

is the most stringent condition by which the labourer is in any instance bound (Evidence, 841, 1. 44). It may be further remarked, that a great deal of protective influence is, generally speaking, exercised by the managers of mines, with respect to the regularity and the convenient mode of payment of the wages of the young people.

193. Evidence may be seen (p. 821, 1. 25; p. 830, 1. 28; p. 847, 1. 49; p. 849, 1. 52) of the rarity of disagreements between employers and the younger class of labourers, with regard to hiring or wages. The answers to the following query, submitted to the same magistrates mentioned when treating of the adult miners, are equally satisfactory. The question asked was this:

Have complaints been made before you on the part of the children or young persons employed in mines or other large works, arising out of the non-fulfilment of agreements by their employers, whether masters or workmen?

The answers are as follows:

From the Western District

Such complaints have been made, but not more frequently, in proportion to the numbers employed, than by those engaged in other labour.

From the Central District

(a) South Western Division:

An instance rarely occurs where complaints have arisen by either of the parties, or for the causes named in the query; for the rules in the large mines are generally good, and acted on with judgment and vigour.

(b) Camborne Division:

For many years I was the only magistrate in this populous district. The complaints of children or young persons working in mines have been rare and of a trifling nature, being generally for non-payment of wages by the *common miner* employing them, which have always been settled with perfect ease and satisfaction by the magistrates in petty sessions.

(c) Redruth Division:

Complaints have occasionally been brought to me on the part of children employed in the mines for non-payment of wages due; and I have granted summonses, which have generally been sufficient. It is a commonly understood arrangement in the different mines, in such cases, to stop the amount due out of the employers' gettings, and so to pay the labourers.

Eastern District

(a) St. Austle Division:

Few, if any, except in cases where the concern itself has failed, or the owners become from other causes distressed in circumstances. In a few cases we have been obliged to levy by orders, and warrants of distress on the property, but not more or so much in behalf of children as adults.

(b) Lostwithiel Division:

The complaints have been frequent, but much more frequent on the part of young persons against "takers" than against principals. These complaints have diminished considerably, and I attribute it to a prompt and very persevering practice on the part of our petty sessions.

(c) Launceston Division:

Confining my reply to *children*, I should say, very rarely indeed.

Devonshire District

Occasionally, complaints have been made to the magistrates, within the last eight or nine years, by persons employed in mines in this division, comprising ten parishes, for the recovery of wages, but in the great majority of instances, and I may say with scarcely but two or three exceptions, such complaints have been made by adults, and not by children or young persons. There are two woollen manufactories in this division, but I do not remember ever having had any application made by children or young persons working therein, against their employers.

IX. TREATMENT AND CARE

194. Very little is done in these mines in the way either of reward or punishment. The more rapid advancement of the diligent and skillful, and the giving them an opportunity of leaving work earlier than usual, and at times of earning a trifle for themselves by the setting of tasks, are the only encouragements to exertion at all extensively employed. In a few mines, of which Wheal Vor is the most important, a premium is given to those girls who have attended at their work without interruption during the whole month. In the mine mentioned, 1s is the monthly reward for the first-class girls employed at "framing" and 6d that of the second class (Evidence, p. 841, 1. 20).

195. The superintendence of the agents is the only ordinary check on indolence or misconduct. Absence from work without leave (Evidence, p. 847, 1. 52), and

some particular offences, are punished by "spaling" (fine), differing in amount in different mines, but always moderate. Where these, or the reprimand of the agent, are ineffectual, dismissal is the only ulterior measure. Corporal punishment may be said to be never inflicted.* In fact, as there is no system of apprenticeship, any such punishment would be illegal, and it would certainly be resented by recourse to legal process on the part of the friends.

196. The boys employed under ground by the men are likewise subject to be "spaled" (fined) when they are absent from their posts at the regular hours; but the fine seldom much exceeds what is necessary to be paid for the procuring a substitute (Evidence, p. 848, 1. 52; p. 850, 1. 32). If the boy or his friends think it too heavy, application is made to the managers, and justice is done; but no interference is exercised between the men and their boys, except in extreme cases (Evidence, p. 848, 1.38). In some cases the fines are credited to the adventurers (owners), so that no gain can arise to the men from the infliction†

197. On the whole, the concurrent testimony of all the agents, and other well-informed parties, to whom inquiries have been directed, goes to show that not only is no corporal punishment or other ill-usage, inflicted by the men on the boys employed by them under ground, nor any tyranny exercised (Evidence, p. 834, 1. 70), but that there is a very general consideration, on the part of the men, of the age and powers of their young fellow-labourers, and a disposition to relieve them from any excess of toil, even at the expense of increased exertion of their own. The very frequent association in work of children with their parents or near relatives, contributes to the promotion of this generous and manly feeling (Evidence, p. 847, 1. 44).

198. The mutual relations between the managers of mines and the children and young persons employed under them may be said to terminate when the work of the day is closed. A large proportion of the mines are situated at a distance of several miles from the dwellings of both these parties, and no connexion between them could be well maintained except at the mines. The mining district between Redruth and Camborne is the most favourably situated for the continuing such relations beyond the limits of the places of work, and a beneficial influence arising from this continuance is more perceptible there than elsewhere. What is chiefly exhibited is, however, rather a regard by the general body of proprietors and managers of mines for the benefit of the general body of mining labourers than a special attention to the individuals employed by themselves. Cases of gross misconduct out of the mine are generally brought under the animadversion of the agents, and reprimand or dismissal will follow (Evidence, p. 850, 1. 34).

X. PHYSICAL CONDITION

199. A strong line of demarcation must be drawn between the children and young persons employed at the surface and those employed under ground in these mines, in respect to certain points in their physical condition. The former may be said to be, speaking generally, in at least as good condition as the children in the neighbourhood otherwise employed; that of the latter is very distinctly inferior.

200. The *external appearance* of the children and young persons employed at the surface, taken as a class, is that of robust health. The complexion is generally florid, the person well formed, the expression alert and cheerful (Evidence, p. 830, 1. 58). Among the girls as they approach towards womanhood there is an inclination to *embonpoint*, and many of them possess a considerable share of personal beauty; in the central district perhaps most remarkably, the features being often handsome. The greater part of the boys are drafted off to under-ground work before the frame is at all fully developed, but they are generally healthy and well formed as long as they continue at the surface. The abundant supply of fresh air, and the variety of muscular movement are the main causes of their healthiness and their freedom from deformity respectively.

* The return from Fowey Consols Mine states, that "Many years since corporal punishment was inflicted here on two boys for theft, by order of the county magistrates; and three or four instances have occurred of fathers correcting their children publicly, in front of the counting-house, and in the presence of the agents, having their election either to correct their sons or have them discharged from the mine."

†The following returns will serve to show the systems usually adopted as to punishments: 1. At Dolcoath "Men are fined 5s for swearing and boys 1s; men are kept without 'subsist' for fighting." The agent adds, "I have not heard an oath sworn in this mine but once during ten years." 2. At Tresavean, "If they transgress, we turn them home for the day, for which they receive no pay." "Swearing, and other bad language, are punished by fines." 3. At Trefoil, "If a child be industrious, he is occasionally given a half-holiday." 4. At the Perran Mines, "Swearing, a fine of 2s 6d; drunkenness, 2s 6d; rioting, to be excluded from these mines."

201. When the boys exchange surface for under-ground work, they speedily lose the freshness of complexion in the first place, and gradually become for the most part sallow and sickly in hue (Evidence, p. 830, 1. 66; p. 848, 1. 31; p. 849, 1. 49; p. 850, 1. 45). This change is often, but not at all uniformly, associated with distinct unhealthiness, but it is no doubt connected with an impeded progress of development. No sort of deformity arises from their occupation. A very slight forward stoop is gradually acquired, and a rather long and cautious step, arising out of the habit of climbing, and of feeling the way among dark and dangerous places.

202. In stature, the difference which exists between those employed in mines, and others, is as regards the females in favour of the former, as has been partly stated already. The use of hammers tends perhaps to the production of some fullness of bust. In a former part of this report the weights of the men in different mines are given, and their stature is spoken of. The tendency of underground labour is to check the nutrition of the body, as has been already explained, and the degree of stunting produced will be proportionate to the earliness of the period of growth at which that labour is begun. Those who go under ground when very young often acquire after a short time the countenance of much older boys, whilst their size is below the average at their real age; their figures are also more set and angular than is natural in early life.

203. The food brought to the mines by the children and young persons is for the most part sufficient in quantity for the one meal usually taken by them there, and perhaps for a slight refection between breakfast and dinner. It is coarse in its quality and mode of preparation, and from these causes does not always afford sufficient nutriment, (Evidence, p. 821, 1. 15; p. 845, 1. 53). The hoggans and pasties have been already described (Evidence, p. 821, 1. 51).

204. The children of both sexes seem to get on very well with this diet. It is chiefly among the females a few years older that dyspeptic affections are frequent. Stews and fish and potatoes mixed together, and sent warm from their homes, are most common in the western districts (Evidence, p. 841, 1. 1, 23; p. 847, 1. 37; p. 848, 1.27). The children appear to find half an hour long enough to take their dinners (Evidence, p. 826, 1. 26; p. 836, 1. 21), and usually to get a little play as well. The older females complain sometimes that it is too short (Evidence, p. 846, 1. 3; p. 851, 1. 44).

205. The extent of accommodation afforded for warming the food, varies much in different mines. The most ample provision is that of ovens for the purpose (Evidence, p. 836, 1. 34); but this is unusual. In other instances, as at Fowey Consols, the long iron cylinder, heated by a fire at one end, used for heating the shed in which the meal is taken, serves also to warm the latter. In many places recourse must be had to the house in which the miners' clothes are dried (Evidence, p. 845, 1. 34); to the boilers of the steam-engines; or to the smiths' shop), to effect this object some instances, as at the Fowey Consols, where ovens are kept in the neighbourhood, those who wish to get their pasties effectually warmed, are able to have it done at the charge of a penny a week.

206. Cold water is most commonly the only drink to be obtained, and that is not always very abundant, sometimes brought from a considerable distance, and distributed in limited quantities (Evidence, p. 845, 1. 36). In a few mines there are facilities for obtaining hot water, or even a cup of tea, usually an infusion of indigenous herbs (Evidence, p. 836, 1. 35).

207. Under ground the boys take with them fare more or less substantial according to the part of the day in which their "course" of labour falls. But they always make use of some food whilst, they are below; and this is justly considered one of the most beneficial changes which have occurred in the habitual practices of the miners (Evidence, p. 826, 1. 14; p. 834, 1.1). The appetite is not always very keen in the hot and impure air with which they are surrounded, and sometimes very little of the food taken down is eaten there* (Evidence, p. 853, 1. 23,45). Butchers' meat is only combined in very small proportion with the different articles mentioned above, especially for the children. Beef is very little used; mutton is more common, but pork is the meat most largely employed for this as for all other purposes among the mining population (Evidence, p. 821, 1. 43).

208. The food obtained by the children and young persons at their homes varies very much in quality and abundance with the circumstances of the families. It

*At Dolcoath is found a solitary example of a provision of hot soup for boys as well as men, on their coming to the surface (Evidence, p. 837, 1. 60). This is more particularly described in a former part of this Report. Water is sent down in many copper-mines in small barrels or cans for the relief of the thirst, which is often very urgent. It is not always very accessible (Evidence, p. 824, 1. 69; p.825, 1. 7; p. 852, 1. 58).

is too frequently scanty (Evidence, p. 830, 1. 9, 18) as well as innutritious,* and is usually very coarsely prepared (Evidence, p. 835, 1. 27). Breakfast before going to work in the morning, and supper after their return, are the regular meals for those employed at the surface (Evidence, p. 822, 1. 28, 38, 54; p. 823, 1. 13, 45; p. 845, 1. 55). The underground boys generally get some food when they reach their homes, at whatever hour that may be: at night some cold potatoes or bread probably be all that can be obtained. (Appendix A.)

209. Where the family is large and very poor it will often happen that the earnings of the young persons of either sex will be disposed of in providing absolute necessities for the whole party, so that no difference is made in the amount of nourishment afforded to those employed in hard labour and the younger children not yet able to work (Evidence, p. 825, 1. 29; p. 828, 1. 52). Such circumstances frequently induce the young men to seek a separate residence at the age of 17 or 18; and the medical man will often be consulted by females who are feeling the ill effects of being so situated, suffering from painful dyspeptic affections, arising chiefly from their not having sustenance at all calculated to give them strength for their laborious life, and seeking a delusive comfort from the stimulus of tea, which is largely used by all females of the working classes in the West of England. A further cause of the scantiness of their fare will be noticed presently.

210. Speaking generally, the *clothing* of the children and young persons employed in these mines is good and sufficient. Among the females a great deal of attention is paid to dress, increasing with their approach to womanhood; but even the younger girls are usually furnished with very decent attire by their friends (Evidence, p. 850, 1. 15). The occupations of the females not being usually very dirty, the ordinary dress, or one only slightly varied, is worn at the mine; additional protection is, however, commonly given to the lower part of the legs by wrapping them in woollen bands in the winter, and often in cotton ones in the summer. A certain smartness is noticeable in the bonnets, and in the manner of wearing them; they are generally small in the winter, and thrown rather back on the head, chiefly made of some lively-coloured material in some districts, and of straw in others; in summer they are commonly large, straight, and projecting, with a long loose border, such as may afford effectual shelter from the sun. A rather amusing degree of concern for the preservation of the complexion is exhibited by some, who envelop their faces and throats with handkerchiefs, so as to present something of an invalided appearance.

211. On Sundays, and on any holiday occasion, apparel of a showy and often expensive description is commonly worn. Girls under the age of 18 have not often money at their disposal for any great outlay in this line; but, without any disposition to underrate the value of a regard for personal appearance in the article of dress, as an evidence of self-respect, the writer is obliged to notice the existence of what may fairly be called a passion for dress, as very extensively diffused among the young women connected with the mines ill every district (Evidence, p. 832, 1. 69.) As a medical man, he has often had cases brought under his notice in which he has been satisfied that disordered health has been mainly induced by coarse and scanty nourishment, whilst the patients have presented themselves in dresses only to be procured at very considerable cost. The same love of display is shown in the wearing of thin shoes and stockings during weather in which they are very unsuitable, causing a dangerous transition from the thick shoes usually worn by them, and the legs rolled up in woollen bands just now described. There is reason to believe that the provision of warm inner garments for the colder season is by no means correspondent with the outlay on those external ones which may serve to increase the personal attraction of the wearers.†

212. The work of a large proportion of the boys employed at the surface exposes them to wet and dirt; and, however wet or dirty they may be, the same clothes are worn from the time they rise in the morning until bed-time at night; and it is well if they are effectually dried before they are put on again on the following day (Evidence, p. 823, 1. 10). The clothing is generally sound and sufficiently decent for labouring boys, and a good protection against cold and wet is commonly furnished in thick woollen frocks (Evidence, p. 850, 1. 53), worn out-

* Much improvement is stated to have taken place, within thirty years in the quality of the food; less barley is said to be used, and more meat (Evidence, p. 829, 1. 32; p. 841, 1. 25).

†Some of the girls are liable to get wet, especially in the feet, in their employments; and all are so in coming to the mines. No provision is ever made there for a change of shoes or stockings under these circumstances, and the liability to injurious chill is consequently great, particularly to those (a large majority of the whole class) whose labour gives little or no exercise to the lower limbs (Evidence, p. 845, 1. 18).

side during the winter. The whole body moreover is brought into pretty active exercise in most of their occupations.*

213. The boys, like the men, when they go under ground, substitute for their ordinary apparel a loose woollen dress, thick shoes without stockings, and a strong hat with a convex crown, usually weighing from one to two pounds, and affording efficient protection to the head from falling bodies and blows, on which the candle is for the most part placed, inserted into a lump of wet clay. In very hot places the miners often throw off the greater part of the clothing of the body, and work almost in a state of nudity. On their return to the surface the under-ground garments are hung in a building appropriated to that use, called the "dry" or "drying-house", and the ordinary dress is resumed. The habit of wearing flannel next the skin is prevalent among the miners, and the boys working under ground are commonly provided with it. Their surface attire is very decent, and generally kept in pretty good repair. As they advance in age, a similar inclination to that manifested by their companions of the other sex, to smartness of dress, is developed; though it cannot usually be much indulged within the age to which this inquiry refers.

214. *Cleanliness* of person and dress will almost attend as a natural concomitant of that regard to appearance which has been noticed as exhibited by both sexes; it is accordingly *the rule* among the children as well as the young persons. Of the latter, the greater part employed on the surface are females. Their work is not usually very dirty, and even when engaged about it they preserve a very cleanly appearance. At other times their fresh and clear skin, and well-washed clothing, correspond with the smartness of the articles themselves of their attire. The younger girls are neither equally well clothed, nor equally clean; and the work of the greater number (picking) exposes them more to wet and dirt. Still there is generally, even here, a degree of neatness, proving the disposition to do as well as circumstances permit. The little boys are most extensively employed in the midst of mineral mud, but they generally get rid of a great deal of it when their work is over. More might certainly be done in respect of these, both as to person and clothing. Still it is exceedingly rare to meet with an example of squalid filthiness in any member of a miner's family.

215. The under-ground boys are in the habit, as well as the men, of washing on their return to the surface, before resuming their ordinary dress. This being a process applicable to miners of every age, it is described, together with the accommodation provided for its efficiency in different mines, at a former part of this Report. The activity of the skin in early life, and the greater liability to inflammatory affections from chilling of the surface, render these accommodations more essentially beneficial to the youthful than even to the adult miner.

216. The generally healthy condition of the children and young persons employed at the surface in these mines has been already noticed. In the principal mining districts comparatively few individuals belonging to families of the poorer class remain unconnected with mining labour during the period of life with which this inquiry is concerned. It is therefore difficult to ascertain whether the *amount of sickness* is greater or less among those working at the surface than among those remaining at home or otherwise employed. The concurrent testimony of medical men, mine agents, and other well-informed parties, is to the effect that no young people are more healthy (Evidence, p. 830, 1. 57; p. 835, 1. 2: p. 848, 1. 56; p. 850, 1. 42). By one medical deponent a comparison is drawn (Evidence, p. 835, 1. 9) between the mining and manufacturing girls, to the advantage of the former. Evidence may also be seen, that the exchange of the occupation of straw-bonnet making (p. 823, 1. 22), and of domestic service (p. 852, 1. 41), for surface-labour at a mine, may be positively beneficial to the health. The opinions of other medical men in different districts, equally favourable, may be seen in the Appendix (F.)

217. On the other hand, a certain amount of sickness is distinctly produced by the work itself, or its attendant circumstances. Many instances of this have been referred to, in treating of the particular branches of employment. The depositions of the patients examined furnish many other examples.† The nature and amount of the ailments of these boys and girls may be estimated from the following table (21), which exhibits the results of the most perfect of the returns made on the tabular forms:

* In a few instances, where boys are employed (as in some of the washings of tin ore) almost constantly in the water, they are provided with waterproof boots by the mine, usually one pair in the year. This is also sometimes the case with those who work in the sump, and with timbermen (Evidence, p. 850, 1. 52).

†One of the surgeons of Wheal Vor Mine confirms the statement given in the Evidence (p. 842, 1. 42), of the frequency of certain disorders in that mine. (See his answers to queries, Appendix F.)

TABLE 21.—Showing the Nature of the Illness or Injury detaining the Children and Young Persons of both sexes from work at the Surface in the Charlestown United Mines, during one Year; together with the loss of time occasioned thereby.

Disease or Injury.	Number affected.		Average Age.		Average Loss of Time.		Employment at the Mine.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Fever.								
Typhus . . . . .	..	1	..	15·3	..	5 weeks.	..	Recking.
Brain . . . . .	..	1	..	14·	..	2 months.*	..	Ditto.
Measles	2	1	11·8	13·	1½ week.	5½ weeks.	Serving budle.	Ditto.
Influenza . . . . .	..	3	..	16·4	..	1½ week.	..	Ditto.
Nature not stated	1	2	12·2	13·10	2 weeks.	6 weeks.	Recking.	Ditto.
Cold	2	6	13·6	16·4	4 days.	3 weeks.	Serving Budle.	4 recking, 2 spalling.
Inflammation in side	1	..	..	17·10	..	9 days.	..	Recking.
Affection of bowels and stomach	16	4	13·4	13·11	9 days.	3 days.	5 recking, 5 buddling, 3 rolling, 1 stamps-pits, 1 jiggling, 1 tying.	Ditto.
Pain in side . . . . .	..	3	..	16·	..	2½ days.	..	2 recking, 1 picking.
Headache	11	17	11·5	14·4	5½ days.	1 week.	8 recking, 1 serving budle, 1 tying, 1 rolling.	14 recking, 2 picking, 1 spalling.
Toothache . . . . .	..	1	..	17·2	..	4 days.	..	Picking.
Sore feet . . . . .	..	5	..	13·10	..	2½ days.	3 rolling, 1 serving budle, 1 stamps-pits.	
Weakness	1	..	13·3	..	3 days.	..	Rolling.	
Asthma . . . . .	..	1	..	16·	..	3 days.	..	Recking.
Chilblains	2	..	11·0	..	2 weeks.	..	1 recking, 1 tying.	
Gathering (abscess)	3	..	12·4	..	2 months.*	..	2 recking, 1 serving budle.	
Tumour	1	..	14·9	..	4 weeks.	..	Tying.	
Arm injured	1	..	10·2	..	2 weeks.	..	Recking.	
Totals	45	41	12·6	15·3	14·6 days.	19·6 days.	18 recking, 5 buddling, 5 serving budle, 8 rolling, 4 tying, 2 stamps-pits, 1 jiggling.	28 recking, 3 spalling, 4 picking.

The omission of one case of absence (from the list of Male sufferers), which detained the boy six months from the mine, will reduce the average loss of time to about 11 days but the subtraction of the two months case of fever from the female side will still leave the average loss of time by the girls nearly 16 days. Of the total number of children and young persons returned as employed in the mine (208), 114 are boys and 94 girls, so that a much larger proportion of the latter appear to have lost time in this way than of the former of the whole 208 employed, 112 (32 boys and 80 girls) are entered as "recking" (elsewhere termed "framing"), being something more than half, but it will be seen that of the cases of *headache* (28) four-fifths happened to those thus employed. *Sore feet* and *chilblains* are entered as happening to boys only, being those employed in wheeling barrows and working in the mud. The boys are also registered as suffering in much the greater proportion from *affections of the bowels*, whilst *pain in the side* and *influenza* belong exclusively to the other sex.

218. But perhaps the evidence which will induce the most hesitation in acceding to the opinion that no greater evil results to the health from surface labour at the mines than from other occupations, is that derived from a comparison of the proportions of deaths of females, between certain limits of age, in mining parishes, and in parishes otherwise similarly circumstanced, in which no mining is carried out. The results of this comparison have been given in the introductory part of this Report (Table 3, p. 742), and they may be referred to in proof that this description of labour is by no means innocuous. But how much of the excess of mortality is to be attributed to working at the mines, and how much to other conditions,—to hereditary predisposition especially,—it must remain for further investigations to decide.

219. It seems probable that the ruddiness of hue imparted by constant exposure to fresh air, may give to these boys and girls an appearance of health to a certain extent deceptive. Moreover, as their ailments are, for the most part, of rather acute character, they prevent those who are suffering from them from coming to work, and thus the appearance of the whole body is not rendered less healthy by the admixture of many individuals labouring under disease: but some of these disorders prove rapidly fatal, and a greater number pass into incurable structural changes.

220. But whatever be the ultimate influence on the average duration of life produced by these surface operations, it is certain no kind of surgical disease beyond the results of accident is occasioned by them. It would be difficult to find anywhere a class of girls and young women more free from malformation, distortion, or infirmity. The whole body is exceedingly well and equably developed, the muscular movements easy, and the step firm and elastic.

The following tabularised summary of some returns made on the Special Tabular Forms addressed to medical men will further illustrate this statement:—(See Table No. 12, next page.)

221. Neither is there any prevalence of medical diseases, acute or chronic. Fever, whether epidemic or sporadic, is infrequent, and, when generally diffused through their neighbourhood, does not affect the young people employed on mines.

TABLE 22.—Showing the particulars respecting a Number of Families where the Mothers have been employed at the Mines previously to their Marriage.

Age of Mother.	Work on which she was employed before Marriage.			Age at Marriage.	Number of Children			Of whom		Of the living.				Average Number of Years during which they have been employed in mining.			Of the Children.		Average Age at which Mining labour began.		Remarks.					
	Nature.	Age at which she commenced.	How long continued.		Born alive.	Stillborn.	Are alive.	Have died.	Males.	Females.	Average age.	Extreme age.	Oldest.	Youngest.	No. employed.	Years.	No. employed.	Years.	Boys.	Girls.						
					M.	F.	M.	F.																		
44	Mining	12	Some years.	19	5	8	2	5	7	..	1	11	14·1	24·	2·	2	7·5	5	7·4	5	7	..	..	11·	11·1	Many instances might be adduced of whole families in a perfect state of health, working at the Fowey Consols Mines, whose parents were engaged in their youth in the same employment.— <i>Return.</i>
45	Ditto.	14	Several years	24	3	5	..	3	5	..	..	10·1	12·8	19·	4·	2	3·8	2	9·5	3	5	..	..	9·	8·8	The girl who died had been for three or four years employed at the mines. She had been perfectly healthy till attacked by a prevailing fever, from a relapse into which she died.— <i>Return.</i>
36	Ditto.	8	14 years.	22	2	7	..	1	6	1	1	8·2	7·5	14·	0·2	..	..	3	2·4	1	6	..	..	..	10·2	The girl died in infancy; two of them from small-pox, not having been vaccinated.
44	Ditto.	..	13 years.	28	2	5	..	2	4	..	1	7·5	9·	13·5	1·5	1	2·	3	1·	2	4	..	..	11·5	9·5	Another girl (now 27) was married in 1836, after having worked 12 years at the mines. The oldest boy worked at a farm two or three years previously to his going to the mines.
32	Do., and 4 years in service.	..	6 years.	19	3	2	..	2	2	1	..	6·	4·	7·	3·	Not yet employed.	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	One child lived only two weeks; one boy has been always weak, and is asthmatic. The other is stated to be affected with scrofulous ophthalmia.	
..	..	..	..	..	6	5	1	4	4	2	1	31·	22·5	36·	14·	4	20·5	2	8·5	4	4	..	..	10·5	9·5	The three children died in infancy; two of them from small-pox, not having been vaccinated.
..	..	..	..	..	5	3	..	5	3	..	..	17·6	19·6	25·	10·	5	5·6	1	12·	5	3	..	..	11·8	10·	One died in infancy. The boy sickly since 14; glandular tumours. One girl very sickly from infancy; affection of bowels.
..	..	..	..	..	1	5	..	1	4	..	1	21·	21·	25·	17·	1	17·	3	10·6	..	3	1	1	6·	9·8	The boys all worked under ground from their 11th year. The eldest girl has never worked out; the three younger are at school.
..	..	..	..	..	4	4	..	4	4	..	..	20·2	10·	25·	5·	4	10·2	No	None	4	4	..	..	10·	..	The eldest boy died at nine years of age; he had never worked. The other died in infancy. The three other boys work at surface. The four younger children are not yet employed.
..	..	..	..	..	8	2	1	6	2	2	..	8·5	13·	17·	3·	3	2·3	1	7·	6	2	..	..	10·	10·	The eldest boy died at nine years of age; he had never worked. The other died in infancy. The three other boys work at surface. The four younger children are not yet employed.

NOTE.—In the five latter entries the husband's name has been, through inadvertence, given instead of the wife's; the particulars of the mother's history are therefore unknown. But it has been, in each case, stated that the father was only once married; and it is almost certain that the wife had been employed at the mines. The four first families have been connected with the Fowey Consols Mine, the six latter are taken from the neighbourhood of Camborne. The Returns have been made by Messrs. Pace and Taylor, and by Mr. R. Lanyon, respectively.

in any greater proportion than others. Scrofula is not common among this class, atrophy is very rare. There is reason to believe that consumption is more frequent than in non-mining districts; whether it is more frequent among those members of millers' families who are engaged in surface labour at the mines than among those members who are not so employed, must for the present, as has been before remarked, remain in doubt.

222. These observations are equally true of the boys whilst they remain at the surface; but they almost all have gone under ground for several years before they have reached the age of 18. The *amount of sickness* among them in this last situation must therefore be next considered. No register is kept of the daily attendance of the under-ground boys at the mines, so that there are no means of ascertaining what time they have lost, except from their own recollection; and the returns made on the Tabular Forms are in this particular too vague for the establishment of any trustworthy conclusions. The attendance of the surgeon under contract is limited usually to cases of injury, so that the data for finding the average amount of sickness among a given number of boys are very defective. Observation, therefore, and the experience of individual medical men, must furnish our chief materials for a decision. It has been shown in the introductory division of this Report (p. 741, Table 2, &c.), that the average life of the miner is very materially shorter than that of other labourers in the same neighbourhood, and that the greater part of this short-living is produced by the greater prevalence of *consumption*, whilst *accidents* contribute in an important measure to the result. The nature and causes of this consumption, as affecting miners generally, have been discussed, as well as the subject of mine accidents: and it only remains necessary to add a few remarks on the influence of the early employment of boys under ground in producing this excess of mortality, to what has been already said when treating the nature of their employment, and the state of the place of work.

223. I have seen a great many men in these mines who have attained different ages, more or less advanced, and have preserved their constitutions equally well with the more healthy portion of the non-mining population; though they have gone under ground regularly through a long series of successive years. Some of these have possessed a remarkable robustness of frame, which seems to have withstood all external injurious influences, but by far the greater part have either not begun to work under ground till they were 17 or 18 years of age, or have been so circumstanced as to be provided with ample nourishment, and to be taken care of on the first appearance of ill health. Examples of each of these conditions may be found in the Evidence (p. 839, 1. 56, 66; p. 838, 1. 59; p. 841, 1. 69).

224. Again, I have met with many others who, finding the working under ground incompatible with the preservation of health, have either found occupation at the surface or have quitted the mines altogether. (Instances may be seen, Evidence, p. 828, 1. 17 p. 829, 1. 51; p. 831, 1. 14; p. 836, 1. 59).

225. But when a boy, originally, perhaps, inclined to consumptive disease, having often a declining father (Evidence, p. 843, 1. 55; p. 831, 1. 9), sometimes left as the principal stay to a widowed mother with a large family (Evidence, p. 831, 1. 32; p. 840, 1. 24; p. 846, 1. 62), obtains at 10 or 11 years of age a place under ground, he works with spirit for some years, but he expends the whole capital of his constitution. He cannot give up his place whilst he can possibly do the work, for the necessities of his home render any exercise of parental authority rarely required to urge him forwards. He cannot get the kind of nourishment, or enough of it, to support his strength under exhausting labour, still less to give full materials for the development of the frame in its just proportions. The result is that he falls a victim either to acute disease, often produced by the rapid transitions of temperature occurring to every miner, or to consumption pursuing rather a rapid course, and frequently preceded by hemoptysis. This is a statement of facts which have repeatedly fallen under my own notice; similar ones may be seen in Evidence (p. 28, 1. 18; p. 835, 1. 45).

226. Where there is more power of resistance in the original constitution, the effects of the excess of labour, deleterious and exhausting agencies, and deficient nutriment, will be evidenced chiefly in a stunting of growth and a general feebleness (Evidence, p. 824, 1. 62). In these cases life is often prolonged, and the occupation of mining continued for many years, though the labour is always felt more or less oppressive (Evidence, Nos. 16 & 17), and is generally interrupted by attacks of illness; but such men have always the appearance of being older than they really are, and from 35 to 45 years of age they are often completely broken down, and at that period of life frequently fall into the slower and more characteristic form of

consumption common among miners, and do, I am well convinced, contribute very much indeed to swell the lists of premature deaths by which the average life of the miner is rendered so much shorter than that of his agricultural neighbour.

227. Various forms of unhealthy action occur among the boys working under ground, whether as preludes of the early termination of life, or concomitants of the defective development noticed above, or as affecting those on whom they operate as timely warnings to quit the occupation altogether, or those whose more robust constitutions, or more favourable circumstances, enable them to resume it without permanent detriment.

228. Disordered action of the heart, sometimes connected with hypertrophy, or with the changes consequent on rheumatism, but more commonly without structural mischief, is a frequent occurrence. It is often associated with derangement of the functions of digestion, and both classes of symptoms may have been occasioned by exposure to "poor air". But I have seen several cases in which the palpitation appeared to have resulted purely from repeated over-exertion of the organ; and in some of these there was reason to believe that the food was very insufficient. That weakness, and correspondent irritability, were the conditions under which this unnatural action took place, was further shown by the perfect success of a treatment essentially tonic.* Instances of affections of the heart, varying in character as above detailed, may be found (Evidence, p. 840, 1. 18, 27; p. 841, 1. 69).

229. Affections of the organs of respiration are frequent, and are either of the acute inflammatory nature, to which sudden transitions of temperature will give rise, and consequently most common among those who work in the shallower mines, or parts of mines, and where the air and water is cold (Evidence, p. 835, 1. 55; p. 828, 1. 11; 840, 1. 16); or they are of it more chronic form, apparently connected with the repeated inhalation of noxious gases and particles of matter, and, perhaps, with over-distention of the ramifications of the air-tubes and cells. Where inflammation is not produced, a more abundant secretion from the surfaces to which those noxious agents are applied is the protection and mode of elimination furnished by nature, but this secretion being associated with an increased flow of blood to those surfaces, the reiterated call for the one renders the other almost continually necessary. The consequences are an engorged and thickened state of the linings of the air-tubes, and a contraction of their bore, leading to forced dilatation afterwards in the course of violent respiratory efforts. Instances of such dyspnoea may be found (Evidence, p. 872, 1. 46; p. 848, 1. 17; p. 853, 1. 58). It is probably an engorgement of the above description, affecting the larynx and trachea, which produces the hoarseness very commonly noticeable among these boys, examples of which occur in the Evidence (p. 843, 1. 57; p. 853, 1. 39; p. 854, 1. 1).

230. The affections of the digestive organs chiefly met with among the boys working under ground are disorders of the stomach, connected with the inhalation of "poor air", and seeming to be merely secondary to the influence of this air upon the brain. Pain in the head, becoming intense on stooping, giddiness proceeding sometimes to loss of consciousness, failure of muscular power, are described by miners of all ages as effects of this deleterious agent (Evidence, p. 854, 1. 61; p. 852, 1. 50; p. 853, 1. 8, 22); but the greater irritability of the young subject seems to occasion the sympathetic affection of the stomach, shown by loss of appetite, nausea, or vomiting† (Evidence, p. 853, 1. 11, 23, 45). The powers of digestion are usually recovered in these cases very readily on the return to a pure air. It is at a later period of adolescence, approaching the limit of this inquiry, that more permanent dyspepsia often occurs (Evidence, p. 835, 1. 20), arising mainly, I believe, from the general feebleness induced by premature under-ground labour, partly perhaps from repetition of the more transient disturbance just now spoken of, and increased by coarseness of fare, and at, times by the use of tobacco, which is often commenced at about this age.

231. No other forms of sickness can be said to be at all prevalent among this class of boys. From diseases of the skin it has even been supposed that they enjoy something approaching to immunity; and though I have met with many cases even within the last few months, to accede to that opinion, it seems probable that the free action of the skin, promoted by underground labour does tend to preserve it, from eruption.

*It will be seen, on reference to Evidence, p. 825, 1. 59, that of seven boys examined very soon after their coming to the surface on the conclusion of their day's work, the pulse in all but one proved the exhaustion of the muscular power of the heart, produced by the circumstances of their labour.

†A more minute detail of the symptoms occasionally arising from this noxious agent is given in the Appendix (F.)

232. Excluding the effects of accidents, no surgical disease whatever occurs among these more frequently than among other labouring boys. They are indeed remarkably exempt from distortion and from hernia. The defective development spoken of more than once applies to the body as a whole, and not obviously to one part more than another; certainly it is not localised to the extent of causing deformity.

XI.—MORAL CONDITION.

233. Sunday-school instruction is very extensively diffused throughout the mining districts of the West of England. One at least of these schools is connected with the Established Church in almost every mining parish, but by much largest number are under the direction of the Methodists, chiefly Wesleyans. A few are connected with the Baptists and Brianite sects. The following table will exhibit a view of their distribution in some parishes in the several districts from which returns of some accuracy have been received, and will serve as fair examples of the general state of this particular provision of the means of instruction:—

TABLE 23.—Showing the Number of Sunday, Day, and Evening Schools in several Parishes in the different Districts, with other Particulars concerning them, as stated in the Returns to the printed Queries.

District.	Parishes.	Sunday Schools.				Day Schools.		Evening Schools.		Remarks.	
		Church of England.		Dissenters.		Day Schools.		Evening Schools.			
		No. of Schools.	No. of Scholars.	No. of Schools.	No. of Scholars.	No. of Schools.	No. of Scholars.	No. of Schools.	No. of Scholars.		
Western.	St. Just . . .	3	.. ..	10	1100	13	290	1	.. ..	These returns include the adjoining parishes of St. Buryan, St. Levan, and Sennen, which are chiefly agricultural.
	Madron . . .	2	.. ..	7	1000	2	Large schools, one National, the other on the Glasgow system	..	.. ..	Including Morvah. The town of Penzance is the principal seat of education: very few miners.
	Zennor . . .	1	.. ..	1	.. ..	2	.. ..	1	.. ..	A small parish on the north coast; mining and agricultural.
	Marazion . . .	1	34 ..	2	86 87	2	.. ..	..	.. ..	A small town in the parish of St. Hilary; some of its population are miners.
	Lelant . . .	1	.. ..	1	.. ..	1	.. ..	..	.. ..	Population about equally mining and agricultural.
	St. Ives . . .	2	.. ..	5	.. ..	6	.. ..	..	.. ..	A sea-port town on the north coast; population fishermen and miners chiefly.
	Breage . . .	2	250	2	220	..	.. ..	..	.. ..	A mixed mining and agricultural parish, on the south-west of the Central District.
	Camborne . . .	1	125	8	1346	9	563	5	57 ..	A great mining parish.	
	Ilogan ^a . . .	..	.. ..	..	.. ..	6	.. ..	..	.. ..	Of the six schools noticed, two are for boys, and contain 162 scholars, and four for girls; there are several other schools in the parish.
	Gwennap . . .	6	.. ..	9	.. ..	..	.. ..	5	.. ..	Including St. Day; mining population.
Central.	St. Agnes . . .	..	.. ..	14	842 773	9	.. ..	4	.. ..	Including Perranzabuloe; population mining.
	Perranarworthal	1	.. ..	1	.. ..	6	.. ..	1	.. ..	Of the day-schools, one is for boys and two for girls; the other three are dame-schools; population mining, manufacturing, and agricultural.
	Kea . . .	1	.. ..	..	.. ..	5	.. ..	2	.. ..	Mining and agricultural.
	Tywardreath . . .	2	.. ..	1	.. ..	15	.. ..	2	.. ..	Of the 15 day-schools, 13 are kept by women; population chiefly mining.

^a It is stated that there are several Sunday-schools in this parish in connexion both with the Church of England and Dissenters, but the particulars are not given. Several day-schools also exist, of less importance than those mentioned.

The following accurate return for the parish of Camborne, for which I am indebted to the Rev. Hugh Rogers, the rector, will give a just view of the nature and extent of school instruction in those parts of the mining districts in which it is most amply provided:

TABLE 24

Kind of School.	Situation.	By whom kept.	Scholars on the Books.	Hours of Instruction.	Description of Scholars.	Branches of Instruction.
Camborne	Established Church	125	A.M. 9—10½ P.M. 2—3	Chiefly children of miners, or miners. Ditto.	Reading and religion.	
Ditto	Wesleyan Methodists	400	Ditto.	Chiefly children of miners. Ditto.	Ditto.	
Ditto	Bible Christians . . .	50	Ditto.	Chiefly children of miners. Ditto.	Ditto.	
Kehellard	Wesleyan Methodists	100	Ditto.	About two-thirds working miners, and one-third children of do.	Ditto.	
Tuckingmill	Ditto	239	Ditto.	About one-half miners' children; one-seventh working themselves in mines.	Ditto.	
Adjavella	Ditto	140	Ditto.	About one-half miners' children; one-seventh working themselves in mines.	Ditto.	
Troon	Ditto	300	Ditto.	Chiefly working in mines, or miners' children.	Ditto.	
Brea	Brianites	140	Ditto.	Chiefly children of masons.	Ditto.	
Condurow	Primitive Methodists	75	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.	
Camborne	British	205	A.M. 9—12 P.M. 2—4½ or 5	Chiefly children of miners.	Reading, writing, arithmetic, examinations in the Scriptures, &c.	
Ditto	Mr. J. Thomas . . .	50	Ditto.	About four children of miners, the rest of mechanics.	Reading, writing, and arithmetic.	
Ditto	Mrs. Tallack	25	Ditto.	Chiefly children of miners.	Reading, writing, &c.	
Tuckingmill	Mr. Phillips	33	Ditto.	About six only children of working miners.	English grammar, geography, and maps, mathematics and French. (O.)	
Ditto	Mr. Shackerley . . .	40	Ditto.	Chiefly children of miners.	Reading, writing, and arithmetic.	
Troon	Mr. J. Rowe	50	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.	
Kehellard	Mr. H. Nicholls, (aged man).	20	Ditto.	Ditto.	Reading, writing, &c.	
Brea	Mr. W. Thomas . . .	37	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.	
Penponds	Mr. S. Whear	51	Ditto.	About one-half children of miners, ditto, mechanics, tanners, &c.	Ditto.	
Camborne	Mr. J. Vivian	20	P.M. 7—9	Generally working miners; about four females, dressmakers.	Reading the Scriptures, writing, summing, and grammar.	
Ditto	Mr. W. Jenkin	12	About do.	Chiefly mechanics; three miners.	Writing, arithmetic, and grammar.	
Tuckingmill	Mr. Phillips	10	P.M. 6—8½	Chiefly young miners.	As above. (See O.)	
Kehellard	Mr. H. Nicholls . . .	12	Ditto.	Ditto.	Reading, writing, and summing.	
Brea	Mr. W. Thomas . . .	3	About 7—9	Ditto.	Writing and summing.	

234. The number of children and young persons actually employed in the mines, who are in the habit of attending Sunday-schools, is stated in the next table.

TABLE 25. Showing the Number of Children and Young Persons in the Several Mines and Mining Districts who attend Sunday Schools, who are able to read, and who have written their names on the Tabular Forms.

Mines.	Principal Produce.	Number of Persons Employed.						Number who attend at Sunday School.		Number who can read an easy book.		Number who have written their names on the Tabular Forms.					
		Above 18.		From 13 to 18.		Under 13.				Males.		Males.		Fem.		Males.	
		Males.	Fem.	Males.	Fem.	Males.	Fem.	Males.	Fem.	Males.	Fem.	No.	Avr. age.	No.	Avr. age.	Yrs. Mths.	Yrs. Mths.
Boscawell	Tin	135	2	15	..	20	..	27	..	33	..	7	13	8	..	..	..
Wheal Owles	Ditto	165	..	24	..	10	..	19	..	33	..	17	14	11	..	..	..
Levant	Copper & Tin	390	24	67	14	36	5	69	9	91	12	34	15	1	1	16	7
Parknoweth	Tin	76	1	21	..	29	..	29	..	35	..	8	12	3	..	..	..
Ballaswidden	Ditto	535	18	40	17	52	..	12	..	39	17	7	12	2	..	..	..
Botallack	Copper & Tin	133	16	19	10	13	1	12	..	23	..	9	13	7	..	..	..
Bosweddan	Tin	81	2	24	..	7	..	14	..	23	..	10	14	9	..	..	..
Total of St. Just District	..	1515	63	210	41	167	6	182	9	277	29	92	..	..	1	..	..
Wheal Daddington	Tin & Copper	256	31	25	23	13	5	22	18	36	27	15	15	2	2	14	5
Wheal May	Tin	132	17	13	3	16	..	20	1	25	3	2	12	10	..	..	..
Ding Dong	Ditto	250	13	34	11	17	3	20	6	36	9	22	14	5	1	16	0
St. Ives Consols	Ditto	351	12	34	9	37	..	38	3	64	9	16	13	7	..	..	..
Reeth Consols	Ditto	107	15	26	3	21	..	28	3	38	3	2	13	2	..	..	..
Wheal Reeth	Ditto	71	8	13	5	8	..	14	5	18	5	3	11	11	..	..	..
Trevidga	Ditto	51	3	3	1	3	..	5	1	6	1	2	13	0	..	..	..
Providence Mine	Copper & Tin	102	8	23	4	9	2	16	3	28	6	8	14	16	..	..	..
Lelant Consols	Tin	39	3	3	..	12	..	11	..	12	..	1	11	2	..	..	..
Total of St. Ives District	..	1359	110	174	59	136	10	174	40	253	63	71	..	..	3	..	..

TABLE 25—*continued.*

Mines.	Principal Produce.	Number of Persons Employed.						Number who attend at Sunday School.		Number who can read an easy book.		Number who have written their names on the Tabular Forms.			
		Above 18.		From 13 to 18.		Under 13.						Males.		Females.	
		Males.	Fem.	Males.	Fem.	Males.	Fem.	Males.	Fem.	No.	Avg. age	No.	Avg. age	Yrs.	Mths
Wheal Prosper . . .	Copper & Tin	184	33	10	6	16	2	16	6	22	8	11	13	3	.. .. ..
Wheal Friendship . . .	Tin & Copper	214	45	22	14	14	4	19	9	21	15	4	13	5	.. .. ..
Trevaskus . . .	Copper & Tin	82	30	10	10	9	2	16	6	16	11	10	12	5	2 10 8
Gedolphin . . .	Copper & Tin	..	..	..	..	..	..	83	18	90	22	27	14	3	.. .. ..
Wheal Vor . . .	Tin . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	187	138	182	150	28	12	5	3 16 6
Wheal Speed . . .	Copper . . .	95	19	18	29	19	4	14	16	17	27	1	11	0	.. .. ..
British Silver . . .	Lead, &c. . .	93	10	27	12	8	4	19	12	28	14	5	15	8	.. .. ..
Nancogulan . . .	Tin . . .	35	6	4	3	8	..	6	3	8	6	2	12	7	.. .. ..
Total of Central District West.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	360	208	384	253	88	..	..	5
North Roskear . . .	Copper & Tin	320	100	34	33	24	13	40	27	50	22	17	13	5	1 15 2
South Roskear . . .	Ditto . . .	120	50	37	14	22	4	21	9	26	9	6	13	6	1 17 7
Dolcoath . . .	Ditto . . .	404	90	70	74	69	34	85	76	80	75	40	13	7	8 13 5
East Wheal Crofty	Ditto . . .	586	200	51	30	38	20	49	26	78	48	26	14	2	1 12 1
Total of the Camborne Division.	..	1430	440	192	151	144	71	195	129	234	145	89	..	..	11
Wheal Uny . . .	Copper . . .	135	5	15	9	10	..	18	3	22	9	4	12	3	.. .. ..
Wheal Tchid . . .	Ditto . . .	50	10	13	..	..	..	11	..	10	..	3	17	0	.. .. ..
Trelleigh Consols . . .	Ditto . . .	95	17	7	41	4	13	12	17	11	36	1	12	0	.. .. ..
United Hills . . .	Ditto . . .	170	55	26	31	12	19	16	48	14	46	..	..	1	16 0
Wheal Buller . . .	Ditto . . .	92	19	14	16	9	10	10	9	13	21	3	13	9	2 13 9
Tresavean . . .	Ditto . . .	481	143	121	126	72	57	142	94	53	129	34	13	11	9 13 9
Total of the Redruth Division.	..	1023	249	196	223	107	99	109	171	..	241	45	..	..	12
West Wheal Jewell . . .	Copper . . .	100	15	17	..	7	..	10	..	10	..	..	..	..	.. .. ..
United Mines . . .	Ditto . . .	626	182	222	120	62	69	132	72	163	94	50	14	7	2 16 0
Consols . . .	Ditto . . .	954	141	234	152	41	146	74	135	95	175	21	14	0	5 15 0
Wheal Jewell . . .	Ditto . . .	175	35	..	..	..	..	25	11	44	16	13	14	2	.. .. ..
Grambler and St. Aulyn	Ditto . . .	27	2	17	..	1	..	10	..	14	..	7	16	2	.. .. ..
Total of the Gwennap District.	..	1882	375	..	..	..	..	251	218	326	285	91	..	..	7
Wheal Busy . . .	Copper . . .	12	12	5	..	2	2	2	2	2	..	..	..	..	.. .. ..
Hallenbeagle . . .	Ditto . . .	300	50	..	..	..	..	49	42	59	50	12	12	7	2 15 10
Bissoe Bridge . . .	Tin . . .	70	6	38	17	22	3	37	..	46	20	35	15	3	.. .. ..
Polberou Consols . . .	Ditto . . .	136	14	48	28	43	5	61	19	80	26	25	13	4	2 14 6
Wheal Coates . . .	Ditto . . .	110	7	35	2	10	..	29	2	41	1	19	15	0	.. .. ..
Wheal Kitty . . .	Ditto . . .	98	12	17	24	17	2	22	13	30	24	5	13	10	1 15 5
Perran . . .	Copper . . .	74	10	35	9	..	..	19	6	31	9	13	15	7	3 16 0
Great Wheal Charlotte	Tin . . .	61	30	3	13	..	1	2	11	2	15	1	13	1	1 17 8
Budnick . . .	Copper & Tin . . .	172	21	31	23	23	10	46	28	52	33	21	12	10	6 16 0
Cornubian . . .	Lead . . .	93	16	22	10	3	1	20	1	24	8	9	14	1	.. .. ..
East Wheal Rose . . .	Ditto . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	49	30	55	47	9	15	3	2 15 0
Total of the N.E. Division of the Central Dist.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	336	154	437	225	149	..	..	17
Carnsberry . . .	Tin . . .	122	23	18	10	9	1	13	4	22	6	5	14	4	.. .. ..
Polgoon . . .	Ditto . . .	140	15	41	7	21	..	37	6	59	7	17	14	4	.. .. ..
Great Wheal Prosper . . .	Do. and China Clay . . .	28	12	3	1	1	..	4	1	4	1	..	..	..	.. .. ..
Charlestown Mine . . .	Tin . . .	430	75	80	86	69	20	40	21	49	48	9	14	10	1 17 6
Par Convois . . .	Copper . . .	199	92	32	58	12	10	29	36	42	64	11	14	1	1 14 0
Fowey Consols . . .	Ditto . . .	1030	221	145	94	120	27	188	69	219	168	49	13	3	7 15 2
Trefoil . . .	Ditto . . .	105	25	19	19	18	6	16	5	32	25	8	13	3	1 14 3
Wheal Messer . . .	Ditto . . .	35	3	2	..	..	2	..	2	2	2	..	..	..	1 12 6
Tregollen . . .	Ditto . . .	25	2	3	..	1	..	..	2	4	..	..	..	..	.. .. ..
Restormel . . .	Iron . . .	94	..	10	..	2	..	3	..	9	..	2	15	10	.. .. ..
Totals of the Eastern District.	..	2208	468	353	275	253	66	330	146	472	261	101	..	..	11
Tamar . . .	Lead . . .	110	7	19	12	6	2	18	3	22	8	10	13	9	1 17 0
Wheal Friendship . . .	Copper . . .	310	30	101	40	48	15	72	22	134	53	60	14	3	7 14 7
Wheal Betsey . . .	Lead . . .	106	3	27	4	30	5	36	2	53	8	14	13	7	.. .. ..
Birch Tor . . .	Tin . . .	38	1	7	6	3	2	3	1	5	4	3	15	0	1 15 11
Manganese Mines . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	49	42	64	38	23	13	3	.. .. ..
Totals of the Devon District.	..</														

Further information as to the usual age of the scholars may be derived from the following table

TABLE 26. Showing the Average Age of the Children, &c. in certain Sunday Schools.

Sunday Schools.	Number of Children.	Average Age of Children.	Oldest.	Youngest.	Of whom are engaged in Mining Labour.
		Years. Months.			
St. Just, Wesleyan Methodist . . .	72	12 0	17	8	53
Trewellard, Ditto . . .	69	13 2	17	9	61
3rd School, locality, &c., not stated .	30	12 6	18	9	22

NOTE—There are only three female names entered on these returns.

235. In the Sunday-schools connected with the Church of England, the children are taught reading in the Bible, the Creed, and Commandments, and the Church Catechism. They are in many instances further taught to understand and apply what they have learned, by means of the Broken Catechism, Gastrell's Faith and Duty, and other books generally introduced into these schools throughout the country. Plans analogous in their design, and more or less effectual, are commonly adopted in the schools belonging to dissenting congregations. The answers given by those examined (Evidence, p. 825, 1. 32, 53 ; p. 845, 1. 61 ; p. 852, 1. 13, 26; p. 853, 1. 15, 30, 52, 64; p. 854, 1. 3) would, however, indicate that the teaching in many of these schools, of both the above classes, goes little beyond enabling the scholars to read the Bible or the Testament. Attendance at the place of worship is almost always enforced, and it is in most cases the practice to conduct the children thither. The only instance in which any kind of secular instruction has been stated to be connected with a Sunday-school, is that of St. Day, in which very recently indeed, writing has been taught: (Evidence, p. 846, 1. 41). The average age of the children and young persons at these schools may be inferred with sufficient correctness from the table given above (25). The boys commonly discontinue their attendance between 14 and 16 years of age, often earlier; the girls frequently continue to attend at the school, with more or less regularity, till they are some years older, not seldom in the capacity of teachers.

236. The cause most commonly assigned for not going to Sunday-school, as well as for not going to a place of worship, is the want of proper clothes (Evidence, p. 846.1. 664; p. 852, 1. 28 ; p. 853, 1.30 ; p. 854, 1. 23). The poverty of the parents, or more commonly the mother, does, in some cases, prevent the providing of decent clothing; but, more frequently, her disinclination to the appearance of her children in a dress inferior to that of others is the reason their being deprived of these opportunities of improvement (Evidence, p. 837. 1. 47). These schools constitute the only provision for the religious instruction and moral training of the children and young persons employed in these mines. A class, similar to one described (Evidence, p. 849, 1. 11), may, here and there, be formed, for the combining of some further inculcation of religious and moral truth with the general improvement of the understanding.

237. The influence of these schools in promoting religion and morality among the youthful mining population is undoubtedly great, and that influence being very extensively maintained by religious principle in the parents, itself perhaps originally implanted at a Sunday-school, continues its beneficial operation during the business of the week, and very largely over the subsequent life. This is more especially true of the girls. The boys often discontinue their attendance before principles can be firmly engrafted, and before the value of knowledge can be perceived. But this evil must be again adverted to.

238. The total inadequacy of the instruction which the Sunday-school is capable of affording to the fulfilment of the ends of education, is admitted, without any exception, by the parties, almost all of them clergymen or dissenting ministers, who have replied to the query on this subject. A few of their answers may be here given. The question asked was this :

Do you consider the Sunday-schools or other means of instruction at present accessible to children and young persons employed in labour, sufficient to make up for the loss of instruction by early removal from day-schools?

From the Western District the following opinions are given:

By no means. They are doubtless of some avail for the purposes of instruction; but their moral effect is the only one worthy of attention.

By no means, if secular instruction only is considered; and the amount of religious instruction is necessarily very limited, from the few hours weekly devoted to its attainment.

Sufficient to keep up religious knowledge, but not other knowledge; not sufficient to keep up moral training.

The answers from the other districts are precisely the same in purport.

239. The secular education of the children in the mining districts is begun at the age of five or six at day-schools, to which a very large majority of them are sent for a longer or shorter period. Some notion of the extent of the provision of schools of this description, and of the degree in which they are frequented, may be gained from the tables already given (23 and 24); but a more complete statement is furnished by Mr. Seymour Tremenheere, in his Special Report on the Educational Condition of these Districts, and is comprised in the following summary:—

TABLE 27.—Common Day Schools.

Parishes.	Common Day Schools for the Elementary Education of the Working Classes.	Number stated as frequenting them.	Average Attendance.			Population in 1831.	Estimated Population in 1840.
			Boys.	Girls.	Total.		
Tywardreath . . .	2	69	51	8	59	2,288	4,500
St. Blazey . . .	3	155	120	20	140	2,155	4,500
Redruth . . .	3	136	110	10	120	8,191	8,000
Gwennap and St. Day	10	486	240	215	455	8,521	12,000
Illogan . . .	8	392	190	115	305	6,072	8,000
St. Agnes . . .	6	325	205	80	285	6,642	8,500
St. Just . . .	5	315	170	80	259	4,667	6,000
Total . . .	37	1,878	1,086	528	1,614	38,536	51,500

240. A few of the answers to the queries will serve to convey a just notion of the general character of the instruction afforded. The inquiry into the qualifications of the teachers is couched in these words:—

Describe how far the teachers connected with the schools with which you are acquainted are persons of education, the branches of instruction for which they are qualified, and whether they have been trained as teachers.

A return from St. Just, in the extreme Western District, says

Not any of them can be considered "persons of education." One or two may be able to elementary Mathematics and algebra; also a little of land-surveying. None of the teachers have been trained. One or two have spent a few weeks at a model-school.

From St. Ives, in the north-east of the same district, the answer is this:—

Of the several teachers connected with schools in this district, not more than three I consider qualified for their functions. Some of the remainder are grossly ignorant of elementary education, and have probably resorted to tuition as being easier than manual labour.

From the parish of Illogan, in the Central District, and the most amply supplied with schools, the return, after stating the branches of instruction in the boys schools (noticed in Table 23) to be "reading, writing, arithmetic, English grammar, geography, scripture history, architectural outline, and geometrical figure drawing, singing, and the rudiments of general knowledge," proceeds thus:—

The teachers of the schools with which I am acquainted have not had the advantage of much education. The master of the boys school, in the village was for some time in the Central National School under Dr. Bell, and afterwards as master in the National School, at St. George's, Hanover-square. The teachers in the other schools, though educated in the county, are qualified to teach all I have mentioned.

About Redruth the teachers are said to be

For the most part persons who have become unable to follow other employments, and who, without any particular qualifications, keep school as the easiest way of obtaining a livelihood.

The account of the teachers in Gwennap is as follows:

1. Trevarth, master well educated. 2. Churchtown, master well informed, trained on national system. 3. Churchtown, Mistress educated on British and Foreign system. 4, 5, 6. St. Day, masters capable of teaching reading, writing, and arithmetic well, and grammar, geography, &c., partially. 7. Mistress capable of teaching on the national system. 8, 9. Mistresses adequate to teach reading, writing, and needlework, plain and ornamental. 10, 11. Carharrack, masters, reading, writing, and arithmetic well, other branches partially.

In the neighbourhood of St. Agnes, in the north-east of this district, the teachers are said to be:

Competent to teach the lower branches of an English education. Not more than one of them is believed to have been trained as a teacher.

From the greatest mining neighbourhood in the Eastern District, a clergyman writes thus:

I think there is only one man in the parish qualified to teach the youth as they ought to be taught, and one schoolmistress, who educates the daughters of the farmers and tradesmen.

241. Mr. Tremenheere's account of the nature of these schools, of the systems on which they are conducted, and of the qualifications of the masters, is as follows:

If the children of the labouring classes now attending these day-schools are few in proportion to the whole number of an age for education, and if the time allowed for it by the parents of those few is short and inadequate, still less are the methods pursued by 27 out of 32 masters and mistresses whose schools I visited, or the books and apparatus used, such as to afford any reasonable hope that instruction of any permanent value could be imparted to more than a small number of their pupils, even if they remained much longer at school than is now the custom. By all these 27 the old system of teaching is pursued, and the books in use are those ordinarily accompanying it. The payments are so low and irregular that good class-books cannot be afforded by the master. Whatever books are used are provided by the parents. Being themselves generally unable to read, the cheapest seem to be considered to have the most merit. A fragment of a Testament, and a small spelling-book, are the ordinary store; for the few more advanced, the Bible, and the elementary books of Pinnock, Murray, and Goldsmith.

The school-rooms were in general found to be light, and clean, and sufficiently provided with desks, but in most instances close and ill ventilated. The terms of payment ranged from 2s to 5s 6d and 7s 6d per quarter. Of the masters, the great majority had either been hurt or had lost their health in the mines, or had been unsuccessful in trade or other occupations; but their qualifications appeared in most instances to be respectable, and their demeanour towards their pupils mild and conciliatory. Nevertheless it must be confessed that they cannot be regarded as possessing, either in their own resources or in the methods they pursue, the capability of effecting, to any desirable extent, the mental and moral improvement of those under their charge. About half belonged to the Established Church, one to the denomination of Independents, one to that of Baptists, the rest to the different sections of the Wesleyans. Nine follow the system of the National Society somewhat modified, one that of the British and Foreign Society. With respect to the use of catechisms in many of the schools conducted on the old system, either the Church or the Wesleyan Catechism was taught, according to the wish of the respective parents.

In the greatest number of these schools comparatively few boys had advanced in arithmetic as far as the rule-of-three. Still fewer had learned anything of grammar, English history, geography, mensuration, or linear drawing; subjects which almost all the masters professed to teach. In 19 schools, boys and girls were instructed together. In eight they had separate schools. In almost all the amount of instruction which seemed to be thought requisite for the girls scarcely passed the boundary of the merest elements.

Mr. T. proceeds to speak in terms of commendation of several schools, particularising the boys' school at Illogan, mentioned above, another at Trevenson, and three girls' schools in the same parish, the British School at St. Agnes, and two private establishments; one at Trevarth, noticed above, and one at Tuckingmill, kept by Mr. Phillips, which is spoken of in the Evidence (No. 64). I must refer to Mr. T's Report for the details of the merits of these schools.

242. From the day when the children of either sex go to work at the mines, they cease to attend day-schools, and, with regard to the vast majority, all teaching, except that at the Sunday-school, is at an end.

243. A certain number of the boys, more in some districts than in others, but in all cases bearing a very small proportion to the rest, attend evening-schools. In many instances these are only open during the winter months. The masters are the same who keep day-schools, and the instruction afforded is of the same quality.

244. The expense of attendance at the day-schools varies from 1d a week to 5s 6d a quarter. The most usual charge at the evening-schools is 3d a week when the boys bring a candle, and 3½d when they do not; the highest charge mentioned in the Evidence (p. 851, 1. 69) is 6d a week, the lowest (p. 843, 1. 54) 1s 6d a quarter. The money is paid by the parents. The only exceptions ascertained are; 1. in North and South Roskear, where 1d a month is levied on each man; each man who works there and has a family is allowed to send one child to the British School at Camborne, without any other charge, and any other

children on the payment of 1d a month more with each. 2. In Wheal Friendship and Wheal Betsey, in Devonshire, the chief part of the expense of a school has been borne by the adventurers. 3. In St. Just, a subscription has been set on foot for the purpose of sending poor children gratuitously to the different schools established in the neighbourhood (Evidence, p. 849, 1. 8). The adventurers at the Charlestown United Mines contemplate the establishment of a school at which instruction will be given to the younger children of their men at very little charge to them.

245. The charge of 1d a week has been mentioned as about the lowest made, but it should be stated that much of the best quality of instruction is provided at no higher rate; the greater part of the expense of the school being, in fact, defrayed from private sources. The National and British Schools are mainly supported here, as elsewhere, by voluntary contributions; and the individual benevolence of one noble lady, in whom the most enlightened charity is hereditary, has given existence, and gives efficiency, to at least 12 schools.

246. It has been already stated that a very large majority of the children in the mining districts had been sent to some day-school for some years before they went to the mines. Still a large number, doubtless, remains of those who from having been left almost friendless, or from the ignorance, poverty, negligence, or selfishness of their friends, have not gone to school at all. Some such have been casually met with in the prosecution of this inquiry. (See Evidence, p. 846, 1. 64; p. 828, 1. 2.)

247. But it is chiefly in taking their children from school at a very early age, that these qualities in the characters and circumstances of the parents are displayed. It has been seen (116, &c.) that a great number of boys are actually at work at the mines before they are 10 years old, and a great number of girls before they are 12, and both these classes have generally been there for a year or more. Many of these, of the girls especially, have also been taken from school some time before they obtained employment at the mines, being made useful at home. The following are a few of the statements of the ages at which the children are usually removed from schools in different districts to go to continuous employment:

Western District; St. Just, and the extreme West, three answers:

1. From 10 to 12 years of years of age. 2. Generally about 10 years of age. 3. Twelve is the average.

North-eastern Division of the same district; St. Ives, &c.:

1. Children are taken from school about the age of 10 years (boys) and 12 years (girls) to work at the mines, &c. 2. The parents being poor, the children are taken away very early to go to work; frequently at 9 or 10 years old.

From the different parts of the Central District the following statements are given. From the South-west Division (Breage, &c.):

Unfortunately, the children, both boys and girls, are sent to work too early in the tin mines; often as young as years of age. I do not think their employment injurious to their health; though, perhaps, this may be one cause of the general weakness of the miner's constitution, who very seldom live beyond 50; but it is certainly very prejudicial in unfitting the girls for domestic employment, and preventing the boys from acquiring any useful knowledge at school.

Illogan Division:

I regret to say that the children of the labouring classes and miners, from poverty, are removed from school at a very early age, say from 8 to 10 years of age.

Redruth: On the average about 10.

Gwennap: Generally between 9 and 12 years of age.

Kea (Central District, East):

They are commonly removed as soon as their labour can be turned to account, at 12, 11, 10, or even earlier.

Perranarworthal (same neighbourhood): Very many at 8 or 10 years of age; very few remain till 12 or 13.

St. Agnes, &c. (Central District, North-east):

I am informed that the average age of removal from school to go to continuous employment is 10 years.

Eastern District, Tywardreath, &c.:

A great part, of the population consists of miners, the very poor of which class put their children to work at an early age, not being able to pay for their education; those who are in better circumstances keep their children at school till they are 11, 12, or 13 years old; and I think if there were a good school, in which education could be obtained at a cheap rate, the greater part of the miners would send their children till they attained the age of 12 years.

248. Ignorance of the value of education, though said to be less general than it formerly was (Evidence, p. 830, 1. 11), is still very prevalent, as is natural among men, often uneducated themselves, who have got on in the world as well as their neighbours. Where the duty of giving to their children as good an education as they can, is known, the parents cannot be charged, as a class, with neglecting it. Poverty is certainly the general cause that children are taken from school and sent to work at the early age above stated, as it is of their not being sent to school at all. The mere provision of decent clothing is beyond the ability of many a poor widow who has been left with a large family to struggle for subsistence. Her boys are her main stay, and bread must of course be obtained before knowledge. The early and improvident marriages of other parents often involve them in difficulties from which the early exertions of the children can alone extricate them. Here, likewise, poverty is a sufficient explanation of the curtailment of education. It is among the more prosperous miners that ignorance in some cases, and selfishness in others, often both together, lead to the early substitution of mining labour for attendance at the day-school.

249. The same causes operate to prevent the greater number from going to evening-schools, even where they are accessible; but the hours of work, and the time occupied in returning home, make it nearly impossible for the greater part of those employed at the surface to give any portion of the evening to the school, except at times during the winter months. As the boys advance in years, and they are employed under ground, they have more time at their command, though at rather irregular intervals, for availing themselves of these opportunities of instruction, and they do so in many instances; but the disposition to improve themselves, not having been fostered by any education since they attended day-school as young children, is not commonly found, and a large proportion of the parents prefer making use of the earnings of their boys in any other way than in paying for their schooling. There are many praiseworthy exceptions to this selfishness. Some such way be seen in the Evidence (p. 831, 1. 33; p. 851, 1. 64; p. 854, 1. 50), favourably contrasted with the cases of such as, although not in worse circumstances, have chosen to make their boys toil for their profit, even beyond their hours of work at the mines, rather than expend a portion of the earnings of those hours for the cultivation of their mental faculties (Evidence p. 852, 1. 28; p. 854, 1. 42).

250. Some of the results of the instruction actually given are comprised in Table 25 (pp. 798, 799), which exhibits an abstract of the returns made on the tabular forms. From this it would appear that a large majority of the children and young persons of both sexes can read; but this is, with respect to a great number, only true to a very slight extent. Many read so badly that no pleasure or interest can be derived by themselves from reading; and if their attendance at the Sunday-school is discontinued, it is more than probable that the little that has been learnt is lost altogether. This is the case even with boys who have had some advantages, but whose education has not been continued till their minds were expanded sufficiently to give them an interest in what they had been taught (Evidence p. 852, 1. 25; p. 853, 1. 29, 63; p. 854, 1. 3, 22).

251. Some testimonies regarding the evils resulting from this early removal from school are given in reply to the queries.

The question was this: *Does the removal of the children and young persons from school at the ages specified in the last answe, (that of which examples have been given) operate to their injury in after-life? If so, state in what manner.*

The following statements of opinion are from different neighbourhoods:

I think so. *First*, if they work under ground, their health suffers from their youth. *Secondly*, if above ground, the first principles of education have not been sufficiently impressed on their minds to stimulate them to self-tuition, and the little they have learned is

soon forgotten. *Thirdly*, if girls go to work at, that early age, they have no knowledge how to make the commonest garment, &c.

2. It does so operate in many cases. The education is not continued long enough to fix in the mind what may have been acquired; neither is time allowed, in many instances, for learning anything beyond reading. All this operates to their pecuniary injury, either in leaving them disqualified for certain minor situations, or else in entitling them to lower wages than more instructed persons would obtain.

3. It does so; inasmuch as the little they had learnt. there is very soon forgotten; or, if kept up, is of such an imperfect character, as to open their minds to impressions from evil advisers; and at all events they are not on an equality with those in their own class who have been benefited by a more perfect education.

4. Yes; for it often happens that, at the time they leave, they have not learnt to read with ease, and, not liking the trouble of learning when not compelled, they soon give it up altogether; this of course would operate to their injury both in a temporal and spiritual point of view. Further, they lose the advantage of being able to write.

252. Together with the loss of the knowledge of reading or writing, the more important principles of moral and religious truth will, in all probability, be gradually obliterated from the mind, and, as far as the early education is itself concerned, very little will have been gained. Happily, there are many beneficial influences at work tending to restore those principles at a later period to their due authority; but it can hardly be doubted that the character of that part of the male mining population which is at the period of life between boyhood and manhood, when vicious and disorderly conduct is most prevalent, is attributable in great measure to the want of continuity and sufficient duration in the attendance at school.

253. The amount of positive knowledge usually possessed by the mining boy is not to be measured by the length of time he has been at school, neither is the quickness and capacity of his understanding to be measured by the amount of his positive knowledge. The circumstances of the miner's life tending to sharpen his perception and to strengthen his judgment, have been spoken of before. The children are in some degree under the same influences; in the first place, through the medium of the parent, who will convey to them a reflection of the sharp lines which his hazardous and varied life has impressed on his own mind; and next, by their own experience. Many years prior to his being sent to the mine, the little boy is employed in ways which mimic his future occupations; with a shovel, of a size suited to his strength, he is employed in collecting from the road anything which may serve for dressing; this is placed in a small barrow, which introduces him to the work of wheeling: a step further in the same practice is afterwards made when he is busied in bringing water in a small cask from the well to his home. Other small tools, similar to those used in the mines, are often given him, and he may be seen at work with them, in imitation of what he has noticed when he has been taken there. Soon he makes himself useful in the cultivation of the garden or plot of ground, and in other services. When he goes to work at the mine, free association with others, and the variety of his own occupations, have their usual effect in calling forth his intelligence and forming his character; and, being in no degree oppressed, he has from the first the independent manner and frank expression of opinion general among the adult miners. Circumstances do much for him; what is wanting may be supplied by education.

254. The only connexions existing between schools and any of the mines have been already stated. For the children and young persons actually employed, there is no provision whatever of that nature. In fact, as has been already stated, they come to the mine to work, while there they work constantly, excepting a short interval for dinner, and leave off when their work is done; and then all connexion ends between the employers and employed, except such good offices as private benevolence may suggest. The evening-schools are entirely unconnected with the mines.

255. As there is a very kindly feeling entertained by the leading mine-owners and by their agents generally, towards the juvenile portion of their workpeople, so is there extensively manifested a sincere interest in the advancement of their intellectual, and still more their moral and religious condition. Hitherto it has been exhibited chiefly in the encouragement afforded by them to the schools established for the children prior to their coining to work, and, in a few instances, to evening-schools; but there is no reason to doubt that they would be ready to make some sacrifices for the furtherance of a judicious system, adapted to those actually employed. Some Evidence to that effect may be seen at p. 824, 1. 52; p. 832, 1. 26; p. 833, 1. 42; p. 847, 1. 56; p. 851, 1. 8; and additional testimony is con-

tained in several answers to the queries; one of which may be given as an example; it is from a clergyman in the Eastern District:

I am making [he says] great exertions to establish schools for the instruction of boys and girls, and I am greatly encouraged in my efforts by the willing co-operation of the higher classes, and the almost impatient desire manifested by the lower orders to obtain for their children a more sound, religious, and useful education.

256. Some of the impediments to education, arising from the parents, have been already spoken of, and some examples of the operation of other principles have been referred to. It is but just to state that a great number of the working miners, who are fathers of families, are most strongly impressed with the importance of the benefits conferred by a good education; contemplating higher benefits than the mere advancement of their children in the world; and that they look forward with very great satisfaction to what they have anticipated as one result of the inquiries which have been made; the establishment of good schools which might be attended by their children without preventing their gaining a livelihood at the same time.

257. There is no reason to believe that the severity of labour in the ordinary distribution of time and work at the mines at all incapacitates the children and young persons for receiving instruction at the end of the day. But those who have to walk some miles to their homes, probably the greater number, can do little more than get their supper and go to bed. Such at least should be the case with the younger children, in order to ensure them eight hours of rest. In the evening-school at Tucking-mill, (Evidence, p. 837, 1. 24), though the homes of the boys, and the mines at which they had been working, were both close at hand, it was necessary to postpone the supper till they returned from school, between nine and ten at night. In the winter, when the work closes with the daylight, to allot an hour or two in the evening to school is more easy, and the boys have not complained that they feel the attendance irksome. Evidence to a contrary effect may be found (p. 837, 1. 3, 22; p. 843, 1. 31).

258. The slenderness of the stock of domestic knowledge possessed by the females employed in the mines is attested by all parties. When they come to be wives and mothers, the consequences are very injurious to the husband and children, from the want of management in the outlay of the earnings, from the expense entailed in paying for work which ought to be done at home, and from the coarse and insufficient culinary processes, adopted through ignorance of better methods (Evidence, p. 833, 1. 27; p. 849, 1. 23; p. 850, 1. 63; p. 841, 1. 60). Some inclination to gossiping with the neighbours has been supposed to arise from the habits acquired at the mines; but the wives of the miners cannot be justly charged as a body with neglect of their domestic duties. Their hearts are in their homes, and they are for the most part tender mothers and industrious wives (Evidence, p. 829, 1. 34). Indeed the laborious occupations to which they have been inured make the household duties appear comparatively light.

259. It is necessary to notice in this place a laxity of practice, which still exists to a great extent, though it is generally considered to be less prevalent than it formerly was; the putting off the solemnization of marriage till it is rendered necessary to save the legitimacy of the child, whose birth is known to be at hand. The mischievous effects of this practice are too evident to require illustration; but it is due to the young women concerned, to state that there is every reason to believe that they enter into the engagements which lead to these consequences with entire confidence that they will terminate in marriage; and that the practice itself appears to be derived from a remote period, and to be of connate origin with the similar habits of a related Celtic tribe, the Welch.

260. That confidence is not often misplaced. Desertion by the men is very rare, in proportion to the number of cases in which it would prove destructive to the reputation of the young women. The number of illegitimate children is generally small; and is stated in several places to be much less than it was when compulsory marriage usually followed the discovery of the probability of such being born (Evidence, p. 829, 1. 37). There is reason to believe that the desire to escape from the single state, entertained by a rather elderly portion of the females working at the mines, often led to a course which afforded nearly the only prospect of such a desire being realised.

261. There are some differences in regard to the above particulars in different districts, which are stated and illustrated in the Evidence (p. 832, 1. 52; p. 841, 1. 64; p. 849, 1. p.850, 1. 60).

262. Everywhere open prostitution is very rare. In the parish and neighbourhood of Camborne, which embraces a population of 30,000, it was stated by an officer of the Union, intimately acquainted with the subject, that there was not even one individual living in that condition. This fact is rendered still more creditable to the population by the favourable contrast in which it stands to the state of some of the towns at no great distance.

XII. COMPARATIVE CONDITION

263. In the principal mining districts almost all the children of the poorer classes are sent, to the mines when there is any demand for their labour. Comparison can therefore be hardly instituted, on a large scale, except with districts more or less remote. The relative condition of those in the neighbourhood has, however, been kept in view in all the statements in this Report which bear a relative character, and many illustrative particulars in the Evidence collected have been referred to. A brief notice of the condition of the children and young persons employed in domestic and civic occupations, in agriculture, and in the iron-foundries and slate quarries, from which returns have been obtained, shall now be given, under the several heads of inquiry already treated as respects the mining class.

264 (1) Very little, if any, paid employment is found in agriculture for boys under 10 years of age, and it is merely casual till they are 12 or 13. Young girls have only a little occasional work in the field, and do not, till they are 15 or 16, engage in it as their regular occupation. In towns, places are found for a few as servants or errandboys, and apprenticeships are resorted to by the greater part. The girls from 14 upwards obtain employment, as domestic servants, and a great number learn the business of dressmaking at the same age. The ages at the iron-foundries are, under 13, 62; between 13 and 18, 150; those at the slate-quarries, under 13, 21 males and 9 females; between 13 and 18, 34 males and 17 females.

265 (2) The hours for agricultural work are usually about 10 in the day in summer, and daylight in winter. Night-work is unknown, as well as working overtime, except perhaps a little at harvest. Girls employed in dressmaking are here, as in other parts of England, kept at work till 8, sometimes till 10, in the evening, but they seldom begin it before 7 or 8 in the morning. The hours of work in the foundries are from 6 A.M. to 6 P.M., out of which an hour and a half is allowed for meals; a few work at night regularly, and others when there is a particular press of business. At the slate-quarries the hours of work are 10 in the day.

266 (3) An hour is generally allowed for dinner in all departments of husbandry, and another, or at least half an hour, for breakfast; and it large proportion of the young people employed are able to return to their homes to their meals, or to take them in the farm-houses. The same allowance is usual in employments in towns. At the foundries an hour and a half is allowed, and this is also the case at the slate-quarries.

267 (4) It is needless to describe the nature of the agricultural and civic employments just spoken of, which are the same in this as in other parts of the country. The separate reports on the iron-foundries and quarries may be referred to for particulars on this point relating to them.

268 (5) It has been stated that the surface operations in these mines are carried on in well-ventilated places, free from the causes of impurity connected with town habitations. They are in fact, nearly analogous, in regard to aeration, to rural work; the latter is the less sheltered of the two, but likewise the less sedentary. The comparative disadvantages of those who work under ground need not be enumerated. No kind of town occupation is attended by any at all equal ones; but the close situations in which many of its departments are carried on, and the noxious effluvia with which the air is often loaded, render the comparison with the surface work at the mines unfavourable. The quarries and clay-works present no essential points of difference from the more exposed surface work at the mines. The particular condition of the foundries must be looked for in the special report respecting them; but it may be stated generally that they are more injurious in some parts, both from extreme alternation of temperature and from impurity of air, than the places of work at the surface in the mines, but much less so than those under ground.

269 (6) As to the liability to accidents, the disadvantage is altogether on the