

any man convicted of the offence. Such forms of sport as rabbit coursing attract some miners, whilst gardening is a favourite occupation with others. Many who can obtain allotments become excellent gardeners, raising vegetables and flowers which go to local shows. Others form brass bands in the villages where they reside, and cricket and football are very popular. Education is not neglected, and there are instances of pit-boys working for public examinations and taking University degrees. On the other hand, there is too much gambling among both men and women. A large portion of their wages is wasted over horse-racing and football matches. Many miners' wives regularly bet their sixpences and shillings on all the chief races. There is, however, less drunkenness than in some other parts of England. Many take their families for trips to the seaside. Probably 25 per cent. attend some place of worship, and most of these are Dissenters.

Much has been done by the colliery owners to provide clubs and institutes, frequently managed by committees of the men themselves. These afford comfortable quarters where they can play billiards, read the papers, acquire intellectual improvement, and obtain good and cheap refreshment, and where meetings of their benefit and of their trade union lodges can be held without those present being obliged to drink for the good of some public-house. Co-operative societies interest the miners, and their savings are freely deposited with these institutions, which pay them interest as well as quarterly dividends on the amount of their purchases. As most of the collieries are situated in country places, the men have every chance of living a healthy and well-ordered life, under the best conditions as to housing, wages and regular employment. This all tells in favour of the colliery owner, who can, as a rule, depend on his men, and is able to trade without fear of capricious local strikes.