No. 21.

ANAESTHETIC SERVICES IN DUBLIN MATERNITY HOSPITALS.

The Hospitals Commission has received two applications requesting its concurrence in the appointment of anaesthetists at the Rotunda and the Coombe Hospitals respectively. Copies of the applications are attached herewith. Whilst the Minister has no power under the Act over the appointment, dismissal or control of the staff of any hospital, the Commission considers that, in the interests of greater efficiency in respect of anaesthetic services in maternity hospitals, the attention of the authorities of these hospitals ought to be drawn to the existing defects in such services and the desirability of their approaching the question from a different angle. The following criticisms of existing anaesthetic services, and a suggested solution, are therefore submitted and it is suggested that the authorities of the three Dublin maternity hospitals might be asked to give the matter their attention, with a view to seeing if the existing services might be improved.

It ought not to be necessary to point out that for the welfare of patients there should be a qualified anaesthetist on the staff of all hospitals where surgical procedures are a feature of their activities. The very specialised training which the anaesthetist now requires, his anxieties and his responsibilities before, during and after operation, are in no wise less than those of the surgeon himself. There is hardly any department of medicine in which bigger advances have been made in the past 15 years than in the subject of anaesthetics. In fact the whole outlook has been quite revolutionised.

In Dublin this change has been followed only in a halting way. In general the anaesthetist has been appointed to the hospital staff at a mere pittance. The tacit understanding on which he accepts the post is that the private work of the surgeons whom he serves passes into his hands. In the case of larger hospitals the amount of this private work is considerable and the anaesthetist is enabled to specialise in his art. In most of the smaller hospitals, however—and this applies to most of the hospitals in this country—this requital is rarely available. The anaesthetist spends on an average from 15 to 20 hours weekly in the operating theatre, for which he is paid a salary of from £50 to £100 per annum and gets no substantial addition to his income through his hospital connection. Either the surgeon or gynaecologist has little or no private work or he is forced to give his anaesthetics to doctors in general practice as an inducement for their further patronage. As a result the anaesthetist is grossly overworked by having to make his living by other means, and has no inducement to perfect himself in anaesthetics or to acquire special skill in this field.

In England for some years this position has been recognised. The anaesthetists there have organised themselves and have put forward proposals which have been accepted by the British Medical Association. They have taken into account the fact that the work is one for young men, that their time is entirely at the mercy of the surgeon who operates at an hour to suit his own convenience and that the conditions of employment are such as to exclude first-rate men from taking up the work as a speciality. They have set down the following scale of salary for hospital anaesthetists:—

£120	per	annum	for	a maximum	of two	hours	work	per week.
£200	,,	,,	,,	,,	four	,,	,,	,,
£300	,,	,,	,,	,,	six	,,	,,	,,
£500	,,	,,	,,	,,	over six	,,	,,	,,

The application of such a scheme here could not be recommended from an economic point of view, but it is felt that it is possible to so arrange anaesthetic services in certain hospitals that the anaesthetists would be fairly adequately remunerated without adding appreciably to the cost. The Dublin maternity hospitals form a group which lend themselves to special treatment in this respect.

The authorities of the Rotunda and Coombe Hospitals propose to appoint anaesthetists at a remuneration of £100 per annum. The services of these anaesthetists

are required for only a few hours each week in each hospital. In the National Maternity Hospital there is no qualified anaesthetist. If instead of each of these hospitals having one anaesthetist there were two qualified anaesthetists for the three hospitals it would be possible to secure more efficient anaesthetic services with slightly increased cost. More attractive salaries could be paid, and in case of illness or vacation, the hospital would never be without the services of at least one skilled anaesthetist.

While the requirements of gynaecological surgery do not differ in any way from those of general surgery, there is a wide and unexplored field open in Dublin to anaesthetists attached to maternity hospitals in the matter of special anaesthesia for patients in labour. As the reputation of Dublin medicine is so intimately bound up with midwifery it might be expected that the resources of these hospitals would be at the command of workers interested in alleviating the pains of labour. There does not, however, appear to be any particular interest taken in this subject in these hospitals. In the Commission's opinion these hospitals should have on their staffs anaesthetists who are willing and competent to undertake research and experimentation into this type of work. The best method by which this result could be achieved in the case of the Dublin maternity hospitals would be by the appointment of two fully qualified anaesthetists for the three hospitals.

(Signed) A. F. COONEY,
Rúnaidhe.

Meitheamh 10, 1938.

No. 22.

CITY OF DUBLIN SKIN AND CANCER HOSPITAL, DUBLIN.

The Hospitals Commission has considered the application of the City of Dublin Skin and Cancer Hospital for a grant from the Hospitals Trust Fund towards the cost of a Contact Therapy X-ray apparatus. The Commission is of opinion that the application should be granted and recommends accordingly. The cost of the apparatus is £460 complete.

Recommendation.

That a grant of £460 be made to the authorities of the City of Dublin Skin and Cancer Hospital, Hume Street, Dublin, to enable a Contact Therapy apparatus to be provided.

(Signed) A. F. COONEY,
Rúnaidhe.

Meitheamh 11, 1938.

No. 23.

PUBLIC HEALTH CLINIC, ENNIS, CO. CLARE.

The application in question was referred to the Hospitals Commission in the Minister's communication of the 19th May, 1938. The purpose for which a grant is requested is the provision of a Public Health Clinic in the town of Ennis. The proposed clinic is designed as an extension of the existing tuberculosis dispensary, and will serve as a central Public Health Clinic and provide efficient facilities for dealing with children referred under School Medical Service schemes. Accommodation for the County Medical Officer of Health is also provided for in the design for the clinic.

The Commission considers that the request for a grant towards the realisation of the proposed central clinic should be acceded to.

RECOMMENDATION.

That a grant not exceeding £2,500 be made from the Hospitals Trust Fund to the Clare Board of Health and Public Assistance towards the cost of providing central public health clinic facilities in Ennis, Co. Clare.

(Signed) A. F. COONEY,
Rúnaidhe.

Meitheamh 11, 1938.

No. 24.

DISTRICT HOSPITAL, KINSALE, CO. CORK.

The application in question was referred to the Commission with the Minister's letter of the 10th May, 1938. The works towards which a grant is requested consist of internal improvements in the Kinsale District Hospital, to the maternity department, and the provision of a surgery and pharmacy. The proposed improvements are estimated to cost £306 11s., exclusive of professional fees.

The Commission recommends that the proposed improvements be carried out.

RECOMMENDATION.

That the Minister make a grant from the Hospitals Trust Fund to the South Cork Board of Public Assistance towards the cost of the proposed improvements at Kinsale District Hospital, the amount of the grant to be two-thirds of the cost as approved by the Minister.

(Signed) A. F. COONEY,
Rúnaidhe.

Meitheamh 16, 1938.

No. 25.

DR. STEEVENS' HOSPITAL, DUBLIN.

The Hospitals Commission has considered the correspondence referred to in the Minister's letter of the 31st May, 1938, in connection with the equipment and fees required for the extension to the venereal disease ward at Dr. Steevens' Hospital, and recommends that the following items be sanctioned :

	£	s.	d.
22 bedside lockers at £3	66	0	0
22 beds at £5 11s. 9d.	122	18	6
Ward table	9	0	0
Dressing trolley	10	0	0
Bedding for 7 beds	82	17	10
24 chairs at £1 each	24	0	0
4 bed screens at £3 10s.	14	0	0
2 bed tables at £2	4	0	0
1 sterilizer table	2	15	0
Delph and cutlery	2	16	0
	338	7	4
Prof. fees and printing as set out in Minister's letter of 1st March, 1937	82	7	9
TOTAL	£420	15	1

Adding the above total to the amount of the lowest building tender of £980 the total grant required to cover the cost of building, equipment and fees is £1,400

15s. 1d. Taking into consideration the grant of £945 already recommended by the Commission towards the cost of the project, an additional grant of £455 15s. 1d. is required to complete it and the Commission recommends that this additional grant be made.

RECOMMENDATION.

That an additional grant of £455 15s. 1d. be made to the Authorities of Dr. Steevens' Hospital towards the cost of completing and equipping the venereal disease ward improvement scheme dealt with in the Commission's report of May 27, 1938.

(Signed) A. F. COONEY,
Rúnaidhe.

Meitheamh 17, 1938.

No. 26.

COUNTY HOSPITAL, CAVAN.

The Hospitals Commission has considered the application by the Cavan County Board of Health and Public Assistance for a grant from the Hospitals Trust Fund towards the cost of an X-ray apparatus for the County Hospital, which was referred to it by the Minister on the 2nd instant.

The Commission recommends that a grant from the Hospitals Trust Fund, equivalent to two thirds of the cost of an X-ray apparatus approved by the Minister, be made to the Cavan County Board of Health and Public Assistance.

(Signed) A. F. COONEY,
Rúnaidhe.

Meitheamh 30, 1938.

No. 27.

COUNTY HOSPITAL, NAAS, CO. KILDARE.

The Hospitals Commission has considered the application of the Kildare Board of Health and Public Assistance for a grant from the Hospitals Trust Fund towards the cost of repairs and improvements to the County Hospital, Naas, which was referred to it by the Minister on the 31st May, 1938.

From extracts out of the Department's Medical Inspector's report, it appears to the Commission that the proposed works are mainly in the nature of repairs and replacements and ought to be regarded as a maintenance charge on the Hospital.

It is accordingly recommended that the application be refused.

(Signed) A. F. COONEY,
Rúnaidhe.

Meitheamh 30, 1938.

No. 28.

DISTRICT MENTAL HOSPITAL, CORK.

This application was referred to the Commission for investigation and report in the Minister's communication of the 20th June, 1938. The works, towards the cost of which a grant is sought, comprise the erection of two temporary structures, each capable of accommodating 100 to 120 patients. The estimated cost of the works is stated to be £5,000.

In the statement of claim the Committee of Management point out that the number of patients at present in the Cork Mental Hospital is considerably in excess of that for which the institution was designed and that therefore there is serious overcrowding. There are at the moment 2,080 inmates in the hospital although the estimated accommodation is for 1,447, and it has therefore become necessary to provide bedding accommodation on the floors of the dormitories. The Minister's Inspector of Mental Hospitals has commented on this overcrowding and the Board of Management feel that, owing to the time which must elapse before the permanent extension scheme at the Youghal Auxiliary Hospital can be completed and available for the reception of patients, adequate temporary provision must be made for the excess population in the Cork Mental Hospital.

In view of the urgency of the situation outlined above, the Commission recommends that a grant of £2,500 be made towards the cost of erecting the proposed temporary accommodation.

Recommendation.

That a grant of £2,500 be made from the Hospitals Trust Fund to the Joint Committee of Management of the Cork Mental Hospital towards the cost of erection of temporary accommodation to relieve the present overcrowding in that hospital.

(Signed) A. F. COONEY,
Rúnaidhe.

Iúl 1, 1938.

Note.—See also Recommendation No. 39, dated D. Foghmhair 4, 1938.

No. 29.

DISTRICT MENTAL HOSPITAL, LIMERICK.

The Hospitals Commission has considered the application by the Resident Medical Superintendent, Limerick Mental Hospital, for a grant from the Hospitals Trust Fund towards the cost of re-surfacing the roads and walks in the institution, which was referred to it by the Minister on May 27th, 1938.

The Commission desires to direct the Minister's attention to its recommendation, dated 27 D. Foghmhair, 1937, in relation to a previous application for a grant for additional extensions to the Limerick Mental Hospital, wherein it is stated :—" That in view of the large contribution already made from Sweepstake funds by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to the improvement of Limerick Mental Hospital, and of the unsatisfied claims on the resources of the Hospitals Trust Fund, the Minister refuse the claim of the Limerick Mental Hospital Committee for a grant from the Fund towards the cost of its additional improvement scheme." The Commission considers that, in view of its previous recommendation in respect of grants to this hospital, a grant towards the works now proposed ought not to be made.

RECOMMENDATION.

That the application by the Resident Medical Superintendent of the Limerick Mental Hospital for a grant from the Hospitals Trust Fund towards the cost of re-surfacing the roads and walks in the Limerick Mental Hospital be refused.

(Signed) A. F. COONEY,
Rúnaidhe.

Iúl 1, 1938.

No. 30.

ROTUNDA HOSPITAL, DUBLIN.

The matter of an additional grant from the Hospitals Trust Fund to finance the improvement scheme at the Rotunda Hospital was referred to the Commission in the Minister's communication of the 15th May, 1937. The particulars accompanying the claim took the form of "a list of further requirements needed to complete the improvements and repairs at this hospital" and the amount involved was stated to be £39,626. In the course of its examination of the claim the Commission deemed it necessary to call for a statement of the financial position of the improvement programme already sanctioned by the Minister for the hospital, and for which he had allocated a grant of £107,474 following on the Commission's report of Lughnasa 30, 1935. It is obvious, from the delay which has taken place in submitting a satisfactory statement, that control over the expenditure and commitments on the Rotunda Hospital improvement programme has been most unbusinesslike. No attempt seems to have been made by the Board to examine commitments in relation to the financial limits imposed by the grant promised by the Minister and, until the Commission called for an audited statement, nobody in the hospital can have had even an approximate idea of what the actual position was in that regard.

Position in regard to original programme.

(*a*) *Building works completed.*—The works completed come under two main headings namely (1) items provided for in original programme as set out in Schedule attached to Commission's Report of Lughnasa 30, 1935, and (2) items not provided for in that Schedule, but which have been carried out. Details of the expenditure under these headings are given on attached Schedule A, which shows that the hospital incurred a net increased expenditure of £15,694 6s. on items for which the total allowance was £35,507 3s. 11d., and in addition completed works not provided for at an outlay of £6,990 1s.

(*b*) *Works in progress.*—The position as regards works commenced but not completed is shown on Schedule B attached. Under this heading the items are given again classified as above. On works for which the original allowance was £47,833 commitments have been undertaken involving a net increase of £4,652 16s. 8d., and works not originally contemplated have been carried out at an expenditure of £4,862 11s. 9d.

(*c*) *Furniture and Equipment.*—In regard to furniture and equipment the position as set out in Schedule C shows that for completed purchases there has been an increase of £188 6s. 2d. on the original programme, and for items partially purchased an increase of £1,491 10s.

(*d*) *Professional Fees.*—The amount provided for professional fees in the original programme was £8,507 6s. 9d., while the final anticipated cost is now set down as £12,805 7s. 5d., an increase of £4,298 0s. 8d. over the amount originally stipulated. The amount of the fees due on the building works, etc., completed and in progress, is £8,738 8s. 9d. and, on representations having been made to the Architect regarding the amount claimed in respect of fees on furniture, a reduction has been obtained of £327 19s. on the total amount claimed, namely £12,805 7s. 5d.

Summary of Actual Expenditure and Commitments.

Summarising the position in the light of the information at the disposal of the Commission, it would appear that the expenditure on completed items and items in progress at the Rotunda Hospital to date is :—

	£	s.	d.
Building works completed	58,191	10	11
Building works partially completed	57,348	8	5
Furniture and equipment completed	3,243	6	2
Furniture and equipment partially completed ...	3,267	10	0
	£122,050	15	6
Professional fees	8,738	8	9
	£130,789	4	3

Against this total may be set the total expenditure allowed for in the Commission's Report of Lughnasa 30, 1935, namely £121,938 10s. 8d. The excess expenditure in the programme to date is, therefore, £8,850 13s. 7d. The Commission is aware that in the course of the works to date the Minister has approved variations in the original programme to the extent of £25,570 16s. 7d., but it is not clear that his approval was obtained to the excess expenditure noted above.

Works not started.

Schedules D. & E. attached give details of the building and equipment items with which the Rotunda authorities wish to proceed, and for which they request further assistance from the Hospitals Trust Fund. This programme consists mainly of items in the original programme which have been deferred while the authorities were proceeding with what they considered more urgent requirements. The outlay contemplated by the hospital authorities under this heading is £49,230 15s. 4d. on building works and £8,697 3s. 8d. on equipment and furniture which, with the balance claimed for professional fees (£4,066 18s. 8d.), make a total of £61,994 17s. 8d. The main building item is the students' quarters for which the original grant allowed the cost estimated by the hospital Board, namely £15,500. The estimate for this has now increased to £29,922. On the furniture and equipment side the main claim is for a sum of £6,830 3s. 8d. for items of medical equipment which the Master deems essential. This sum is a substantial increase on the amount claimed by the hospital when putting forward its original programme, and is but another indication of the lack of consideration given by the hospital Board in preparing its original claim.

Finance.

According to the audited statement supplied, the amount of the additional grant required by the hospital to liquidate existing commitments and to complete the programme on the lines contemplated by the Board, amounts to £70,845 11s. 3d. It appears to the Commission that the amount required to cover definite commitments alone is £8,850 13s. 7d., and this amount therefore represents the minimum additional grant which might be made to stabilise the position. With regard to the balance—namely the amount of £61,994 17s. 8d. stated by the hospital as being required for further additional works and equipment, and reduced to £61,666 18s. 8d. by the decrease in fees already referred to—certain items under this heading are not of urgency from the point of view of the efficiency of the hospital, while others are such that they might be proceeded with as part of the present programme.

In the Commission's opinion expenditure on the following items would be

justifiable. The amount opposite each item represents the expenditure which should be anticipated.

LIST OF ADDITIONAL IMPROVEMENTS RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMISSION TO COMPLETE THE ROTUNDA HOSPITAL SCHEME.

Building Works:

Ref. No.		£	s.	d.
25	Lecture Room	440	2	9
27	Pathological Laboratory	501	15	3
35	Master's House, additional repairs	237	11	3
36	Rebuilding back area walls	400	0	0
50	Stone work—Gate Theatre	900	0	0
51	Stone work—Round Room	1,200	0	0
52	Railings and base	2,500	0	0
53, 54	Students' Quarters	27,000	0	0
55	Painting throughout	2,000	0	0
56	Ante-natal and Babies' Ward	573	16	1
58	Assistant Master's Room	100	0	0
60	New Staircase	328	0	0
61	Laying-out Grounds	600	0	0
63	T.P.C. Wing Repairs	532	10	0
68	Wing—Granite Facings	400	0	0
69	Contingencies	500	0	0
		38,213	15	4
	Professional Fees 7½%	2,866	0	8
		£41,079	16	0

Furniture and Equipment:

		£	s.	d.			
71	Master's List	5,000	0	0			
81	Clothes Lockers	367	0	0			
82	Students' Quarters	500	0	0			
		£5,867	0	0			
	Professional Fees:						
	2½% on items 81/2	21	13	6	5,888	13	6
					£46,968	9	6

To cover this programme the Commission recommends a grant of £46,968 9s. 6d. To this must be added the sum of £8,850 13s. 7d. referred to on page 195 as being the amount required to defray the cost of existing definite commitments over a grant already recommended, making a total of £55,819. In making this recommendation the Minister is strongly advised to insist that no expenditure in excess of this amount will be recognised as a future claim on the Hospitals Trust Fund. If this is not done the Commission fears that a similar position may arise as in the case of the original programme, and the Minister will be presented with further claims for expenditure incurred in excess of that reasonably provided for. Were such a practice by hospitals to be permitted to grow, it would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to estimate at any time the commitments on the Hospitals Trust Fund, and in such circumstances a fair apportionment of the Fund in support of the legitimate claims of the hospitals would be impossible.

Final Summary.

If the Minister accepts the recommendations in this report, the Rotunda Hospital will have been granted from the Hospitals Trust Fund, for capital improvements, the amount of £163,293.

RECOMMENDATION.

1. That the Minister make a grant of £55,819 from the Hospitals Trust Fund to the authorities of the Rotunda Hospital to complete the improvement scheme at that hospital.
2. That this grant be subject to the conditions attached to the original grant of £107,474.
3. That suitable measures be taken to insure that the amount of £46,968 provided for additional improvements to complete the Rotunda scheme shall not be exceeded.

(Signed) M. W. DORAN, *Chairman.*
S. Ó CEALLAIGH.
L. O'DOHERTY.
E. KELLY.
M. KILROY.

A. F. COONEY,
Rúnaidhe.

Iúl 20, 1938.

No. 31.

COTTAGE HOSPITAL, DROGHEDA, CO. LOUTH.

Proposals for improvements to this hospital were referred by the Minister to the Commission in his communication of the 13th May, 1937. In a statement submitted by the Secretary of the hospital it was stated that the existing accommodation of 22 beds is insufficient to meet patient demands, and that at times 28 patients have had to be taken in without exhausting the waiting list. It was also stated that, though the general maternity ward contained only three beds, the hospital has often had as many as twelve maternity cases in residence and accommodation for the excess number had to be found in another ward. The annual number of maternity cases dealt with has risen from 87 in 1934 to 121 in 1936 and 100 in 1937. The statement of claim also referred to the anticipated demands on the hospital from the newly established industries in Drogheda.

From its examination of the institution the Commission is of opinion that certain improvements are necessary, if the hospital is to continue and to carry out its work with any degree of efficiency. Under such circumstances the provision of adequate labour ward facilities would be essential, and of additional maternity beds desirable. Improved accommodation for the staff would also be necessary, as also a slight increase in the male bed accommodation. Sketch plans illustrating these improvements were submitted by the hospital, providing for a two-storey western extension incorporating the male ward on the ground floor and staff accommodation over. A single-storey extension on the eastern end was also shown to provide additional maternity beds and a labour ward. Owing to the proximity of the eastern site boundary the plan of the latter extension was found to be awkward in layout and deficient in lighting, and it was considered that a more efficient layout of this section could be arrived at if the site could be extended towards the east. After investigation by the hospital management the Commission is advised that additional ground, increasing the hospital frontage to the east by about 90 ft. and with a depth of about 150 ft., could be acquired

at an approximate cost of £200. The acquisition of this additional ground would permit the more efficient planning of the eastern extension shown on sketch plan No. 739 herewith, and is therefore recommended by the Commission.

Cost of proposed improvements.

The cost of the proposed extensions and alterations is estimated by the Architect to the hospital to be £4,260 including professional fees, plus £200 for the additional land, or £4,460, excluding furniture and equipment.

Accommodation.

If the hospital is extended as contemplated in the scheme submitted the existing accommodation will be increased from 22 beds to 31 beds, including 4 maternity and one labour bed.

General.

In the general scheme already submitted to the Minister for improving the hospital facilities in County Louth the Commission visualised the continuation of the Drogheda Cottage Hospital with minor improvements. After giving careful consideration to the matter the Commission is of opinion that the improvement scheme now submitted for the latter hospital is not unreasonable and would not seriously affect the general County Louth scheme referred to. The Drogheda Cottage Hospital possesses approximately £11,000 of unexpended Sweepstake monies, received prior to the passing of the Public Hospitals Act, 1933, and the Commission recommends therefore that the Minister concur in the utilisation of portion of these funds to implement the proposed improvement scheme.

RECOMMENDATION.

1. That the Minister approve the improvement scheme submitted herewith for the Drogheda Cottage Hospital.
2. That as the hospital possesses a balance of Sweepstake Funds from previous distributions the cost of the proposed works be met from this source.
3. That expenditure on the scheme be subject to the Minister's approval.

(Signed) A. F. COONEY,
Rúnaidhe.

Iúl 27, 1938.

No. 32.

COUNTY HOSPITAL, CROOM, CO. LIMERICK.

The Hospitals Commission has considered the application from the Limerick Board of Health and Public Assistance for a grant towards the cost of certain improvements to the County Hospital, Croom, which was referred to it on the 20th July, 1938. The Commission is in agreement with the observations of the Department's Medical Inspector that "in view of the fact that this Hospital will be superseded in the near future by a Regional Hospital at Limerick City, it would appear only urgent and essential works should be carried out at the present County Hospital."

Regarding the frigidaire and incinerator which are included in the list of improvements, the Commission is of opinion that these are not of very immediate urgency. It is accordingly recommended that the application be refused.

(Signed) A. F. COONEY,
Rúnaidhe.

Lughnasa 26, 1938.

No. 33.

COUNTY HOSPITAL, CAVAN.

The Hospitals Commission has had under consideration an application by the Cavan Board of Health and Public Assistance for a grant from the Hospitals Trust Fund towards the cost of a new operating table for the County Surgical Hospital, Cavan, which was referred to it on the 23rd May, 1938. From a report received from the County Surgeon, it would appear that the existing table is old, rusty and dilapidated, having served over 10,000 cases since its purchase sixteen years ago. It is also incapable of affording special positions required for goitre, gall bladder and kidney, etc., operations. The new table proposed to be purchased is estimated to cost £125.

The Commission recommends that a grant of two-thirds of the cost of the proposed new operating table be made to the Cavan Board of Health and Public Assistance, on the understanding that the same would be available for the new hospital when erected.

(Signed) A. F. COONEY,
Rúnaidhe.

Lughnasa 26, 1938.

No. 34.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S COLONY FOR MENTAL DEFECTIVES, BLACKROCK, CO. DUBLIN.

The application in question was referred to the Commission by the Minister on the 14th May, 1938. In the particulars accompanying the claim the Rev. Provincial stated that, in preparing the original improvement scheme for Obelisk Park, it had been hoped to utilise the existing kitchen for the requirements of the enlarged institution, but that further consideration had convinced the Authorities that this would be impracticable as the existing kitchen would not be adequate in size to deal with the increased number of patients. It was, therefore, proposed to erect a new kitchen, suitably located with regard to the Infirmary Block and the main house—these being the principal centres to which food would have to be transported. A further requirement was stated to be a new laundry to enable the colony to be independent of the laundry facilities at the adjoining house of St. John of God, which would be overtaxed by the demands of a new Epileptic Colony which the Order had instituted at Mulhuddart. The expenditure contemplated on these two proposals was estimated to be £5,100.

Kitchen Facilities.

The existing kitchen at Obelisk Park is located in the basement of the former mansion which forms the nucleus of the Colony. The Commission is of opinion that it would be inadequate for the purposes of the enlarged institution of 220 persons. The fact that it is located in the basement, considerably under the level of the adjoining ground and roadway, would make any enlargement impracticable. A new kitchen, therefore, is, in the Commission's opinion, necessary and the adoption of the proposal for this, shown on the Architect's drawings, forwarded herewith, is recommended. The estimated cost of the kitchen is :—

	£	s.	d.
Building	1,650	0	0
Equipment and fittings	405	0	0
Fees	82	10	0
	£2,137	10	0

Bakery.

As a set-off against the above proposal the Order propose to abandon the item in their original development scheme of a bakery and equipment, for which a sum of £1,555 1s. 2d. has been provided in the grant already sanctioned.

Laundry.

After discussion of the proposal for a new laundry with the Commission, the Rev. Provincial has agreed to abandon this claim and to enlarge the laundry at the House of St. John of God to enable it to continue to deal with the requirements of the Colony. The cost of defraying the expenditure on this extension, which is estimated at £1,000, will be borne by the Order. It will be necessary, however, to instal a disinfector for the purpose of the Colony and this will be provided in the new boiler house which is being erected in connection with the Colony Scheme. A sum of £250 is claimed for this and the Commission recommends that it be provided.

Workshops.

In the development scheme for Obelisk Park Colony already sanctioned by the Minister, provision was made for a new workshop building at an outlay of £1,510 8s. 4d. including equipment. This item, for which provision has been made in the grant already allocated, has come under review in the recent discussion between the Order and the Commission, and it is agreed that it would be more desirable to reconstruct and extend the existing workshops than to proceed with the proposal for a new building. The existing workshops, which provide for boot-making and carpentry, are located in the former farm buildings of the original mansion and the location is considered satisfactory. The cost of reconstruction and equipment of the workshops in this position is estimated at £1,150, and the floor space made available would be 2,400 sq. ft. as against 1,600 sq. ft. in the original proposal. The Commission recommends that this proposed variation be adopted. The proposal is illustrated by plan forwarded herewith.

Summary.

The financial implications of the above proposals may be set out as follows :—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Recommended new works :						
Estimated cost of proposed kitchen building...	1,650	0	0			
Kitchen equipment	405	0	0			
Fees	82	10	0			
Providing and installing disinfector in boiler house	250	0	0			
				2,387	10	0
Recommended Savings on Original Grant :						
Abandonment of bakery	1,555	1	2			
Proposed workshop variations	360	8	4			
Fees	56	10	0			
				1,971	19	6
Additional grant required				415	10	6

RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. That the Minister agree to the proposals of the Authorities of St. Augustine's Colony to erect and equip a new kitchen and instal a disinfector at an estimated outlay of £2,387 10s.
2. That the Minister approve the proposals to vary the original improvement scheme by abandoning the proposed bakery and new workshop building.

3. That the Minister approve the proposal to reconstruct the existing workshops at Obelisk Park.
4. That the amounts provided in the original grant to the Colony for the new bakery and workshops be expended on the items in Recommendations (1) and (3).
5. That the Minister make a grant of £415 from the Hospitals Trust Fund to the Authorities of St. Augustine's Colony, Obelisk Park, to enable the proposals in this report to be implemented.
6. That this additional grant be subject to the conditions attached to the original grant.

(Signed) A. F. COONEY,
Rúnaidhe.

M. Fhoghmhair 1, 1938.

No. 35.

ST. MICHAEL'S HOSPITAL, DUN LAOGHAIRE.

The application in question was referred to the Commission in the Minister's letter of the 12th ultimo. The claim is for an additional 20 children's beds to be provided in an extension to St. Michael's Hospital, additional to that already sanctioned by the Minister, which is in progress of construction. The main grounds for the application are stated to be "a small hospital is a very uneconomic unit"; that the eight children's beds already provided for will be inadequate; and that space exists on the site for the erection of the further extension now requested. It is further stated that the application was made at the request of the local Bodies, the Medical Officers of Health and the Medical Board of St. Michael's Hospital.

In the Commission's opinion it would be extremely unwise to contemplate any further extension of St. Michael's Hospital, additional to that already sanctioned, until the latter has been in operation for some time and the neighbouring large hospital at Elm Park has been built. The Commission is also of opinion that the proposal to provide 20 additional children's beds at St. Michael's Hospital would adversely affect contemplated schemes for the improvement of the hospital facilities for children in the Dublin area.

Recommendation.

That the application of the Authorities of St. Michael's Hospital, Dun Laoghaire, for the provision of accommodation for an additional 20 children's beds be not granted.

(Signed) A. F. COONEY,
Rúnaidhe.

M. Fhoghmhair 1, 1938.

No. 36.

ROYAL VICTORIA EYE AND EAR HOSPITAL, DUBLIN.

This application, referred to the Commission in the Minister's communication of the 22nd July, 1938, covers the proposal of the Council of the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital to adopt an alternative scheme to that suggested by them originally for improving the main entrance to the hospital. The Council's original intention was to repair the existing entrance gates and adjacent boundary walls, and a sum of £76 for that purpose was included in the grant recommended by the Commission on August 12th, 1935. The Council now represent that this solution would not be really satisfactory as it would leave the hospital with only one entrance gate, with consequent

inconvenience and danger to outgoing and incoming vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Further, the Council represent that the present boundary wall fronting Adelaide Road obscures the view of vehicles emerging from the hospital with consequent danger to pedestrians on the public pathway and to the fast traffic on the road. The Council's solution for these difficulties is shown on their Architect's plan No. 33517 forwarded herewith. This provides for separate main entrance and exit gates, a smaller gate entrance for pedestrians, and a railing surmounting sections of the boundary wall reduced in height. To provide for parking space, without interrupting traffic circulation, it is proposed to restrict the area covered by the grass plot fronting the Hospital and to surface the carriage-way with tar macadam to minimise dust.

The Architect's estimate of cost for the alternative scheme is £945 exclusive of professional fees, and the Council request permission to incur an inclusive expenditure not exceeding £1,000 on the work. Towards this would be available the sum of £76 originally provided for the gate improvements.

The Commission recommends that the Minister approve of the revised entrance proposals illustrated by the Architect's drawings, and that he make a grant from the Hospitals Trust Fund to enable the work to be carried out at an inclusive outlay not exceeding £1,000 and of an amount which would take into consideration any savings on expenditure on the original building improvement grant made to the hospital.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. That the Minister make a grant from the Hospitals Trust Fund to the Council of the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital to enable the alternative entrance scheme to be carried out.
2. That expenditure on the scheme be limited to an inclusive amount of £1,000.
3. That, subject to (2), the amount of the grant be determined when estimates for the work have been approved by the Minister and possible savings on the original grant taken into consideration.

(Signed) A. F. COONEY,
Rúnaidhe.

M. Fhoghmhair 2, 1938.

No. 37.

LADY DUDLEY NURSING SCHEME.

The Hospitals Commission has had under consideration the Minister's letters of the 6th July, 1938 and 1st September, 1938, *re* District Nurses (Lady Dudley Nursing Scheme) at Inishmaan and Inishmore, Aran Islands. The Commission notes, from these letters, that the District Nurse at Inishmaan has resigned from the Lady Dudley Nursing Scheme on marriage, but has retained the position of Dispensary Midwife, and that it is proposed to provide for the District Nursing services on this island by instituting a District Nurse under the Lady Dudley Scheme at Inishmore, who would do District Nursing on both islands. This latter nurse would also act as Dispensary Midwife on Inishmore, as well as performing the usual Public Health services under the Tuberculosis and School Medical Service schemes on both islands.

In view of the special circumstances obtaining on the Aran Islands, necessitating nursing services to a greater degree than in most other parts of the country, the Commission recommends that a grant from the Hospitals Trust Fund, amounting to £200, be made to the Lady Dudley Nursing Scheme to enable a District Nurse to be maintained for one year at Inishmore, who would also be available for District Nursing on Inishmaan, grants for subsequent years to be fixed in relation to the sums recovered by the Lady Dudley Nursing Scheme in respect of this nurse's services in connection with Tuberculosis and School Medical Service schemes.

In making this recommendation, however, the Commission desires to draw attention to certain anomalies which obtain in the case of District Nurses who are also Dispensary Midwives.

The position at present appears to be that when a District Nurse is appointed to an area, an endeavour is made at the same time, or subsequently, to secure for her the post of Dispensary Midwife also. The cost of maintaining a District Nurse is approximately £200 per annum. In addition to District Nursing the Local Public Health Authorities utilise the services of the nurse for Public Health activities, as School Medical Service and Tuberculosis, etc., for which certain payments are made, partly directly and partly as recoupment by the Local Government Department. These payments, which in the case of some of the services are variable and depend on the amount of work performed, often amount to over £50 per annum.

An additional sum towards the Nurse's maintenance is usually secured by voluntary contributions and entertainments. In the case of the Queen's Institute the difference between the above-mentioned payments and the cost of the nurse must be made up by this latter means. In the case of the Lady Dudley Scheme, however, which was specially created to cater for areas which are so poor that only slight contributions could be expected, the difference was made up by the Central Authority of the Scheme out of the resources of a Fund created for this purpose. As this Fund has long since ceased to be able to meet the demands for additional nurses in poor areas, the difference has, in latter years, been made good by means of annual grants from the Hospitals Trust Fund.

It will be seen that the appointment of a District Nurse to be Dispensary Midwife in the area, at a salary of £52 per annum for this activity, reduces the liability to make good this amount by voluntary means in the case of the Queen's Institute and by means of grants from the Hospitals Trust Fund in the case of the Lady Dudley Scheme.

An anomalous situation arises, however, in the difference in the terms of appointment of a Dispensary Midwife and a District Nurse. A District Nurse must resign her appointment as such on marriage. A Dispensary Midwife is under no obligation to do so. When (as has just happened in Inishmaan) the nurse continues to hold the post of Dispensary Midwife after marriage, having ceased to be a District Nurse, a new District Nurse is required. This latter nurse will cost the Hospitals Trust Fund a sum of £52 per annum more than her predecessor in the case of Lady Dudley Nurses by reason of the fact that she is not Dispensary Midwife. It may also impose a like burden in the case of Queen's Institute nurses, as voluntary contributions which might bridge the gap between Public Authority payments and cost of maintenance, when the former included the £52 per annum for services as Dispensary Midwife, may fail to do so when this latter amount has to be also provided.

The position might be stabilised by bringing the terms of appointment of District Nurses and Dispensary Midwives into line. There are only two ways in which this can be done : (1) Not to require District Nurses to resign on marriage ; (2) to require Dispensary Midwives to resign on marriage. Regarding (1), it is extremely doubtful if a District Nurse, who is also Dispensary Midwife, could perform Home Nursing duties, as well as the Public Health Services required of her, satisfactorily, in addition to the duties that marriage would impose. The only alternative is (2), *i.e.*, to require Dispensary Midwives to resign on marriage. By confining this latter restriction to Midwives who are also District Nurses the opposition from organised Nursing Organisations would not be so pronounced as if it applied to all Dispensary Midwives. Nor could it be argued that it was unjust. It is a well-known rule that District Nurses have no guarantee of being kept in one area continuously. They, therefore, expect to be changed from time to time and they know this when joining the service. It is also an understood procedure that where a District Nursing Service is in operation the post of Dispensary Midwife in that area is given to the District Nurse for the time being in that area, when it falls vacant. The District Nurse, therefore, secures the post of Dispensary Midwife solely because she is a District Nurse. Furthermore, a District Nurse who is also a Dispensary Midwife is a whole-time officer, unlike an ordinary

Midwife, whose post is part-time, and should therefore be required to resign all her appointments on marriage, as in the case of other whole-time appointments, as for example Public Health Nurses. To be prevented from continuing in the position on marriage after she has ceased to be District Nurse does not give her the same cause for complaint as in the case of the ordinary Dispensary Midwife.

The Commission would, therefore, strongly recommend that the question of requiring a District Nurse who is also a Dispensary Midwife to resign on marriage from both positions and also from any activities in connection with Public Health Schemes, which she engages in, should be seriously considered.

(Signed) A. F. COONEY,
Rúnaidhe.

M. Fhoghmhair 3, 1938.

No. 38.

ROYAL NATIONAL HOSPITAL FOR CONSUMPTION FOR IRELAND, NEWCASTLE, CO. WICKLOW.

An application for a grant of £94,650 for the development and improvement of this hospital was referred to the Hospitals Commission by the Minister on the 23rd October, 1933. At that time the Commission felt that the solution of the problem of adequate hospital facilities for tuberculosis cases might be prejudiced by premature recommendations on the merits of the claims of individual existing hospitals dealing with such cases, and therefore the Board of the above sanatorium were informed that a report to the Minister on their claim would be delayed. In the light of this the Board subsequently intimated to the Commission that, in view of the urgent representations of their visiting medical and surgical staff, they had decided to incur expenditure on the erection of a surgical and operating block for their patients. The Board have since put this programme into effect, and the resultant expenditure is represented in the Bank overdraft in the accounts for the year ending December 31st, 1937. The actual expenditure on the work was £4,442, including building, equipment and fees. Additional expenditure of approximately £1,400 was incurred in painting the hospital and improving the sewage disposal system.

The Commission has inspected the hospital since the completion of the work and is satisfied generally that the expenditure has not been out of proportion to the resultant improvement in facilities afforded thereby.

The net deficiency in the hospital's account at the 31st December, 1937, including overdraft and deficit on maintenance account, was £5,480. The hospital received in August, 1938, a grant of £600 from the Hospitals Trust Fund in respect of the maintenance deficit, thereby reducing the net deficiency to £4,880.

The Commission recommends that this debt be cleared by a grant from the Hospitals Trust Fund, but only on the condition that the Board undertake not to use their debt-free position to incur further capital expenditure without the approval of the Minister, unless they are in a position to meet same out of their own resources.

(Signed) E. DE BARRA,
Leas-Rúnaidhe.

M. Fhoghmhair 14, 1938.

No. 39.

DISTRICT MENTAL HOSPITAL, CORK.

The Commission reported on July 1st, 1938, on the above application, which refers to the proposed erection of two temporary pavilions, each capable of accommodating 100 to 120 patients and intended to be erected on the grounds of the Cork

Mental Hospital. As subsequently requested by the Minister, the Commission has given further consideration to the proposals in the light of more definite information, which has since become available, as to the probable cost involved.

The number of patients at present in the Cork Mental Hospital is considerably in excess of that for which the institution was originally designed, and overcrowding to the extent of 500 patients has been continuous. It is anticipated that the sanctioned extension scheme at the Youghal Auxiliary Mental Hospital will eventually relieve the Cork institution to the extent of 250 inmates, but this scheme is still in the development stage and several years must elapse before it can afford relief to the latter. Under these circumstances the Commission is of opinion that the proposal to provide immediate relief for the overcrowding at Cork Mental Hospital is justifiable, particularly as the proposed pavilions are capable of being adapted to alternative use if and when they have served their immediate purpose.

Cost of Proposals.

According to the latest estimates the Joint Committee visualise a total expenditure of £24,608 on the proposed buildings. This estimate has been submitted under the following headings :—

	£
Cost of Buildings	14,704
Heating	3,300
Electric Wiring and Telephones	600
Excavation	800
Drainage and Water Mains	600
Architect's Fees at 5%	1,000
Quantity Surveyor's Fees at 1½%	300
Furniture as per estimate of R.M.S.	3,304
TOTAL	£24,608

In the above estimate a sum of £800 is included for excavation. The Commission understands that it is intended to carry out the necessary excavation work by means of inmate labour, and therefore this item has been excluded when arriving at the amount of the grant from the Hospitals Trust Fund recommended below towards the cost of the project. The Commission has also made a deduction under the heading of Furniture, etc., as in the detailed list submitted by the Resident Medical Superintendent the majority of the items under this heading are such as should be regarded as coming under the heading of Ordinary Maintenance and Replacement Expenditure. The Commission considers that an outlay of £700 on furniture items which may not be so classified would be a reasonable estimate. In accordance with these adjustments the total capital outlay to be contemplated in building and furnishing the proposed pavilions is arrived at as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Estimated Cost of Construction of each Pavilion and Heating, Lighting, Excavation, etc. ...	10,002	0	0
Professional Fees at 6½%	650	0	0
	10,652	0	0
Less £400 for Excavation ,, £26 for Professional Fees }	426	0	0
	10,226	0	0
Cost of Furniture	351	0	0
	10,577	0	0
Estimated Cost of Two Buildings	£21,154	0	0

RECOMMENDATION.

That the Minister make a grant of £10,577 from the Hospitals Trust Fund to the Joint Committee of Management of the Cork Mental Hospital, towards the cost of erecting and furnishing two temporary pavilions in accordance with the specification, plans and estimates submitted herewith.

(Signed) A. F. COONEY,
Rúnaidhe.

D. Foghmhair 4, 1938.

No. 40.

LADY DUDLEY'S NURSING SCHEME.

The Hospitals Commission has considered the application of the Lady Dudley Nursing Scheme for a grant of £52 8s. 3d. in respect of the maintenance of a District Nurse at Inishere, Aran Islands, for the year ending September, 1939, which was referred to it on the 15th October, 1938.

It is noted from the Treasurer's Report for the year ending September, 1936, that there is an item of £4 13s. 9d., for furnishing, on the expenditure side of the accounts. As this item cannot be regarded as recurring expenditure it is deducted from the amount of the grant applied for. Any extra expenditure which may be incurred for repairs or renewals can be made good when the accounts for the year ending September, 1939, are available.

RECOMMENDATION.

That a grant from the Hospitals Trust Fund amounting to £47 14s. 6d. be made to the Lady Dudley Nursing Scheme towards the cost of maintaining a District Nurse under the Scheme on Inishere, Aran Islands, for the year ending September, 1939.

(Signed) A. F. COONEY,
Rúnaidhe.

D. Foghmhair 20, 1938.

No. 41.

CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, DUBLIN (PROPOSED).

This application was referred for investigation and report in the Minister's communication of 24adh Eanair, 1938. The preliminary particulars accompanying the application indicated that the Dublin Diocesan Authorities deemed it desirable that there should be provided under Catholic auspices a Children's General Hospital on the South side of the City, in view of the extensive housing developments which are in progress in that area and the necessity for making suitable provision for the correspondingly increasing child population. It was further pointed out that there is at present no Children's Hospital of the type contemplated on the South side, and it was stated that an application had been made to the Dublin Municipal Authorities to facilitate the projected hospital by enabling the Diocesan Authorities to purchase a suitable site within the Corporation's area of jurisdiction.

Subsequent to the receipt of the above formal application, the Archbishop appointed representatives to wait on the Commission to furnish the particulars necessary for a full appreciation of the scope of the project. In the course of a statement put forward by these representatives, the point was made that there was no intention of interfering with the development of the existing lay-controlled Children's

hospitals, which had helped and would continue to help Catholic children, but that Catholic Authorities and parents had a right to children's hospital facilities provided in an atmosphere in accord with the atmosphere of their Faith. The Archbishop had had this matter in mind for some years past but had not been in a position to formulate a definite proposal until he had secured a satisfactory site. The Dublin Municipal Authorities had now facilitated him in that regard and he had purchased from them a site of approximately 16 acres situated in the rapidly developing housing area of Crumlin. Taking into consideration the growth of population to be anticipated from projected housing schemes in this area, and the existing population of the southern half of the City, the representatives felt that a Children's Hospital of 300 beds would be required.

As a result of subsequent discussions the Commission has been supplied with modified proposals for the project. These proposals provide for the erection of a hospital of 125 beds designed, in accordance with modern practice, to be capable of extension in the future if such proves to be necessary.

Proposed Control of Hospital.

It is proposed to vest the legal control of the hospital in a Board, constituted after the manner of Holles Street or Jervis Street Hospitals, on which there would be representation of the Minister for Local Government and Public Health and of the Municipal Authority.

Proposed Administration.

It is proposed that the administration of the hospital would be given to Sisters of the Order of St. Vincent de Paul, who would be assisted by a trained lay nursing staff, and the usual proportion of probationer nurses.

Finance.

The promoters of the project state that they have made a careful study of hospital maintenance costs both in this country and in England, and, so far as it is possible to arrive at a fair estimate, are of opinion that annual maintenance expenditure would be approximately £12,500. Towards this they anticipate an income of between £6,000 and £8,000 per annum, of which £4,000—£5,000 would represent services paid for by Public Authorities and £2,000—£3,000 would be available from other sources, such as hospital fees and voluntary enterprises. In addition they state that the most active development of every possible means of voluntary support would be urged on the Management of the proposed hospital.

Commission's Views.

In its Second General Report the Commission recorded the failure of the negotiations, which had been in progress, for the replacement of the two existing Children's hospitals on the South side of the City by an amalgamation scheme. The individual development of these two institutions would not provide an adequate solution for children's hospital facilities, for various reasons. St. Ultan's Hospital has hitherto been devoted to the treatment of children under two years, and any extension of its functions to deal with children up to 12 years of age would involve difficulties in the matter of creating a suitable medical staff. The National Children's Hospital, Harcourt Street, is not suitably situated for any large extension of its bed complement and its location could not be accepted as satisfactory for a modern children's hospital. Under these circumstances the Commission considers that the proposal put forward by His Grace's representatives offers a satisfactory alternative to the amalgamation proposal, and recommends that it be accepted in principle by the Minister as the most practicable means of supplementing the existing hospital facilities for children in Dublin.

Bed considerations.

The bed complements of the existing General Children's Hospitals in Dublin are as follows :—

Children's Hospital, Temple Street ...	...	150 beds
National Children's Hospital, Harcourt Street	...	75 ,,
		225 ,,

(In the new scheme Teach Ultain would be regarded as a Special Hospital for children under 2 years).

The proposed Children's Hospital would add 125 beds to this number and give a total of 350 beds. Taking into consideration the growth of population in Dublin City and County evidenced by the 1936 census figures, and making allowance for the demand of outside counties on beds in Dublin, it appears to the Commission that approximately 500 children's general hospital beds should be made available in the Dublin Centre. A proportion of this number will be provided in the four large general hospitals and in Dr. Steevens', Jervis Street and the Adelaide Hospitals.

The number of children's beds at present in the latter hospitals is as follows :—

Adelaide Hospital	25
Jervis Street Hospital	4
Dr. Steevens' Hospital	13
TOTAL	42

Assuming that this latter total would not be varied and taking into consideration the 350 beds in Temple Street, Harcourt Street and the proposed hospital the Commission's figure of 500 beds would be met by the distribution of 100 beds between the four large general hospitals.

RECOMMENDATION.

That the Minister accept, in principle, the proposal to establish a new Children's General Hospital of 125 beds in accordance with the scheme put forward by the representatives of His Grace, the Archbishop of Dublin.

(Signed) A. F. COONEY,
Rúnaidhe.

D. Foghmhair 20, 1938.

No. 42.

QUEEN'S INSTITUTE OF DISTRICT NURSING IN IRELAND.

I am directed by the Hospitals Commission to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, with reference to the application of the Adrigole District Nursing Association for a grant of £120 for the year ending 31st August, 1939, and to submit the following report thereon.

The nurse at Adrigole first took up duty on 1st September, 1936, and the grants already paid out of the Hospitals Trust Fund to the Adrigole District Nursing Association were :—

£120 paid 2/10/36 for year ending 31st August, 1937.

£120 paid 13/9/37 for year ending 31st August, 1938.

Statements of Accounts were prepared and published by the Association for the periods ending 31st December, 1936, and 31st December, 1937, the latter being for a complete year. On the basis of the 1937 accounts, it is estimated that the position for 1938 would be as follows :—

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Estimated Payments		183 10 9
Estimated Receipts	78 11 5	
Add Balance on hands 31/12/37 ...	43 5 6	
		121 16 11
Estimated Deficit for 1938		£61 13 10

In view of the fact that the Adrigole District Nursing Association prepares its annual accounts for the year ending 31st December, the Commission is of the opinion that grants from the Hospitals Trust Fund should apply to the periods covered by the published accounts, and that the amounts of such grants can be more approximately ascertained on such a basis.

The Commission accordingly recommends that a grant of £70 be paid out of the Hospitals Trust Fund to the Adrigole District Nursing Association in respect of maintenance of nurse up to 31st December, 1938, and that the Association be asked to apply for the grant in respect of the year ending 31st December, 1939, in January next, the amount of such grant to be calculated on the basis of the Association's completed accounts for the year 1938.

(Signed) A. F. COONEY,
Rúnaidhe.

D. Foghmhair 20, 1938.

No. 43.

LADY DUDLEY NURSING SCHEME.

The Hospitals Commission has considered the application of the Lady Dudley Nursing Scheme for a grant of £167 7s. 11d. towards the cost of maintaining a District Nurse under the Scheme at Cape Clear Island, County Cork, for the year ending September, 1939, which was referred to it on October 14th, 1938.

The Commission recommends that the application be granted.

(Signed) A. F. COONEY,
Rúnaidhe.

D. Foghmhair 21, 1938.

No. 44.

ROTUNDA HOSPITAL, DUBLIN.

The Hospitals Commission has had under consideration the application by the Authorities of the Rotunda Hospital for a grant from the Hospitals Trust Fund, towards the cost of providing a new Tube Stand for the X-ray couch, which was referred to it on 30th September, 1938.

The Commission, whilst seeing no objection to having the Tube Stand provided, considers that the grant from the Hospitals Trust Fund already made to this hospital

ought to prove sufficient to enable the expense of the Stand to be defrayed by the hospital, and accordingly recommends that the application be refused.

The estimate for the Tube Stand is returned herewith.

(Signed) A. F. COONEY,
Rúnaidhe.

D. Foghmhair 31, 1938.

No. 45.

NEW VOLUNTARY HOSPITAL, DROGHEDA, CO. LOUTH (PROPOSED).

This application was referred to the Commission for investigation and report in the Minister's communication of the 9th July, 1938. The particulars supplied in support of the application were to the effect that the Venerable Archdeacon O'Callaghan, P.P., Drogheda, and the French Sisters of Charity, Drogheda, propose building a hospital on the grounds of Beechgrove House, Hardman's Gardens, Drogheda. It is intended that the proposed hospital would contain 20 beds, of which about six would be allocated to maternity cases, four to children and the remainder to ordinary medical and surgical cases.

The Commission has interviewed representatives of the promoters of the scheme, and has been informed that the Beechgrove premises have been acquired by means of a fund earmarked for the creation of a hospital of the type contemplated. The cost of the project was estimated to be £23,000, and approximately £16,000 would be required to supplement the funds on hands to develop the scheme. It was intended that the proposed hospital would answer a local desire for hospital facilities for mainly paying patients of slender means, and that such patients could be treated under the supervision of their own medical advisers. Approximately three beds woulds be available for non-paying patients.

The Commission is of opinion that the proposed hospital is in the nature of a private Nursing Home, and as such could not be developed by means of a grant from the Hospitals Trust Fund. Further, the Commission is of opinion that the urgent hospital needs of the population of Drogheda are provided for in the hospital scheme for County Louth, submitted to the Minister in 1935. Under this scheme Drogheda will have a new 25 bed District Hospital, in addition to the existing Drogheda Cottage Hospital of 22 beds. In view of these circumstances the Commission cannot advise the Minister to accede to the present application.

RECOMMENDATION.

That the application of the promoters of the proposed hospital in Drogheda for a grant from the Hospitals Trust Fund be not acceded to.

(Signed) A. F. COONEY,
Rúnaidhe.

Samhain 10, 1938.

No. 46.

CITY OF DUBLIN SKIN AND CANCER HOSPITAL, DUBLIN.

The City of Dublin Skin and Cancer Hospital submitted an application to the Minister on July 27th, 1933, under Section 24 of the Public Hospitals Act, 1933, for a grant amounting to £145,000 out of the Hospitals Trust Fund, and this application was referred by the Minister to the Commission for investigation and report on October 10th, 1933.

On April 7th, 1937, the hospital submitted a statement to the Commission with regard to its financial position and the unusually high amount of its bank overdraft, on which the annual interest amounted to approximately £300. This bank overdraft was the result of accumulated deficits of the hospital prior to its participation in the distribution of Sweepstake Funds, and the hospital requested that, pending decision on its original claim, this bank overdraft should be cleared by means of a grant from the Hospitals Trust Fund.

This hospital received no monies from the distribution of the proceeds of the first six Sweepstakes, and its deficit for the year 1933 (amounting to £830) was not included in the list of hospital deficits recommended by the Commission for payment. The grants paid to the hospital to date out of the Hospitals Trust Fund are as follows :—

Date of Payment	Particulars	Amount		
		£	s.	d.
22/8/35	Deficit for 1934	10	0	0
24/7/36	,, ,, 1935	1,081	0	0
30/7/37	,, ,, 1936	1,642	0	0
25/7/38	,, ,, 1937	1,223	0	0
26/9/38	X-ray apparatus	461	10	0

The Commission has received a written guarantee from the Authorities of the hospital that, in the event of the bank overdraft being cleared by means of a grant from the Hospitals Trust Fund, they will not use their debt-free position to incur a new bank overdraft through incurring expenditure on capital improvements, and that all schemes of projected capital expenditure in the future will be referred to the Minister with a view to their being financed by means of grants from the Hospitals Trust Fund. It may be mentioned that the hospital does not possess any invested funds of its own wherewith to finance such expenditure.

The hospital's Deficiency Account balance at December 31st, 1937, was made up as follows :—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Bank Overdraft				4,444	18	7
Sundry Creditors				1,376	8	10
				5,821	7	5
Less :						
Cash on hands	60	19	11			
Sundry Debtors	1,106	18	3			
				1,167	18	2
				£4,653	9	3

From this balance of £4,653 9s. 3d. there should be deducted the sum of £1,223 paid on July 25th, 1938, in respect of the 1937 maintenance deficit. The Commission is of the opinion that this net deficiency of £3,430 9s. 3d. should be cleared by means of a grant from the Hospitals Trust Fund, and recommends accordingly.

RECOMMENDATION.

That a grant of £3,430 be made to the Authorities of the City of Dublin Skin and Cancer Hospital, Hume Street, Dublin, to liquidate the Deficiency Account of that hospital.

(Signed) E. DE BARRA,
Leas-Rúnaidhe,

Mí na Nodlag 9, 1938.

No. 47.

CATHOLIC INSTITUTION FOR THE DEAF AND DUMB (ST. MARY'S), CABRA, DUBLIN.

The Hospitals Commission has had under consideration your letter of the 16th instant, transmitting a copy of a communication and original statements in regard to expenditure in connection with the works at the Catholic Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, Cabra, and begs to report as follows:

The total amount recommended by the Commission for improvements to St. Mary's, Cabra, was £51,666. Two subsequent grants made by the Minister, amounting to £1,517 3s., brought the total grant made to this section of the Catholic Institution for the Deaf and Dumb to £53,183 3s. A comparative statement, submitted by the Architect setting out the difference between actual expenditure incurred and the total amount of the grant, shows that the former exceeds the latter by £3,273 7s. 1d. Of this figure a sum of £1,518 is stated to be due to the Conditions of Employment Act and duties on materials, leaving the net extra cost of the works carried out at £1,755.

The Commission is of opinion that, in view of the nature of the works carried out at St. Mary's, which involved considerable changes in plans during progress, the extra cost incurred is not excessive and recommends that it be defrayed by means of a supplementary grant from the Hospitals Trust Fund.

Recommendation.

That a supplementary grant from the Hospitals Trust Fund amounting to £3,273 7s. 1d. be made to the Authorities of the Catholic Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, to enable the extra expenditure incurred in the works of improvement, carried out at St. Mary's, to be defrayed.

(Signed) A. F. COONEY,
Rúnaidhe.

Mí na Nodlag 29, 1938.

APPENDIX V.

ANALYSIS OF BED AVAILABILITY AND BED OCCUPANCY IN 9 DUBLIN GENERAL HOSPITALS FOR THE YEAR 1938.

ANALYSIS OF BED AVAILABILITY AND BED OCCUPANCY FOR THE PERIOD 1st JANUARY–30th JUNE, 1908.

Name of Hospital.	Total Bed Days		CLASSIFICATION OF BED DAYS																																	
			Medical				Surgical				Eye, Nose and Throat				Gynæcology				Infectious				Tuberculous				Children				Convalescence		Genera	
	Available	Occupancy	Available		Occupied		Available		Occupied		Available		Occupied		Available		Occupied		Available		Occupied		Available		Occupied		Available		Occupied		Available	Occupied	Available	Occupied
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.				
Charitable Infirmary, Jervis Street.	55,726	51,322	3,980	2,672	2,747	1,861	9,056	4,887	6,174	4,413	362	362	239	239	362	362	92	41	—	365	—	—	—	—	420	498	362	362	412	217	2,923	1,610	—	—
Doe's (Sir Patrick) Hospital ...	23,252	21,782	2,249	2,713	2,018	2,161	3,216	3,163	4,525	3,274	—	—	493	297	—	—	—	—	4,887		3,651		—	—	272	272	901	901	1,082	621	1,810	1,234	—	219
Mater Misericordiae Hospital	52,215	46,149	11,178	8,800	9,060	7,890	13,052	6,774	11,999	6,213	1,310	696	1,052	754	1,431	1,272	962	942	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,326	1,318	1,125	1,202	2,710	2,592	—	—
South Hospital and Co. Dublin Infirmary.	79,236	24,957	2,249	6,216	4,780	3,840	6,216	3,620	3,622	3,350	—	—	83	98	—	—	—	—	540	540	330	297	540	540	315	302	1,628	1,207	1,481	1,227	648	448	724	446
Steevens' Hospital	18,948	16,519	4,468	3,271	3,230	2,919	4,345	2,707	3,140	2,373	—	—	—	—	—	—	88	83	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,176	1,131	5,980	623	415	1,283	241	784	16	
Richmond Hospital ...	50,583	48,998	3,412	3,447	3,172	3,334	15,630	7,964	15,305	8,325	18	18	18	18	9	9	9	9	3,420	3,510	3,172	3,068	365	365	784	660	1,836	2,007	1,613	1,732	1,448	1,421	8	9
Royal City of Dublin Hospital	28,960	27,017	2,034	2,353	2,123	2,073	3,240	3,314	4,789	4,952	1,086	1,087	358	416	See E. N. & T.		73	44	2,172	1,810	2,160	1,861	—	—	—	—	1,810	1,814	2,031	1,959	1,086	1,087	2,172	1,806
St. Vincent's Hospital ...	31,183	29,624	4,450	1,345	4,768	6,903	6,440	6,110	6,179	6,257	664	310	374	312	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	623	627	663	566	3,861	2,442	202	67
Simeons' (Dr.) Hospital ...	34,312	31,112	3,420	2,172	3,334	2,094	7,802	7,421	7,398	7,411	712	1,069	430	799	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,712		2,490		1,796	1,434	7,403	6,896
Totals	394,413	297,480	46,030	41,471	40,966	36,515	67,951	51,637	64,178	49,614	4,238	4,017	3,549	2,932	1,801	1,642	1,161	1,135	21,262		19,409		1,440	1,440	3,006	4,698	21,262		19,106		16,271	13,196	11,365	7,967
			86,414		76,819		119,586		113,796		8,255		6,261		3,442		2,297		21,262		19,409		2,880		6,696		21,262		19,106		16,271	13,196	11,365	7,967

APPENDIX V (*continued*).

SUMMARY OF USE OF BEDS IN 9 DUBLIN GENERAL HOSPITALS DURING THE PERIOD 1ST JANUARY–30TH JUNE, 1938, UNDER MAIN BED-CLASSIFICATION HEADINGS.

CLASSIFICATION	AVAILABILITY		OCCUPANCY	
	Bed Days	Per cent. of Total	Bed Days	Per cent. of Total
Medical	88,414	30·0	76,919	28·8
Surgical	119,588	40·6	113,790	42·5
Ear, Nose and Throat	8,223	2·8	6,202	2·3
Ophthalmic	3,443	1·2	2,307	0·9
Isolation	22,263	7·6	19,409	7·3
Tuberculosis	2,896	1·0	8,598	3·2
Children	21,992	7·5	19,108	7·1
Gynaecological	16,271	5·5	13,190	4·9
Other	11,363	3·8	7,967	3·0
TOTALS	294,453	—	267,490	—

APPENDIX V *(continued).*

9 DUBLIN GENERAL HOSPITALS.

TABLE SHOWING ANALYSIS OF BED AVAILABILITY AND BED OCCUPANCY FOR THE PERIOD 1st JULY–31st DECEMBER, 1938.

Name of Hospital	Total Bed Days		Classification of Bed Days																																											
			Medical						Surgical						Accident						Ear, Nose and Throat						Gynaecology						Isolation						Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)						Tuberculosis (Bone and			
	Availability	Occupancy	Available			Occupied			Available			Occupied			Available			Occupied			Available			Occupied			Available			Occupied			Available			Occupied			Available			Occupied			Available			
			M.	F.	C.	M.	F.	C.	M.	F.	C.	M.	F.	C.	M.	F.	C.	M.	F.	C.	M.	F.	C.	M.	F.	C.	M.	F.	C.	M.	F.	C.	M.	F.	C.	M.	F.	C.	M.	F.	C.	M.	F.	C.	M.	F.	C.	M.
Charitable Infirmary, Jervis Street.	25,320	16,443	2,400	1,836	—	2,013	2,042	133	7,316	4,901	612	5,746	3,122	176	—	—	—	2,840	1,285	392	293	311	—	173	146	119	393	311	—	5	60	140	—	368	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	31	219	—	—	—	—	331
Dun's (Sir Patrick) Hospital	22,131	19,147	5,100	2,700	920	3,408	1,867	768	5,170	3,794	920	3,609	2,418	1,167	—	—	—	644	337	—	—	—	—	860	642	98	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,350	1,836	1,350	60	139	1,321	—	—	—	388	847	—	—	—	—	171
Mater Misericordiae Hospital	45,104	35,403	9,384	7,260	—	6,207	5,366	888	10,831	4,903	—	6,937	3,341	900	—	—	—	2,258	1,732	130	840	842	—	402	460	670	612	504	—	273	408	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	806	328	—	—	—	—	461
Meath Hospital and County Dublin Infirmary.	28,460	22,862	5,208	6,412	1,376	4,455	5,735	1,126	4,418	1,564	1,270	4,362	1,744	1,107	1,560	756	156	1,332	730	142	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	552	552	—	230	229	—	—	—	—	—
Mercer's Hospital	18,530	14,436	3,775	3,610	164	2,964	2,432	420	3,636	3,302	1,744	2,757	1,802	704	230	230	—	329	138	111	—	—	—	11	32	45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	343	800	7	—	—	—	212
Richmond Hospital	35,002	30,828	3,143	3,517	762	4,205	3,744	832	11,000	7,900	3,944	8,840	6,371	2,714	184	184	—	344	184	—	1,104	1,104	1,104	868	808	675	368	364	368	367	347	348	2,392	2,898	7,360	2,324	2,833	4,352	920	920	—	890	846	—	—	—	—	1,288
Royal City of Dublin Hospital	34,788	25,186	3,271	3,814	1,289	3,412	2,338	812	4,416	4,251	1,366	3,322	10,834	1,354	180	122	36	336	276	36	784	897	120	387	420	449	7	22	—	68	94	—	1,886	1,840	1,775	164	268	2,080	42	190	41	127	247	41	95	44	18	191
St. Vincent's Hospital	23,913	21,081	4,322	3,760	368	4,373	3,448	248	5,380	4,702	633	4,130	4,853	380	—	—	—	—	—	—	560	174	—	284	147	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Steevens' (Dr.) Hospital	34,858	31,246	2,738	3,030	378	2,251	1,802	781	3,817	2,448	2,890	3,817	2,357	2,238	2,398	2,368	736	2,838	1,236	1,080	384	324	360	113	168	230	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	30	33	—	—	—	330	427	—	2,178	2,044	—	1,964
Totals	265,860	235,842	40,724	37,795	5,322	33,780	30,347	5,477	52,078	46,179	20,989	41,716	31,076	16,924	4,727	3,223	928	11,490	5,808	3,014	3,741	3,812	1,826	3,208	2,868	2,423	1,266	1,216	368	714	828	487	4,641	5,735	9,906	2,574	2,865	9,488	1,514	1,832	41	3,054	3,907	48	2,089	2,088	18	4,427
			85,666			71,809			167,111			93,854			9,280			20,830			8,313			8,847			2,864			2,140			20,270			15,054			3,387			7,029			3,075			

APPENDIX V (*continued*).

SUMMARY OF USE OF BEDS IN 9 DUBLIN GENERAL HOSPITALS DURING THE PERIOD 1ST JULY—31ST DECEMBER, 1938, UNDER EXTENDED BED-CLASSIFICATION HEADINGS.

CLASSIFICATION	AVAILABILITY		OCCUPANCY	
	Bed Days	Per cent. of Total	Bed Days	Per cent. of Total
Medical	83,864	31·5	71,819	30·4
Surgical	107,101	40·3	83,654	35·5
Accident	9,206	3·5	19,420	8·2
Ear, Nose and Throat	9,213	3·5	8,647	3·7
Ophthalmic	2,864	1·1	2,140	0·9
Isolation	20,570	7·7	15,004	6·4
Tuberculosis (pulmonary)	3,207	1·2	7,019	3·2
Tuberculosis (bone and joint) ...	5,675	2·1	9,875	4·2
Tuberculosis (other regions) ...	126	0·0	595	0·2
Gynaecological	13,243	5·0	10,824	4·6
Other	10,766	4·1	6,945	2·9
TOTALS	265,835	—	235,942	—

APPENDIX VI.

GRAPHS SHOWING FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1938, TOTAL, AVAILABLE AND OCCUPIED BEDS IN :—

9 DUBLIN GENERAL HOSPITALS.

CHARITABLE INFIRMARY, JERVIS STREET.

DUN'S (SIR PATRICK) HOSPITAL.

MATER MISERICORDIAE HOSPITAL.

MEATH HOSPITAL AND COUNTY DUBLIN INFIRMARY.

MERCER'S HOSPITAL.

RICHMOND HOSPITAL.

ROYAL CITY OF DUBLIN HOSPITAL.

ST. VINCENT'S HOSPITAL.

STEEVENS' (DR.) HOSPITAL.

3 CORK GENERAL HOSPITALS.

MERCY HOSPITAL, CORK.

NORTH CHARITABLE INFIRMARY, CORK.

SOUTH CHARITABLE INFIRMARY, CORK.

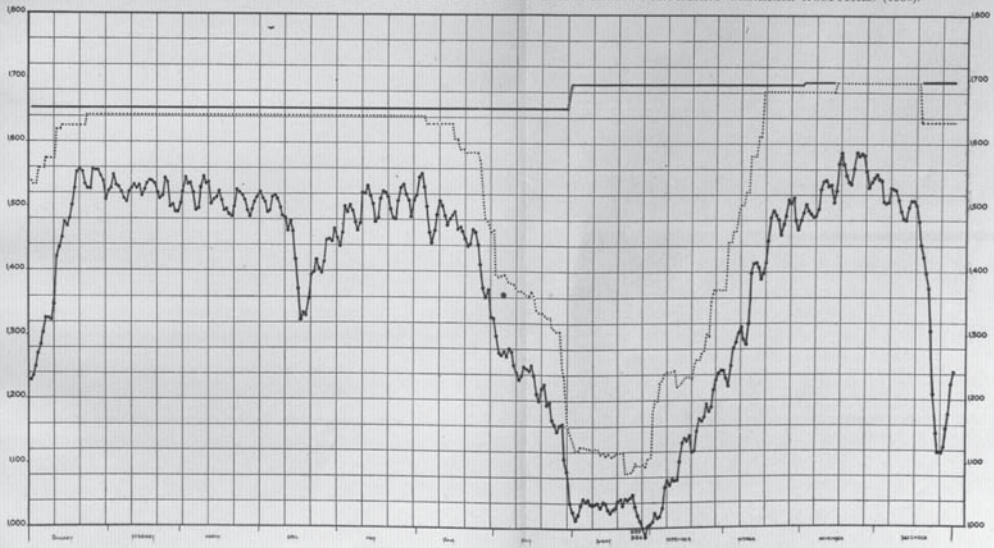
3 LIMERICK GENERAL HOSPITALS.

BARRINGTON'S HOSPITAL AND CITY OF LIMERICK INFIRMARY.

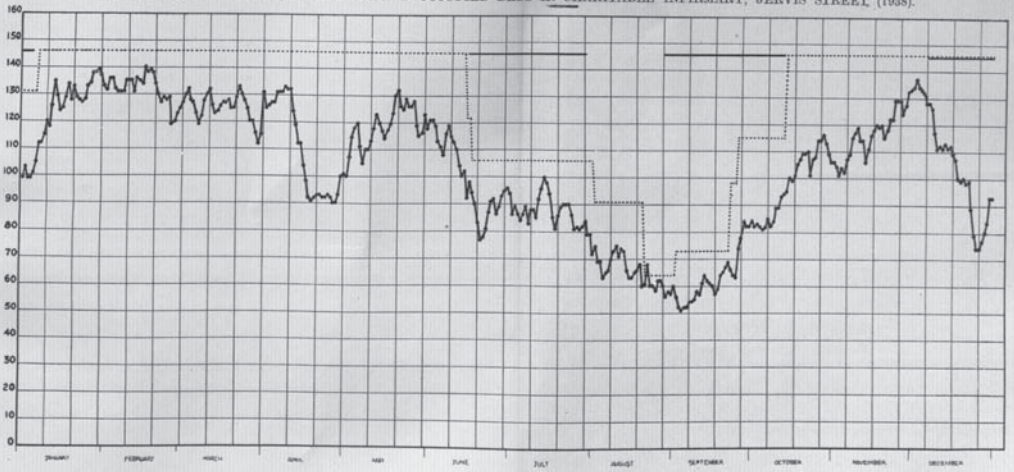
LIMERICK COUNTY INFIRMARY.

ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL, LIMERICK.

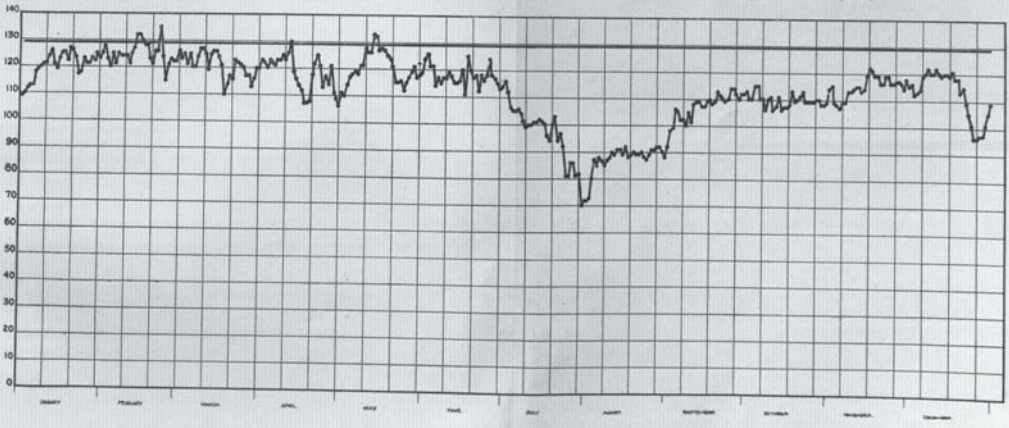
GRAPH SHOWING TOTAL, AVAILABLE AND OCCUPIED BEDS IN NINE DUBLIN VOLUNTARY GENERAL HOSPITALS (1938).



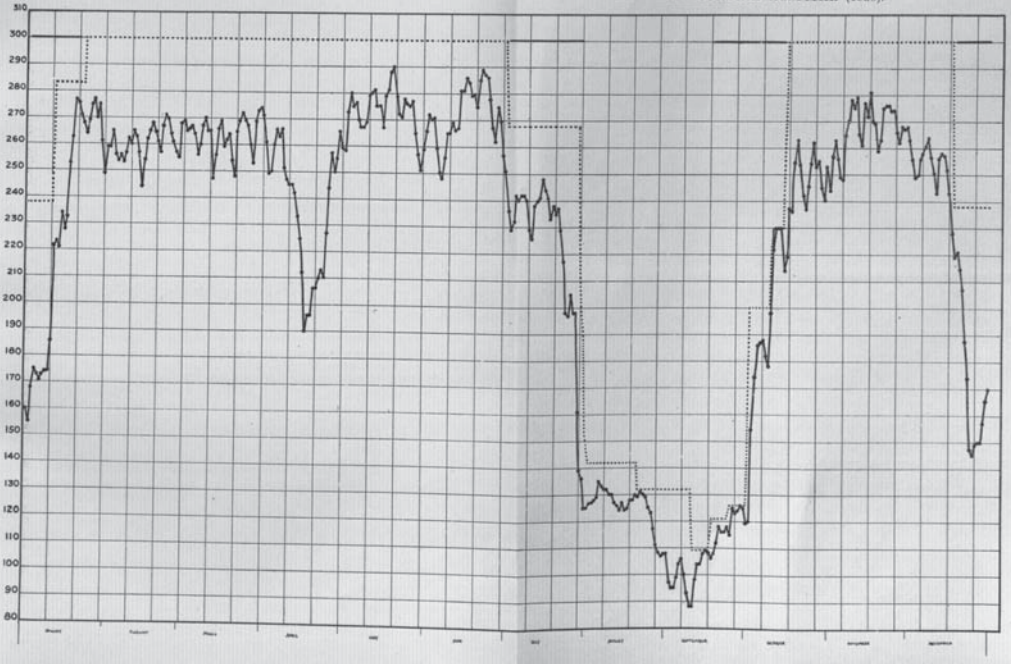
GRAPH SHOWING TOTAL, AVAILABLE AND OCCUPIED BEDS IN CHARITABLE INFIRMARY, JERVIS STREET, (1938).



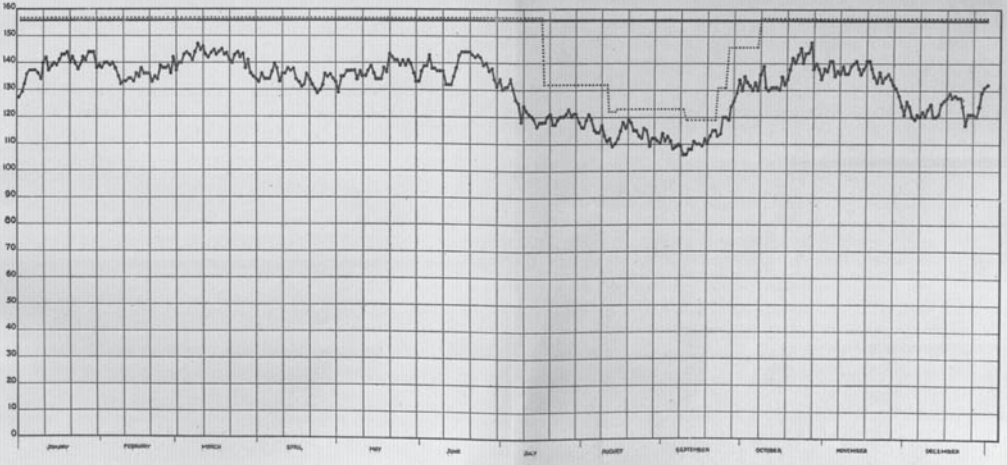
GRAPH SHOWING TOTAL, AVAILABLE AND OCCUPIED BEDS IN DUN'S (SIR PATRICK) HOSPITAL (1938).



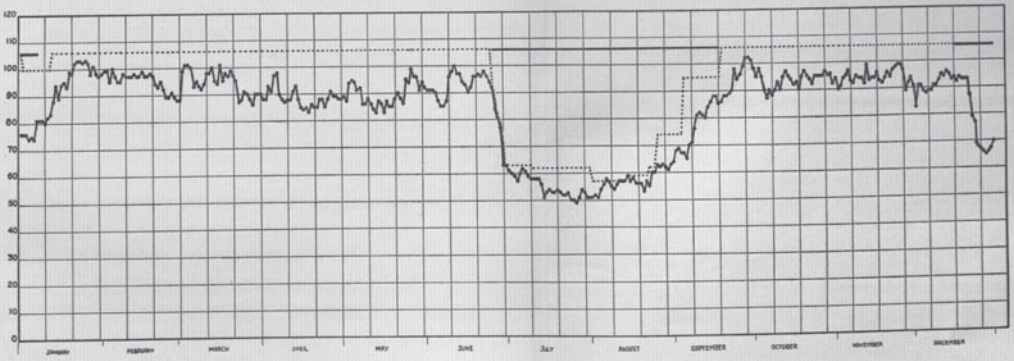
GRAPH SHOWING TOTAL, AVAILABLE AND OCCUPIED BEDS IN MATER MISERICORDIAE HOSPITAL (1938).



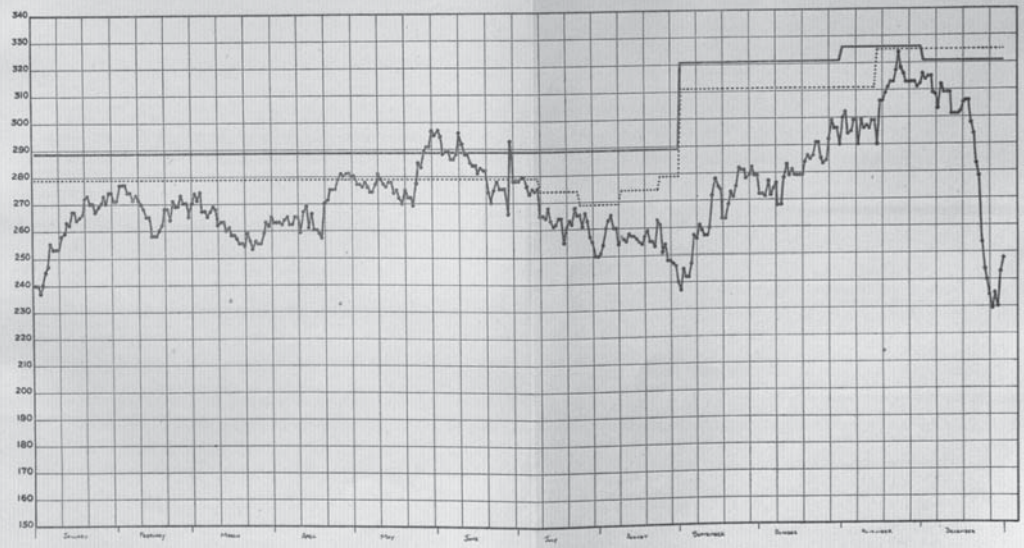
GRAPH SHOWING TOTAL, AVAILABLE AND OCCUPIED BEDS IN MEATH HOSPITAL AND COUNTY DUBLIN INFIRMARY (1938).



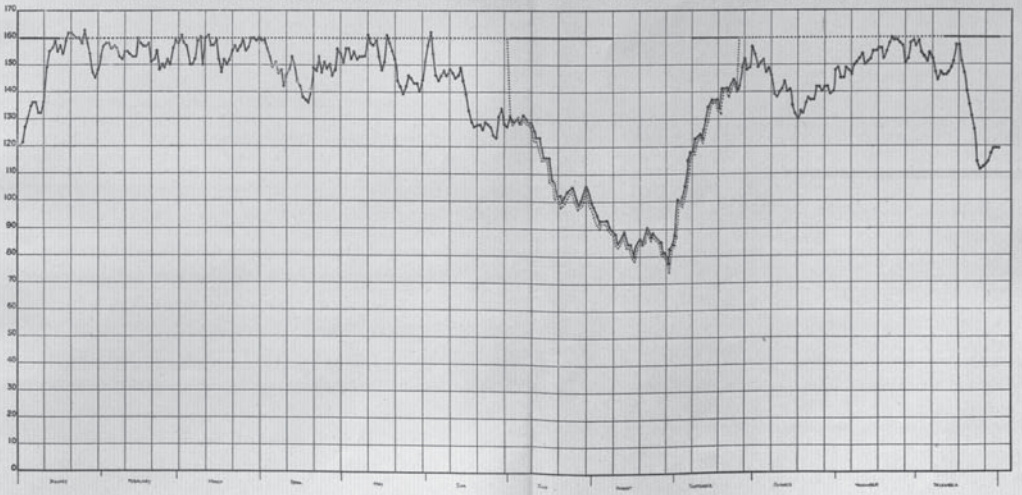
GRAPH SHOWING TOTAL, AVAILABLE AND OCCUPIED BEDS IN MERCER'S HOSPITAL (1938).



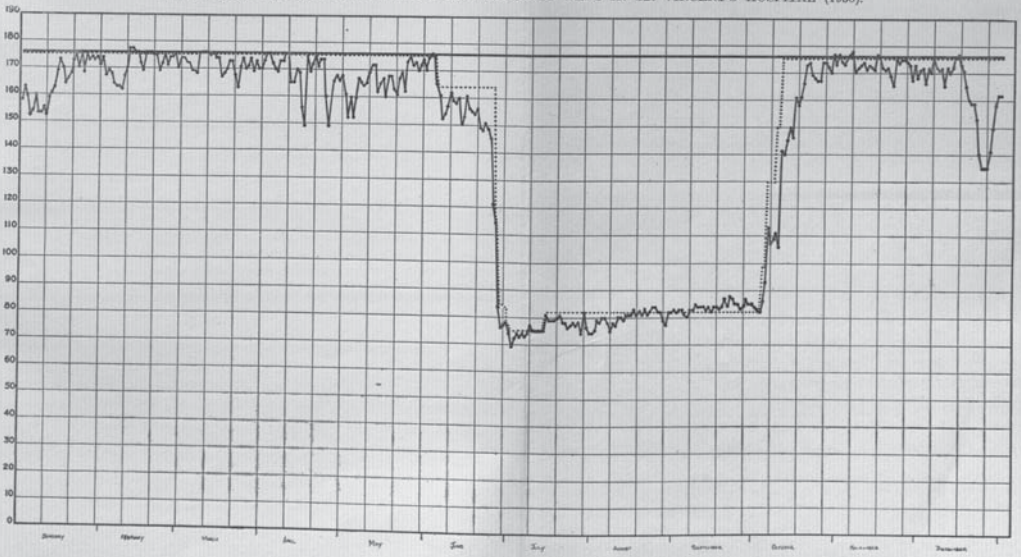
GRAPH SHOWING TOTAL, AVAILABLE AND OCCUPIED BEDS IN RICHMOND HOSPITAL (1938).



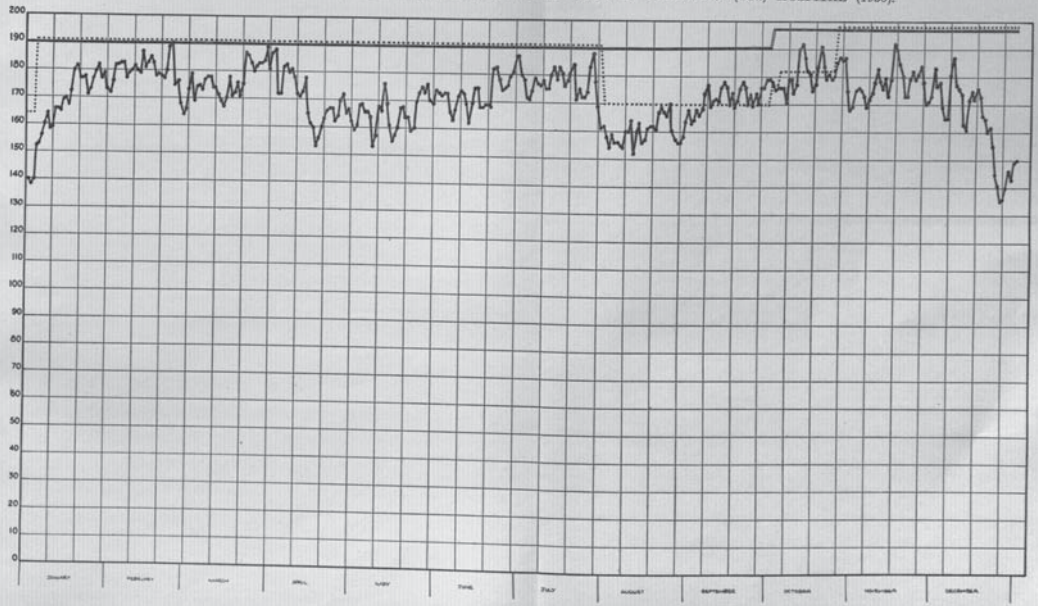
GRAPH SHOWING TOTAL, AVAILABLE AND OCCUPIED BEDS IN ROYAL CITY OF DUBLIN HOSPITAL (1938).



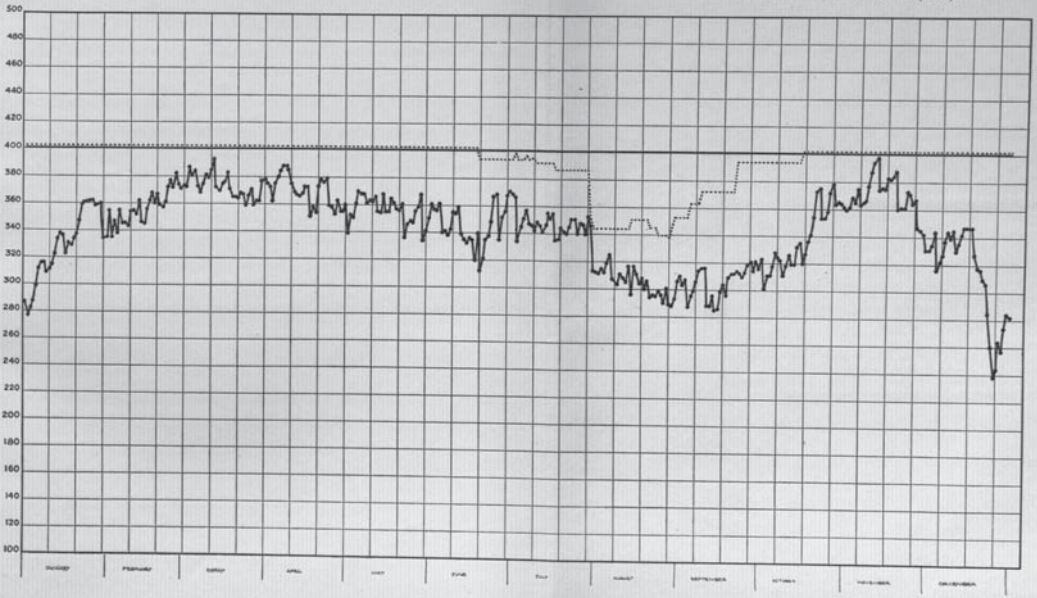
GRAPH SHOWING TOTAL, AVAILABLE AND OCCUPIED BEDS IN ST. VINCENT'S HOSPITAL (1938).



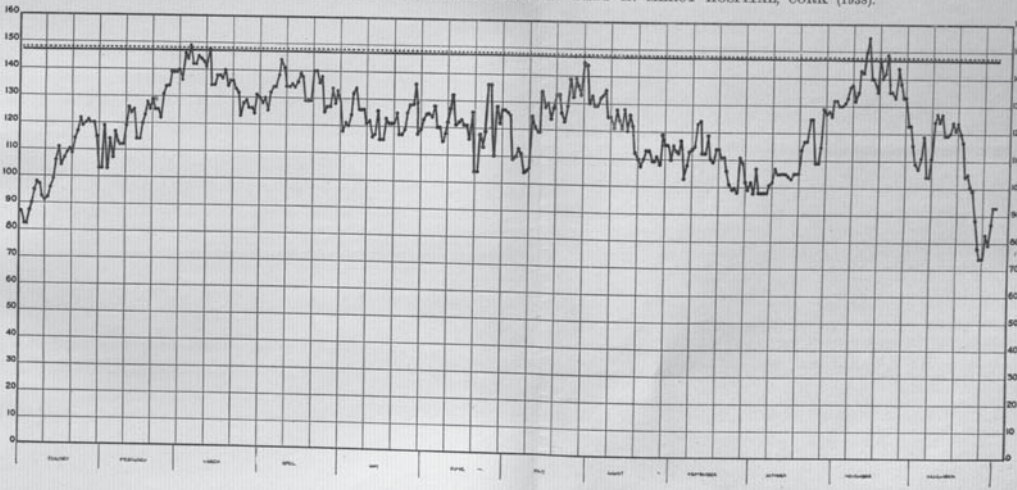
GRAPH SHOWING TOTAL, AVAILABLE AND OCCUPIED BEDS IN STEEVENS' (DR.) HOSPITAL (1938).



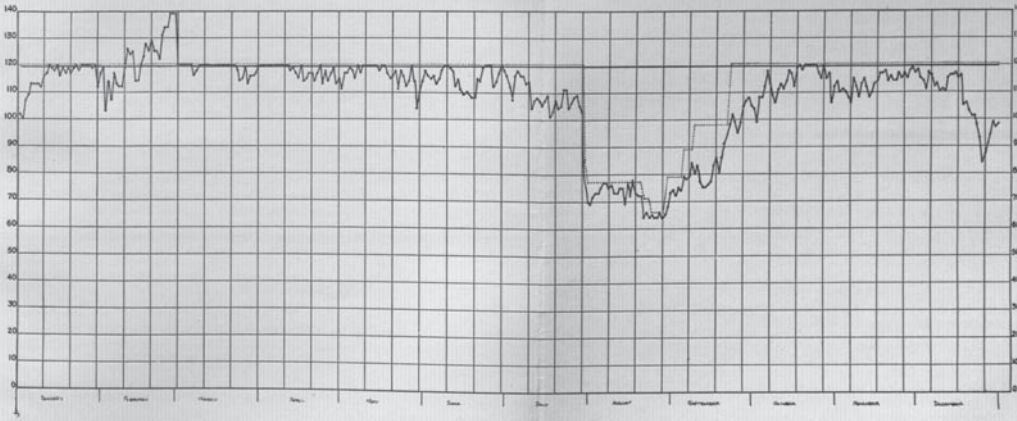
GRAPH SHOWING TOTAL, AVAILABLE AND OCCUPIED BEDS IN THREE CORK VOLUNTARY GENERAL HOSPITALS (1938).



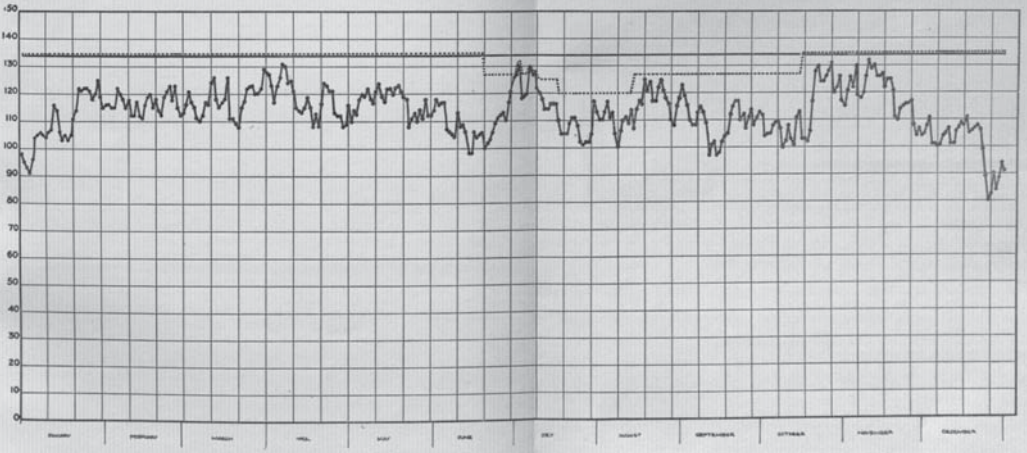
GRAPH SHOWING TOTAL, AVAILABLE AND OCCUPIED BEDS IN MERCY HOSPITAL, CORK (1938).



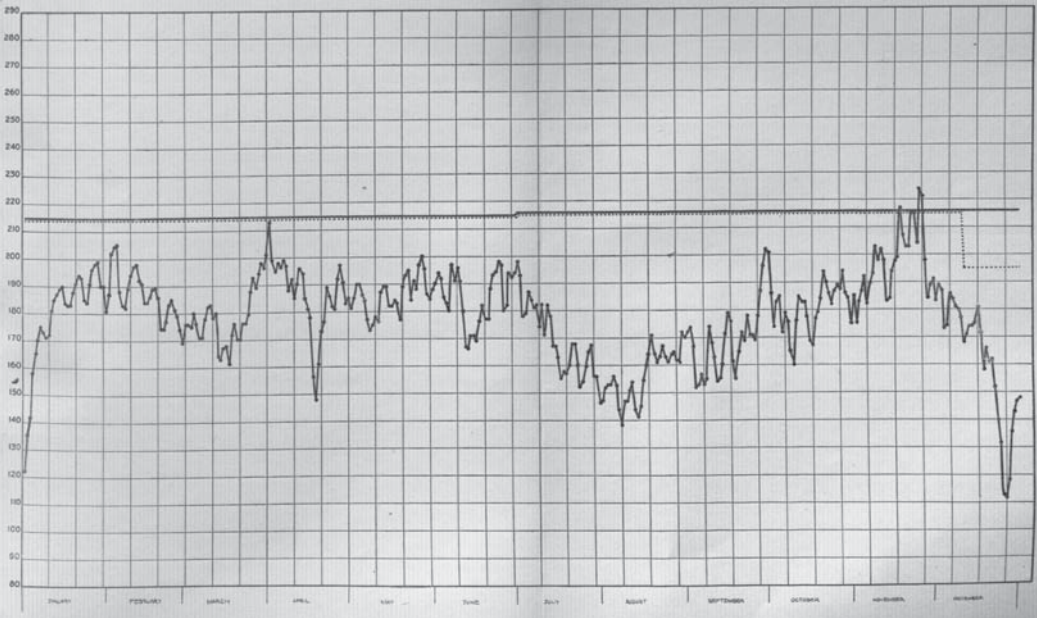
GRAPH SHOWING TOTAL, AVAILABLE AND OCCUPIED BEDS IN NORTH CHARITABLE INFIRMARY, CORK (1938).



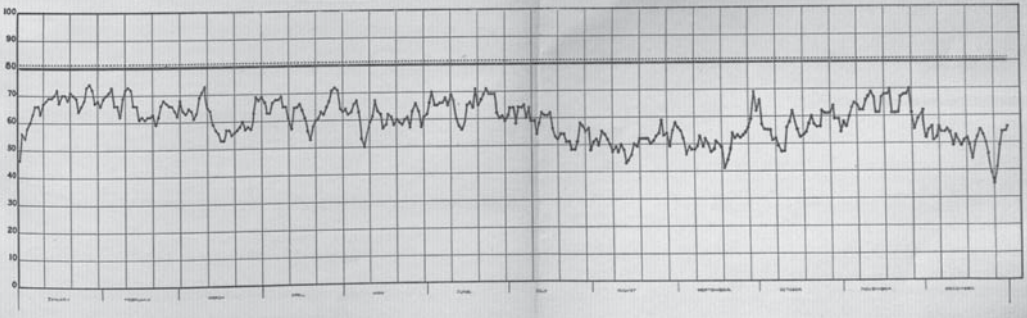
GRAPH SHOWING TOTAL, AVAILABLE AND OCCUPIED BEDS IN SOUTH CHARITABLE INFIRMARY, CORK (1938).



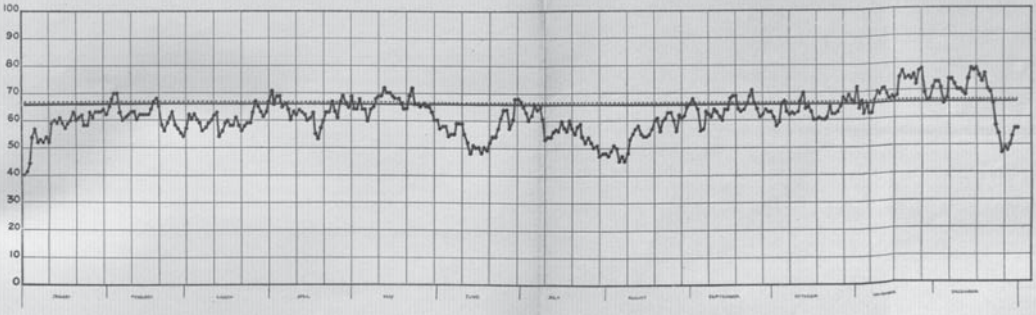
GRAPH SHOWING TOTAL, AVAILABLE AND OCCUPIED BEDS IN THREE LIMERICK VOLUNTARY GENERAL HOSPITALS (1938.)



GRAPH SHOWING TOTAL, AVAILABLE AND OCCUPIED BEDS IN BARRINGTON'S HOSPITAL AND CITY OF LIMERICK INFIRMARY (1938).



GRAPH SHOWING TOTAL, AVAILABLE AND OCCUPIED BEDS IN LIMERICK COUNTY INFIRMARY (1938).



GRAPH SHOWING TOTAL, AVAILABLE AND OCCUPIED BEDS IN ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL, LIMERICK (1938).