

Report to the General Board of Health on a preliminary inquiry into the sewerage, drainage, and supply of water, and the sanitary condition of the inhabitants of the town of Bryn-Mawr, in the county of Brecon / by Geo. T. Clark, Superintending Inspector.

Contributors

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9.
PUBLIC HEALTH ACT.

(11 & 12 Vict., Cap. 63.)

R E P O R T

TO THE

GENERAL BOARD OF HEALTH,

ON A

PRELIMINARY INQUIRY

INTO THE SEWERAGE, DRAINAGE, AND SUPPLY OF
WATER, AND THE SANITARY CONDITION
OF THE INHABITANTS

OF THE TOWN OF

B R Y N - M A W R,

IN THE COUNTY OF BRECON.

By **GEO. T. CLARK, Esq.,**

SUPERINTENDING INSPECTOR.



LONDON:

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FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1850.

NOTIFICATION.

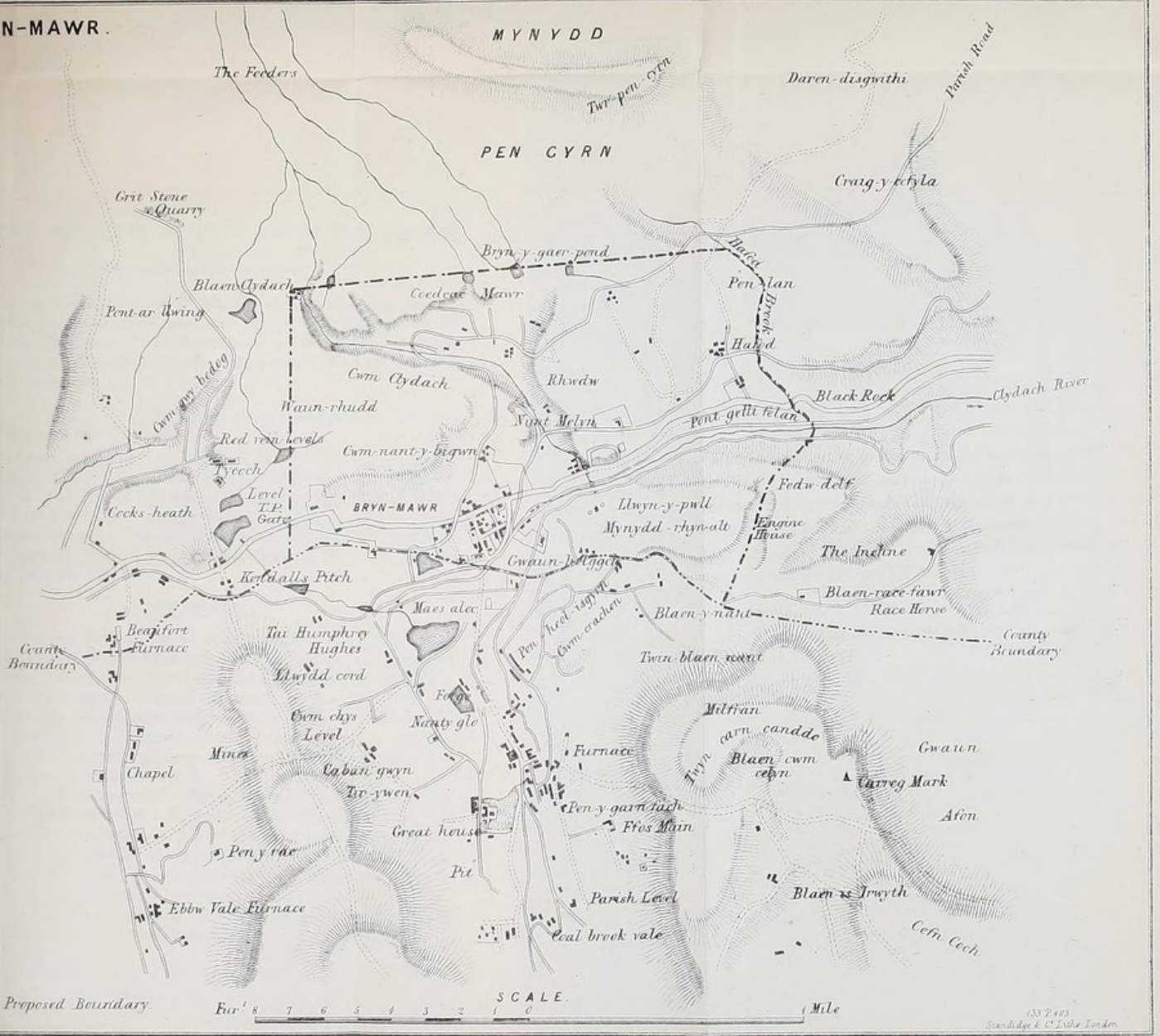
THE General Board of Health hereby give notice, in terms of section 9th of the Public Health Act, that on or before the 15th of July next, written statements may be forwarded to the Board with respect to any matter contained in or omitted from the accompanying Report on the Sewerage, Drainage, and Supply of Water, and the Sanitary Condition of the Town of BRYN-MAWR, or with respect to any amendment to be proposed therein.


By order of the Board,

HENRY AUSTIN, *Secretary*

Gwydyr House, Whitehall,
10th June, 1850.

BRYN-MAWR.





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PUBLIC HEALTH ACT (11 and 12 Vict., cap. 63).

Report to the General Board of Health on a Preliminary Inquiry into the Sewerage, Drainage, and Supply of Water, and the Sanitary Condition of the Inhabitants of the Town of BRYN-MAWR, in the County of Brecon. By GEO. T. CLARK, Superintending Inspector.

Wimborne-Minster, 22nd September, 1849.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, after notice given directed by the Public Health Act, I visited the town of Bryn-mawr, in the parishes of Llanelly and Llangattock, in the county Brecon, on the 14th of August last; held public sittings in the market-house there on that and the following day; and employed the remainder of those days in an inspection of the place, and in procuring materials for this

REPORT.

1. The inquiry took place in consequence of a petition from the inhabitants of BRYN-MAWR, in the parishes of Llanelly and Llangattock. I have to acknowledge the support of Mr. Edwards, registrar of marriages. I found no plans or documents of any kind, and the parish officers, and registrar of births and deaths, were all at considerable distances; nor do they appear to possess any information concerning Bryn-Mawr, as distinguished from the two parishes in which it stands.

2. GENERAL DESCRIPTION.—Bryn-Mawr, or the "Great Hill," is one of the numerous towns dependent upon the iron works, and is situated along the northern margin of the mineral basin of South Wales from Pontypool to Merthyr-Tydvil. It stands just north of or outside, the northern outcrop of the coal-seams, and between the sources of the Clydach, a tributary to the Usk, above Abernenny, and those of the Ebbw-fach, a tributary to the Ebbw, which falls also into the Usk, between the town of Newport and the Bristol Channel.

Bryn-Mawr is probably about 800 feet above the sea. Above it to the north, is a considerable tract of higher and very wet land, known as Mynydd-Pen-Cyrn. Below it, in the valley, about a mile distant, are the iron works of Nant-y-Glo. The climate is excessively moist, and in winter cold and inclement.

4. Bryn-Mawr, in the words of the petition, "is a town recently built; the houses are of small dimensions, overcrowded, badly ventilated, and with but few conveniences to secure comfort and health. Its inhabitants are for the most part mechanics and labourers, employed in the iron and coal works in the neighbourhood." The Duke of Beaufort is the lord of the soil, and the whole town is built under leases from him. The minerals are leased to Messrs. Bailey, of the Nant-y-Glo works, which employ directly about 3,000 men. The collieries of the Brecon Boat Company also give employment to a great number. The high road from Abergavenny to Merthyr passes along the main street. The traffic between the works and the port of Newport is carried out by a tram-road, and for part of the distance by the Monmouthshire Canal.

5. The town has no defined boundary, and one object with the petitioners appears to have been to obtain for it such a boundary and a local government. About three-fourths of it is in the parish of Llanelly, the church being $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles distant, and the other fourth is in the parish of Llangattock, of which the church is 7 miles distant. The only places of worship are eight dissenting chapels, built or building; the only ministers of religion those who preach in them; and the only public schools, the Sunday-schools attached to them, and a school in connexion with the British and Foreign School Society. The Church of England appears to be wholly unrepresented in the place. The streets have recently been paved, at the expense of the Duke of Beaufort.

6. GOVERNMENT.—The town has no local government. The affairs of the Llanelly part of it are under the rule of the usual parochial authorities; in this case, two overseers of the poor, and two surveyors of highways. Similar officers are elected for Llangattock. There is provided, for the preservation of the peace in the town, one superintendent of police, appointed about two years ago, and paid by the county.

7. FINANCE.—The rates levied are: for Llanelly, a poor-rate of 3s. in the pound, producing 2,100*l.*, a highway rate of 6*d.*, and what is known locally as a Rebecca rate, being, as far as can be ascertained, a rate levied to pay off certain debts incurred by the turnpike trust, of which the toll-bars were abolished in consequence of the Rebecca riots, and amounting in both parishes to 3*d.* in the pound.

8. In Llangattock, the corresponding annual burdens are: a poor-rate of 2s. in the pound, producing 1,200*l.*, a highway rate of 6*d.* in the pound, and a county road, or Rebecca, rate of 3*d.* in the pound.

9. STATISTICS.—The following extracts from the population returns, though very complex, owing to the manner in which the districts are subdivided, show the rapid increase of the inhabitants:—

COUNTY OF BRECON.

	1801	1811	1821	1831	1841
Llanelly Parish (Parochial Chapelry) :—					
Aberbaidan, Parcel . . .	608	1,097	1,781	4,041	7,366
Maesgwartha, Parcel . . .	329	724	1,181		

Annual Value of Real Property, as assessed April, 1815 { Aberbaidan, £1,804
Maesgwartha, £4,857.

	1801	1811	1821	1831	1841
Llangattock Parish :—					
Penallt, Parcel	1,046	1,263	1,947	2,690	4,334
Prisk and Killey, Parcel . . .					

Annual Value of Real Property, as assessed April, 1815, £3,752.

	HOUSES.				OCCUPATION.			POPULATION.		
	Inhabited.	Families.	Building.	Uninhabited.	Families chiefly Agricultural.	Trade, Manufactures, and Handicrafts.	All others, &c.	Males.	Females.	Total of Persons.
1831										
Llanelly Parish :—										
Aberbaidan and Maesgwartha	778	780	5	27	47	207	526	2,181	1,860	4,041
Llangattock Parish :—										
Penallt, Prisk, and Killey . . .	516	545	8	27	67	48	430	1,467	1,223	2,690
1841										
Llanelly Parish :—										
Aberbaidan	1,120	..	21	35	..	..	..	3,043	2,664	5,707
Maesgwartha	349	..	..	21	..	..	..	869	790	1,659
Llangattock Parish :—										
Penallt	125	..	..	10	..	..	..	325	312	637
Prisk and Killey	683	..	4	38	..	..	..	2,065	1,632	3,697

The present population of the town is reputed to be about 10,000.

10. MORTALITY.—The returns for Bryn-Mawr are mixed up with those of the two parishes, so that there are no means of obtaining the mortality of the town. Mr. Thomas Williams, Superintendent-registrar, states the deaths in Llanelly parish since 1841, 9 years, at 2,328, and in Llangattock parish, in the same period, at 1,156; this, on populations of 7,364 and 4,319, those of the last census, give an average annual mortality for Llanelly of 35·1, and for Llangattock of 29·7 in the 1,000. Three-fourths

of Bryn-Mawr is in the former parish, and causes its heavy mortality. Mr. William Ramsey, registrar of births for the Llangatock district, the population of which was about 5,000 in 1841, states the deaths for the official years 1846, 1847, and 1848, to have been 123, 185, and 127, according to which, the average annual mortality would be 29 in the 1,000, and that for 1841, 37 in the 1,000. According to Mr. Edwards's statement, the average annual mortality of the Llanelly district, for the years 1841 and 1848, was as high as 43·2 in the 1,000, the population having been in 1841, 7,364, and the deaths 350 and 287.

11. CONDITION OF THE TOWN.—The petitioners state, “that several epidemic diseases have prevailed in Bryn-Mawr in the last three years, and that they believe the health of the inhabitants generally suffers from the state of the town.”

12. The following is the statement of the superintendent registrar of the district, in reply to a communication addressed him by the General Board of Health. I found the account here given to be fully borne out by the state of things which presented itself to me during my own inspection.

SIR,

Crickhowell, April 11, 1849.

IN reply to the inquiry of the Board of Health of the 5th inst. as to the state of Bryn-Mawr, I beg to say it is a large collection of workmen's cottages, with a few tradesmen's houses, erected almost entirely during the last 25 years upon barren mountain land. Having been built with a view to gain, and in many cases hastily, to supply the wants of the mining population, no regard has been paid to drainage, nor have many of the dwellings any back outlet; of this latter class may be specified *Beaufort-court*, with parts of *Glamorgan-street* and *Worcester-street*. The inhabitants are little short of five thousand, and there are not more than two dozen privies in the place, the filth and ashes being generally thrown out in the nearest spot to the door, that in some places, particularly in Glamorgan-street, the middle of the road is much above its proper level. Pigs are generally kept roaming through the streets, and adding to the filth, and the houses are much in want of ventilation, many of the windows being without openings. During the winter of 1847-8, small-pox, measles, and typhoid fever prevailed in this locality. At present it is more healthy.

The ground being originally boggy, requires extra drainage, but there is not any here, beyond the natural fall of some of the streets, and the filth and offal is left to be washed away by heavy rains, or to sink into the ground. It should be observed, that there are mineral workings close to, if not under the town.

I remain, &c.,

THOMAS WILLIAMS, *Sup.-Reg.*

13. The following extract from the answer of Mr. Davis, the Clerk to the Board of Guardians for the Crickhowell Union, to which Bryn-Mawr is a part, corroborates these statements:—

“I have now further to state, that having obtained the best inform-

on I could from the medical officer of the district, as well as from the assistant-surgeon of an adjoining iron work, whose professional duties constantly call him to Bryn-Mawr, it appears that the following places therein have been the chief seats of sickness, namely, an undrained space of low resort called *Marsden's yard*, and also the following streets:—

*Worcester-street,
Glamorgan-street,
Somerset-street.*

further appears that the sickness has not been of a malignant character, and has appeared chiefly amongst vagrants. If this place appears to enjoy any immunity from disease, it must, I think, be attributed to its great elevation (upwards of 800 feet), and not to its sanitary arrangements, which are of the worst description, or rather, I could say, almost wholly unknown."

14. I ought perhaps to premise, that I visited Bryn-Mawr in wet weather, and when the presence of cholera cast a gloom over the minds, and perhaps to a certain extent paralyzed the exertions of the people. On the other hand, it is to be borne in mind, that the climate is unusually moist, and the number of wet days very considerable; also, whatever may have been the effect of the actual presence of the cholera, the apprehension of its approach had caused an unusual activity on the part of the inhabitants in the removal of nuisances, and the cleansing the public ways, as far as practicable. Whether these causes may have placed Bryn-Mawr, as regards cleanliness, in a better or worse condition than ordinary, I know not, but it is scarcely within the power of pen or pencil, to convey to the apprehension of those who are dependent on such sources of information, an adequate idea of the condition of the cottage tenements which constitute the town, as they presented themselves to my examination during the visit.

15. The town was originally well set out, and the streets, with some considerable exceptions, are of fair width, but the houses have been built in a hurry; they are badly arranged, ill ventilated, without back premises, privies, or dust-bins. The rooms are small and dark, and the windows sometimes not made to open. The ground-floors are frequently paved, and not uncommonly so bad as to be rendered damp or even flooded by the rain water. This is particularly the case when the cottages are built, as several of them are, upon the side of a hill charged with water.

16. The public streets are unpitched. The footways, where there are any, are irregular, broken by steps and cross gutters, and full of holes. There is but one tolerable sewer in the town, and most of the streets have not even a paved gutter; the rain water forms an irregular channel in the middle of the steepest streets, and into this, or the gutters, the house refuse is thrown. The streets, and even the public streets, are constantly used as privies. There is no public pump or conduits, and no water

supply by means of pipes. The people go to distant and often dirty springs and pits for water. In addition to these evils, may be mentioned, a number of low lodging-houses and a good deal of open drunkenness.

17. These remarks, the result of personal observation and inquiry, are corroborated by the experience of Sir H. De la Bèche and others, who have reported upon this and other towns, upon the northern edge of the coal-field, the condition of which in many respects similar, and their unhealthiness confirmed by the progress of the cholera, which was at the time of my visit raging throughout the district, and was particularly severe in Bryn-Mawr.

18. It will be observed that the statement given above relates to those points of sanitary police which can only be provided by the governing body of the town, or by the owners of houses properly. I do not find that the occupiers of cottages are more negligent in cleanliness—perhaps they are even less so—than the same class of persons elsewhere. Even in the dirtiest quarters I usually found the interior of the houses clean.

19. The principal, and on the whole the dirtiest thoroughfare in Bryn-Mawr, is *King-street*, through which the mail-coach road passes. The road is in bad repair, and traversed obliquely by a tram-road; the houses are built irregularly, and in the corners thus produced refuse is collected. On the north side, the houses stand high above the road, on the south, much below it, and are flooded by its surface water. There is no regular footway, and but few cottages have back outlets or privies. Parallel to and south of *King-street* is *Worcester-street*, of fair width, above half a mile long, and quite straight. Some of the houses are well built, others are of an inferior class, and placed below the street level. Here and there some of the houses have a footway in front. The people are scantily supplied with water, and very badly provided for privies.

20. *Boundary-street* is unpaved, and in a very bad state. There is no footway, and not even a regular gutter. The filth is thrown into a channel formed by the rain-water, in the middle of the street. *Hatter-street* is much in the same state. In it is a large dung-heap. At the lower part of the street a water channel has been rudely covered over with large stones. *Queen-square* has houses upon one side only. Their back premises are crowded. In this row is a large dung-heap, close to the windows of a house. *Bailey-street* extends along the lower or southern margin of the town. A few of the houses are in good order, and well placed, they are the exception. There is no regular footway; the road is unmade, and in part occupied by a tramway. It is in a very filthy condition.

21. *Glamorgan-street* is well laid out, and of fair width, and contains several pretty good houses. It is, however, unpaved, and has only portions of a footway. At the lower end is *Davies-co*

unpaved, rather close, very damp from the drainage of the hill behind it, and without either privy or back premises.

22. *Beaufort-street* is the best in the town. Its road is partially made, and it contains a covered sewer. Here also is the market and market-house, built by Mr. Edwards, and let out weekly to tenants. This street, however, has only an interrupted footway, and the space in front of the market is most filthy. *Somerset-street* is well laid out, but needs draining and paving, and a proper footpath. About the junction of Bailey and Worcester-streets is an open space occupied by ash-heaps and piles of refuse, of all kinds, very offensive.

23. *Marsden's-court*, in Beaufort-street, contains nine houses without a privy. The court is very rudely paved, and full of holes. On a recent occasion the police officer found 13 lodgers in the small room. The inhabitants are chiefly Irish. At the junction of Bailey and Davies-streets, Mr. M. D. Morgan has built a range of premises, by far the best in the whole place. The road in front is macadamized, the footway paved, and there is a water-closet in the dwelling-houses. Mr. Morgan, however, complains that much of the benefit of his road and footway is destroyed by the filthy state of the neighbourhood.

24. Along the lower side of the town is a deep and dirty ditch. This once carried the Breconshire tram-road, but now being disused, is a receptacle for all kinds of filth, and ought to be filled up.

25. There are but few houses north of the high road. *Clydach-street*, on that side, is particularly filthy. It is occupied by a tram-road. At one part is a row of cottages without any back premises or privy; and at one end of them is a public oven, the opening before which, when I saw it, was used as a common privy. The houses higher up are very damp, being built against the hill, the whole surface of which is clay. The *Police Station* in King-street is well kept, but the drain is complained of, is much too large, and has no proper outfall.

26. It appears from the return of John Nicolls, Inspector of Nuisances, that the town, with about 1,000 houses, contains only 45 privies, and those very unequally distributed; some few houses having one each, and in other cases groups of 15 to 18, being without any accommodation at all.

27. The condition of Bryn-Mawr, was brought before the public in 1847, by Mr. J. C. Symonds, in his Report to the Committee of Council on Education. That report, supported by the evidence of clergymen and magistrates of the district, speaks in no measured terms of the dreadful moral condition of the town. This it does not come within my province to pronounce upon. With reference to its physical condition, which is slightly touched upon by Mr. Symonds, I do not find that there has been any general improvement since the date of his report. "The town," he says, "reeks with dirt; there are no lamps, or effective drainage."

28. SEWERS AND DRAINS.—There is no plan or other docu-

ment relating to the sewerage of Bryn-Mawr, but as far as I can learn, there is but one street sewer in the town, that down Bearfort-street, which is 200 yards long and from 9 to 12 inches square. Here and there are short drains, some of which are covered over with rough flagstones. It is customary to cast out into the road all the filth of every description, and to trust to the wind in dry weather and the rain in wet weather, to remove it. Some of the older inhabitants objected to privies, or regular dust-bins, or drains, and stated that the road was the best place for the soil and refuse!

29. **WATER SUPPLY.**—The town suffers severely, in dry seasons, for want of water. There are three or four wells or springs on the hills above, and one in Clydach-street, which I found in a very filthy state. Davy Morgan's well, at the western end of the town, is in great repute. From 30 to 40 persons are frequently to be seen there, in dry seasons, waiting for water, and the people go there through the night. They complain that they are unable to obtain, on Saturday, a store sufficient for Sunday.

30. **HIGHWAYS AND STREETS.**—One of the complaints of the petitioners, is "that the streets are not highways, and there being no local Act for repairing them, they are now in exceedingly bad condition; without sewers, with but little pavement, and all kinds of nuisances committed therein." This representation, though strong, is fully borne out by the actual state of things in the highways, which has already been described incidentally in this report.

31. **LIGHTING.**—Although coal is raised in the parish, and sold in the town, at 7s. to 9s. a-ton, (a price which is kept up by the absence of any competition,) the town is not lighted. Very recently a private gas-work has been established, and gas is supplied by meter to several private lights, at 7s. 6d. per 1,000 cubic feet.

32. **BURIAL-GROUNDS.**—Most of the chapels have burial-grounds attached to them. Some of these are full, and none are of any great area; so that a proper cemetery is now much needed, and will, before long, become absolutely necessary. Various localities might be selected for such a purpose. One has been proposed, on the northern edge of the town, on the hill side behind Calvary chapel.

REMEDIES.

33. The remedies necessary to place Bryn-Mawr in a proper condition, are, in the first place, a local government; and secondly, certain measures that a local government alone, constituted with the powers given by the Public Health Act, will have the means of carrying into effect. The chief of these measures will be a water supply; a main sewerage; a proper system of house-drainage and house accommodations; and the formation and repairs of the streets and public ways. It is also highly desirable that the future local Board should be provided with powers to light the town. A collection of 5,000 persons, chiefly of the labouring classes

d under the care of but one police-officer, however orderly their habits, should certainly have their streets lighted.

34. In the absence of all plans or sections, or of any engineering information whatever relating to the town, I am absolutely unable to do more than indicate the general source from which water should be derived, and the general direction of the drainage; and without special instructions from your Board, I did not, for the purpose of a preliminary inquiry, feel justified in directing a proper survey to be made.

35. **WATER SUPPLY.**—The great hill which gives name to the town, and rises on its northern side, and the mountain tract behind it appear to be the best sources to which to look for a water supply. On the high ground are numerous springs, and upon the northern face of the hill is a spot not ill suited for the purposes of a reservoir, low enough to receive, by the aid of catch drains, nearly all the water of the hill, and a supply from the sources of the Clydach, and high enough to command, by natural pressure, the whole town. The water of the Clydach is of $11\cdot4^{\circ}$ of hardness. From this reservoir, which should contain 100 days' supply, allowing 20 gallons a-head daily for 5,000 persons, pipes could be laid along each street of the town, with branches to each court or house. Should there be any difficulty in securing, in wet seasons, a full reservoir, it will be practicable to divert into it a portion of the waters of the upper Clydach, which at such times, is more than sufficient for the demands upon it below.

36. **SEWERAGE.**—The sewers required will be but few; and owing to the favourable levels of the ground, they need be but of small size. Twelve-inch sewers will probably be sufficient for the streets, and fifteen-inch to two feet for the main outfall. The town sewers should be collected into a main trunk along Bailey-street and the southern edge of the town, nearly in the course of the Brecon tram-road. The most convenient place for the final discharge will be the Clydach weir, near the bridge, where also the sewage may be obtained, when required, for the purposes of manure.

37. **HOUSE IMPROVEMENTS.**—These are much needed in Bryn-mawr, and the water supply and main sewerage are chiefly available as means for carrying out an improved condition of the houses, and especially of the cottages. The Local Board will have power to compel every person building or rebuilding a house, to provide a privy, and the owners of existing houses, where it is practicable, to do the same.

38. The yards attached to such houses as have them, and the courts common to several, should be paved and drained, and into each near to each should be laid a water-pipe and tap, with the water taps on. Proper dust-bins ought to be provided, and arrangements made for scavenging the streets and removing the dry refuse and ashes from the houses.

39. **SEWAGE DISTRIBUTION.**—The land in these mineral dis-

tricts is of a poor quality, and, from the character of the climate of little value for agricultural purposes. A scanty crop of hay is the only produce of most of the hill land in this neighbourhood, near the works. The value of the minerals below leads also to the neglect of the surface. Should it be found desirable, however, to employ the sewage as manure, this may be done by collecting it in a tank below the Clydach bridge, and distributing it over the adjacent lands lower down the valley.

40. BOUNDARIES.—The area to which it is proposed to apply the Act is laid down upon the annexed copy of the Ordnance map, the only map that I have been able to obtain. Commencing at the junction of the Clydach with the Hafod brook, the boundary follows the brook to where it crosses the boundary of the parishes of Llanelly and Llangattock; thence it takes a straight line to the north side of Blaen-Clydach farm-house; thence a straight line to the Bryn-Mawr toll-gate, and beyond it to the county boundary of the counties of Brecon and Monmouth; it then follows this boundary till it crosses Cwm-Nant-Gam, down which it extends to the Clydach river, opposite to the junction with the Hafod brook.

41. CHARGES.—The absence of plans and sections, and anything like accurate data, prevents me from entering into the details of the cost of the proposed works, but the following statement will probably be sufficient for the purposes of a preliminary report. I find that the proposed remedies of a water supply and main drainage may be given, at a cost of about 7,000*l.*, which if borrowed at 5 per cent. interest, and paid off in equal instalments in 30 years will amount to an annual payment of 420*l.*, which will be equivalent to a charge of 8*s.* 8*d.* annually, or about 2*d.* weekly, on each house, on the average.

42. The house improvements will be defrayed by a private improvement rate, levied upon such houses as stand in need of sanitary additions, and this rate may be estimated at 4*s.* 4*d.* annum, or 1*d.* a-week on each house, on the average.

43. These rates, taken together, will amount to about 10*d.* a-week on each house on an average, and for this all will receive the advantages of a proper supply of water, sewerage, house drainage, and a privy or water closet. The new area will support its own highways, excepting the turnpike road.

45. SUMMARY.—Recapitulating the principal points, it appears,—

1. That the annual mortality of the parishes of Llangattock and Llanelly, taken with reference to the population of 1881 is respectively 29·7 and 35·1 in the thousand, and that in these include extensive rural districts, the mortality of Bryn-Mawr is certainly above, and probably very much above, the mortality of Llanelly, in which it is principally contained.

2. That the town is very ill supplied with water, undrained, its roads are almost all private property, and unformed,

footways are broken, dirty, and often wanting altogether, and the poorer cottages are almost wholly without privies.

3. That there are particular localities, and those of a peculiarly damp and filthy character, in which epidemic disease prevails, and that at this time the cholera is present in the town in a very severe form.

4. That from the diseases distinctly attributable to a want of public cleanliness, a large annual expenditure, especially in out of door relief, is entailed upon the parishes.

5. That notwithstanding that an unusual proportion of the population belongs to the labouring classes, and is subject to the fluctuations of a manufacturing district, there are no public lights, and but one officer of police.

6. That a water supply, sewerage, and proper house accommodations, may be obtained at an annual cost of about 13s. upon each average house.

7. That this outlay will tend to reduce the public expenses of sickness and out-of-door relief, and the private expenses in money or labour incurred in fetching water from a distance.

8. That these estimates are wholly exclusive of any sum to be obtained from the employment of the sewage as manure.

46. RECOMMENDATIONS.—I therefore recommend—

1. That the Public Health Act be applied to the district or town of Bryn-Mawr, in the county of Brecon within the boundary described above, and shown in the annexed map.

2. That the Local Board of Health to be elected under the said Public Health Act, shall consist of twelve persons, and that the entire number shall be elected for the whole of the said town.

3. That the 25th of March shall be the day on which one-third in number of the said Local Board shall go out of office in each year subsequently to that in which the said election takes place.

4. That the property qualification for members of the said Local Board, required by the Public Health Act, shall be the possession of real or personal estate, or both, to the value or amount of not less than 400*l.*, or the being rated to the relief of the poor of some parish, township, or place, of which some part is within the said district, upon an annual value of not less than 15*l.*

I have the honour to remain,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

GEO. T. CLARK.

Abergavenny, 23rd April, 1850.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

IN obedience to your instructions of the 1st of March last notices have been issued for the parishes of Llanelly and Llan-gattock, within which the town of Bryn-Mawr is situated, and I visited them, severally, upon the 22nd and 23rd of the present month.

2. As these visits were made only in order to render formal my inspection and report, of August and September last, it is unnecessary that I should do more than refer to the mortality of the two parishes stated in the 10th and 45th paragraphs of the Report, and which is largely in excess of the standard declared in the Public Health Act.

3. My preceding visit to Bryn-Mawr was paid during the prevalence of cholera, and in very wet and dirty weather. That disease, after having been fatal to about 70 persons in the town, has disappeared, and the weather, during my recent visit, was dry. I have, therefore, had an opportunity of witnessing Bryn-Mawr under various circumstances, and its present condition confirms very strongly, the opinions expressed in the Report, as to the dirty condition of the town, and the great need of the application of the Public Health Act to it.

4. Since my visit, it appears that the Bishop has licensed Church of England service in the British School-room, and that additional Wesleyan and Independent chapels have been erected. With reference to the general condition of the streets and public ways, and the ditches in and about the town, there is no improvement of any kind, but rather the reverse, the attempts at cleanliness made under the apprehension of cholera, not having been persisted in.

5. In conclusion, I beg to represent to the Board, that it is extremely important that no time should be lost in the publication of this Report, since, as the inquiry is made upon the excess of mortality, and the district to which I have to recommend the application of the Public Health Act, does not coincide with either of the parishes inspected, a further visit will be imperative before the provisional order can be issued.

I have the honour to remain,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

The General Board of Health,
 &c. &c. &c.

GEO. T. CLARK.

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