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CONTACTS

INSIDE: -
CHILD CARE GUIDELINES
FROM THE FOUR MASTERS TO B.C.G.
ASTRA IS TEN

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 4 THE JOURNAL OF THE EASTERN HEALTH BOARD MAY/JUNE 1977

SANCTIONED

Dept. move to fill gaps in health services

The Minister for Health has announced a new job creation programme, designed to improve the delivery of health services and to provide the maximum amount of employment opportunities.

NEW

Health Boards were asked to identify the gaps in the health services in their areas, and submit projects designed to fill these gaps, listed in order of priority.

JOBS

The Minister, having considered proposals submitted by the Eastern Health Board, has now approved of the spending of an additional £605,000 in 1977 to provide for the creation of several new jobs required to develop the health services in the Eastern Health Board areas.

- Nursing and others** -
14 public health nurses, 10 trainee public health nurses, 6 general trained nurses, 20 homemakers, 3 occupational therapists and 3 assistant supervisors, Welfare Homes.
- Child Care Services** -
8 social workers, 6 trainee social workers, 6 clerk typists and 2 tutors in child care.
- Dental Services** -
1 senior dental officer and 1 dental assistant.
- Laboratory Services**
1 analytical chemist, 1 laboratory technician and 1 clerk typist.
- General Medical Services** -
2 clerical officers and 1 clerk typist.

ANNOUNCED

In addition, the Eastern Health Board is authorised to give grants to voluntary organisations to employ 8 child care workers and 4 part-time cooks.

The money will be spent in 1977 as follows:

Community Care	£270,000
General Hospitals	£50,000
Psychiatric Hospitals	£110,000
Engineering Services	£165,000
Central Services	£10,000
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	£605,000

One ward sister, twelve nurses, one attendant and two physiotherapists have been approved for the board's general hospitals and long stay homes.

A chief ambulance officer, a mechanic and a receptionist have been approved for the ambulance service.

In the Community Care Programme the new jobs comprise:

- Community Care Teams** -
4 directors of community care, 7 assistant section officers, 7 clerk typists and 6 porters/cleaners.

The additional staff for the psychiatric services is:

- Child Psychiatric Services** -
1 consultant psychiatrist, 1 assistant psychologist and 1 assistant chief nursing officer.

DES de LOUGHRY

AN APPRECIATION

It came as a profound shock to all of us when Des de Loughry died suddenly on 20th April. Even still, I find it hard to write about a man so full of energy and drive in the past tense.

I first met Des in 1960. He was working in the accounts department of St. Brendan's Hospital. Later he went to James's Street to set up a punch-card installation for processing accounts. When the Dublin Health Authority decided to get a computer he was the obvious choice to head the new department.

He became well known as a boundlessly energetic and capable computer manager both to the staff of the Dublin Health Authority and subsequently the Eastern Health Board, to the doctors and administrators in the Medico-Social Research Board, the Federated Dublin Hospitals and St. Luke's Hospital, and to his colleagues in the computer field both here and in England, Scotland and Wales.

I used to think that a man so tirelessly dedicated to his work could have few outside interests, but I could not have been more wrong. A keen chess player, he represented his country at several international events. But his chief love was athletics. A former Leinster champion over 400 metres, Des won prominence as a track coach. He was president of the Dublin City Harriers and field and track coach of An Bord Luath Cleas na hEireann. Last year he was official coach to the Irish athletic team at the Montreal Olympics.

Readers of *Contacts* will remember his article in the July/August, 1976 issue on the gruelling preparations for the Olympic Games. There he commented that it was one of the sad features of the Irish sporting scene that there was no institute of sports medicine, no centre for research, diagnosis or treatment for the very specialised needs of the modern athlete. His sudden death in the prime of life makes this plea all the more poignant. It would be a fitting memorial to Des if such an institute were now formed.

We in the Eastern Health Board will miss his cheerful, bustling presence, as will, I am sure, his friends in the Dublin City Harriers. To his mother, sister and her family and his brother we extend our deepest sympathy.

J. F. REYNOLDS

Picture by courtesy of Irish Press

Nurse of the Year



By the time you read this Sister Phil Griffin of Cherry Orchard will be the most famous nurse in Ireland. She won the title "Nurse of the Year" and on the Late Late Show on 16 April she was presented with a cheque for £1,000 by the makers of Lucozade. Sister Griffin, who is a Ward Sister in Cherry Orchard since 1972, is very modest about her success. However, her Matron, Miss Taaffe, the staff of the hospital and indeed all of us are thoroughly delighted with her achievement. Heartiest congratulations, Sister Griffin!

And that's not all. Apart altogether from the competition, she has arranged a concert which will be held in the Assembly Hall, St. James's Hospital on 29 April and which will star Brendan Grace. It is in aid of patients' comforts and we'll be reporting further on it.

Late Miss Ellen (Nellie) Power R.I.P.

It is with deep regret that we learned of the death of Nellie at St. James's Hospital on 2 March last. While she had not been on duty for some months, her death was unexpected.

At recent meetings of the visiting committee tributes were paid by the Board members to her devotion to duty over her many years' service at St. Clare's and at St. James's Hospital. Her first concern at all times was for the welfare of the patients in her charge. She looked after them with kindness and in accordance with the highest ideals of the nursing profession.

The Requiem Mass at St. James's Hospital Chapel was attended by the Chairman of the Board, Councillor M. Carroll, Mr. O Caoimh, C.E.O. and representatives of all staff grades in the Board's hospitals and homes, and St. James's Hospital.

To her brother, sister and relatives we extend our deepest sympathy on Nellie's death and the death of her mother a few days later.

P.J. Swords

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Improvement of mental handicap facilities, St. Ita's -

1 psychologist, occupational therapist, 1 assistant chief nursing officer, 2 charge nurses, 4 deputy charge nurses, 3 nurses, 1 receptionist, 6 domestics and 1 part-time child care worker.

Improvement of staff/patient ratio at Dundrum hospital -

10 attendants.

Provision of Day Centre, Raheny -

1 occupational therapist, 3 psychiatric nurses and 1 receptionist.

Provision of additional hostels -

2 supervisors and 2 domestics.

Provision of Day Centre, Kilcock -

1 occupational therapist, 3 nurses and 1 receptionist.

The allocation of £165,000 for engineering services is to provide for renovations and improvements in the board's hospitals and clinics. The employments created will be temporary in the present year. The board has been asked to give particular attention to the easing of local unemployment problems and to utilize the funds so as to ensure that the maximum amount of employment is afforded, whether directly or through local contractors.

The £10,000 allocated to Central Services is for an additional section officer and two assistant section officers in Personnel and an assistant section officer in the Internal Audit Section of the Finance Department.

In addition, a total of £174,500 has been allocated for commission of new units in 1977.

This includes provision for the following additional staff:

72-Bed Mental Handicap Unit, St. Ita's -

1 senior psychiatrist, 1 assistant chief nursing officer, 3 charge nurses, 8 deputy charge nurses, 14 psychiatric nurses, 42 trainee psychiatric nurses, 6 domestics, 1 clerical officer, 1 electrician, 1 carpenter and 1 labourer.

Male Unit, St. Vincent's Hospital, Fairview -

1 supervisory nursing grade, 1 charge nurse, 6 male nurses, 15 female nurses, 4 student nurses, 1 occupational therapist, 4 male attendants, 2 domestics, 1 telephonist and 1 receptionist.

Workshops for autistic children, Milltown -

1 manager and 2 supervisors.

Hostel, South Circular Road -

1 supervisor and 1 assistant supervisor.

New Dental Clinics -

8 dental surgeons, 8 dental attendants, 1 receptionist and 1 cleaner.

Some people are so interested in writing, that they are said to have ink in their veins. All of us do not share this love of writing, but we do like a quiet read, even though it is only for a little while before we sleep at night.

One of the things I have looked forward to on my retirement was to have time to read – to read not just articles dealing with my own subject of preventative medicine, but time to read other fascinating books such as the Annals of the Four Masters or the Annals of Lough Cé. These cannot be described as bedtime reading but they contain much interesting information. They tell of the human faults of our race – the incessant quarrels and jealousy in those years, but despite these faults, these histories prove the indestructibility of our people and engender pride in our Gaelic culture.

Those of us who are interested in preventative medicine, see in the Annals records of diseases which have been conquered. Epidemics of smallpox and plague appear often in their pages, and there are regular accounts of deaths of our kings attributed to eitinn or consumption. Plague was carried by rats and cases were traced to ships coming into our ports. With that knowledge, the destruction of rats lead to the eradication of this pestilence.

Smallpox was the first disease which was overcome by a vaccine, and ranks as one of the major achievements of preventative medicine in modern times, with its almost complete eradication, except in the Indian sub-continent and Ethiopia.

The vaccine against tuberculosis, known as B.C.G. after its discoverers, Calmette and Guerin, has established itself in the prevention of that disease. These two French men working in the 1930's introduced the vaccine in France. Modern civilisation owes much to French genius, from the invention of the first motor and the first aeroplane to the first vaccine against T.B.

Unfortunately, B.C.G. vaccine got off to a bad start owing to an error in the laboratory in Lubeck when children died and some of the doctors involved

The conquest of infectious diseases

DR. PEARL DUNLEVY

committed suicide. The enquiry proved that the doctors who administered the vaccine were not responsible for this accident, which was due to the use of live human tubercle bacilli, instead of the attenuated bovine bacilli, which is repeatedly grown on media and subcultured until safe. This Lubeck disaster taught the care which must be taken in the preparation and storage of the vaccine, which is always prepared in a separate laboratory and stored in a separate fridge from all other vaccines. It is routine that children attending for B.C.G. vaccination do not receive any other vaccine for at least two months.

Dr. Dunlevy retired from the post of Deputy Chief Medical Officer last September.

The B.C.G. scheme introduced in the Dublin Local Authority service commenced in the late 1940's and was the first Local Authority scheme in these islands. The success of the work here is shown in our freedom from childhood tuberculosis for many years – T.B. meningitis and miliary tuberculosis have entered the limbo of history. One of the highlights of the B.C.G. scheme in Dublin was the use of this vaccine for the new born in the maternity hospitals which has met with full co-operation of parents and the medical profession.

Although tuberculosis in Ireland had shown a remarkable decrease since 1950, unfortunately there has been no fall in annual

morbidity since 1973. More could be done, bovine tuberculosis prevention could be tackled more energetically. It causes tuberculosis of intestines, glands, and bone disease by drinking infected milk. With the co-operation of the veterinary profession and the farmers much could be done to eradicate non-respiratory tuberculosis; so we hope we will see soon the end of the financial dispute which is such a hazard in the fight against tuberculosis.

I set out to read the Annals to study our great Gaelic culture and its treasure house of events, but my attention was diverted to the conquered diseases. The medical advances of the twentieth century such as the success of diphtheria and polio vaccines have rendered these diseases in line with the other great pestilences of the past.

As infectious diseases have yielded to vaccines, we hope to prevent congenital deformities which have baffled medical science up to now. This type of prevention is the subject of intense study in the medical world and it appears, at last a dim light is beginning to show in the darkness which surrounds the subject. The introduction of the rubella vaccination programme for girls in the 12–14 age group and the rubella antenatal screening programme in the maternity hospitals are aimed at the prevention of congenital deformities. Both of these schemes have met with enthusiasm, and we visualise that expectant mothers will have acquired immunity which will prevent the heart disease, blindness and deafness which could threaten the unborn child.

Life was very short at the time the Annals were written. Red Hugh O'Donnell who left his indelible mark in Irish history was only 29 years of age when he died, having been a king for 10 years. Even in 1830, 40% of infants did not survive the first 5 years of life. In 1970, infants have a good chance of surviving life's allotted span of 70 years. There has been so much success achieved in disease prevention, that we may look forward to the last quarter of the century with its bright promise of increasing scope for preventative measures.

MOVES TO PREVENT CHILD CRUELTY

The Department of Health has taken steps to deal with the problem of deliberate physical injury to children. When the report of the Committee on Non-Accidental Injury to Children was published in March 1976 it was circulated to a very wide range of health agencies and interests, with a request that they submit their comments on the Committee's recommendations.

In March of this year the Department issued a memorandum to health boards, hospitals and voluntary agencies, based on the recommendations of the committee and the many views received on these recommendations.

The memorandum concentrates on the problem of actual, suggested or potential non-accidental physical injury to children. The problem of injury from emotional deprivation or neglect is more complex and more difficult to assess. This is being examined separately by the Department in consultation with the Task Force on Child Care Services.

The primary purpose of the memorandum is to give guidelines to health agencies and health personnel by helping towards identification of cases, pinpointing the person with key responsibility, creating an awareness among all those who in their work are likely to come in contact with cases of non-accidental injury and guiding them as to appropriate courses of action, including notification, and promoting among the various parties involved a sense of responsibility and co-operation to ensure better management of cases.

MANAGEMENT OF CASES

Health boards will be responsible for monitoring and co-ordinating the management of cases. In each area the Director of Community Care and Medical Officer of

Health will have overall responsibility. Where the post of Director of Community Care has not been filled, an officer should be designated by the Chief Executive Officer.

Notifications of all cases will be sent to the Director who will be responsible for

- designating the key person with responsibility for each case
- gathering the information about each case
- holding case conferences
- overseeing the general management of each case, and ensuring that whatever action is decided is carried out
- trying to control the location of the injured child until the case is brought to a satisfactory conclusion.

The memorandum contains detailed guidelines for doctors and others confronted with an injured child.

The actual investigation and subsequent management of cases will require the involvement of workers from different professions, and the memorandum suggests that the best way of dealing with each case is by way of a case conference of all concerned.

CENTRAL REGISTER

The memorandum states that in the various comments on the report of the Committee on Non-Accidental Injury to Children there was considerable disagreement about the desirability and effectiveness of a central register of cases.

At this stage it is suggested that the information to be collated should serve only two basic purposes:—

- (1) to help assess the extent of the problem at present, and
- (2) to inform other professionals whether a child has previously suffered from suspected or actual non-accidental injury.

Directors of Community Care are advised to keep a list of suspected and actual cases of non-accidental injury, showing

- Child's surname
- Child's first names
- Date of Birth
- Parents' Names
- Parents' present and previous addresses
- Short description of the injuries to the child
- Name of the key person and the agency now taking care of the child.



The list should be reviewed regularly and where initial suspicion has proved to be unfounded, the details should be expunged from the list.

The Director of Community Care will have the responsibility for divulging the information on the list. The memorandum emphasises the importance of treating the information with the strictest confidentiality.

TRAINING

Special importance is placed on the need to ensure that all persons charged with responsibility for the management of cases are properly trained.

Health boards, hospital authorities and voluntary agencies in child care are asked to review their methods of dealing with cases of non-accidental injury and examine the extent of the preventive work which they might be able to undertake within their existing resources.

Luxembourg likes out and about

A very pleasant function took place at the Eastern Health Board Clinical Headquarters, St. Laurence's Road, Clontarf, on Tuesday, 12th April 1977 when Mrs. Valentin Iremonger, wife of the Irish Ambassador to Luxembourg, presented Morny Murrhy and Ben Bono, founder members of the OUT AND ABOUT Association with a cheque for £1,556 which was donated by the Committee of the International Bazaar of Luxembourg. This International Bazaar which is under the patronage of H.R.H. the Grand Duchess of Luxembourg, has been in existence for about ten years and is legally constituted as an independent non-profit making organisation and is recognised as such by the Luxembourg Government. Its aim is to raise funds annually for a local Luxembourg charity and for an international charity. This year, the OUT AND ABOUT Association was nominated for this award.

The OUT AND ABOUT Association caters for sufferers from agoraphobia, which is a fear of going out unaccompanied to places of public assembly. There is a monthly publication, a newsletter, produced by Ben Bono

"In the long term," says the memorandum, "it is likely that the amount and quality of training and preventive work will determine the extent to which the incidence of non-accidental injury to children can be reduced."

EVALUATION AND REVIEW

The memorandum suggests that the problem should be kept under review and the various procedures suggested be evaluated over a period of two years.

GETTING STARTED

The memorandum closes with a short list of steps which should be taken now

1. Health boards and hospitals should bring the memorandum to the attention of all staffs who are likely to come into contact with injured children, and iron out any difficulty that might arise.
2. Each health board should tell hospitals, doctors, gardai and schools in their area how to contact the Director of Community Care or other appropriate officer when non-accidental injury to a child is suspected. Copies of a check list to help identification, investigation and initial action will be supplied by the Department of Health for circulation to interested parties.
3. Training needs should be identified by health boards and hospitals. The Department will arrange discussions with health boards and hospitals to agree on the training arrangements.

which affords sufferers an opportunity to help fellow-sufferers throughout Ireland, thereby assisting each other to overcome their fears and most important of all, remove the feeling of isolation which sufferers experience. The extent of the problem of agoraphobia can be gauged by looking at the statistics available to the OUT AND ABOUT Association from Canada, the U.S. and England. These statistics indicate that roughly 6 per 1,000 of the population suffer from agoraphobia to a greater or lesser degree, and one of the universally accepted treatments is this contact by newsletter service.

This much appreciated award will enable the OUT AND ABOUT Association, which up to now has been mainly Dublin-based, to extend its activities to other parts of Ireland and help to lessen the burden of the estimated 30,000 sufferers.

BLOOD TRANSFUSION BOARD THANKS STAFF OF EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

Last March a few healthy specimens among the staff went down to Pelican House to exchange a pint of blood for a bottle of stout or a cup of tea.

Dr. J. P. O'Riordan, the National Director of the Board, has written to our Personnel Officer thanking the staff for its continuing staunch support.

"By their generosity", he said, "many will be restored to health."

Voluntary workers and our hospitals

Voluntary organisations play a big part in providing comforts for the patients in our hospitals and homes. What is most encouraging is the involvement of young people in this work.

Bishop Kavanagh, when visiting our institutions during 1975 and 1976 paid tribute to the voluntary workers and he had a very special word for the young people. He will be pleased to know that since his visits the good work has continued to grow.

At a recent meeting in St. Colman's, Cllr. Carroll, Chairman of the Board, and Cllr. Sweeney, Chairman of the Visiting Committee, and Board members thanked a representative gathering from the local organisations for their monetary contributions, which exceeded £10,000, towards the cost of various items of equipment. Over and above that, the local voluntary organisations were thanked for the extent to which they had given so generously of their time.

The members noted with regret the recent death of Mr. Jack Kelly, Lr. Main Street, Rathdrum, who, a little over a year ago, had presented a cheque for £3,000, the proceeds of a walk, to Cllr. Sweeney.

Sister Dominic, Matron, St. Vincent's, Athy, had much to report to the Visiting Committee on the voluntary organisations at the Committee's meeting early in March. We will be reporting further on these very laudable efforts.

Sister Angelis, Matron, the community and staff of St. Columcille's, with the help of the local committee have arranged a number of functions recently including a 10-mile walk on Sunday, 1 May. To Sgt. O'Sullivan and his hard-working committee we all express our thanks for the generous help and support being given to the hospital. The Visiting Committee were pleased to note the extent to which Sister Angelis has been availing of the funds to provide comforts and items of equipment.

DR. VALENTINE BARRY

Dr. Valentine Barry has recently been appointed a Director of Community Care to the Eastern Health Board.

Dr. Barry qualified at the Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin, and after qualification he worked in hospitals in Dublin, Edinburgh and Southern England. He also worked in the Welsh Tuberculosis Service at Cardiff and gained the Diploma in Tuberculous Diseases there.

Returning to Ireland he became Assistant County Medical Officer in Tipperary S.R. and for a period he was seconded to the Department of Health as a Medical Inspector. He was subsequently appointed County Medical Officer for Cavan, from which post he transferred to become County Medical Officer for Kilkenny. He retained that position until he became Programme Manager for Community Care for the South-Eastern Health Board about four years ago, a position which he retained up to his present appointment.

He has served on numerous Committees and Boards and while working in Co. Kilkenny was actively involved with Bishop Birch in promoting the very advanced Community Care system which they have got in that county. He is a member of the G.M.S. Payments Board and he was also Chairman of the Committee on the Workload of the Public Health Nurse.

JOHN DEMPSEY R.I.P.

The recent sudden death of John Dempsey, Porter, Bru Chaoimhin, shocked and saddened all, especially those who knew him and had worked closely with him for many years.

His gentle genial personality came very much to the fore when dealing with the homeless and destitute in the Casuals Department at Griffith Barracks.

He was interested in people in all walks of life and had pen-friends in many countries. He had collected over the years many letters and signed photographs from different heads of state including Churchill, Attlee, Costelloe, Aneurin Bevan, Anthony Eden, De Gaulle, Truman, Eisenhower, J. F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon to name but a few. As a result of this voluminous correspondence he made many friends in the U.S. and other places abroad, whom he used visit on his annual vacations. Because of his interest he collected a vast photographic record of these people and places.

To his wife and family and his brother Bill (also a colleague) we extend our sincere sympathy.

May he rest in peace.

M. O'Carroll

Poor response to **SAVE IT** competition

In our last issue we announced that £25 would be awarded for practical "save it" suggestions.

Only three suggestions have been received, two from health inspectors and one from a member of the nursing staff in St. Brendan's Hospital. These have been passed to the committee appointed to judge the merit of suggestions received.

Why such a poor response? Answers could be -

1. The Eastern Health Board is perfect
2. Staff members don't care
3. Nobody reads CONTACTS

We know (1) and (3) can't be correct. It's up to you to prove (2) is incorrect also. There is no closing date to the competition. Every worthwhile idea will be carefully considered.

Surely someone amongst these ambitious clerical officers preparing for A.S.O. interviews, not to speak of A.S.O.s and S.O.s, must have an original idea. And what about all these medical, para-medical and nursing officers who can be so critical of the administrators? Have they something to offer, or are they just exponents of the celebrated Irish facility for "auld talk"?

Retirement of Martin Monaghan

A presentation was made in St. Brendan's Hospital recently to Martin Monaghan on his retirement from the post of Supplies Officer. The presentation was made by Mr. Ted Keyes, Programme Manager, in the presence of a large and representative gathering.

Martin has spent the last ten years in St. Brendan's and prior to that he worked in Galway and Portlaoise. For the past thirty-eight years he has also been in the army and reserve.

As well as looking after the "inner man" in his capacity as Supplies Officer, Martin was an active worker in the Local Government and Public Services Union and held the post of branch honorary secretary for the past five years. We understand that he will continue to be involved in Union affairs.

We wish him many happy years of active retirement.

Baltinglass Hospital

We heard with regret of the recent death of Father Gahan, retired Parish Priest of Baltinglass. At the Requiem Mass in Baltinglass on December 22 at which Bishop Lennon and Bishop Birch were present, a special tribute was paid to the staff of the District Hospital for the care which they gave to Father Gahan who was a patient there for some months.

Elections to Board and Local Committees

The term of office (5 years) of the representatives of the professions on the Board and local committees expires at the end of next June. The professions concerned are doctors, dentists, psychiatric nurses, public health nurses and chemists. The process of electing the incoming members is under way. It involves compiling voters registers, seeking nominations and then holding ballots.

Administrators on the move

Professor Ivor Browne, Chief Psychiatrist, has transferred his headquarters from Garden Hill, James's Street, to St. Brendan's Hospital. Mr. Ted Keyes, Programme Manager, has moved to a new office in the St. Brendan's Annexe.

Illness of Councillor Michael Brady

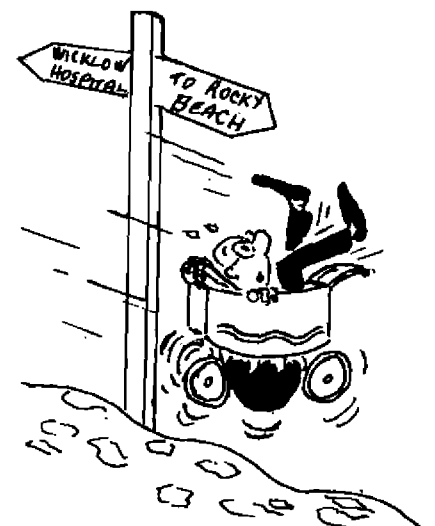
We heard with regret of Councillor Michael Brady's absence from the Board and St. Mary's committee due to illness. We all join in wishing Michael a speedy return to health.

Dr. Martin Rahill

Dr. Rahill has been appointed to the post of Clinical Director in the Board and is based at Newcastle hospital.

ANY OLD PRAMS?

If you've nothing special lined up for Sunday, 22 May why not turf the baby out of the pram, hop in yourself, get the missus to push you and join the starters in the Annual Fancy Dress Pram Derby in Wicklow town? The venue is the Grand Hotel at 3 p.m., the course is about a quarter of a mile and the finishing post is at the ball alley just outside the hospital. Prizes for the winner and best fancy costume. Stalls will be set up beside the grounds, bands will be playing, there's an open air concert, and you can win a goldfish, among other things. Mary Heaslip from the Wicklow office says that all staff are welcome to come and sell the beer or drink it but be sure to bring the pram as they're short of them!





A scene from "Home is the Hero". L. to R. - Michael Kilameade, Eileen Larkin, Tommy Garrett, Bill Tisdall, Frances Parkes, Margaret Power, Michael Hanratty.

You didn't let us down! We have to say thanks a million for your marvellous support of our play "Home is the Hero". You helped make it a huge success, and it was wonderful playing to such appreciative audiences.

On Sunday, 6 March, in Kilmuckridge Drama Festival we succeeded in obtaining a mark of 91%, which made us joint third in the Festival with Metro Drama Group. We didn't win any awards but certainly entertained the audience which for us was recompense enough. We did hope to have a second chance by competing in the Meath Drama Festival at Navan but this was not to be. The play had been performed in this Festival a few years ago, and so our entry was not accepted. Well, that's life!

TEN YEARS OLD!

We hope the frenzied activities of the weeks since the middle of March and our herculean efforts of organisation will bear fruit during the first week of May when we celebrate our tenth anniversary. As you know, we have a week of events lined up consisting of a variety show, a quiz, veterans' football tournament, talent competition and three one-act plays. Do join us in our celebrations and enjoy yourselves - heaven knows when there will be a week like it again!

The end of another Astra year is just around the corner. We hope to see as many members as possible at our A.G.M. which will take place on Wednesday, 25 May 1977 at 6 p.m. in the Assembly Hall, James's Street. Do your best to be there. You haven't let us down so far this year. Well, I think that's where I came in. 'Bye for now.

Margaret Power,
Chairman.

Joe Byrne retires

At a recent function in the Assembly Hall, James's Street, there was a large gathering of the Board's staff and representatives of St. James's and James Connolly Hospitals to pay tribute to Joe on his retirement from the post of Section Officer. He had long service with the Board and its predecessors, the Dublin Health Authority and the Dublin Board of Assistance. Prior to that, he was with the Agricultural Credit Corporation.

In making the presentation, Mr. Nolan, Deputy C.E.O. who was deputising for Mr. O Caoimh, C.E.O., presented Joe with a colour television and wished him very many years of happiness in his retirement. Councillor Carroll, Chairman of the Board, also joined in the tributes.

All of us wish Joe many years of pleasure now that he has left the cares of the Board behind him. We are particularly grateful for his help in dealing with the Voluntary Health Insurance scheme for the Board's staff.

Senior officers change their title

The title "Administrative Assistant" has given rise to some confusion and it has now been altered to "General Administrator". The three General Administrators are Mr. F. J. McCullough, Special Hospital Care Programme, Mr. J. Clarke, Community Care Programme, and Mr. P. J. Swords, General Hospital Care Programme.

THE FOUR WALLS OF JAMES'S STREET

*It only stands a few feet high
Of blocks, and built quite square;
They stuck it near our main front gate,
It's months just sitting there.
Will it grow to high-rise offices
In which we'll sweat and toil?
Or maybe they've just plumbed its depths
And - glory be! - found oil?
There's those who see its beauteous lines
As a dead cert for the Tate
Staff sauna baths? A public loo?
Pray tell us what's its fate?*

St. Ita's news

Dr M. Conway

New unit

The 72-bedded new unit at the hospital is expected to be ready for opening in September next.

National Indoor Games for the Mentally Handicapped

The E.H.B. Regional Finals of the National Indoor Games were held last March in the Main Dining Hall of St. Ita's. Thirteen teams from the region took part. The opening ceremony was performed by the Attorney General, Mr. Declan Costello, T.D.

At the April meeting of the EHB Councillor Carroll, Chairman, praised the work being done by Dr. Vincent Molony and the National Indoor Games Council. He said that the games were very well organised and the entire venture was a huge success.

Spring Festival

The arrival of spring is not ignored in St. Ita's! We're running a festival starting on Sunday 22 May with High Mass and continuing on for the rest of that week. Other events include holding a nurses' prize giving and garden party. Unfortunately at time of going to press we haven't finalised our arrangements but, doubtless, you'll hear about it from other sources.

Museum

We have started a museum in the tower in the front hall. It will contain instruments, old documents, prescriptions and many other items which were used in the treatment of mental illness in the hospital since it was built in 1872. It will probably take a few years to fully establish the museum but we've made a start.

Dr. Gabriel Nolan

Dr. Nolan has recently joined the consultant staff of the hospital. He is a native of Newbridge, Co. Kildare. In recent years he has contributed to many a radio discourse.

Illness of staff

Our best wishes for a speedy recovery go to male nurse Jimmy Walsh and Paddy Gleeson, night superintendent, and also to our worthy storekeeper, Tom McMahon, all of whom were ill recently.

Basketball

The hospital team has been successful in winning the all-Ireland Antigen League Cup 1977 by beating St. Otteran's, Waterford. Hearty congratulations to them and their captain Cyril Murphy.

Hockey

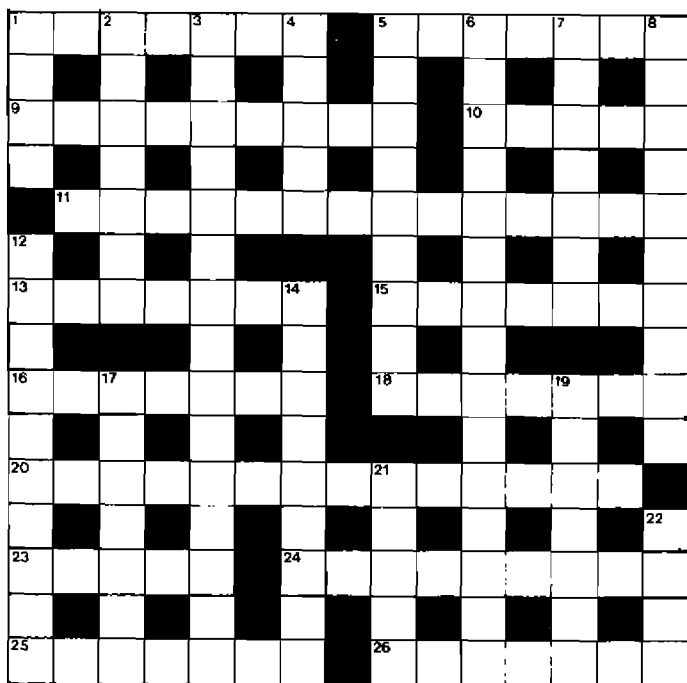
The inter-hospital mixed hockey event will be hosted by St. Ita's. We won this competition last year and we will have more news of this later from Pascal Henchy.

Catholic Nurses' Guild

A branch of the Guild was recently formed here. It was initiated by the Rev. Dick Cantwell, resident hospital Chaplain.

Crossword No. 8

ACROSS



1. Ruses go wrong, causing grumbles.
5. Copper returns, gets involved in hectic actions, and plays detective.
9. Sailor's brother returns with broken net, soaking.
10. With M.C. around I'm one to ape you.
11. Surprise team, Down, causing upset.
13. Revolutionary spray caused by laboratory worker.
15. It is back, entangled in a broken rein, and going nowhere.
16. Constrained to start obviously disastrous glide.
18. A visitor at about £1, we hear. That's good psychology!
20. Scotsman returns, holding pay I disputed, and gets break under canvas.
23. Till with a French handle broken in half.
24. The tiny insect reverses and absorbs an end.
25. Fruit from the South East relaxes you
26. Lack of faith in auditory challenge about extra-sensory perception.

DOWN

1. Junior F.B.I. agent is happy.
2. It is not plain rock that crazy mixed-up kids get involved in.
3. The plant getting smaller all the time may be a wallflower.
4. Girl, a bit of an epicure, is a docile creature
5. I get in and upset the imprisoning.
6. Ghosts from the deep cause gloom.
7. Almost arrive at stronghold for relief.
8. Small time skills for university test.
12. Golf champion can be a trump.
14. They control the waters. Do they also prevent entry on land?
17. Cut short a bit in the hat.
19. A legal advisor and two graduates are in a state.
21. Cleaved through water and roared as head fell off.
22. Raising grass does not sound cheap.

Name _____

Address _____

Solution to Crossword No. 7

ACROSS: 1. Media 4. Sadist 9. Defiant
10. Look-out 11. Annual
12. Athletic 14. Over the Rainbow
16. Contract Bridge
20. Conjuror 21. Lassie
23. Theatre 24. Eminent
25. Kernel 26. Yodel

DOWN: 1. Mediator 2. Defence Counsel
3. Adamant 4. Site 5. Dilettante
6. Swollen 7. Notice 8. Don't
condescend 13. Get a move on
15. Pedestal 17. Trustee
18. Reality 19. Scotch 22. Bell

WINNER: K. O'Flaherty, Chest Clinic,
27 Castle Street.

STAFF TRANSFERS

It is rather difficult trying to keep up with the clerical staff at present as they appear to be in a state of flux. However, the following transfers have occurred:

Pat Delaney, Section Officer, to St. Brendan's; Mick Cummins, S/O, to Secretariat; Laura O'Kelly, S/O, to Hospitals; John Brennan to O. & M.; Charlie Killeen, S/O, to Hospitals; Jack Ball, S/O, from I.S.A. Annexe to I.S.A.; Kevin Cross from St. Columcille's to S/O I.S.A.; Teresa Downes to S/O I.S.A. Annexe; Anne Halpin (nee Tobin) A.S.O. to Welfare.

St. James's Social & Sports Club

CHESS: This section is closed until September. We finished third in our division of the Chess Enterprises League. Next year we hope to field two teams in regular competition. If you are interested in learning to play or to join the club contact J. F. Cusack, Secretary, at 752380.

FOOTBALL: Ladies: Our team are playing in division two of the Civil Service League. Their games are on Monday evenings and are mostly played in St. James's. Potential members are asked to contact Carmel Reilly at 682011.

Gents: A seven-a-side league based on sections is running at the moment. We have entered two teams for the Civil Service League. The secretary is Eddie Mathews, 757951.

SWIMMING: Classes are held in C.B.S. Parnell Road - Contact Mary Dunne, I.S.A. 757951.

BASKETBALL: Two teams are playing in the hospitals league. This section is confined to ladies. Secretary is Ann Marie Nelligan.

GOLF/PITCH & PUTT: Outings are held regularly. Secretary is Frank O'Brien, St. Mary's Hospital, Phoenix Park, 778132.

TRAVEL: Crumlin Hospital organise trips abroad regularly. Our contact is Phil O'Rourke, Purchasing, 757951.

TENNIS: Entries for competitions to Rosemary Kenny, Dental Section, 10 Cornmarket, 777671.

HOCKEY: Two teams are playing in the inter-hospitals competition. We are also represented in the Business Houses Cup. Secretary is Eamonn Dunne, Expenditure, 757951.

MEMBERSHIP IS NOW PAYABLE TO GERRY MEEHAN, AMBULANCE SECTION - 757951.

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