

119 No. 9

Llandeilo

Holy Well

968

The holy well of St. Teilo runs into a pond near Mr. Melchior's house. It had formerly a considerable reputation for the cure of pulmonary complaints. A certain Glamorganshire man is reported to have brought his invalid son here in a post chaise about 60 years ago. No good effects having been produced by the visit, the visitor made enquiries and then discovered that the invalid ought to have drunk the water from a human skull which is preserved for that purpose; so he paid a second visit, his son drank the water from the skull, and was cured. This is the last known miracle here. The story told concerning the skull is that when St. Teilo was dying (566) he bade a female servant take his skull to Llandeilo in Pembs. The skull is imperfect, only the cap remaining. It is evidently a very old piece of bone, the colour of ancient ivory, and highly polished from wear. The open sutures prove it must have been the head of a young person, and as St. Teilo died in extreme old age, the skull cannot have been his. A part of one superciliary ridge remains, and this is of such slight elevation that it seems almost certain that it is a female head. There appears no reason to doubt that the skull is a pre-Reformation relic.

OWNERSHIP AND TENANCY DETAILS