

BRYNMAWR

A STUDY OF A DISTRESSED AREA

.by

Hilda Jennings, M.A.

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THIS book is something more than a microscopic survey of a comparatively small sector of the sorely stricken South Wales coalfield, with its seemingly endless tale of mental and spiritual suffering due to unemployment. It is at once a penetrating analysis of the causes of the present economic chaos, and at the same time a pertinent and stimulating contribution towards the challenging task of social reconstruction.



SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

South Wales as a Distressed Area—The Growth of the Community—Development of Natural Resources—Movements of Population—Industrial Relationships and Community Life—Local Administration and Political Movements—Housing—Transport, Communications and Trade—Religious and Cultural Influences—Extent and Effects of Unemployment—Private and Public Finance—Agricultural and Industrial Possibilities—Experiments in Reconstruction.

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BRYNMAWR

OF A DISTRESSED AREA

BRYNMAWR
A STUDY OF A DISTRESSED AREA

BY THE SAME AUTHOR

THE PRIVATE CITIZEN IN PUBLIC SOCIAL WORK

BRYNMAWR

A STUDY OF A DISTRESSED AREA

BASED ON THE RESULTS OF THE SOCIAL SURVEY
CARRIED OUT BY THE BRYNMAWR COMMUNITY
STUDY COUNCIL

BY

HILDA JENNINGS, M.A.

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FOREWORD

THE story of Brynmawr, as a typical small community in the Distressed Area of the South Wales Coalfield, which is told in the following pages, is based on facts obtained by the citizens of Brynmawr in the course of a social survey undertaken during the three years from September, 1929, to August, 1932, in the hope of finding a basis for reconstruction. All sections of the community have taken part in the Survey, which has been planned as a community self-study in which the experience of employed and unemployed and the point of view of men of every shade of opinion should have its due weight. The enquiry work was divided between a number of Groups of voluntary survey workers, and while it is impossible to give the names of the 150 workers who took some share in it, the names of the officers of the Community Study Council and of some of those who gave most time and energy to the Survey are mentioned below :—

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The following are among the officers and members of the Survey Groups who took most part in organising and carrying out the work of enquiry.

FOREWORD

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* Denotes members who wrote part of the Survey Reports on which this book is based. Mr. Tudor Morris was responsible for the final analysis of the figures obtained from the Population Group's returns and the tables reproduced from their returns.

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Mr. Alexander Farquharson, of Le Play House, gave much advice and guidance especially in the initial stages of the Survey, and was at all times ready to assist with suggestions and helpful criticisms arising out of his long experience of Survey work. The Agricultural Economics Department of University College, Aberystwyth, also advised, and Mr. Llefyls Davies, and Mr. D. Hopkinson spent some time in the district. Mr. Hopkinson prepared the Agricultural section of the Survey. Mr. Clifford Davies, B.A., and Mr. Rees Davies, Tredegar, while not members of Survey Groups, helped considerably. Dr. Jordon, Tuberculosis Officer for Breconshire, and other officials of the various Local Authorities gave help and information. Miss Marion Richards prepared most of the original diagrams and charts, Miss Mariel Russell and Miss E. W. Spear also helped with them, and Major Rybot advised on the work and himself re-drew many of them. Mr. Alfonso Lewis, Mr. Phillips, Mr. I. Richards, Mr. Burrows and Mr. Sims (unemployed miners), also gave a great deal of time to work in the Survey Office. The material for the general sketch of the industrial position in South Wales, included in the introductory chapter has been largely drawn from the Industrial Survey of South Wales made for the Board of Trade by the University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire.

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