

MEMOIRS

1964



N.C. & M.R.S. Records 1964

“Health of Miners From Epitome of mines, lead mines 1860 – 1863:

Merryfield mines, storey level, college level”

Memoirs No.2, NCMRS, pp.6-8

Published by the

THE NORTHERN CAVERN & MINE RESEARCH SOCIETY
SKIPTON U.K.

© N.C.M.R.S. & The Author(s) 1964.

NB

This publication was originally issued in the 10 by 8 inch format then used by the society. It has now been digitised and reformatted at A5. This has changed the original pagination of articles, which is given in square brackets.

**HEALTH OF MINERS
FROM
EPITOME OF MINES, LEAD MINES 1860 - 1863
MERRYFIELD MINES, STOREY LEVEL, COLLEGE LEVEL**

N.C. & M.R.S. RECORDS

Mr. Joseph Broad Champion.

(Chairman) Q. "Do the men all go in by the levels?"

A. "Some go in by the levels and some go down by ladders"

Q. "Have you ladders or stemples?"

A. "Ladders"

Q. "Have you no stemples in any part?"

A. "We have no stemples"

Q. "How many levels have you?"

A. "Two"

Q. "Which is the longest?"

A. "The adit level is the longest"

Q. "What is the length of it?"

A. "About 900 fathoms"

Q. "Do you communicate with the Old Man's workings?"

A. "We have not opened up the Old Man's working"

Q. "How many rises have you in the course of that level?"

A. "We have three shafts from the surface"

Q. "How far is the forehead from the last shaft?"

A. "Merryfield level is communicate with Stonney Grooves level and they carry the level forward"

Q. "How far is where you are working now at the forehead from the shaft?"

A. "About 20 fathoms"

[6]

Q. "Have you any difficulty in ventilation at that point?"

A. "No, not in the least"

HEALTH OF MINERS

Q. "Do the candles burn quite well?"

A. "Yes"

Q. "How far shall you drive before you put up another rise?"

A. "About 10 fathoms further; 30 fathoms we propose"

Q. "You think that you may drive 30 fathoms safely?"

A. "We could; but think that in grit 30 fathoms is quite sufficient for the men to have good air"

Q. "There's more difficulty in getting good air in grit and shale and limestone?"

A. "Yes I think there is"

Q. "Since you have been working there, have you ever had occasion to employ any artificial means of throwing in air?"

A. "Yes; we opened out the level 600 fathoms with air pipes alone"

Q. "Had you any means of throwing air into the air pipes?"

A. "Yes; we had a 40 fathom water blast"

Q. "Did you find it quite sufficient?"

A. "Yes"

Q. "What size was the pipe?"

A. "Eight inches"

Q. "Was it zinc or wood?"

A. "Zinc"

Q. "Does the zinc decay or corrode at all?"

A. "Yes; the water did decay it, I suppose that it was the sulphuric acid coming from the sulphur which decayed the pipes"

Q. "How long do you think that they would last?"

A. "They last a great number of years with care"

Q. "But if they decay at points, the air escapes without coming on to the end, does it not?"

A. "Yes; and then we lap it with flannel"

Q. "You have to try it constantly?"

A. "Yes we try it in fact every day"

Q. "Do the men have extra pipes to carry on to where they are working?"

A. "Yes; they keep it on as close as possible"

Q. "How far is the mouth of the pipe generally from where they are blasting?"

A. "Generally about two or three fathoms; the pipes are nine feet long"

[7]

(Mr Holland) Q. "You have said that the pipes frequently decay; is that at the point at the point where they are supported?"

A. "No; it is generally where there is a drop of water coming down from an old working"

Q. "How are they supported, upon holdfasts?"

A. "Yes"

Q. "Iron holdfasts"

A. "Yes"

Q. "Is there any thing between the iron and the pipe?"

A. "Yes; flannel"

Q. "Does that last pretty well?"

A. "Yes; it lasts very well"

Q. "Do you think that flannel is as good as wood for that purpose?"

A. "Yes; I think so"

Q. "Do you think it lasts as long?"

A. "Yes; quite as long, I think"

(Chairman) Q. "Have you ever had any accidents from blasting?"

A. "No"

Q. "What do the men pay for candles?"

A. "7d. a lb. as a general rule"

Q. "And how much for powder?"

A. "9d a lb."

[8]