

Termau'r Chwarel

# **TERMAU'R** **CHWAREL**

**From**

**“CABAN”**

**The Magazine of the Oakeley**  
**and Votty Slate Quarries**  
**Company Ltd.**

*Transcribed by J.G Isherwood*

Termau'r Chwarel  
**QUARRY TERMS**

In a series of articles, published in Caban with some reluctance on his part mostly because he felt that translation did not convey the real 'life' of the words, Mr. G.Humphreys, the Quarry Manager, put forward a list of the quarry terms, together with translations:

**TERMAU'R CHWAREL**

Yn Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Caernarfon 1959 bu cystadleuaeth casglu termau chwarel ynghyd a'u hystyron. Cafodd Caban y fraint o weld gwaith Mr. Hugh Davies, Pwllleli, a ddyfarnwyd yn ail yn y gystadleuaeth honno a theimlwn yn wir ddiolchgar iddo am hynny.

Cymbellwyd Mr. Gwilym Humphreys i wneud rhestr hefyd a chasglwyd gannddo rai cannoedd o eiriau a thermau a ddefnyddir yn ein plith gyda'r bwriad o(u cyhoeddi yn Caban. Tua'r un adeg, ac yn hollol wirfoddol, cynygiodd Mr. Ernest Jones, a fun'n chwarelwr yn Oakeley am flynyddoedd, ysrif i Caban yn dwyn y teitl "Termau'r Chwarel," yngyd a'i gasgliad yntau o'r termau hynny.

Cyd-ddigwyddiad rhyfedd ydoedd hyn yn sicr, a chan fod y mwyafrif o'r termau, ond nid yr oll, yn ymddangos yn y ddwy restr, penderfynwyd eu cyfuno. Cyhoeddir y restr yn ol trefn y wyddor. Hwyrach y gall rhai o'r "fetrans" ychwanegu at y restr ac os felly byddwn yn falch iawn o glywed oddiwrthynt.

Diolchewn i Mr. Ernest Jones am ei gyfraniad-dyma ei ysgrif i ddechrau.

**"TWR CADARN I GYMREIGGRWYDD"**

Un o nodweddion amlycaf y diwydiant llechi yw ei Gymreigrwydd. Go brin bod unrhyw ddiwydiant arall mor drwyadl Gymreig.

Bu chwarelwyr bob amser bron yn ddiethriad yn Gymry glan, gloyw

Daeth rhai Saeson i mewn o dro i dro, ond buan y llyncwyd hwy i mewn i'r ffordd Gymreig o fyw syss mor gref ymysg y chwarelwyr. Mewn cyfnod o mewid mawr pan welwyd y bywyd Cymreig yn gwanychu mewn sawl cylch, perhaodd y chwarellechi i fod yn dwr cadarn i Gymreigrwydd, a choled drom iawn i'r bywyd hwnnw yw pob dirywiad yn y diwydiant llechi.

Cyfrannodd chwarellyddiaeth yn sylweddol at gyfoeth geirfa yr iaith Gymraeg, a bu'r diwydiant yn foddion i ddiogelu llawer o hen itiau a thermau sydd bellach wedi diflannu o eiraduron diweddar, gwaetha'r modd.

Pery geiriau, ymadroddion a phriod dulliau cwbl Gymreig ar wefusau chwarelwyr hyd yn oed heddiw, pryd y mae dylanwadau estronol yn llygru cymaint ar iaith y werin.

Fel ym mhob diwydiant arall, bu newid mewn dulliau o withio yn y chwarellechi. Diflannodd amryw o arfau gweithio yn y cyfnewidiadau hynny Ysgafnhaodd hynny lawer ar y gwaith, ond colled i'r iaith fu'r ffaith fod y chwarelwyr-oherydd y newid-wedi peidio a defnyddio nifer o dermau ac ymadroddion.

Nid oes neb yn chwennych gweld adferiad yr hen dulliau o weithio, ond byddai'n dda rhoi ar ddu a gwyn gasgliad llawn o dermau'r chwarel. Gallai pob yn sydd wedi ymddeol o'r chwarel wneud cymwynas fawr drwy rhoi mewn ysgrifen bob term chwarel y gwyr amdano. Oni wneir hynny, fe gollir casgliad a allai fod yn gyfoeth o wybodaeth i'r dyfodol.

Er fod iaith lafar y chwarelwyt yn bur sathredig ar brydiau ceir yn eu plith iaith Gymraeg gref iawn ar y cyfan. Adlewyrchir hyn yn y casgliad canlynol o dermau chwarellyddol. Y mae'n wir fod arwyddion o daeogrwydd mewn termau fel "princess" a "duchess" a cheir amryw o dermau nad ydynt ond rhai Saesneg wedi eu Cymreigeiddio.

Mewn cynulliad o gannoedd o ddynion naturiol yw nad yw'r iaith bob amser yn glasurol na hyd ynoed yn "wedus". Cei ambell i derm sy'n debyg o beri peth braw i'r rhai mwyaf sidet ohonon. Eithr er bod rhai o'r ywmadroddion yn bur fras, edrychant yn llawer hagrach i bobl y tu allan i'r chwarel nag y maent mewn gwirionedd fel y defnyddir hwy ymysg y gweithwyr.

Nid oes feddwl drwg y tu ol i'r termau sy'n ymddangos ym amrwd. O fewn y chwarel, gall blaenor parchus ddefnyddio ambell i ymadrodd na freuddwydiai am ei arfer i lawr yn y dref. Y mae rhai termau felly yn y casgliad canlynol an ddau reswm.

Yngyntaf am eu bod yn dangos priod-ddulliau Cymreig da nas defnyddir ond mewn chwarellechi. Yn ail, am y credaf mai ffug ledneisrwydd a fyddai eu hanwybyddu mewn casgliad sy'n ceisio bod mor gyflawn ag y mae modd.

Nid yw'r casgliad yn cynnwys y cwbl o bell ffordd, ac erfyniaf am i chwarelwyr ymhob man wneud eu gorau i chwyddo'r casgliad fel y gellir diogelu termau sy'n brysur fynd ar goll.

Dyma'r rhestr gyntaf gyda'r ystyron - yn Saesneg.

Adain, adain plwg; plwg	"plug" adain feathers; the tool "plug and feathers."
Aer (awyr)	Compressed air.

Termau'r Chwarel

Aerw'	Collar, shackle.
Ail bowdr	Second charge of explosive.
Ail osod	To re-let (or re-set), a form of wages contract.
Agor	Chamber (underground).
Agor ben agorad	Open top chamber, i.e. connected to the one above.
Agor ben gaedd	Closed top chamber (not so connected).
Agor fel cegin	Complimentary term for a tidy chamber - like a kitchen.
Allan ohoni	Term used when a slatemaker is without material for making slates.
Ar y groes	Another term to denote the same thing or when one is without work in ones usual job, temporarily.
Ar y dunnell	On tonnage.
Asen	A rib.
"Average"	Average earnings.
Bach	A hook.
Bachu	Hooking.
Bachwr	Hooker.
Bach craen	Crane hook.
Bach S	S hook.
Dad-fachwr	Unhooker, usually the man unhooking the loads on incline tops.
Bag.	
Bag llwch	Dust bag (attached to a compressed air drill).
Band o hop	When extra help is needed with a derailment, the men call for a "Band o hop."
Bar	Rail, quarry bar.
Bar bach	Short rail.
Bar mawr	Long rail.
Dal bar	Arguing unnecessarily.
Bariad	Length of a quarry bar.
Bariad injian fawr	Length channelled by a drilling machine mounted on a quarry bar.
Bargen	Bargain. The general term for a group of slate producers in partnership.
Bargeinio	Bargaining.
Bargainiwr	Bargainer, one in a partnership.
Baril	Barrel.
Baril craen	The barrel or drum of a crane.
Baril twll	Socket of a drilled hole.
Basged, fel basged	Basket, denotes a mass of very loose rock.
Bastard	Similar to, but not true slate.
Batri	Battery.
Baw	Muck. Something that is not true slate making rock.
Baw man	Fine rubble.
Baw cafn	Slate dust and water sludge found in the water trough in which steel saws revolve.
Beichio	Act of bundling slates from the slatemakers bench for carrying to the stacking ground.
Belt	Strap.
Belt am y mis	Phrase for top production for a month.
Belt am y dydd	Phrase for top production for a day.
Bil, profi bil	Slatemakers production in the form of a total sum according to the quarry price per hundred slates.
Bil go'	Blacksmith's account for sharpening, tools etc. supplied.
Biwglan	Powder cannister.
Blacs	General term for fitters, blacksmiths etc.
Bloc	Block, part of "block and tackle."
Bloc dwbl	Block with two sheaves.
Bloc sengl	Block with one sheave.
Blocyn, blocyn tin	Seat on which the slatemaker sits while splitting.
Bocs ambiwlans	First aid box.
Bocs powdwr	Powder chest.
Bol	Belly, a reference to a bulging rock wall.
Bolio	Belying.
Bon	Bottom, also refers to the rock between two chambers on different floors.
Bonio	Act of trimming this rock.
Bon gwastad	Floor of the chamber above.
Bon bach	North side of a level or tunnel.
Bon mawr	South side of a level or tunnel.

## Termau'r Chwarel

Bon dwll	Remaining part of an exploded hole.
Bonc	Quarry bank, or "bench", a flat area of waste tip, a mill area or floor.
Bonc Coedan	Translation of C-Bank, made from rubbish from that floor.
Bonc Siafft	Bank where the vertical water balance was situated.
Bont Goch, Bont Fawr	The high level bridge, known as the Red Bridge from its colour.
Both	Boss of a wheel.
Brac	Brake, also used to describe a mass of loose or unsolid rock.
Bras hollti	Primary cleaving.
Bricar	A tool.
Brig	Top, or near the surface.
Brisyn	Used for levering.
Bwrdd	Table.
Bwrdd llifio	Saw table.
Bwrdd mawr	Diamond saw plant.
Bwrdd ym mynd i'r haearn	Term used when the saw table runs into the saw.
Byrddiad	Table load of blocks.
Byrddia	To load the saw table with blocks to be sawn.
Bysidd yn mynd i'r byw	Fingers worn to the quick.
Byta'i phen	Eating it's head off, unproductive.
Caban	Messroom, meeting place.
Cachu cythra'l	Derogatory term for certain poor slate rock.
Cachu'i grefft	Turning away from ones craft.
Cadach	Rag.
Cadw'r arfa'	Keeping the tools.
Cadw dau fwrdd	Supplying two saw tables with blocks from one bargain.
Cadw'i dew	Preserving the correct thickness of rock.
Cafn, cafn dwr	Trough, water trough.
Cadw'r ger	Keeping the gear or equipment.
Caffia	Irregular rock joints.
Caffio	Scrambling.
Cam	A wrong or crooked.
Caniad	Time the hooter signals the start or end of the working period.
Canu	The hooter's sound.
Cannwyl	Candle.
Cant	Hundred.
Cantal	Rim.
Caps, capsan	Detonator.
Car	Car, vehicle.
Car pas	Man riding vehicle.
Car brac	Braking vehicle.
Car gwyllt	Vehicle used for riding down inclines, not attached to winding rope.
Cara'	Thin slice.
Cargo	Vehicle for carrying large blocks of rock, not slate.
Carfan, carfennu	Cross-pieces on which blocks rest on a trolley, sled.
Carpan	Poor quality piece of slate rock.
Casgan bach	Small cask previously used for carrying gunpowder.
Carrag	Stone, all slate is thus referred to.
Cerrig da	Good slate.
Cerrig gora'	Best slates.
Cerrig tena' Thin slates, usually of medium thickness.	
Cerrig man	Small slates.
Cerrig sal	Poor slates.
Cerrig main	Narrow slates, damp course slates.
Cerrig cam	Crooked slates.
Cerrig fel coed	Meaning difficult to split.
Cerrig fel gwer	Good splitting slate, a superlative.
Cerrig bras	Coarse slates.
Cerrig brau	Brittle slates.
Cerrig Blaenllym	Isolated peak above floor 13 of the Upper Quarry.
Cerrig fel menyn	Meaning soft and easy to split like butter.
Cerrig fel iau	Slates easy to split like liver.

Termau'r Chwarel

Cerrig fel t'wyrch	Slates like sods of turf and very poor.
Cau	To close.
Cau tin	Build up the open end of a wagon.
Cau'r giar	Last arrival in the morning.
Cabl	Cable.
Cefn	Side of a pillar or wall, joint.
Cefn croes	Cross joint.
Cefn pileriad	Pillaring joint.
Cefndid	Hump back.
Ceg	Mouth or entrance.
Ceg leval	Level or tunnel entrance.
Ceg twll	Mouth of a drill hole.
Cei	Wharf or bank.
Cei London	The L.M.S. Railway wharf.
Ceillog	High peak of rock. Eastern end of the great sink.
Celc	That part of a man's wages he retains for himself, usually, though not always, unknown to the wife.
Cerddad	Walk, proceed.
Cerddad bar	Common practice when two men walk on parallel rails grasping each others coats at the back.
Cerddad y gwaith	Reference to promotion to be an official, usually underground.
Cerddad clwt	Moving a sawn block of slate cornerwise diagonally along the ground.
Chwaral	Quarry.
Chwarelwr	Quarryman, has come to mean a slatemaker only, not all those who work in the quarry.
Chwip	Whip.
Chwipio	To whip.
Chwip o ddyn	A particularly supple and effortless worker.
Chwain	Flea like marks on slate.
Chwys fforddoliwr	Platelayers sweat, supposedly a most rare commodity.
Chwythiad	The effects of.
Cic (wrth stolpio), stolpio	Trimming a block of slate prior to splitting, doing this at a certain angle.
Cist	Chest.
Cist bowdwr	Powder chest.
Cist bach	Small chest.
Clai	Clay.
Clarc cerrig	Slate Inspector, the official in charge of a mill.
C'ledu	To harden.
Clespyn	To clasp.
Clo	Lock.
Cloc	Bell or the hooter, starting time.
Cloddfa	Quarry, pit or mine.
Cloddfa gesail	The Upper or Holland's Quarry.
Clogwyn	Rock face where slate is gained.
"Clove hitch."	
Cust	Ear.
Wrth clust y wagan	Side of a wagon.
Clwt, clytia'	Block(s) of good slate.
Clwt diwedd mis	Slate block given to boys (usually) to boost their production at the quarry month end.
Clwt i orffen cerrig	Block so given to complete a certain number.
Clwt y codi	Block which is raised by the saw while it is being sawn.
Cneuan	Raised, nut like, mark in certain slate.
Codi cerrig	General term for moving the production from the mill to the stacking ground or quarry bank.
Codi cownt	Taking count (of slates made).
Codi crempyn	Splitting a hump from the surface of otherwise smooth slate.
Codi gwaelod	Freeing bottom of rock face, sometimes by blasting.
Codi powdwr	Taking explosives from store.
Codi hollt	Act of splitting a block of slate, particularly a large one.
Codi sodla'	Removing by blasting humps of rock which make s floor uneven.
Codi craen	Putting up a crane.
Codi sub	Collecting a "subsistence" payment.

## Termau'r Chwarel

Coed	Wood.
Coediwr	Timberman.
Colar	Collar.
Combein	A number of bargains working in combination.
Compressor.	
Contract	Terms agreed between men and management for specified work.
Corn	Hooter.
Corn rhybudd	Warning signal (hooter) prior to blasting.
Corn saethu	Blasting signal.
Corn heddwch	The "All Clear."
Corddi	Drilling by hand with the old "Jumper" drill.
Cot	Jacket.
Cot waith	Working jacket.
Cot lian	Thin working jacket.
Cowjian	Gouging chisel.
Cownt	Count.
Cowntan	A 20in. x 10 in. slate (pl. Cowntis)
Cowntis bach	22 in. x 12 in. slates.
Cowntis bach culion	22 in. x 11 in. slates.
Crabia'	Wooden pieces under wagon bodies.
Crachan	A natural parting in rock on a much flatter angle than the cleavage, a slip plane.
Craen	Crane or sheerlegs.
Crafu	Gleaning every possible slate from poor material.
Crafwr	A gleaner of such.
Crawan	Unshaped piece of slate of fairly large size (pl. Crawia').
Creigiwr	Rockman.
Crempyn	Hump or ridge on an otherwise smooth surface.
Crewyn	Small piece of slate.
Crimp	The brow of an incline.
Crimpio	A vehicle moving over the brow.
Criwlio	Working a gravity incline.
Crogi	Hanging.
Crwb	Horizontal rock joint.
Crych	Wrinkle, most hated of all natural defects in otherwise good slate.
Cwalis	Medium quality.
Cwd powdwr	Container of (usually) gunpowder.
Cwil	Coil, coil of fuse.
Cwins	Queens, large non-standard size of slate.
Cwlem, cwlwm cam	Knot, naturally twisted rock.
Cwlwm peg	Rockmen's knot to anchor his climbing chain to a steel peg driven into the rock.
Cwlwm tsiaen	Hitch made when a rockman turns the chain around his thigh.
Cwlem craen	Coupling of chain and crane hook when lifting a heavy break.
Cwplws	Coupling chain.
Cwt hogi	Saw sharpening house.
Cwt motor	Motor house.
Cwt powdwr	Explosives store.
Cwt criwlio	Winding house, incline drum house.
Cwt clai	Where clay is stored.
Cwt ben inclen	Hut at the top of an incline.
Cwt llwythwrs	The slate loaders hut.
Cwt lampa'	Lamp room.
Cwt ben doman	Hut on top of a tip.
Cwyno	Moaning.
Cwynwr	Moaner.
Cydyn	Cartridge containing gunpowder, made of paper, sealed with pitch.
Cyfaill y gwan	Iron bar with a pulley at one end on which a chain runs. One end of this is tied to a rock drill and the other to a heavy weight. The set is used to drill free side holes and the weight at the end of the chain balances the drill at the other end thus making heavy work lighter.
Cyfans	Grave covers.
Cyflog wrth y dydd	Day wage.
Pen Cyfri	Final pay (the big pay) in the month.
Cyllall bach	Hand knife for trimming slates.

## Termau'r Chwarel

Cymeriad	Contract agreed between the men working a bargain and the management.
Cym'yd	Acceptance of the contract.
Cyn	Chisel.
Cyn brashollt	Chisel for primary splitting.
Cyn manhollt	Chisel for final splitting.
Cyn marcio	Marking tool.
Cyn tewio	A tool used for dividing a slte block into the correct thickness.
Cynffon	Tail.
Cynffonwr	"Toady."
Cynffon tsiaen	End of a chain, particularly a rockman's chain.
Cypling	Coupling.
Dad-lwytho	To unload.
Dad-lwythwr	Unloader, in particular of large blocks in the mill.
Dad-fachu	To unhook or unhitch.
Dad-fachwr	A unhooker, especially at the top of an incline.
Dail	Thin slaty scales seen on cleaved surface.
Deiliog	A sign of good cleavage.
Danjar	A wooden implement attached to the top of a tip to facilitate tipping.
Dant	A cog, thus "rhoi dant" means to put a brake on to prevent a cog wheel slipping.
Dechra' mis	The start of the contract period, the start of the quarry month.
'Dengid adra'	A premature, devious and surreptitious departure from work.
Di-frigo	To remove top rock, i.e. that nearest the surface, the overburden.
Diwedd mis	The end of the contract period, the end of the quarry month.
Diwrnod i'r brenin	An unproductive days work, although some was done.
Diwrnod lladd mochyn	A most busy day, a reminder of the days when killing a pig on a smallholding was quite an event.
Diwrnod gosod	The day contracts or lettings for slate getting are arranged, letting day.
Dobio	To knock, hit or strike.
Dolan	Link.
Down datsh	A "cushion" made of old rags, soil etc. to receive the front wheels of a wagon being tipped.
Dragio	To break up.
Dreifar	Driver.
Dreifar plwg	Chisel used on the "plug and feathers" when that implement has to be driven home.
Dros doman	Over the tip.
Dros llwybr	Over the path, both terms were used when a man was sacked or discharged.
Drym	Drum, usually the drum over which the haulage rope coils.
Dwbwl bach	12" x 6" slate.
Dwbwl hand	Double handed hammer.
Dwr	Apart from meaning water, it also means the place where solid rock and therefore water is to be found at the bottom of the rock face in a chamber.
Dybl nymbar	A reference to a pay of double figures.
Dyn dwbwl	A particularly strong man who can do the work of two ordinary men.
Dytsian	A duchess slate, i.e. 24" x 12", (pl.Dytsis).
Dytsis bach llydin	Small wide duchesses, i.e. 22" x 12".
Dytsis bach culion	Small narrow duchesses, i.e. 22" x 11".
Dyfn	A floor or the distance between two floors underground.
Dyfn bach	Term used to refer to "F" floor.
Dyn tynnu peth peryg	Safety man, securer.
Dyn wrth y dydd	Man working at the day rate, journeyman.
Dyn twll	Underground man.
Ebill	Drill.
Ebill main	Thin drill used when the least possible charge is to be made.
Ebill plwg	Drill used in conjunction with the "plug & feathers."
Echel	Axle.
Enbyd	The warning shout given before an explosive charge is fired.
"Fall"	Fall of rock.
Fan	Ornamentel fan made of slate.
Fridd	The unworked hillside belonging to the quarry, the "Mountain" Inclien above Bonc Siafft.
Ffeiar	An explosion.
Ffeil	File.

Termau'r Chwarel

Ffelos	The fourth quality slate.
Ffelo mws	The lowest quality, a term no longer used.
Ffens	Fence.
Ffitar	Fitter.
"Fitting shop"	
Ffiws	Fuse.
Fflags	Slabs of slate.
Fflei gang	Gang hastily assembled to do a quick job.
Fflewyn: Flake (pl.Fflawia).	
Fflodiart	Floodgate.
Ffolt	Geological fault.
Ffon bren	Circular piece of wood for placing explosives in a shot hole.
Ffordd	Tram road or rail track.
Ffordd llawn	Tram road for loaded vehicles only.
Ffordd wag	Tram road for empty vehicles only.
Ffordd drwodd	Passage cleared, usually through debris.
Fforddolio	Platelaying.
Fforddoliwr	Platelaying.
Ffos	Channel.
Ffosio, torri ffos	Cutting a channel with a hammer and special chisel on the end of a slate block for the purpose of pillaring it.
Ffos rwbel	That place in the mill alongside the tram road where rubbish is thrown.
Ffos dwr	Water channel, usually on one side of a level or tunnel.
Ffustion	Fustian.
Ffynd bach	Form of saving club for holidays etc. run and managed by the men themselves.
"Fish plate."	
"Fly wheel."	
Gwinedd	Wagon flanges.
Gwniad	Joint, often with quartz material in it.
Gwtar	Gutter, a derogatory term for a poor bargain or chamber.
Gwyneb	Rockface.
Gwynt	Rock is tapped with a hammer for the tell-tale hollow sound. If it sounds hollow it is said, "mae 'na wynt yna."
Gwynt hollt	Not perhaps a true cleavage, it may have been formed by something else.
Gwythien, gwithan	Vein or bar across the slate. Many of these are identified by colourful names. (See "The Blue Hard and the Yellow Band".)
Gyrru	To drive.
Gyrru lefal	Driving a level or tunnel.
Gyrru ffos	Cutting a channel.
Gyrru arni	Working hard, driving.
Gyrru rwoff	Driving a roofing tunnel.
Gyrru bwrdd yn ol "Half-hitch."	Pushing or prising back the saw table.
Handlan craen	Turning the handle of a hand crane.
Hannar	Half, a slatemakers reference to half a hundred slates.
Hannar stem	Half a day.
Hegal	Leg, usually refers to a crane leg.
Hegla'craen	Crane legs.
Hel(casglu)	Collecting.
Gaddo hi	Threatening promise to make things hum.
Gafael	Grasp, grip.
Gafael cynta'r ochor rydd	Slate next to the free side cut, sometimes damaged by the explosive.
Gafael trosol	Good leverage grip, with a crowbar.
Ail afael	Taking a second grip.
Mewn gafael	In gear, at grips.
Yn ei afael	In gear.
"Gauge."	
Gefail beipia'	Pipe picers.
Gefail gaps	Detonator pincers.
Geidar: A safeguard, an additional parallel rail on a curve, check rail.	
Ger	Gear, tackle.

## Termau'r Chwarel

Glan y Pwll	Area below the big tip near Dinas.
Glan y Pwll Trap	The granite rock below the New Vein, when met, signifies the end of the slate rock.
Gloddfa Ganol	Middle Quarry.
G'neud cyflog	Making (good) wages.
G'neud wagan	Fitting pieces of slate around a wagon to get a bigger load.
I g'neud hi	Having done well - or badly, term used to suit circumstances.
Go'	Blacksmith.
Gordd	Sledge hammer, mallet.
Gordd hollti	Splitting mallet of wood bound with metal rings.
Gordd fforddioliwr	Platelayers sledge hammer.
Gorffan cerrig	To finish the requisite number of slates to complete a quarry hundred, half a quarter.
Gorfadd ar ei chefn hi	Idling, slacking.
Eu cael nhw i orfadd	Stacking slates properly and tidily in the quarry.
Gosod	To let, i.e. to fix and agree terms on which wages are earned.
Gosodiad	A letting.
Graen	Grain, lustre.
Grant	A contract having failed to make the anticipated wages, a certain amount may be added to attain a higher figure, this amount is called a grant.
Grisia'	Steps or stairs
Grisia' mawr	Title often given to particularly long flights of stairs, such as from L to M and N floors.
Gwaedu	Bleeding, testing or starting. When the first block of slate is being taken from a very large one it is known as bleeding the block,
"Gwaedu'r plyg."	
Gwaelod inclen	Foot or bottom of incline.
Gwaelod y gwaith	Bottom of the mine.
Gwaith	Work.
Mae 'na waith ynddyn' rhiw	A reference to good workable slate.
Gwasg	Pressure or squeeze. Slate rock becomes "difficult" when subject to pressure, especially in the mine.
Gwegian	Tottering, the condition of a mass of rock before its fall.
Gweithio wrth y dydd	On the day rate.
Gwenithfaen, Gw'nithfaen	Hard rock overlying the slate beds, "hards."
Gwerthyd	Spindle or axle.
Hel clytia'	Collecting or gathering blocks of slate.
Hel i lawr	Cleaning or clearing the loose rock pieces from the top of the rock face.
Hel stemia	Time keepers job.
Helmet.	
Yr Hen Inclen	The incline in chamber K3 from K floor to O floor.
Hen lygad	The Old Vein, possibly the first bed of slate worked in the district.
Hetar	Traingular shape.
Hetri	Head cross piece of a frame of timbers underground.
Hitar	Electric heater.
Ho	Rest or breathing space.
Hogi	Sharpening.
Hogwr	Sharpener, usually of saws.
Holland	Quarry opened by Samuel Holland, the Upper Quarry, Cloddfa Gesail.
Hollt	Cleavage.
Hollti	Cleaving or splitting.
Holltwr	Splitter.
Hollt dda	Good cleavage.
Hollt ddrwg	Bad cleavage.
Hollt un ochor	One side cleavage - a difficult one.
Hollt dyn	Tight cleavage - another difficult one.
Hollt fer	Block of slate may have one face which is not naturally split but which may be a joint not on the cleavage plane. That block has "hollt fer."
Hollt fel sibols	Cleavage like young onions, very good.
Hwtar	The hooter or quarry whistle.
Hwyllo	Wheeling.
Hwylwr	Man who wheels or pushes vehicles along, haulier.
Hyd	Certain length of slate rock, usually about six feet.
'Hyd a pum' w'ithan	That length which contains the "five veins."
Hyd mawr	Another particular length in the Old Vein.

Termau'r Chwarel

Inclen	Incline, usually rope worked.
Inclen Newydd	The incline in chamber K2 from K floor to P floor.
Injian	Engine or machine, also a slate making mill.
Injian naddu	Cutting or dressing machine for shaping slates after they have been split.
Injian hogi	Slate saw sharpening machine.
Injian dradl	Foot operated dressing machine, i.e. worked by a treadle.
Injian dyllu	Rock drilling machine.
Injian fawr	Large rock drilling machine, used for channelling, also used to refer to the main Middle Quarry dressing mill.
Injian K	The building where the K Trwnc Incline motor is housed.
Injian bach	Locomotive, steam or diesel, also used to refer to the Middle Quarry small mill.
Injian fflags	Slate slab making mill.
Injian newydd	The new mill, a relative term.
Irad	Grease.
Iro	To grease.
Isrif	Minimum guaranteed slate day wage.
Jermon	Journeyman.
Jim Crow	Platelayers rail bending machine.
Jini	Pseudo-affectionate term for a quarry wagon, also a small crow-bar.
Joci	Small block of slate loaded onto a larger block for transport from mine to mill.
Jygyn	Small load, usually of rubble.
Jympar	Before pneumatic machines, vertical shot holes were drilled with six-foot long steel drills, by a hand worked up and down action, hence the term "Jumper."
K Trwnc	One of the principle entrances to the Lower Quarry, a carriage incline from DE floor to K floor.
Labrwr	Labourer.
Labro	To labour.
Ladi	Rock drill similar to the jympar, but longer, say 8 to 10 feet.
Ladis	General term for 16" long slates, Ladies.
Ladis wyth	16" x 18" slates.
Ladis naw	16" x 9" slates.
Ladis deg	16" x 10" slates.
Ladis bach	14" x 8" slates.
Ladis bach culion	14" x 7" slates.
Lamp	lamp. An underground official may be referred to as "the lamp."
Lamp fawr	Inspection lamp such as that used by the securers.
Landing	The top of an incline, also used for an intermediate level on an incline.
Lefal, lefel	Level or tunnel.
Lefal Ddwr	Water drainage tunnel, the old G floor tunnel between the sinc and Penybont.
Lefal Goed	Timbered level or tunnel.
Lefal Galed	The horse tunnel, the DE floor tunnel between the sinc and Penybont.
Lefal meinars	Tunnel where miners are at work, generally on development or exploratory work.
Limpin	Linch pin, a pin to hold a wheel on its axle.
Wedi colli limpin	is used to describe anyone who has lost his temper and cannot control himself, like a wheel that has lost its lynch pin.
Ling	Link.
Ling'gorad	Open end link.
Lindys	Parasites, all those not directly engaged in actual production, a most unfair description.
Liwt, ar ei liwt ei hun	On his own behalf.
"Loom"	Anglicised form of "lwm", a sump for water underground.
London iorcs	Strap or string tied over the trousers below the knee.
Lorio	To lower.
Luro	Fairly large lump of rock regarded as worthless for slatemaking.
Lwmp	Lump.
Fel lwmp oddiwrth ffeiar	A particularly shapeless lump of slate sent to the mill like a lump straight from the blast.
Llanast	Disorder, mess.
Llawr	Floor, one of the main working levels of the quarry.

## Termau'r Chwarel

Llawr agor	Chamber floor.
Llechan	A slate.
Llechan gownt	Slate on which the stock and despatch record is kept.
Llechi sgwennu	Writing slate.
Lled	Width, in particular a width of 14" or 12" which are the standards aimed at by the rockmen.
Lledu	Widening, that part of the work done by miners after the initial roof tunnelling of a chamber.
Lletraws	Oblique.
Lli'	Saw.
Lli' diamond	Diamond saw, one with a blade with diamond impregnated tips.
Llifio	To saw.
Ll'nau, glanhau	To clean, clear up.
Ll'nau eira	To clear snow.
Llwyth	Load, by implication a loaded wagon.
Llwytho	To load.
Llwythwr	Loader of finished slate.
Llwyth ar 'i ben	Wagon load of rubble that has tipped forward.
Llwyth o glytia'	Wagon load of blocks of slate.
Llwyth o rwbwl	Wagon load of rubble.
Llyffiant	Raised lump of harder rock in slate, the size of a frog's back.
Llygad	Bed of slate or vein.
Llygad Newydd	The New or Deep Vein, the lowest slate bed in the geological formation.
Llygad Cefn, Llygad Coch	The Back Vein, the top but one of the beds of slate.
Llygad Mochyn	The topmost bed, the North Vein. Literally the "pig" vein, the poorest.
Llygad Bach	The bed above the Old Vein, the Narrow Vein.
Llygad iddi	When a vehicle is derailed and only one wheel off the track, a short piece of rail is placed under the axle end and lifted with two crow-bars. This operation is termed "rhoi llygad iddi."
Llyncu, ydi o'n llyncu?	When a second charge of explosive is necessary and when the charge is actually put in, this question is asked.
Llwydd	Each "caban" has its own "llwydd" or chairman.
Maen	Grinding stone.
Mainc 'sglodion	Bench on which split slates are placed before dressing.
Mainc gerrig	Bench where finished slates are placed.
"Make"	Production.
Malu baw	Breaking up poor or otherwise worthless slate making material.
Manag fawd	A thumb protective piece of rubber used when dressing slates.
Marcio	To mark.
Marc pen trwyn	A barbaric custom now stopped whereby boys on entering quarry employment were initiated by older boys by scratching their noses with a piece of slate.
Mashin	Weighing machine.
"Mediums"	The second grade or quality of finished slates.
Megryn	Counter balance sometimes used on single track carrier inclines.
Meinar	Miner, the man who drives the levels and other development work.
Melfared	Corduroy.
Melin	Mill, usually the slate dressing mill.
Menyg naddu	Hand protective pieces of rubber used while dressing slates.
Milgi	Very short rail sometimes fitted to fill in a gap in a rail.
Miniar	A kind of chisel.
Mis' Dolig	Pre-Christmas quarry month.
Mis' pump	Once every four or five years a five week month is necessary to come into line.
Gwynab felmis pump	A long face.
Mis' Bank Holiday	Pre-annual holiday month, both this and Mis' Dolig are usually the best months of the year for production and wages.
"Miss Cue"	When a hand is hit instead of a chisel.
Modrwy	The ring that keeps the "plug and feathers" together.
Moelyn	A kind of chisel.
Mwrthwl	A hammer.
Mownti	Poundage, part of the wages system.
Mwrw	Three slates, an amount used in counting.

Termau'r Chwarel

Naddu	To cut or dress slates to shape.
Naddwr	Slate dresser.
Naddu at beda'r slap	Cutting or dressing the four edges of a slate in four movements without missing one stroke of the revolving knife, the sign of an expert.
Newid lli	Changing the saw, also an opportunity for a smoke or a chat.
Nog, nogyn	Dognail.
"North Spar"	Whinstone dyke traversing the whole mine and found in all the beds of slate.
Noson waith	End of the day, evening.
Noso gwario'r cwbl	Thursday evening, when all the money has been spent.
Nyth y Gigfran: The Eagles' nest, the cliffs above Tanygrisiau.	
Ochor iddi	Another mode of putting back a derailed wagon, men put their backs against the derailed side and push.
Ochor ora'	The best side, usually of a slate.
Ochor rydd	A free side, the channel or trench blasted between the wall or pillar and the rock to be extracted in an underground chamber.
O dani	Not having produced enough to earn standard wages.
Oddiworth din y fuwch	A phrase describing a man who has left agricultural work for quarry work.
Oer, gweithio nhw'n oer	Slate blocks quaried without the use of explosive.
Offis bach	A sub-office.
Offis fawr	The main Quarry office.
O law i law	From hand to hand.
Olwyn ddwr	Water wheel.
Olwyn gocos	Cog wheel.
Palmantu	To pave.
'Paned naw	Nine o'clock cup of tea.
Pant gwynab	Depression on the surface of anything, e.g. a rail.
Papur bach	The weekly pay ticket.
Papur setlo	Monthly pay ticket, i.e. the final or settling ticket.
Partner, Padnar	Partner in any contract.
Partneru	Partnering, this may be by arrangement or sometimes by expediency, quarry partnerships have been known to last for many years.
Pas bei	Pass bye, usually where empty vehicles are left.
Patant llwch	Dust extractor fitted to a rock drill.
Pedol	Horseshoe shaped piece at the end of a saw table.
Pefal	Bevel joint which often crosses both cleavage and pillaring.
Pefal mawr	The Big Bevel.
Pegio	To peg.
Peg bwrdd	Saw table peg for holding slate blocks in position.
Peg ling	Steel peg with link attached.
Peg lli	Pin to keep a saw blade in position on its axle.
Peil	Pile of slates laid flat on the slatemakers bench.
Peilio	To pile.
Peilio'n gam	To pile unevenly or crookedly.
Peipan aer	Compressed air pipe.
Pelan	Cartridge of gelignite.
Penna'llifia	Waste ends from sawn blocks of slate.
Penna'gwynion	Block ends having quartz crystals in them.
Penna'cwn	Unshapely lumps of slate rock.
Pen bar	Uneven rail joint.
Pen balast	Section of the quarry in the open.
Pen Balance, Pen yr Inclen	The ridge at the west end of the quarry between the Old and Back Veins.
Pen doman	Tip end.
Pen da	Good or the easiest end of a block for splitting.
Pen lli	Sawn end.
Pen ucha	Making it easier for the slate rock to pillar by giving it a free top.
Pen isa	Making it easier for slate rock to pillar by cutting a free bottom.
Pen tap	The end of a measuring tape.
Pentwr	Pile.
Penybont, Pen'bont	The area near the high level bridge.

## Termau'r Chwarel

Pen y Foel	Ill defined peak above the upper quarry, marking the eastern end of the ridge of R'Allt Fawr.
Pen yr ymyl	Extreme edge.
Pig, pig fforddoliwr	Pickaxe, a platelayers pick.
Pigins	Pickings, rejected slates, not up to standard.
Pigo	To pick.
Pilar	Pillar or wall.
Tyynu pilar	To take away a pillar systematically.
Ochor pilar	The side of a pillar.
Pig sgwennu	Steel pin for writing on slates used by slate inspectors.
Pinsiar	Short, light crowbar.
Pirim	Kind of chisel, now hardly ever used.
Pirim a'chowjan	iron chisel.
"Pitch"	Pitch, used to seal paper cartridges.
"Pitcher"	First drill in a set.
Pitshio	To use the first drill.
Plaen	To plane.
Platan groes	Flat plate used to cross from one tram road to another, a form of turntable.
P'leriad	Pillaring, a structural characteristic of slate, the line of which lies at right angles to that of the cleavage.
P'leru	To pillar.
Ar b'leriad	On the pillaring line, also used to describe whether one is in a good humour or not.
P'leriad fel ruban	Ribbon like pillaring line.
P'leriad fe sidan	Silk like pillaring line, very good, both of them.
Plwg	Plug and feathers.
Plygio	To use the plug and feathers for sub dividing a block of slate.
Plyg	Large block of slate successfully detached from the main body of rock.
Points	Switch on a tram road.
Troi points	To operate the switch.
Poitsh	Bungle or mess.
Poitshio	To bungle.
Polyn strap	Special pole for putting back belting that has slipped off the pulley.
Ponc	Gallery floor or bank, a quarry floor in the open.
Post	Series of joints so close together as to make the slate rock worthless.
Post o'faw	As post.
Powdro	To charge a shot hole with powder.
Powdwr	Explosive.
Powdwr du	Black powder, gunpowder.
Pren tschocio	Chocking mallet used for packing slates.
Prentis	Apprentice.
Pric mesur	Gauge or measuring stick.
"Priming."	
Prinsis	Slates of size 24" x 14"
Prinsis mawr	26" x 16" slates.
Pris	Agreed poundage, tonnage or yardage figure.
Pum w'ithan	"Five veins" a set of these fairly close together in the Old Vein.
Pump a charrag	Meaning five "mwrw" (15 slates) plus one.
Pwli	Pulley, also an incline rope sheave.
Pwmp	Pump.
Pwmp mawr	The old beam pump engine on G floor.
Pwshar	Pusher or air leg used in drilling.
Pwynt	Sharpened point, e.g. on a drill.
Pwyntio	To point.
Pwynt ffeil	Sharpened point filed at the time the steel is hot.
Pwynt sengal	Single edged cutting point.
Pwynt dwbwl	Double edged cutting point.
Pwynt mwrthw'l	Sharpened point, hammered when warm.
Pwysa'	The weight of material transported as it affects earnings.
Pwyswr	Weigher, weighman.
R'Allt Fawr	The mountain beneath which the Oakeley workings lie.
'Refal	The smithy.
Restio	To apply leverage,.

Termau'r Chwarel

Rhac	Rake.
Rhaff	Rope.
Rhaff inclen	Incline rope, wire rope.
Rhaw	Shovel or spade.
Rhaw fforddoliwr	Platelayers shovel.
Rhaw gafn	Spade for clearing sludge, made to fit the trough in which the saw revolves.
Rhedag	To run.
Rhedag ar 'i hol hi	Hard at it, very busy.
Tew wedi rhedag	A whole section of the rockface having slipped or run.
Rhiw	Hillside.
Rhiwbryfdir	The site of the Oakeley Quarries, the name of the original farm.
Rhoi cerrig y fyny	At the end of the quarry month a slatemaker gives an account of the number of slates he has made in the period, also an allegorical term when a quarryman retires.
Rhoi byrddiad	Placing slate blocks on the saw table.
Rhuglo	T clear rubble in the mill.
Rhys	Very large mallet used in the mill.
Rhywiog	Easy, kindly.
Rowlars	Rollers, also a reference to the incline sheaves.
Rwb	Fall of rock.
Rwbal	Rubble.
Rwbal naddu	Rubble or waste from dressing.
Rwbal hollti	Rubble or waste from splitting.
Rwbal meinars	Rubble or waste from miners headings.
Rwbal bras	Coarse or large rubble.
Rwbal man	Fine or small rubble.
Rwff	Roof tunnel, roofing shaft.
Ryffio	To roof, to drive a roofing shaft.
Rybela	To glean, i.e. make slates out of spare material or that discarded.
Rybelwr	Rubbler, one who gleanes.
Rybelwr back	A bot who gleanes, i.e. an apprentice.
Rybela siawns	Gleaning by depending on chance rather than a regular source.
Ryn	A train or series of vehicles couple together, a run.
Fel wagan gynta'r ryn	Brazen bold, like the first wagon in a train.
Safon	Standard.
Safon cyflog	Wage standard.
Safon gosod	Letting standard.
Sa'draw	Distance bar, bar used to separate wagons carrying large blocks.
Saer	Carpenter.
Saer maen	Stone mason.
Saethu	To blast.
Saim	Grease.
"Scantling"	Small beam, fairly long, laid lengthwise under the rails especially on inclines.
Screib	To scribe, or break away from the natural cleavage.
"Scotch"	Iron bar used for locking wagon wheels.
Setlo	Settling the pay.
Sgarsio	To scarify, e.g. to enlarge a level by removing protruding pieces.
Sglefr	Untidy rock face, without regard to the natural cleavage.
'Sglodion	Split slates before being dressed.
Sgraper	Scraper.
Sgwario	To square.
Shials	Shattered thin and narrow pieces of slate.
Shotia	Sheets.
Shyflio	To shovel.
Shyrcaen	The chert, the hard rock overlying the New Vein bed.
Shiafft	A shaft.
Siambar	Small shed attached to the main slate making mill.
Siarpio	To sharpen.
Sigiad	Damage to slate caused by a strain.
Sinc	A sink, a part of the quarry above or below ground excavated below its surroundings.
Sinc fawr	The Lower Quarry open workings.
Sinc fach	The Upper Quarry Old Vein sink.

## Termau'r Chwarel

Sincio	To sink, to drive a shaft below a floor.
"Sink Vein"	Name given to part of the Old Vein in Middle Quarry.
Siomi	Thawrt, disappoint.
Paid a'i siomi	In blasting this expression means that the charge should be sufficiently strong so that the result is not disappointing.
Sist	Shortening of the word "assistance" a particular reference to the slatemakers production for the day.
Sist ungoes	Production of one or two sizes only, not sufficient variety.
Slangan	Paper cartridges made to hold gunpowder.
Slatar	Slater.
Sled	Trolley for slabs.
Slediad	Block of slate that is placed on a trolley.
Sleifar	
Slip	Slip, joint in the rock, i.e. a joint that lies between the vertical and the horizontal.
Yn beriw o slipia	Many slip joints close together.
Slipan	Rail sleeper.
Slont	Joint, often, though not always, parallel to the cleavage.
Slont glai	The clay slant, a very well defined slant overlying the Old Vein so called because it carries a deposit of clay like substance.
Smit	When an enforced stoppage of work occurred owing to, for example, heavy snow, it was called a smit. Also a shortage of water could be called a smit, beleived to come from a manager saying "You must submit to the weather."
Smotia	Spots in slate.
Smotia' llaeth	Milk spots, large spots found in certain Old Vein slates.
Snyffyn	Short piece of slate.
Socad	Socket.
Soldiars	4.5" wide slates.
Spar	Quartz.
Spardym	Spur.
"Specials"	Non-standard sized slates.
Spion Kop	Gravity Incline from the Office Floor to Penybont. Also known as Clogwyn Mawr.
Sprag	Iron bar for locking wheels.
Spragio	To sprag.
"Squares"	Square slates.
Stagar	In difficulty, nearly in extremis.
Stampar	Stemmer for ramming shot holes.
Stampio	Stemming.
Stampar twll hollt	Stemmer for ramming a cleavage(splitting) hole.
Stelin	Place where the slate blocks are first unloaded in the mill.
Stem	A day's work.
Stepan	Step.
Stiward	Under-manager.
Stocar	Stoker.
Stolpyn	Piece pillared off a slate block while trimming it prior to splitting.
Stolpio	To trim.
Stopbloc	Stop block, usually at the top of an incline to prevent runaways.
"Stoppages"	Statutory deductions from wages, e.g. N.I. contributions etc. Originally such things as smithy costs, candles etc. were also "stopped" from the mens pay.
Stordyn	Buttress.
Strap, strap mawr	Belt, belting, the drive from the overhead line shafting to the machinery.
Stric wagan	Level wagon load, not heaped.
"Stronges"	Thicker and stronger slates than "mediums."
Stwffwl	Staple.
Plygu fel stwffwl	Used to describe something or someone bent in half.
Swdwl, sawl, sodla'	Lumps of solid rock left in the ground after blasting, they may have to be blasted again when level ground is required, such as when laying a tramroad.
Swmar	Beam.
Syb	Subsistence money, paid weekly.
Sylffyr	Iron pyrites in slate, these usually take the form of yellow crystals, one reason wire saws have not been a success in slate. Exposed to the weather they produce a characteristic "iron" staining.
Tafliad	Geological fault, a displacement.

Termau'r Chwarel

Tafod	Length of rail that moves in a tramroad switch (points).
Tafod bach	Short length of such rail.
Tafoda bacha	Movable rails used to connect two tramroads so that they are anchored at one end and shaped to pit over matching rails at the other end, also called lift over or clip points.
Tagwr	
Tal	Pay.
Talcen bwrdd	The end of the sawing table nearest to the splitter.
Tali	Tally, a numbered coin used as a receipt for the pay.
Talu	To pay.
Talu'r costa	At one time, not now, explsoives etc. were paid for by the men using them.
Talybont	Row of cottages at Dinas, now buried.
Tal y Waenydd	Hamlet near the road entrance to the quarry.
Tanio	To blast using explosives.
Tan yr Allt	The area between the quarry open workings and the mountain ridge, once the name of a farm.
Te bach	The much loved cup of tea.
Tebot oil	Oil can.
Tegins	Broken pieces of china.
Cerrig fel tegins	Very brittle slates, like china.
Tew	A bed or layer of slate, literally a "thickness."
Tewia	Beds or layers.
Tew bras	Coarse bed.
Tew caled	Hard bed.
Tew cyrli	Wrinkled bed.
Tew sidam	Silky bed.
Tew dwy	The thickness of two slates.
Tew pedair	The thickness of four slates.
Tew wyth	The thickness of eight slates. All these refer to the way in which a sawn block is divided up in half, then in half again to get down to the thickness of a slate.
"Thirds"	Usually slates for damp course purposes.
Tin rydd	In quarrying or mining slate it means freeing by cutting or blasting the bottom of the rock face.
Tin wagan	End of a wagon.
Tin bwrdd	The end of the sawing table nearest to the point of unloading.
Tipio	To tip.
Toman	Tip or heap.
Twls main	Drills that are thinner than the standard 5/8" instead of 3/4".
Top	Roof of an underground chamber.
Top inclen	Incline top or brow.
Torri ffos	Gouging a channel at right angles to the cleavage on a block of slate with a view to "pillaring" it by sharp hammer blows on a chisel.
Torri ochor rydd	Blasting a free side or channel between the rock to be extracted and the side of the wall.
Torri cyswllt	Breaking the partition between the free side and the drilled and channelled cut.
Trafa'l	Edge against which a slate is laid while it is being dressed.
Traffic	Quarry traffic.
Trin	To trim or prepare.
Troed	Foot joint, vertically and at right angles to the line of pillaring.
Troed sparia	Foot joints with spar in them.
Troed inclen	The bottom of an incline.
Troell	Turn table.
Trosol	Crowbar.
Trwmbal wagan	Wagon body.
Trwm ymlaen	Not evenly loaded, the weight being too far forward.
Trwn yn ol	Not evenly loaded, the weight being too far back.
Trwnc	A carriage incline, where the wagons are loaded onto carriers which move up and down. Now usually refers to the K Trwnc.
Trwnc Du	The old water balance incline which connected DE and F floors.
Trwnc mawr	The K trwnc.
Tsiaen	Chain
Tsiaen bwrdd	the sawing table chain, used for pulling back the table when it reaches the end of its cut.

Termau'r Chwarel

Tsiaen gefn	Back anchorage chain or rope fro sheer legs.
Tsiaen graig	Rockman's chain.
Tsiaenio slediad	Tying a large block of slate onto a trolley with a suitable chain.
Tun bwyd	Lunch tin.
"Turn out"	Tram road points.
"Turn out back"	Tram road switch in reverse to the normal.
Twenty one a dwy	Twenty one mwrw and two, 65 slates.
Twll	Mine, also a shot hole.
Twll cefn	Shot hole to trim the wall or pillar.
Twll codi	Shot hole inclined slightly steeper than the line of cleavage.
Twll plwg	Hole drilled to receive the plug and feathers.
Twll torri	Hole drilled as above, but for breaking across the line of pillaring.
Twll hollt	Splitting or cleavage hole.
Twll p'leru	Pillaring hole.
Twll ar wastad 'i gefn	Flat horizontal hole.
Twll medi methi	Misfired hole.
Twll cadw tew	Special hole to prevent slate from shattering while cutting a free side.
Twll peg	Hole for putting ina steel peg which may be an anchorage.
Twll yn tanio arno	Accidental blast in which a man is involved.
Hyll-dwll	Hole that does not conform to any of the recognised angles.
Twr Babl, Twr Babel	An old open section of the quarry so called because of the variety of languages to be heard there.
Tyllu	To drill.
Ty, ty bwyta	Quarryman's name for his mess room and assembly gathered therein.
Agor y ty	Formal opening of the "house" (i.e. caban) for discussion after eating.
Tynnu byrddiad	Off loading slate blocks from the saw table.
Tynnu	"Loose", clearing loose rock and clearing up after blasting.
Tynnu peth peryg	Removing rock which may be a source of danger.
Unarddeg	11 mwrw, 33 slates.
Wagan llechi	Wagon to carry finished slates, Ffestiniog Railway wagon.
Wagan ddrwg	Damaged wagon, one difficult to push.
Fel wagan gynta' ryn	Brazen, bold, blatent.
War	
Ward	Piece of paper placed between a stamper and a charge hole during stamping.
"Warming pan"	Used to thaw explosives, but not now.
Watro	To water.
Wedi canu	After a set time, i.e. after the hooter has sounded.
Wedi malu	Shattered, used to describe rock damaged by blasting.
Wedi gweithio'r agor adra	Describes a chamber from which all the slate has been extracted, exhausted, worked out.
Weili, mynd yn weili	When a loco makes a journey on its own and without a train of vehicles, this phrase is used. It was in more common use when horses pulled the trains.
Wejian	Wedge.
Wif	Iron bar used for levering.
Wislan	Hooter or whistle.
Wrth y llath	Wages earned by working on a price per yard, e.g. driving or widening.
Wrth y dydd	Working on the day rate.
Wythien, gwythien, with'an wen, withan gam, with'an fawr	Vein, a number of veins appear regularly in the different beds of slate, many of them with characteristic and descriptive names.
Wythnos diwadd mis	The last week in the quarry four weekly period, special significance in more than one respect is placed on this week.
Ystol fawr: Big ladder, generally a reference to a securers extending ladder.	

## **"The Blue Hard and the Yellow Band"**

A second series of articles expanded on the brief references to "veins" made in termau'r Chwarel:

Quarry terms, current and past have been given in previous issues of Caban, but the record would be incomplete without the descriptive names by which the rock strata of the Oakeley Quarry workings were known. They make an interesting collection. The lists were compiled by the late J.W.Jones (father of John Penry Jones, a fitter at Oakeley) who acknowledged that the terms in the first list he obtained from overseers at Oakeley where he himself worked for many years.

In a note at the time, Mr. Jones explained that the descriptions of the rock "veins" were not to be found in geological publications but were those applied by the able rockmen of long ago. Some descriptive of location, others of the nature of the rock, the terms are characteristically Welsh but the translations given will perhaps enable our English readers to appreciate the complex structure of the extensive workings of the quarry above and below ground, and the ingenuity of the rockmen in labelling the working places, sometimes in picturesque phrase, for all concerned to identify.

**In translation:** The term "gwythiennau" translated into English "veins" can be quite misleading when it is remembered that the main beds of slate are called veins. For instance, the Welsh "hen lygad" becomes in English "Old Vein" although the exact translation for "lygad" is "eye." Then we have "New Vein" for "Llygad Newydd," "Narrow Vein" for "Llygad Bach," and so on.

It is suggested, therefore, that the so-called "gwythiennau" in slate should in English, be termed "bands." They really are bands traversing the slate, sometimes, though not always, at right angles to the pillaring and penetrating into the thickness of the bed at a flatter angle than the cleavage as a rule.

Here then, with translations, are the names of the "bands" in the "old Vein" starting from the overlying hard at the top of the bed and working downwards to the underlying hard, that being the top, of course, of the "New Vein."

### **Band**

Y Gwnithfaen Glas, Y Slont Glai  
 Gwythien y Meinars  
 Y Gwythiennau Rhywiog  
 Y Withien isaf o'r tair a'r teulu  
 Gwythien y Crych du  
 Y Withien Sulphur  
 Y Pum Wythien  
 Y Withien rhwng y Pump a'r Wythien Wen  
 Y Withien Wen a'r teulu  
 Yr ail oddiwrth y Withien Fawr  
 Y Withien Fawr  
 Y Withein Fawr a'r teulu  
 Y Withien Gam  
 Yr ail Wythien Gam  
 Gwythiennau Man a'r Sulphur  
 Pen Uchaf y llygad Caled (Tew Bras)  
 Y Wythien Caled a'r teulu  
 Yr ail Wythien Caled  
 Y Wythien Lwyd  
 Y Wythien Fflat  
 Y Wythien Grych  
 Sulphur Y Llygad Caled Isaf  
 Y Wythien Galed Isaf  
 Gwythien y Smotiau Isaf  
 Gwythien y Sulphur Du a'r rhai diwedthaf  
 Gwnithfaen isaf

### **Translation**

The Blue Hard, the Clay Slant.  
 The Miner's Band.  
 The Easy Bands.  
 The Lower Band of the Three and its associates.  
 The Band of the Black "Crych," or "Wrinkle."  
 The Sulphur (Pyrites) Band.  
 The Five Bands.  
 The Band between the Five and the White Band.  
 The White Band and its associates.  
 The Second Band from the Big Band.  
 The Big Band.  
 The Big Band and its associates.  
 The Crooked Band.  
 The Second Crooked Band.  
 The Small(narrow) Band with Sulphur (Pyrites).  
 The Top Part of the Hard Bed (The Coarse Thickness).  
 The Hard Band and its associates.  
 The second Hard Band.  
 The Grey Band.  
 The Flat Band.  
 The "Crych" (Wrinkle) Band.  
 Sulphur of the Bottom Hard Band.  
 The Bottom Hard Band.  
 The Band of the Bottom Spots.  
 The Band of the Black Sulphur and the Last Ones.  
 The Bottom hard.

The Second List gives the names of the bands in the "Red (Back) Vein," they are:

### **Band**

Gwnithfaen uchaf  
 Tew Curli  
 Tew Uchaf, sef Gwythiennau bras, a'r Wythien Gortyn  
 yn eit Ganol, a gwythiennau man ar ei waelod

### **Translation**

The Top hard.  
 The Curly Thickness or Bed.  
 The top thickness or Bed containing the Coarse bands, the Rope Band in the middle and the small bands at the bottom.

O Tan y Tew uchaf, mae Gwnithfaen Glas, tew tair Wythien, neu Tew fflacs, a'r Wythien Derfyn ar ei waelod. O tan y tair Wythien mae'r Wythien Wylt, a'r Wythien Gronyng nghanol y Tew Bach sydd o dan Tew y tair Wythien. Yno mae'r Wythien Las:

## Termau'r Chwarel

Under the Top Thickness, or bed (which by the way is many yards thick) there is a Blue Hard, the 3-Bands Thickness or Bed (or Slabs Bed) and the Termination Band at its bottom. Underneath the Three Bands is the Wild Band, and the Round Band in the middle of the Small Thickness or Bed underlying the bed of the Three Bands. There also is the Blue Band. At the bottom of the Top Thickness or Bed are to be found the following bands:

Y Wythien Ffyrnig	The Fierce Band.
Y Dwbl	The Double Band.
Y Saith	The Seven Bands.
Y Bitch	The Bitch Band (a significant term?).
Y Tolc Dwbl	The Double-Dent Band.
Y Gortyn	The Ropey Band.
Y Ddifyr	The Pleasant Band.
Y Fawr isaf	The Bottom Large Band.
Y Tolc Mawr	The Large Dent Band.
Y Las Isaf	The Bottom Blue Band.
Y Datws	The Potato Band.
Tair Wythien Isaf	The Bottom Three Bands.
Pum Wythien a'r Gwythiennau Llwydion	The Five and Grey Bands.
Tew Bach ar y Gwnithfaen Isaf:	the small thickness or Bed and the Bottom hard

It should be understood that the term "Tew" is a difficult one to define. generally it cannot be measured in thickness, though in some instances it does refer to a thickness of four to six feet of rock. It can also refer to a thickness or bed of a definite quality, good or bad. The only definitions in English appear to be the words "thickness" or "bed", with some preference for the latter.