

YOUR LOCKER IS

No.

1206

*W. Jepson.*

# Whitfield Colliery PITHEAD BATHS.

*The Tablet bears the following inscription:—*

## MINERS' WELFARE FUND. WHITFIELD COLLIERY PITHEAD BATHS.

These Baths, erected by the Miners' Welfare Committee in pursuance of the Mining Industry Act, 1926, were handed over to the Trustees on the 29th January, 1938.

## INSPECTION OF THE BATHS.

The Baths will be open on Saturday, 12th February, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. for the purpose of enabling the workmen to locate their lockers, and to become familiar with the run of the building, and on Sunday, 13th February, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. for inspection by the colliery workmen and their friends.

A charge of 1d. per head will be made for local charities.

CW/R/1



**"GLASS BOTTLES  
ARE FORBIDDEN  
IN THE BATHS."**

The Committee view with concern any breach of this Rule and anyone found guilty may be suspended from the use of the baths

Name..... *Jepson Wallis* Locker No. *1206*  
(Surname First)  
Address ..... *17 Broomfield Rd. Norton*  
Mine where employed (or surface)..... *Institute*  
Occupation ..... *Ripper*  
Pay No..... Lamp No. *157E*

*You are requested to kindly complete this card, tear off, and bring it with you the first time of bathing.*

*(Particulars to be written in Ink).*

**WHITFIELD PITHEAD BATHS COMMITTEE.**



## WHITFIELD COLLIERY PITHEAD BATHS.

### Trustees :

HERBERT JOSEPH CROFTS  
ERNEST COPE

WILLIAM POINTON  
ARTHUR POINTON

### Management Committee :

HERBERT JOSEPH CROFTS  
ERNEST COPE  
THOMAS GIBSON  
GEORGE ALBERT PEARSON  
THOMAS HALFPENNY

WILLIAM POINTON  
ARTHUR POINTON  
MOSES POINTON  
ARTHUR BROOKES  
ARTHUR JONES

### THE BUILDING.

The chief points to which the Miners' Welfare Committee have given attention in the design of the building are as follows :—

1. Owing to the large number of workmen there are two storeys. On each of the two floors there are separate rooms which contain lockers for clean clothes and pit clothes, thus ensuring the cleanliness of the former. Similarly the bathers are not liable to come into contact with coal dust after bathing as is the case in earlier installations where the clothes are hung on pulleys in the roof.
2. The bath house adjoins the locker rooms, so that it is directly and easily accessible. When going on shift, however (*i.e.*, from the clean to the pit locker room), it is not necessary to go through the bath house, as there is a communicating door (or corridor) between the two locker rooms.
3. There are 3,168 clean lockers and 3,168 pit lockers, with sufficient accommodation to enable all the men on the largest shift to take their baths without delay. The arrangements for lockers and bathing are the same on each floor.
4. Clothes hung in the lockers are dried by a current of warm air which is continually passing through them.
5. The following are situated for convenience near the exit to the pit :—
  - Lavatories,
  - Boot cleaning room,
  - Boot greasing room.
  - Bottle-filling room.
6. In the clean entrance lobby, there are drinking fountains. The Lobby gives access to a canteen.
7. Adjacent to the clean locker room there is a first-aid room in which scratches, sores and other minor injuries can be dealt with promptly.



# Procedure for Using the Baths.

Directional signs are provided to guide you and to assist in obviating congestion.

## FIRST DAY—GOING TO WORK.

On the day the Baths are opened, **go to work in your pit clothes**, but carry your clean clothes with you in a parcel.

Enter the building at the **clean entrance**. There you will receive, in exchange for your Bather's Registration Slip, a key and a card bearing the number and colour of your two lockers. **Go to the clean clothes locker room** and find the locker bearing the same number and colour as that on the card and key. Hang your clean clothes on the four central hooks in the locker and put your hat or cap on one of the side hooks. Boots may be stored either in the lockers or on the rails under the locker seats.

Overcoats may be hung on the hooks provided on a rail in front of the lockers. If a wet overcoat is put inside the locker to dry, it must be spread with the outside against the back and sides of the locker.

Close and lock your locker, withdrawing the key carefully. Take your key with you to open your pit clothes locker on your return from the pit, and proceed direct to the pit entrance. Here you will find taps for filling your water-can, boot-cleaning and boot-greasing apparatus, and the lavatories.

To grease your boots, all that is required is a quick rub round with the brush. Take care to be as economical as possible with the grease, in order not to carry any of it back again into the building at the end of the shift. **Boots must only be greased immediately before leaving the Baths to go down the pit, and they must not be brushed after greasing.**

## FIRST DAY—RETURNING FROM WORK.

Enter the building at the **pit entrance**. Clean your boots on the boot-cleaning apparatus (revolving brushes driven by electricity) before entering the pit clothes locker room. The white marks on the guard indicate the positions of the brushes.

Proceed to your pit clothes locker which bears the same number and colour as your clean clothes locker. There you will find a soap tray and a free issue of a towel and soap. Take these out, undress and hang your clothes in the locker. Hang your "hard hat" (safety helmet) on one of the side hooks.



In order to gain the full drying effect of the current of heated air which passes upwards through the lockers, **each garment must be hung separately, and distributed on the hooks, and the doors of the locker must be shut.**

**Your clothes will not dry properly if—**

**they are thrown on the bottom of the locker,** or if they are hung up bunched together or with the singlet or vest inside the shirt, or if sheets of paper are left on the bottom of the locker. The current of heated air will thus be prevented from passing freely through the clothes ;

**Your clothes will not dry properly if the locker door is left open.**

The current of heated air will thus pass out through the open door instead of through the clothes.

Boots may be stored in the lockers. A rail is provided at the bottom and near the front of each locker. The boots should be placed toe downwards with the soles towards the front of the locker. If preferred, the boots may be stored on the rails under the locker seats.

### **GOING TO WASH.**

Take your towel, soap-tray and locker key and go to the bath-house through the opening marked with your Baths number. Use a cubicle marked with a coloured brick of the same colour as the number plate on your locker.

**Keep to these directions in order to avoid congestion and to make the best use of the accommodation for all.**

There is a slot on the shower fitting to hold your soap-tray, and there are hooks at the cubicle entrance to hold your towel and locker key.

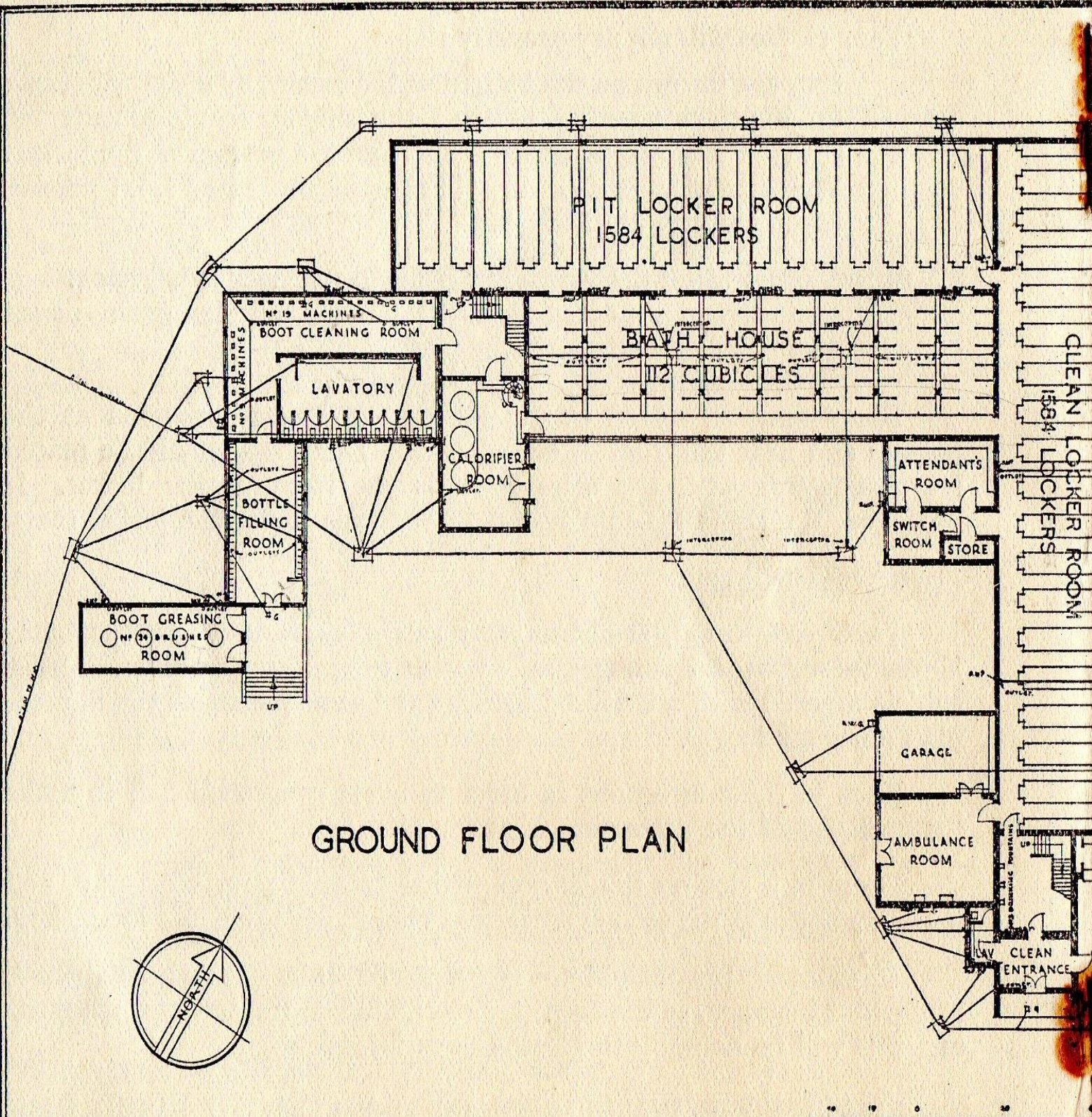
The shower sprays must not be interfered with. They are adjusted, in the first instance, to the correct spread. When they require readjusting, this will be done by the Baths Superintendent.

### **FINISH YOUR WASH WITH COLD WATER TO AVOID RISK OF CATCHING COLD.**

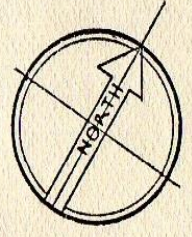
Be careful not to leave any scraps of soap on the floors, particularly under the showers, as accidents may be caused by bathers slipping on them.

The attendant will supply towels and soap at prices fixed by the Management Committee and posted up in the Baths.





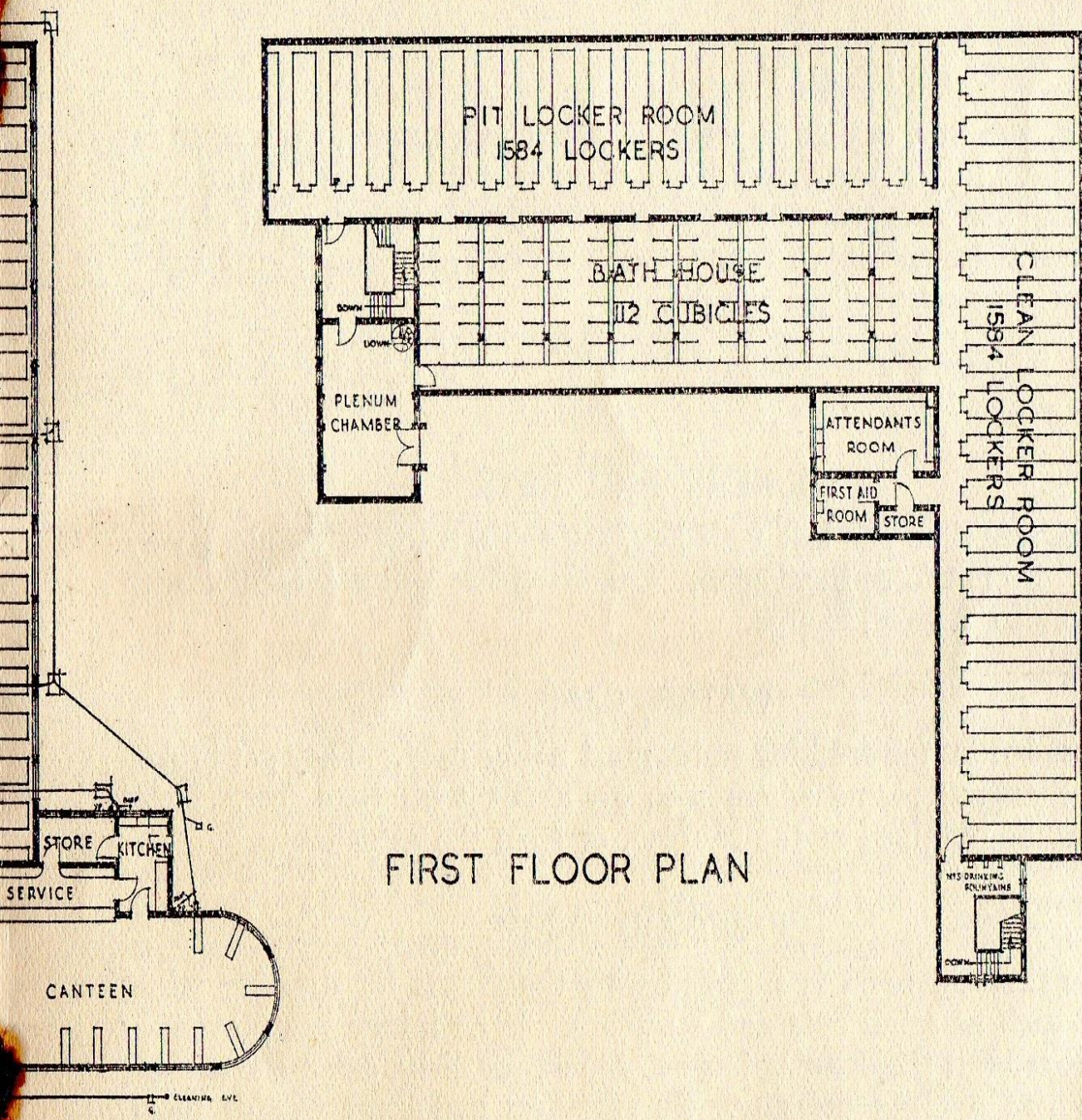
GROUND FLOOR PLAN



SCALE 10 15 0 20

WHITFIELD COLLIE





FIRST FLOOR PLAN

RY PITHEAD BATHS



## **After Washing.**

After washing, take your towel, soap and soap-tray and go through the nearest opening to your clean clothes locker. When dressed, leave your soap, soap-tray and wet towel in your clean locker where they will dry ready for your next shift.

In the lobby where you leave the building, drinking fountains are provided.

## **AFTER THE FIRST DAY.**

After the first day **go to work in your clean clothes**, take them off in the clean locker room and hang them in your locker. Take your towel, soap and soap-tray and go to your pit clothes locker. Put on your pit clothes there and leave your towel, soap and soap-tray in the locker ready for your return from the pit.

The procedure **after** your return from work is then the same as on the first day.

## **LOCKERS AND KEYS.**

If at any time you lose your key, ask the attendant to unlock your lockers. **Do not force them open.** The attendant will provide you with a new key for a small charge.

## **WATER CANS.**

**Glass bottles for drinking water must not be used.** They get broken in the changing rooms where men go about with bare feet. Metal cans may be obtained at the canteen, or from the attendant.

## **FIRST-AID ROOM.**

The first-aid room is supplied with the means for dressing minor injuries such as small cuts and scratches. If an injury has previously been treated but the dressing has become wet or dirty, ask the attendant to give you a clean dressing. **Be sure you make use of this room**, which is for your benefit, and which may save you much pain and suffering. **Serious injuries will, as in the past, be dealt with at the Colliery Company's first-aid and ambulance room.**

## **CANTEEN.**

A canteen is provided near the clean entrance for the sale of non-alcoholic drinks, light refreshments, cigarettes, etc.

Bye-laws for the use of the canteen will be posted up inside it.



## KEEPING THE BATHS CLEAN.

In the interests of the bathers it is essential that the building should be kept spotlessly clean. A great deal of thought has been devoted to arranging the building so as to facilitate cleaning by the attendants, but those using the Baths are urged to assist by leaving the dirt outside the building as far as possible. For example, on wet days use the mats provided at the clean entrance. Again, if the boot-cleaning apparatus is used by everyone coming into the Baths from the pit, boot dirt will be confined to the entrance lobby, whence it can easily be swept away.

The attendants do not clean inside the lockers. Each bather must keep his own lockers clean. Do not throw paper, old boots or litter about. Please help to lessen the attendants' work by using the wire baskets provided.

## DISINFECTION AND FUMIGATION.

The Baths will be disinfected and fumigated regularly.

## SANDALS.

It has been suggested that bathers may desire to wear sandals in the Baths instead of walking with bare feet. Arrangements will be made to supply sandals at a small cost if the demand warrants it, but you can make wooden sandals yourself without difficulty. Shape two pieces of wood roughly to the sole of the foot, and nail a piece of webbing or strap across the top, under which the front part of the foot can be passed.

## SMOKING.

**Smoking is absolutely prohibited inside the building except in the canteen.** This rule will be rigidly enforced, and the Management Committee will deal severely with anyone who breaks it.

## PAY-DAY.

If you take your pay into the Baths, you must take it with you when you go to the showers to wash. Remember that bathers are not allowed to go to the clean clothes locker room in their pit clothes, or to return to the pit clothes locker room after bathing.

## LOST PROPERTY.

Application should be made at the attendants' room for any article that has been lost in the Baths. Anything found should be handed in at the attendants' room.

## NOTICE BOARDS.

Notices affecting the users of the Baths will be posted up on the notice boards at each entrance.



## SUGGESTION BOX.

The Management Committee will be glad to receive sensible suggestions and will endeavour to deal with them in a satisfactory manner, **but only if they are signed.** All suggestions should be placed in the box provided for the purpose.

### THE BATHS' ATTENDANTS.

One of the attendants will be in charge of the Baths and will be responsible to the Management Committee for enforcing the bye-laws made by the Committee.

The senior attendants on duty will have power to exclude from the building any person refusing to comply with the bye-laws or any direction given by the attendant in pursuance of the bye-laws.

### THE ORIGIN OF THE BATHS.

The Baths have been built by the Central Miners' Welfare Committee out of the Miners' Welfare Fund, which is made up of a levy of  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. a ton of coal produced and payable by the owners of every coal mine (this is the output welfare levy instituted at 1d. a ton in 1921 and reduced to  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. a ton in 1934), and a levy of 1/- in the £1 on coal mining royalties (this is the royalties welfare levy instituted in 1926). The part of the Fund which is required by law to be devoted solely to the provision of pithead baths is composed of the whole of the royalties levy together with a part of the output levy sufficient to make up £375,000 a year.

The site of the building has been provided by the owners of the Colliery.

### THE BATHS TRUST.

The Baths have been constituted as a trust, of which the property includes the Baths site together with the buildings on it and any moneys and investments or other property paid to or vested in the trustees.

The Trust Deed contains rules for the management of the Baths.

Four trustees have been appointed, two by the owners of the colliery and two by the workmen employed at the Colliery. The trustees hold the trust property for the purpose of pithead baths. They are responsible for—

- (1) paying the rent (if any) of the site ;
- (2) insuring the Baths, including provision for the payment of compensation in the event of a workman being injured on the trust premises ;



- (3) keeping proper accounts of all income and expenditure. A balance sheet will be made out annually and posted up in the Baths.

### THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

The Baths are managed and controlled by a Committee of ten members, namely, the trustees (members ex-officio), and six other members, three appointed by the owners of the Colliery and three by the workmen. The six other members hold office for one year. A meeting of the workmen will be held annually to re-appoint their representatives or to appoint others in their place.

Meetings of the Management Committee will be held at least once in every quarter of the year.

The Management Committee are responsible for the maintenance of the building and fittings in good condition and repair, and for keeping them clean and fit for use.

The Management Committee have the power :—

- (1) To appoint a Secretary and a suitable number of attendants for the Baths and to fix their remuneration.
- (2) To make bye-laws as to the following matters :—
  - (a) The payment of subscriptions by persons using the Baths.
  - (b) The cleaning of the Baths.
  - (c) The maintenance of discipline and orderly behaviour by and among persons using the Baths ; the order in which the men are to take their baths ; the times for bathing ; prevention of any nuisance by persons using the Baths ; and the prohibition of any person from using the Baths who fails to comply with the bye-laws or with any directions given by the attendant in charge of the building in pursuance of such bye-laws or who is suffering from an infectious or contagious disease or for other sufficient reason.
- (3) To close the Baths for carrying out repairs, alterations, etc., or for any other reason.



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