

## Opening of the Board School, Brynmawr

The Cardiff Times 25th April 1903

One of the finest blocks of school buildings in Breconshire was formally opened at Brynmawr on Monday morning upon the reassembling of scholars after the Easter holidays. The Brynmawr Board Schools, which have been time after time enlarged, about three years ago began to prove the necessity for further extension, and it was at last decided by the School Board that a new detached school, to accommodate the boys' department, should be erected, and that the existing buildings, which include boys', girls', and infants' departments, should be transformed into schools for girls and infants only. On Monday the boys entered the new building, a perfectly symmetrical block, erected upon ground at the rear of the old premises, the roofs of which do not come up to the level of the foundations of the new school. There is a central hall, 54 feet long by 28 feet wide, approached by a corridor from each end 7 feet wide and a commodious entrance lobby. There are four classrooms on the north side of the hall, and one at each end, the six rooms affording accommodation for 420 boys. There is adequate cloakroom, lavatory, and other accommodation, with headmaster's and caretaker's *rooms*. The walls are of local stone and dressed stone from Watkins' quarries, Govilon, the quoins being of red pressed Ebbw Vale brick, with window heads and sills of red stone. The floors are of wood blocks, with the exception of those in the caretaker's room and corridors, which are of granite concrete laid by Messrs Ware and Co. Cardiff. The building is heated by high-pressure hot-water pipes and coils (carried out by Messrs W. A. Baker and Co Newport), and, as to ventilation, fresh air is admitted through valves in the coil cases (and is thereby warmed in cold weather) and through other inlets during the summer months, while Boyle's exhaust ventilators are provided to withdraw the vitiated air from each room. Mr John Morgan, Blaenafon, is the contractor for the new school and the alterations to the old buildings, his tender of £5,576 for the whole undertaking being the lowest of the nine tenders received. The work is being carried out according to designs by Mr F. Baldwin, M.S.A. Abergavenny and is superintended by Mr T. M. Jenkins, Brynmawr, as clerk of works. Mr J. Watkins, C.C., chairman of the Brynmawr School Board., declared the school open and remarked upon the advantages the youth of the present day enjoyed in the matter of education

compared with the youth of 40 or 50 years ago. He enjoined upon the scholars punctuality, regularity, and attention to their teachers if they would be successful in life. Mr. John Thomas, C.C., clerk to the board, Alderman AV. Roberts, J.P., vice-chairman Mr. W. Evans, and the Rev. H. J. Evans, members of the board; Mr W. J. Tong, C.C., Mr E. Swailes, chairman of the District Council and Mr J. Bloor, vice-chairman, and Mr J. F. Neat also addressed the scholars; and upon the motion of Mr LI. Thomas, headmaster, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded the chairman.