

*DP*

The National Economic and Social Council has published a report on issues in health policy in this country.

Entitled "Some Major Issues in Health Policy", and prepared by two experts in Social Economics, A.J. Culyer, Assistant Director, Institute of Social and Economic Research, University of York, and A.K. Maynard, Lecturer in Economics, University of York, the report reviews international trends in health care delivery and spending, and some of the principal trends in Ireland in order to anticipate the problems which will face Irish health services in 1986.

It is a document deserving careful study by administrators and planners of health services. Culyer and Maynard, who have made significant contributions to the debate on health policy in Britain and elsewhere, are sharply critical of some of the untested assumptions underlying our health policy. Not the least

"We believe that many medical practices are untested in a systematic manner and may be wasteful of resources. There is a need to allocate far more resources to the testing of the relative effectiveness of therapeutic procedures."

valuable part of the report is a bibliography listing studies in other health services which could deepen our appreciation of the issues to be faced.

Some doctors and administrators may choose to dismiss the observations of two non-experts in health who attempt to apply economic concepts such as the law of supply and demand to the operation of the health services. Indeed, a recent editorial in the Irish Medical Journal did just that. This is a pity. After all, the report is but a basis for further thought and discussion. It raises questions rather than supplies answers, but they are questions which should be faced.

"Although there is a popular demand for more emphasis on preventative care than cure, again there is frequently an absence of reliable evidence concerning its efficiency and, even more frequently, concerning its cost-effectiveness."

#### **Ireland and the E.E.C.**

At the outset of this report the authors compare population trends, services and expenditure in Ireland with those of other member countries in the E.E.C. They go on to describe in some detail the present system of health care in Ireland.

In discussing expenditure on health services, they stress the difficulty of comparing the spending of one country with another's owing to the lack of

uniformity in definitions of health care and the varying ways statistics are produced. Having warned of the dangers in placing too much reliance on the comparability of the figures from each country, they show a league table of the expenditure on health care by E.E.C. countries, expressed as a percentage of Gross National Product. Not altogether sur-

"Rising expenditure, the fact that high spending is combined -- by international standards -- with limited benefits -- makes it unlikely that Ireland's system in its present form can survive for long, notwithstanding the recent reorganisation. The problems run too deep for administrative face-lifting to have much impact."

prisingly Ireland's figure is among the lowest, though 1.06% higher than Belgium's and only 0.1% below the United Kingdom's.

The point is made that Ireland spends almost as high a proportion of her GNP as the U.K., though her services are not as comprehensive.

Ireland has a low physician stock, but a high hospital bed stock in

comparison with other E.E.C. countries. The coverage appears to be less comprehensive than is general in the E.E.C., and it is argued that during the next decade there is likely to be increasing pressure in Ireland to come up to E.E.C. standards.

#### **Full and Limited Eligibility**

The categories of full and limited eligibility, the major client groups in the Irish health care system, are examined. The authors do not appear to be impressed with these schemes. They regard them as complex, administratively costly and confusing to the public, and criticize them as the

accretion of ad hoc policies through time rather than a well thought out and administratively manageable scheme. Urging that limited eligibility should be universal, they claim that the medical objection that this would increase demand is contrary to the evidence of other health care systems and that, in any case, it is physicians themselves who determine the demands for hospital beds. Physicians ration scarce health care resources and their power to ration scarce hospital beds would be no less under universal limited eligibility.

# CONTACTS

THE JOURNAL OF THE EASTERN HEALTH BOARD  
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## HEALTH SERVICES POLICY - N.E.S.C. Report looks towards the 'eighties

## Free Health Care

The authors contend that one of the more clearly marked international trends in the evolution of delivery systems of health care is towards access free of charge at the point of issue for all citizens, regardless of income, class, etc. They consider that Ireland is lagging behind, her health services, though not cheap, being neither as financially accessible nor as well distributed geographically as could be expected. They argue that a major objective of the Irish health services must be to make, out of given resources, the maximum impact on reducing ill-health, regardless of patients' income, willingness to pay, social class, religion, etc.

*"There is evidence that fee-per-contact encourages over-provision of services by giving physicians a direct incentive to be extremely risk-evasive (e.g. encouraging second and third surgery visits), and that all the traditional privileges of medical autonomy are not justified by the fact that doctors are clearly expert in aetiology, diagnosis and treatment of disease."*

They dismiss two arguments against health care – that consumers of health care should finance health services and that patient charges are a deterrent against wasteful demands and the most effective way of containing the explosive nature of public expenditure on health care. The first they find to be plainly at odds with public declarations that there should be an equitable division of health care, and the second they refute by pointing to published studies of contrary evidence. They state flatly that informed opinion is turning away from pricing and private insurance in health care.

## Monitoring the Health Services

It follows, they argue, that the attention of planners and administrators must become pre-occupied with developing further policy instruments to control and monitor the system and to supplement existing financial and direct controls.

The co-operation of the medical profession in the monitoring of the health services is crucial. Culyer and Maynard appear to think that this may not be readily forthcoming because of doctors' traditional emphasis on

the overriding importance of the doctor-patient relationship. They insist however, that doctors must be made accountable:

*"In a system which will increasingly use public funds it becomes no less important that those who decide how the avail-*

*"In the psychiatric area where a shift towards community care has, throughout the world, been most dramatic, clinical evidence for the effectiveness of such a change is highly ambiguous."*

able resources are to be used should be made accountable. Like all professions, the medical profession has successfully protected its inept members and its lazy members from the harsh light of publicity, just as it has successfully made it impossible for outsiders to assess the quality of care received by systematic

comparison of either the excellence of practitioners' qualifications or the relative success of their attempts to serve clients."

Physicians, they contend, should be denied the luxury of being responsible to no-one save their

*"Expensive hospitalization deprives other caring areas of their share of scarce economic resources."*

own consciences and their own interpretation of their duty to serve the public.

## Planning for the future

The authors believe that the expertise, techniques and data available to the State are woefully inadequate at the moment for the task of developing a comprehensive health service for the 1980's. They conclude by setting out the choices which they see facing the policy makers. The choices are presented as a series of questions.

**Sources of Finance** – If a comprehensive system of health care is to be introduced, will it be financed by an insurance-type system, by general taxation, or by a special income-related health tax? Or will it be a combination of these?

**Scope of service** – What range of benefits should be included in a comprehensive system?

**Private Practice** – What role will remain for private insurance and private practice in a comprehensive system?

**Resume Allocation** – How will the government set about allocating resources so that the maximum amount of "need" is met?

**Equity** – How will equity be defined? Will it relate to sheer physical resources available by area, or will it relate to the health "needs" of clients?

**Technical Efficiency** – How will the effectiveness of existing and new medical procedures be tested? How will the proper balance of community and institutional care be determined? What criteria will determine the amount of medical research undertaken and the kind of research it is to be?

**Monitoring** – How are institutions and professional individuals to be monitored so that not only do they work in the most effective fashion, but

also reflect in their actions the priorities set by the community as a whole? How will individual practitioners be paid such that incentives distorting the public interest and the interests of the patients are minimised?

**Community Involvement** – How best is the community to be involved in the management and monitoring of the health care system?

The National Economic and Social Council state that they hope that the publication of this report will provoke constructive debate and discussion, and that the required research will be undertaken, so that future decisions about health policy will have a firm and rational foundation. Is that too large a hope?

## CHEAP FUEL SCHEME

by Tom Kennedy

The Cheap Fuel Scheme which, up to recently was administered by the Eastern Health Board, will in future be administered by Dublin Corporation from the Board's office in the old welfare building at James's Street.

Under the scheme, one hundredweight of loose turf is made available to eligible persons each week for a period of thirty weeks from October to April. The scheme applies to persons living in the Dublin city area only and not to the county area, except for Balbriggan and Dun Laoghaire who administer their own scheme.

The turf is distributed from seventeen depots throughout the city. Fuel vouchers are issued each week from

- (i) Post Offices — to recipients of Old Age (non-contributory), Blind, and Widows and Orphans pensions, at a cost of 2½p;
- (ii) Employment Exchanges, to recipients of Unemployment Assistance who have dependants, at a cost of 5p;
- (iii) Health Centres, to recipients of Supplementary Welfare Allowance, at no cost.

Persons who are unable to collect the turf themselves should get in touch with an authorised carrier — a number of whom operate from each depot — and who make a charge of 20p to 30p for each hundredweight delivered. However, for old people living alone, unable to collect the turf themselves and with no one to collect it for them, there is a free delivery service. Persons who think they may be eligible for this free delivery should contact their local health centre.

During the last scheme, an average of 24,700 people received fuel each week, 3,000 of whom received it through the free delivery service.



## SUPPORT HOME INDUSTRY

Usher's Island Day Centre caters for character-disordered adolescents. Part of our occupational therapy programme includes candle making, string art and pottery. A wide range of these items are for sale at the Centre at very reasonable prices. Proceeds of sales are used to extend the range of activities.

Anyone interested in supporting this cause, Tel. 776946 or call at 9 Usher's Island Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## SOCIAL & SPORTS COMPLEX FOR STAFF?

As you may have heard, a few staff members have got together and formed a committee to examine the possibility of building a social and sports complex for the staff of the Eastern Health Board, St. James's Hospital and central staff of the Federated Dublin Voluntary Hospitals based at James's Street.

The committee have approached the EHB who have agreed in principle to grant a site in the grounds of St. Brendan's Hospital.

The committee are assimilating information regarding layout and costs. We hope to give more definite details in future issues. Meanwhile, if you have any views or ideas you would like the committee to hear please contact one of the undersigned —

John Kennedy, Chairman, 682011; Declan Finlay, Secretary, 682011; John Keppell, 777031; Tim Lyne, 752385; Brendan Carr, 777031; Dermot O'Neill, 752385; Shay Smith, 682011.



EMMET HOUSE —  
New telephone no. from  
1 January 1978 will be  
719222.

## CHANGES IN SUPERANNUATION

The Working Party on Local Authority Superannuation has published an interim report which is on sale for 50p at the Government Publication Office, Arcade, Henry St. The recommendations contained in the report have been accepted by the Government. The actual details of the new scheme are at present being considered by the Department of the Environment (former Dept. of Local Govt.). However, when the scheme is introduced it will have retrospective effect to 27th May, 1977 and staff will have the choice of opting in or out.

Most of the recommendations affect servants. These include entitlement to a lump sum and pension. A Widow's and Orphan's scheme will be introduced also.

Officers will be able to retire with a lump sum of one and a half times their pensionable remuneration. Their lump sum will be based on 3/80ths of their pensionable remuneration for each year of pensionable service. At present it is 1/30th.

## Chief Ambulance Officer



Having beaten the best efforts of a five-man selection board (who shall be nameless though not forgotten), Tom Brady of Technical Services has emerged victorious as the Chief Ambulance Officer elect of the Eastern Health Board.

Tom's selection for this exacting job is a most popular choice. Those close to him will tell you of his very positive views on how a public ambulance service should be run, and there can be no doubt about the experience which he will bring to the job after his long administrative connection with it. He will be the first holder of the post with this Board, although two other such jobs have been filled on a joint basis between health boards — the south and west. As the man in charge of the greater metropolitan service, Tom will obviously have a key role to play in the development of the service as a whole.

Hearty congratulations, Tom, and best wishes in your new job.

# Directors of Community Care and Medical Officers of Health

Most people in the Health Board will know by now that the total area for which the Board is responsible has been divided into ten sub-areas for the purpose of delivering its services in the community. There are eight of these community care areas in Dublin City and County, while Wicklow County and Kildare County are each a separate area. The accompanying map shows the boundaries of the eight areas in Dublin City and County and the main population centres.

In each area the community services will be provided by an area team headed by a medically qualified Director with the title of Director of Community Care and Medical Officer of Health. Each Director with the assistance of his administrative staff and the senior staff in the various disciplines will be responsible for providing all community health & welfare services in his area. This staff will be, as far as possible, based in office premises located out in the area.

Six Directors have already been appointed and the remaining four are expected shortly. The initial assignments of the present Directors are in some cases temporary pending the appointment of all ten Directors. The present Directors, their existing and future assignments are shown hereunder:

Dr. Valentine Barry, Kildare, but moving to Area 2  
 Dr. P. Kevin Murphy, Area 8, but moving to Area 3  
 Dr. Kevin Quinn, Area 6  
 Dr. Patrick Quinn, Area 7, but moving to Area 1  
 Dr. John Walker, Area 4  
 Dr. Cyril Warde, Wicklow

C. Mansfield,  
Community Care Services



Dr. VALENTINE BARRY



Dr. P. KEVIN MURPHY



Dr. KEVIN QUINN



Dr. PATRICK QUINN



Dr. JOHN WALKER

# COMMUNITY CARE AREAS

- 1: Dun Laoghaire
- 2: Dublin South-East
- 3: Dublin South Central
- 4: Dublin South-West
- 5: Dublin West
- 6: Dublin North-West
- 7: Dublin North Central
- 8: Dublin North



# Reserved Functions of the Health Board

The executive responsibility for operating the Board's services rests with the Chief Executive Officer. The Board, however, has reserved certain functions to itself. They are:

## Standing Orders

The making, amending and revoking of standing orders pursuant to Clause 31 of the second schedule to the Health Act.

## Allowance to Chairman and Vice-Chairman

The determination of allowances to be paid to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board pursuant to Section 10 of the Act.

## Expenses of Members

Approval of rates of travelling and subsistence allowances to members in accordance with scales determined by the Minister for Health.

## Committees

The appointment of committees pursuant to Section 8 of the Act.

## Appointments to Other Bodies

The appointment or election of persons to be members of any other body.

## Arrangements with Local Authorities

The approval of any arrangement with a local authority pursuant to Section 25 of the Act.

## Arrangements with other Bodies

The approval of any arrangement with any person or body or other health board pursuant to Section 26 of the Act.

## Number of Staff

The determination from time to time of the numbers and categories

of officers and servants of the Board may be appointed, pursuant to Section 14(1) of the Act.

## Removal of Officers

The approval of the removal of a permanent officer of the Board from office other than misconduct or unfitness pursuant to Section 23(4) of the Act.

## Objectives

Setting local objectives for improved health services and reviewing the plans by which these objectives will be reached.

## Estimates

Approval of estimates of receipts and expenditure to be submitted to the Minister for Health, pursuant to Section 30 of the Act.

## Allocation of Budget

Determining the allocation of the revenue budget in accordance with its priorities and plans for improving the services.

## Monitoring and Control

Monitoring the implementation of plans, the investigation of level of services and expenditure against budget.

## Capital Projects

Selecting capital projects.

## Borrowing

The approval of any arrangements for borrowing and the giving of security therefor, pursuant to Section 30 of the Act.

## Gifts

The approval of any offer of a gift of money, land or other property, pursuant to Section 33(5) of the Act.

## Disposal of Land

The approval of any proposals for the disposal of land belonging to the Board.

Section 17 of the Health Act 1970 specifies the following functions as being those of the Chief Executive officer:

- a) Any function specified by this Act or by any other enactment to be a function of the chief executive officer of the board,
- (b) Any function with respect to a decision as to whether or not any particular person shall be eligible to avail himself of a service (including a service for the payment of grants or allowances), or as to the extent to which, and the manner in which, a person shall avail himself of any such service,
- (c) Any function with respect to a decision as to the making or recovery of a charge, or the amount of any charge for a service for a particular person,
- (d) Any function with respect to the control, supervision, service, remuneration, privileges or superannuation of officers and servants of the board,
- (e) Such other functions as may be prescribed.

Any dispute whether or not a particular function is a function of the Chief Executive Officer or of another officer of the Board is determined by the Minister for Health.

## AFTERNOON TEA AT THE EMBASSY

Mrs. Shannon, wife of the American Ambassador to Ireland, is very interested in old people. So she and her secretary, Mrs. Buckley, entertained thirty of them recently in the Ambassador's residence in the Phoenix Park. They came from St. Laurence's Centre in The Coombe and, in the interests of peace with justice, the names were drawn out of a hat.

They went on a conducted tour of the house and grounds. The residence is set in 87 acres which are rented from the Board of Works. The land is mostly laid out in lawns, but they grow nearly all their own vegetables. The crops were good this year but, sadly, the ambassadorial tomatoes weren't up to scratch.

Back in the house, they admired the many modern paintings by American artists which are lent to embassies around the world by American art galleries. The silver and the delicate china were brought out, and tea and sandwiches served. And then they had a sing-song. Mrs. Shannon played the grand piano in the stately ballroom beneath the twinkling chandeliers. So too did one of her guests, Mrs. McAllister, and she sang as well.

The atmosphere amid the sumptuous surroundings was very homely and the kindness of Mrs. Shannon and Mrs. Buckley will be long remembered by her friends in The Coombe.

## A NIGHT BY THE SEA

Our Reporter tells us that Sister Angelis, her staff and the many guests thoroughly enjoyed themselves at the social organised by the fund raising committee at the Killiney Court Hotel last September. Sgt. O'Sullivan, who is the chairman of the committee, thanked the hotel proprietors for their co-operation and, indeed, for the excellent meal. Councillor Hickey, Chairman, and Councillor Carroll also spoke. Mr. Swords, General Administrator, thanked Sgt. O'Sullivan and his committee and asked them to continue their efforts which are of such benefit to the hospital.

## ST. COLUMCILLE'S HOSPITAL PATIENTS BENEFIT FUND

Bazaar in St. Anne's Parochial Hall, Shankill

Bottle Stall, Cake Stall, etc.

4th December

Raffle for TV Set kindly donated by McKenna's Ltd., Bray.



## YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

A centre is being planned for the treatment and rehabilitation of disturbed young persons. It will be built in the grounds of the Central Mental Hospital in Dundrum and will be under the control of Dr. Liam Daly, Director of Forensic Psychiatry.

The centre will accommodate 31 and will cater mainly for people who have been in trouble with the law. It will also serve as an assessment centre for other young people with behaviour problems.

Cases will be referred to it through the courts, the Central Mental and other psychiatric hospitals and institutions, as well as through the welfare service of the Department of Justice.

It is hoped to start building work on the centre before the end of 1978.

## Brief Briefs from Kildare

*Elegant sugauns from the Naas Day Centre* – such was the pleasant surprise her colleagues in the public health nursing service presented to Nurse Anne McCormack to mark her marriage recently to local farmer from Monasterevin. The sugauns – chairs and stools – made at the Naas Day Centre are a glowing tribute to the quality of the work at the Centre, both as to the instruction given, and the application of the elderly who attend each day throughout the week in a congenial relaxed atmosphere which has come to be associated with the place in the two odd years since it was opened.

Rugmaking, cushions, trays, soft toys, knitting and floral arrangements make up the other productive activities of the Centre; and for relaxing there is always piped television, a game of cards, the daily newspaper, or the bit of news. We are proud of the contribution it is making in the community.

*People come and go .....* We welcome on transfer from the 'big smoke' Betty McEvoy replacing Vera Hehir at the Basin Street headquarters, the latter is now with Technical Services; Sean Cullinane to Naas Hospital to replace Peter Dowling recently gone on promotion to the South Eastern Health Board; and the new recruits to the service – Margaret Bathe from Kilcullen, and Barry Healy from Naas.

A touch of sadness to the health services generally in County Kildare was the regretted passing of Edward "Monty" McArdle, loyal, courteous and diligent ambulance driver attached to St. Vincent's Hospital, Athy, for the past 30 years. A friend to all, no service was too much for him. To his wife, Eileen, herself a nurse in the hospital, his son and daughter, our heartfelt and sincere condolences.

Also gone to his reward during the month of September, we mourn the passing of popular, courteous and conscientious community welfare officer in Monasterevin James Herbert. To his family (also associated with the service) we offer our sincere sympathy.

May they rest in peace.

# St. Ita's

by DR. M. CONWAY

Mr. Barry Crowley, M.A., Clinical Psychologist, has recently taken up sessions in our complex and we sincerely welcome him. Mr. Crowley will be involved in three sessions at the mental handicap area under Dr. Molony and two sessions in the psychiatric department of the hospital.

Dr. Molony, Director of the Board's mental handicap service, has transferred his headquarters to 1 James's Street, telephone 757951. Mr. Liam Sweeney, Senior Executive Officer, is also based there.

The finishing touches have been made to the 72-bed unit for disturbed mentally handicapped ... and now for the finishing touches!

The P.N.A. soccer cup, first leg, played at St. Brendan's – St. Ita's drew with their old rivals, St. Brendan's. In the decider St. Ita's won 1-0.

R.I.P. Two former members of the staff

and well-known figures have recently passed on – Mr. Paddy Brosnan and Mr. Kevin Duignan. To their relatives and friends we offer our sincere sympathy.

The St. Ita's Annual Dance was well attended at the Clare Manor Hotel. The meal and music were excellent. The organisers – Cyril Murphy, Colette Hestor and John McTernan, are to be congratulated. The attendance was totally representative and all departments turned up to support the event. Denis Bowler contributed incidental snippets both on violin and vocal cords.

Look out for arrangements being planned in the entertainment field – in particular the mentally handicapped area. Plans will be discussed and we all have memories of last year's excellent performances and the work the team put into the preparations. More about this later on.

## EXAM. SUCCESSES

Congratulations to five members of the staff who were recently awarded the diploma in Hospital Administration. They are – John O'Brien, Receipts Section, P.J. Timmons, Dental Section, Philip O'Rourke, Purchasing Section, Paula Hughes and Christopher Slevin, both from the Gheel Training Home for Autistic Adolescents, 197c North Circular Road.

## ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL, PHOENIX PARK

Mr. James Keogh, C.E.O., Bord Altranais, and his team have been back again to St. Mary's to organise the 1977/'78 course for public health nurses. We are asking Miss Pauline Boland of Bord Altranais to let us have some details of the course for the information of the staff.



For some time past a member of our staff has endeavoured to dissuade a local dog from directing its considerable attentions to the front wheel of his car. Verbal and, indeed, more emphatic forms of discouragement had been employed to no avail. With the soaring cost of disc brakes and tyres paramount in his mind, our friend invented the as yet unpatented Hound Harrasser, pictured above. His problem was instantly relieved.

## ST. LOMAN'S

Occupants of Killinarden House, in the grounds of St. Loman's Hospital, had a lucky escape one morning recently when the house went on fire. Fortunately nobody was injured although a deal of damage was caused to the building and its contents.

Fire struck again later the same day, when a fire broke out in Unit D. It was quickly brought under control by the night staff, and no patients were injured. Lightning may not strike twice, but who said anything about fire!

Congratulations to Carmel Carty, Clerk/Typist in the General Office, who was married recently.

We are sorry to bid farewell to Dinny Dunne who has carried out such sterling work at Crumlin Day Centre since its inception. People like Dinny don't retire, they just change their activity!

As we go to press we hear that Brian Mulledy is leaving us shortly to go to America. We wish him Godspeed in his new life.

## ST. COLMAN'S, RATHDRUM

Sister Philomena recently paid a special visit to the Custom House to make a case for the new day centre towards which the voluntary group have offered £10,000. We also hear that the Department officials were a little taken aback at the extent to which Mrs. Phillips and her helpers have been contributing towards all aspects of the care of the aged. Sums of around £50,000 have been quoted as the outcome of their activities to date in the next year or so. The Chairman, members and officers of the Board join in congratulating the Wicklow voluntary workers.

St. Columcille's Staff Dress Dance is being held in Fitzpatrick's Castle Hotel, Killiney on Thursday 8th December.

Tickets – £6.50 (includes Sherry Reception, Steak Dinner and Wine)

Tickets from M. Noble, St. Columcille's Hospital.



St. Brendan's Team, winners of the Kenny Cup.



Stores & Lab. Team – runners-up.

## CAPEL STREET CRISIS

Meals on wheels weren't always as well organised as they are now. When nurses and social workers came across people who needed the service and there was no voluntary organisation in the area the staff often delivered the food themselves. Of course, they still do but most of the recipients live fairly near James's Street or, anyway, they don't live in Capel Street.

This old lady did. Her hall door was beside a lock-up shop and it was all of eighty-two steps up to her room. The intervening floors were unoccupied.

Usually you were able to get in by pushing open the hall door. If it was shut tight the procedure was to bang loudly on the knocker, trot over to the far side of the street and wave when she looked out of her fourth floor window.

One Friday the banging brought no results. Apart, perhaps, from the official of the Board feeling a trifle peculiar as she hared back and forth across the street clutching her little tin.

There would be no deliveries of meals until Monday. Maybe nobody would call to the poor woman during the whole weekend. Maybe she was sick or needed some sort of help. They both lived on the north side so they

decided they'd have another go on the way home.

Eventually she returned to the ordered serenity of James's Street with her pal, who drove the car, and the pair of them brooded all afternoon.

One duly banged while the other looked but to no avail. After some minutes of this, a Guard came on the scene and they told him their story. He was a great lump of a man, a combination of strength and determination. But the door held fast even when he and, later on, his mate flung themselves at it.

There was nothing for it but to call the fire brigade.

A thrill of expectation ran through the gathering crowd when the brigade arrived with the usual uproar. All traffic stopped. Our two girls and the Guards told their tale as the immediate bystanders hushed themselves respectfully and listened in.

A ladder was detached from the fire tender and slowly stretched up the building. But it didn't quite reach the fourth floor. The crowd thought they ought to get another tender with a longer ladder. All eyes were riveted on the fireman as he climbed up.

The Editor,  
"Contacts".

Dear Sir,

I have received the following letter from the Blood Transfusion Service Board:

"Dear Mr. Lamb,

On behalf of the Chairman and Members of the Blood Transfusion Service Board, I wish to thank you for your continuing staunch support.

Through you, I wish to extend sincere thanks to all who attended Pelican House to donate. By their generosity many will be restored to health.

Yours sincerely,  
J. P. O'Riordan, F.R.C.Path.,  
National Director."

### Board Meetings

The monthly meetings of the Health Board are public meetings. This means that anybody can attend if they wish. However, as space is very cramped at these meetings, any of the staff who would like to go should *please check first* with Kevin Quinn, S.E.O. Secretariat, James's Street. If there is room, they would be most welcome.

### ST. VINCENT'S, ATHY

Councillor P. Hickey, our genial Chairman, has been booked for the formal handing-over of the public address system at St. Vincent's, Athy, which the Athy Lions Club have been providing for the patients. Sister Dominic reports that the installation work is nearly completed.

### TENNIS IN WICKLOW

In a closely contested final of the mixed doubles in Wicklow, Anna Weadick and Lance O'Brien beat Suzanne Shelton and Leo Lynch.

### MOVING PIECES

Sean Fitzgerald, Section Officer, has transferred from the Choice of Doctor Scheme to the Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths office at 191 Pearse Street.

Internal Audit Section has shifted offices to the old welfare building. Their extension numbers on the 757951 line are 272 and 280 and just think of the trouble you'd save yourself later on if you wrote in these numbers in the internal phone directory now instead of ringing the unfortunate Registry office.

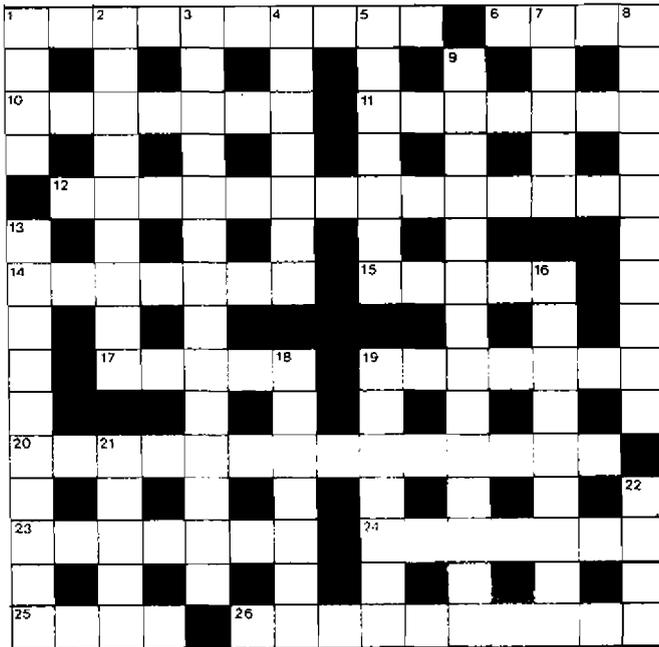
The health centre at Ballsbridge will shortly be transferred to 60 Pembroke Road, telephone 684544.

In fact, hardly anybody heard the little woman at the open hall door plaintively asking what's up? is there a fire or something?

The fire brigade were very nice about it. They even tried to make dates but, sadly, our girls had such urgent business elsewhere that they hadn't time to discuss it.

Which really wasn't their normal form.

# CROSSWORD 11



## ACROSS:

- 1 Fly round about a light-ship eccentrically (10)
- 6 Deliver the Powder in a festal carton (4)
- 10 Gear ran wild. Put it in order (7)
- 11 Promote an upward course (7)
- 12 Shuffle the cards and catch your best suit with this? (8,6)
- 14 Backs broken car with starter missing (7)
- 15 The smoky mountains (5)
- 17 Fill up inner garden with vegetables – a flower remains inside (5)
- 19 Oozes out from drags (7)
- 20 Strange Rio fun on at real solemn speech (7,7)
- 23 Rum rate? No, that's a printer's error (7)
- 24 Even without great variations or extremes it is smooth (7)
- 25 The woman in Berlin is almost a swindler (4)
- 26 With the least scrap of clothing unimpeded, then the runner is at his best (6-4)

## DOWN:

- 1 Bring back the bread horse (4)
- 2 Irregular fall, a twitch and a pound (9)
- 3 Ghosts of the relatives have a lot in common (7,7)
- 4 Looks about the boils. (7)
- 5 Clean the American town up? No, down! (7)
- 7 Miss Gardner, a bit sick, gets benefit (5)
- 8 Comfort with a cape produces good spirits (10)
- 9 Disregard the facts, or then I get hurt anyway (6,3,5)
- 13 What the guardians of London Tower like for a snack (1,3,2,4)
- 16 A big hall except for the lounge (6-3)
- 18 Wide open lot I'm in is rough (2,5)
- 19 The man is serious (7)
- 21 You want the girl, not mother! (5)
- 22 To concede in part is to give way altogether (4)

Name .....

Address .....

Entries to: CROSSWORD, CONTACTS, 1 James's Street  
£3 to first correct solution opened 30 November 1977.  
(Prize sponsored by ASTRA and St. James's Social Club)

## St. James's Social & Sports Club

### SOCCER

Pride of place this month goes to St. Brendan's following their fine victory in the Kenny Cup. Entering the competition for the first time, they only conceded two goals. Their results were as follows:

1st Round	beat Dundrum C.M.H.	3-0
2nd round	beat Porters	2-1
Semi Final	beat Emmet House	4-1
Final	beat Stores/Lab.	2-0

This year's competition attracted a record 14 entries, each with a panel of 11 players.

St. Ita's, St. Brendan's, C.M.H. Dundrum, Porters, Finance (2 teams), Emmet House (2 teams), Clonskeagh, Cherry Orchard, Miscellaneous, Health Inspectors, Federation/St. James's, Stores/Lab.

### CHESS

On the chess scene we have three teams competing in Leinster Union competitions. Our first team had a successful start with a 4½-1½ victory over Dublin and a 5-1 victory over Rathmines. Our third string lost their opening game 6-0 to Greystones.

### GOLF

An all-day outing is arranged for Saturday, November 12th. The venue will be either Tullamore or Skerries. Should we decide on Tullamore, a bus would be available for those requiring transport. This would be a very enjoyable social event, with a delicious meal being served after the day's play.

The exact details – venues, tee-off times, all-in cost – of the above events will be notified to you as soon as possible. Golfers interested in participating in this outing, please contact Fran O'Brien, 778132, as soon as possible.

With Christmas not too far away, I think it's time to start thinking about those delicious turkeys that everyone would love to win in our Pitch and Putt competitions which will be starting on Saturday, November 5th. Venues may be varied, but the prizes will remain the same – turkeys, turkeys, turkeys. Each week, non prize-winners will be granted a bonus shot, while prize-winners will be penalised by a shot for each win. Keep your eyes and ears open for further details.

Other activities of the Club include Basketball, Pitch & Putt, Gaelic Football, Hockey, Swimming, Tennis and Table Tennis. On the social side the Club runs discos, socials, outings, dinner dances, and cheap week-ends on the Continent.

## SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD No. 10

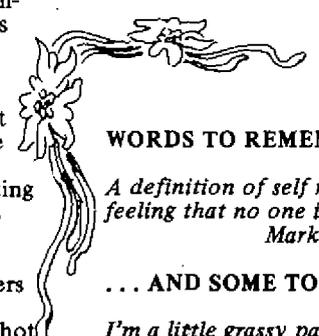
### ACROSS:

1. Capital; 5. Armada; 10. Liszt;
11. Troubling; 12. Cleanse; 13. Silence;
14. Prince of Orange; 16. Bring to the boil;
21. Outside; 23. Enticer; 24. Desperado;
25. Inure; 26. Needed; 27. Suspect.

### DOWN:

1. Cold Cup; 2. Posterior; 3. Titanic;
4. Letter of the law; 6. Rubella; 7. Alien;
8. Angled; 9. Jobs for the boys; 15. Good Cause; 17. Naivete; 18. Entails; 19. Largest;
20. Golden; 22. Taste.

Winner: Joe Cahill, Expenditure Section.



## WORDS TO REMEMBER . . .

*A definition of self respect: The secure feeling that no one is suspicious – yet.*  
Mark Twain.

## . . . AND SOME TO FORGET

*I'm a little grassy patch of only six feet square;  
You'll find me up in James's Street,  
but I'm not saying where.  
As the Feds and James's Hospital are fond of concrete slabs,  
They lay them in their dozens and hatch out squat pre-fabs.  
The tide of huts will get me, sure they'll swamp the Health Board, too;  
There's nowhere left but Kenny's to set up the new H.Q.*