

### 3.5. South Wales Miners' Federation, Silicosis Cases, January 1929 to February 1932.

Note: The bureaucratic and legal requirements of the Workmen's Compensation legislation meant that employers and trade unions maintained careful and detailed compensations records relating to individual cases and to the overall compensation situation. The 'No. of cases' refers to the Federation's calculation as to the number of cases during the year whereas the numbers of 'Compensation paid' cases are those where employers agreed, or were compelled by the courts, to pay compensation. The understanding of miners' chest disease, and its status within the system of Workmen's Compensation, developed during the 1920s and 1930s, so that silicosis in some industries was added to the list of compensatable diseases in 1918, was extended to some coalminers by a measure of 1928, and was further extended to all underground workers in 1934. Such changes are also complicated by the emphasis placed within this compensation system up to the late 1930s on the geological character of the rock in which miners worked (i.e. the silica content) to prove eligibility for compensation rather than any clinical symptoms exhibited by the worker concerned.

District	No. of cases			Total	Compensation paid			Totals	Expenses		
	Fatal	Wholly incapacitated	Partially incapacitated		Fatal	Wholly incapacitated	Partially incapacitated		£.	s.	d.
Anthracite	17	36	5	58	1	3		4	710	15	0
Afan Valley	5	8	1	14		1	1	2	115	0	0
Dowlais											
Eastern V.	3	1		4					47	12	0
Garw	3	6		9	1	1		2	55	0	0
Maesteg	2	4	2	8	1	4		5	54	4	0
Merthyr		1		1							
Mon. Western V.		2		2		2		2	9	0	0
Pontypridd		1		1							
Rhondda	6	3		9	5	2		7	68	18	0
Tredegar	5	15	9	29	5	15	4	24	75	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>1,135</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>

Source: South Wales Coalfield Collection, Swansea University, SWCC/MNA/NUM/3/8/17(g), SWMF / NUM (South Wales) Area No.2 [Neath and Afan valleys], Correspondence and papers re. silicosis, 1924-1949.