

In these districts there is a large population which is chiefly supported by the quarrying and manufacture of slates. The Penrhyn slate quarry, near Bangor, presents a wonderful spectacle of industry. It is about half a mile in length, and a quarter of a mile wide, and forms a vast amphitheatre, which is worked all round, on one side in thirteen high and broad terraces, like the steps of a Titanic stair. The periodical blastings sound like the firing of parks of artillery. Vast mounds of rubbish, the waste of the quarry, cover the hills on either side. More than 3,000 men are there employed in the making of slates, which are exported to all parts of the world. The quarries at Llanberis employ nearly an equal number of men; and the rubbish there shot down the high slopes into Llyn Peris was lately rapidly destroying the beauty of one of the most romantic lakes in Wales, and unless the waste be disposed of on the hill-sides, it threatens in the long run to fill Llyn Peris from end to end. The same ruthless disposal of waste material has of late years been exercised on the south-western side of Llyn Padarn, in long banks of ugly shingle, that encroach on the water of the lake and spoil the natural curving symmetry of its shore. Areas occupied by water are often considered to be places specially designed for the accommodation of rubbish, and if the quarries on the Dolbarn side of the lake were successful and largely worked, in time it might be quite possible to fill the whole of that beautiful sheet of water with an unsightly *débris* of slate.

In Merionethshire, near Ffestiniog, some slate quarries are worked in caverns and some in open day. The number of men and boys employed in the Ffesti-