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Welsh Revival

Hannah Whitall Smith

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1983

## **Box 11\_39 (Welsh Revival, 1904–1909)**

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## *Mr. Evan Roberts.*

**F**OR the sake of the many friends interested in the welfare of Mr. Evan Roberts, it seems desirable that some statement should be made concerning his long retirement, during which he has been my guest in Leicester. And this statement is made by the special request of Mr. Evan Roberts himself.

When Mr. Roberts first came he was utterly unfit for work, and there was imperative need for complete rest from anything that would tax his nervous system.

In the autumn, as the least demand of ordinary life showed that he had not yet regained enduring power, by his own desire an experienced medical man was consulted, who, under the guidance of God, has done much to promote his restoration. The seal of the Lord's approval was quickly given to this step, for immediately there set in a steady improvement in general health, which has, with occasional variations, been maintained up to the present time. But only now has it become clear how long a period will be necessary for his entire restoration, and only now is it fully realized how serious a condition he was in when he came to us, and how fine a line then lay between him and paralysis. We have asked the doctor—a physician of repute—kindly to write his opinion in a simple and general form. This is as follows:—

When I saw Mr. Evan Roberts in September of last year, I found him suffering severely from overstrain, which had also been aggravated by the shock of an accident in Liverpool. When he came to Great Glen in the early part of 1906, I should say he was on the verge of paralysis, and that the quiet and rest saved his life. The kidneys had become affected at this time as a reflex condition of the previous state. But this has now yielded to treatment. I do not think now that there is any sign of organic disease, and no functional degeneration, but that if he is to return to the Master's work he must still have great care, bright surroundings, and freedom from all strain, probably for some months yet. I have every confidence that if he can have prolonged rest there is every prospect of his returning to the Master's service, better and more prepared for the work by the cloud being lifted which has hid him so long from those who have watched and waited for his return.

(Signed) GEORGE CLIFTON,

J.P., L.R.C.P., (Ed.), L.M.

*Leicester, March 4, 1907.*

This, then, is the cause of Mr. Evan Roberts' continued retirement from active service. In God's good pleasure, re-established health means prolonged and permanent service; but he is clearly warned that, to go forth as he is, partially restored, means a quick breakdown beyond hope of recovery. Mr. Roberts himself realizes to the full the condition out of which the Lord has mercifully brought him, and speaks of himself again and again as one brought back from the grave. He is assured that it is the will of God that he should accept the advice of the physician in whom he has every confidence, and not attempt active service until his health is permanently regained.

WM. PENN-LEWIS.

*Leicester, March 18, 1907.*