from the past, their future hope must rest on the purpose of the present

RURAL INDUSTRIES BUREAU

WELSH TEXTILES

by Spencer J. Hoy Technical Officer—Rural Industries Bureau

The calm reaction to the terrific price fluctuations of wool is amazing, as although there has been no stable basis on which to conduct business, there have been no siens of panie in any quarter.

To the layman an apparently obvious answer to high wool coars is to use of the fibres and so reduce the price of the finished cloth, but in Wales this would not only be difficult, but highly dangerous. Synthetic fibres available to use for blending with wool are also in very short supply, and as would be expected, have increased in price almost as much as wool. The sulphur shortage alone has played havoc with the production of many of these fibres, and it is difficult if not impossible for argone to obtain supplies unless they had previous contacts with the manufactures.

The blending of the various rayons in staple form, the pea-nut fibre, ardil, or any of the other man-made fibres, with the exception of nylon, can all be regarded as adulterants to the quality of the cloth produced, and few of the mills in Wales are equipped to use nylon in the blends. There would be little advantage in price, even if they could obtain this much sought-after fibre. Let there be no doubt on this matter, these synthetic wool blends, even when used by the masters of the trade on the most up-to-date machinery in the country, still make an inferior cloth to the all-wool cloth. In Wales the mills use all virgin wool, and as such, enjoy a certain standing because of that. Take that away from them and we will find them in the highly dangerous position of losing what is perhaps their most valuable attraction to the discerning public. The Welsh manufacturer takes great pride in the article he produces. and considering the handicaps under which he works, this is a highly justifiable pride, and he would abhor the idea of adulterating his wool by using synthetic varus, which would reduce the quality of his cloths. In certain other parts of Britain, the textile manufacturers take the same pride in what they can do to produce a reasonable article from inferior materials, and we have the claim in certain parts of the shoddy trade that "If it's got two ends we'll spin it." but I am sure that as far as Wales is concerned, they agree with the International Wool Secretariat that "there is no substitute for Wool," and let us help them keen that "Virgin Wool."

Most of the mills are "soft-pedalling" at the moment until the wool of situation becomes clearer and it is doubtful if much progress will be made until whis time. Technical assistance has been given to several factories and all but a few of the more inaccessible mills have been visited at least once. The information gathered during these visits has proved very valuable in formulating the future policy for helping the mills to develop.

One of the first steps that has been taken, is to circulate to the mills extracts from the Utility Scheduler—immediately they are issued. This, on the face of it, is a simple matter, but it has meant listing the product and requirement of each mill, extracting the relevant information and including a simplified explanation of what is meant. Many of the mills have expressed their appreciation of this service, and it has encouraged many to enter into the Utility Trade for the first time, and so escape from the burden of Purchase Tax.

The obsolete machinery used in many of the mills, is a great obstacle to our work, and owing to the general situation, it is a difficult problem to overcome. Slight progress is being made on this side, and possibly a future use of the R.I.L.F., etc., will help the progress, but it must of necessity be a slow and cautious business, as we cannot hope in a short time to overcome the handicap of thirty years negligence. Again, if one or two mills in each district can be helped and encouraged to renovate their machinery within the bounds of their productional requirements and within the region of their innancial stability, the other mills will warth with interest and if the improvement is successful, they will in time follow. One of the smaller mills in Carmarhenshire is contemplating installing a new Dobcross loom, not only because he requires if for his production, but also because he feels that it will encourage some of the larger mills in his area to purchase occasionally a new piece of machinery, instead of buying the "throwouts" of Yorkshire which often prove expensive in unkeen.

Very closely allied to the problems of the preceding paragraph is the question of education; not the theoretical education for management, but education of a practical nature for the operatives. At the moment, few of the more modern type of machines are being used at more than 60 per cent efficiency, and the newer types of the property of quality and quantity of production, it will without doubt act as a blood transfusion to the industry.

During the last few months it has become even more evident that there is a crying need in the industry for some scheme, or financial help, to enable workers or foremen in these small mills to receive a short course of training on the practical side of their work. There is a tendency at the moment for quite a few of the small mills to fight the (in their opinion) coming slump by installing new or more modern machinery, and this tendency should be given every assistance possible and the most practical assistance would be in the field of training. There is also the point that in mills containing, say, Dobcross looms, the operative is by no means familiar with his loom as his training has been handed down to him or he has learnt by practical experience, but the inherent weakness in this is his inability to use or tune his machine on any new type of work, as all his knowledge is bounded by past experience in specific cloths. The most suitable training would be a short (one, two, three months) course in an establishment such as the Production Unit of the Scottish Woollen Technical College where he would be given concentrated practical training on the machinery there. The machinery in this Unit includes both the latest up-to-date machines and also older machinery of the same type that is used in the Welsh mills. By this training the long and very valuable practical experience of these workers would be augmented and would act as a spur to better and more efficient workmanship in the mills and also smooth the way for further developments. These short courses would, at this stage, prove more valuable than the sending of individuals straight from school on longer courses lasting one, two, or even three years, as although this type of course will prove to be of great use to the industry later, at the moment the short course to the operative would be a quicker, more widespread, and more practical means of giving educational assistance.

The question of evening classes has been examined and it was decided that a scheme should be drawn our, and all arrangements concluded in time for commencement in the Autumn of '51. The size of this scheme is limited by the very few lecturers who are available to give instruction, but further efforts will be made in the coming months to enlist the interest and assistance more people in the industry on this side. Practical tuition on design and machinery has already been given by the Bureau Staff during visits to the mills, and also in the evenings in the districts being visited. This tuition had been asked for by individual workers, and was in some instances given in their own homes; it may be stated that once the ice has been broken the difficulty has been to restrain their eagerness for instruction, as in two cases at least, work in the evening tended to extend past midight.

Help will be given also by enlisting the use of the Film Library of the International Wool Secretariat and giving film shows in the village centres of the trade, followed up later by lectures from the Wool Secretariat's team of travelling lecturers. These lectures and films tend to be of a rather general nature, but will prove useful in showing by film, how the industry is carried on in other parts of the country, as few of the workers have seen inside other mills, even in their own districts, and also in arousing the interest of both the people who work in the milh and those members of the public who live in a textile district.

The textile room in the Plas, Machynlleth, is being fitted with an exhibition stand, etc., on which will be displayed chosen samples of Welsh textiles. We hope to incorporate with this, subsidiary exhibits of an educational nature which can be displayed here, and also be easily transported to other parts of Wales. The type of exhibit envisaged here is a length of cloth containing faults and, side by side with this, cuttings showing the stages of "darning" in these faults, ending with the innished cloth with all faults repaired, or a sample showing the bars caused by wearing solid werls with one shuttle, and any other faults which are prevalent in the industry, thus showing visually the methods of avoiding, or repairing these faults. These exhibitions will be co-ordinated with the work which will be done in the laboratory now being fitted in the Plas.

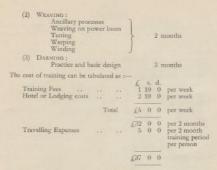
A new form of supplying the mills with Design Particulars has been formulated in the shape of a printed sheet laying out all details necessary for the manufacture of the design supplied on their request, together with the suggested "finishing" procedure, etc.

The crying need for design and colour education of practically all the Welsh mills is a difficult problem to tackle as the large proportion of the looms are of the "single shuttle" type, which does not allow much scope for pattern design, there always remains, however, suggestions for colour improvement and considerable work has been done, both for the mills equipped with the simple type of loom and also for the mills possessing "multiple box." looms, and the advice given has produced some very worthwhile results.

The Bueau has been asked to undertake the responsibility of administering the Welsh Industries Fund held by the University College of Wades. The details of training requirements were worked out in consultation with Dr. Martindale and members of the Staff of the Production Unit of the Scottish Woollen Technical College.

The standard practical training courses will be modified and shortened to suit the small Welsh mill, and the scheme adopted is as follows:—

1) YARN MANUFACTURERS:
Bleoding
Carding
Spinning
2 months



As there is no allowance made here for loss of wages, and as the small mill cannot be expected to make up the wages in each case while losing the productive capacity of that worker, and as the workers will in most cases have financial commitments, i.e., families, dependant relations, etc., the problem was put to a meeting of the Welsh R.C.C. Secretaries held at Llandrindod during April, and they appeared to be confident that the money for this side could be found in the individual counties.

FINANCE

The Statement of Accounts shows that the work of the Council described in this report involved an expenditure of £23,804 5s. 5d. This expenditure was made from funds derived from the following sources:—

Grants		£	.94	a.
Development Fund, Ministry of Agriculture	and	7.560	0	0
Ministry of Education		1.500	0	0
Glamorgan County Council		5,022	0	0
Carmarthenshire County Council		800	0	0
The Carnegie United Kingdom Trust		1,475	0	0
National Corporation for the Care of Old People		1,000	0	0
National Playing Fields Association		187	10	0
National Council of Social Service	Tee	1,425	0	0
Arts Council		998	3	11
Festival of Britain 1951		515	9	0
Voluntary Income				
Donations from Women's Clubs		661	13	1
Subscriptions and Donations	0.0	196	5	10
Fees Earned—Drama Library		221	12	5
Fees Earned by Staff		98	10	9
Rent—Sub-letting		130	0	0
Sale of Surplus Equipment	**	125	0	0
Miscellaneous		96	16	9
Wireless Appeal—Old People's Welfare		45	5	7
		22.058	7	4
Balance Brought Forward March 31st, 1950		1,846	19	4
		£23,905	6	8

BALANCE SHEET-81st MARCH, 1951.

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

In our opinion proper books of account have been kepe by the Council so far as appears from our examination of those books. We have examined the shore Balance Sheet and Annexed Income and Expenditure Accounts which are in agreement with the Books of Account. The Balance Sheet is We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and helief were necessary for the purposes of our radiis. exclusive of equipment including office furniture taken over by the Council from its predecessors and any expenditure of similar nature made by the Council is written off in the Expenditute Accounts referred to,

Accounts give the information required by the Companies Act, 1918, in the manner so required and the Balance Sheet gives a rave and fair view of the affairs of the Council as at 31st March, 1931, and the Income and Expenditure Accounts give a tree 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.

8, WINDSOR PLACE, CARDIPPE.

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DR. GLAMORGAN COUNTY MUSIC COMMITTEE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1951. CR.

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GLAMORGAN COUNTY DRAMA COMMITTEE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1961. DR.

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