

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of Proceedings of Meeting of the Eastern Health Board held in the Boardroom, 1 James's Street, Dublin, on Thursday, 3rd June. 1971 at 3 p.m.

Present:

Deputy P. Belton	Miss K. Kinsella
Senator Dr. R. Belton	Cllr. A. Mahon
Dr. F. de Burgh Whyte	Dr. James McCormick
Cllr. M. Carroll	Deputy Dr. J. O'Connell
Mr. J. Corcoran, M.B.	Dr. J. St. L. O'Dea
Dr. J. Cullen	Dr. B. O'Donnell
Cllr. M. Cunningham	Mr. Dermot O'Flynn
Deputy H. P. Dockrell	Dr. B. O'Herlihy
Cllr. James Dowling	Mr. Thos. Riordan
Deputy J. Dowling	Cllr. John Sweeney
Mr. D. Gallivan, B.D.S.	Cllr. John Temple
Commissioner J. Garvin	Deputy G. Timmins
Miss Eileen Horgan	Deputy E. Timmons
Dr. P. C. Jennings	

Apologies for Absence:

Deputy P. J. Burke, Deputy M. A. Clinton, Deputy F. Cluskey,

Dr. A. Meade.

Dr. J. McCormick, Chairman, presided.

Officers in Attendance:

Mr. E. O Caoimh.	Mr. J. Clarke
<i>Chief Executive Officer</i>	Mr. F. Donohoe
Mr. J. J. Nolan, Deputy	Mr. F. J. Elliott
<i>Chief Executive Officer</i>	Mr. J. Reynolds
Professor Ivor Browne,	Mr. P. J. Swords
<i>Chief Psychiatrist</i>	Mr. A. O'Brien
Dr. A. Corboy, Deputy	Miss M. Bairead
<i>Chief Medical Officer</i>	Mr. J. A. Duggan (Wicklow)
Mr. R. N. Lamb	Mr. P. Sheehan (Kildare)
Mr. F. J. McCullough	

47/71

DEATH OF MEMBER

The Chairman said that the death of Mr. Donal J. Kennedy, M.P.S.I., which had occurred on 23rd May, had deprived the

Board, and the Pharmaceutical Society which he represented, of a most eminent member. He requested that a message of sympathy be conveyed to Mrs. Kennedy.

The meeting stood in silent tribute.

48/71 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- (a) The minutes of the Meeting of Committee of the Whole House held on 6th May, 1971, having been circulated, were confirmed—on a proposal by Councillor Dockrell, seconded by Councillor Hickey.
- (b) The minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Board held on 6th May, 1971, having been circulated, were confirmed—on a proposal by Councillor Hickey, seconded by Mr. O'Flynn.

49/71 PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES

Reports of proceedings of the following Visiting Committees having been circulated, were confirmed.

- (a) Report of Meeting of No. 1 Visiting Committee held in St. Colman's Hospital, Rathdrum, on Friday, 30th April, 1971, at 10.30 a.m.

"PRESENT:

Deputy M. Clinton (Chairman), Dr. Cullen, Deputy J. Dowling, Miss Horgan, Dr. Jennings, Dr. J. McCormick, Councillor J. Sweeney, Councillor J. Temple, Deputy G. Timmins.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Dr. D. N. Connolly, Visiting Medical Officer; Rev. Sister Lua, Acting Matron; Dr. C. F. Warde, County Medical Officer; Mr. J. A. Duggan, Staff Officer.

BUSINESS

Conducted by the Acting Matron and Visiting Medical Officer, the members visited all parts of the hospital, commencing with the St. Kevin's Section and visiting in turn the Male Infirmary, Ambulant Female and Ambulant Male Sections, Dining Rooms, Kitchen, Laundry and Nurses' Living Quarters.

Following the tour of inspection, the plans of the proposed new double wing to replace the original County Home building were examined and discussed in detail.

It was indicated that these plans had evolved after a considerable amount of discussion with the Department of Health over a number of years and that the cost was estimated at something in the region of £200,000.

Doubt was expressed as to the desirability of proceeding with the new building programme, having regard to the probable cost and to the fact that by so doing it might be held to be perpetuating the "County Home" image. It was considered that in any event it would be essential to have an up-to-date analysis carried out of the origins of patients in St. Colman's at present and of patients who were awaiting admission.

At a subsequent meeting at Newcastle Hospital it was agreed to recommend as follows:—

1. An electric immersion heater unit should be provided for the supply of hot water for nursing staffs in the evening time.
2. The hand-iron in the Laundry should be replaced by an ironing machine.
3. Consideration should be given to extending facilities for occupational therapy by the employment of an Occupational Therapist on a sessional basis.
4. The setting up of a fact-finding team to review in depth the entire matter of geriatric services in the area".

It was decided that the Visiting Committee would form a fact-finding team to review in depth the need for geriatric services in the area.

- (b) Report of Meeting of No. 1 Visiting Committee held at District Hospital, Wicklow on 30th April. 1971.

"PRESENT:

Deputy M. Clinton (Chairman), Dr. Cullen. Deputy J. Dowling, Miss Horgan, Dr. Jennings, Dr. J. McCormick, Councillor J. Sweeney.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Dr. P. T. K. Liston, Visiting Medical Officer; Miss E. Neville, Acting Matron; Dr. C. F. Warde, County Medical Officer; Mr. J. A. Duggan, Staff Officer.

BUSINESS

At the outset the Medical Officer stressed the increasing number of geriatric-type patients being accommodated in the Hospital in recent years.

Conducted by the Acting Matron and Medical Officer, the members then visited all parts of the Hospital, including Kitchens, Laundry and Mortuary and commented favourably on the standards generally of the Hospital and its surrounding grounds.

At a subsequent meeting at Newcastle Hospital which was also attended by Professor Ivor Browne, it was agreed to recommend as follows:—

1. This Hospital was bright and modern and fulfilling a useful function, but its future role would have to be considered in a broader context.
 2. Patients should be supplied with tea in the evening time circa 8 p.m.
 3. A radio should be provided for Nursing Staff while off duty.
 4. Annual cost of television set in Nurses' quarters should be met by the Eastern Health Board".
- (c) Report of Meeting of No. 1 Visiting Committee held at Newcastle Hospital on 30th April, 1971.

"PRESENT:

Deputy M. Clinton (Chairman), Or. Cullen, Deputy J. Dowling, Miss Horgan, Dr. Jennings, Dr. J. McCormick, Councillor J. Temple, Deputy G. Timmins.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Dr. T. Egan, R.M.S.; Matron; Assistant Matron; Mr. E. Dunphy, Chief Clerk; Dr. C. F. Warde, County Medical Officer; Mr. J. A. Duggan, Staff Officer.

BUSINESS

At a preliminary discussion. Dr. Egan, R.M.S., gave an outline of the history of the institution and followed this with a detailed exposition of psychiatric services generally in the County.

Conducted by the R.M.S., and his staff, the members then inspected the original hospital building first of all and noted the provision of occupational therapy on a paid basis for some of the patients. The modern front units were next inspected in detail and the separate building used as a Nurses' Home was then seen.

The Chairman thanked Dr. Egan and his staff who then withdrew.

At a subsequent meeting which was also attended by Professor Ivor Browne, it was agreed to recommend as follows:—

1. There appeared to be problems in regard to medical and nursing staffs at the hospital which could be ascribed in part to the comparatively isolated location of the institution. With a view to obviating some of these problems it was recommended that consideration be given to the possibility of integrating medical staff by seconding junior hospital staff from other institutions of the Board, and with regard to nursing staff, the possibility of locating these in Bray and transporting them between Bray and the hospital by minibus should be examined.
2. It was agreed that the original main portion of the hospital was unsuitable for use for psychiatric treatment and that no further capital expenditure should be incurred on any portion of the institution for the present.
3. The cost of transporting patients by taxi over a representative period of 12 months should be compared with the cost of providing transport by means of a minibus.
4. With regard to the future use of the Nurses* Home it was considered that this should be retained for health purposes, such as for use as a convalescent home for patients from the region.

Before the conclusion of business. Councillor Temple enquired as to the possibility of improving the standard of accommodation and facilities available for patients and staff at the Clinic, Killarney Road, Bray.

It was agreed to recommend that this matter should be kept under review.

Proceedings terminated at 5.30 p.m."

- (d) Report of Meeting of No. 2 Visiting Committee held at St. Brendan's Hospital on 4th May, 1971.

"PRESENT:

Dr. R. Belton, Mr. T. Riordan, Miss K. Kinsella, Dr. A. Meade and Dr. J. St. L O'Dea.

Apologies for non-attendance—Deputy P. J. Burke and Mr. Kennedy.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. F. J. McCullough, Dr. T. Lynch, Mr. O. Whelan, Miss M. Glennon, Mr. E. Butler and Miss W. Lang.
Chairman—Senator Dr. R. Belton.

Visit of Inspection—St. Brendan's Hospital:

The following members inspected Hospital 1, St. Brendan's:—

Dr. J. St. L. O'Dea, Dr. A. Meade, Miss K. Kinsella and Mr. T. Riordan—commencing at 11 a.m. and continuing until 12.45 p.m.

A draft report of the visit was agreed and arrangements were made that this report would be signed by not less than two of the members who had carried out the visit.

Nurse Recruitment:

Members, on enquiry, were informed that present recruitment of nurses was regarded as being insufficient. The following factors were mentioned in connection with the problem of maintaining an adequate complement of nursing staff:—

- (a) the high turnover of female nurses:
- (b) the recent alteration in Bord Altranais regulations whereby examinations are held once per year instead of twice per year thereby confining the intake of students to one period of the year only.

Long stay patients:

Members were informed of the type of recreational and entertainment facilities made available to long stay patients through the co-operation of voluntary bodies with medical and nursing staff.

Psychiatric Social Workers:

Members were informed that the number of Psychiatric Social Workers employed was gradually increasing as increasing numbers of qualified personnel became available.

Location Diagrams:

Members recommended that steps be taken to provide location diagrams at one or more points in the hospital grounds and that sign-posting within the grounds be improved.

Trespass on Hospital Grounds:

Members were informed that it was intended to erect railings on portion of the perimeter wall of the hospital grounds and to limit access to the premises at night, to one entrance.

Monthly Meeting:

June Meeting of the Committee to be held at 3 p.m. on Thursday, 10th June, 1971, at Bru Caoimhin.

Visiting Arrangements:

Inspection of Bru Caoimhin, former Coombe Hospital and Industrial Therapy Centre at Hanbury Lane to take place in conjunction with meeting to be held on 10th June, 1971.

The Committee expressed its appreciation of the facilities afforded to them in conducting their inspection.

The meeting ended at 2 p.m."

- (e) Report of Meeting of No. 3 Visiting Committee held at County Hospital, Naas on 20th May, 1971.

"PRESENT:

Councillor P. Hickey (Chairman), Mr. J. Corcoran, M.B., Mr. Dermot O'Flynn, Dr. D. O'Herlihy, Councillor M. Cunningham, Councillor A. Mahon, Councillor J. Dowling.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. J. J. Nolan, Deputy Chief Executive Officer; Sister Antoinette, Matron; Dr. Waldron, County Physician; Mr. P. Sheehan, Staff Officer.

BUSINESS***Inspections:***

An inspection was made of the County Hospital. The medical and surgical wings were seen and the out-patient clinics. The Chairman, Councillor Hickey, thanked the Matron for her welcome. He referred to the cleanliness of the County Hospital and he complimented the Matron and staff on the

way the grounds were kept. He referred to the difficulty in obtaining intern staff which had been mentioned to him by Dr. Waldron. He also referred to the installation of lifts and stated that this, in his opinion, was very necessary and would be of considerable help to both staff and patients.

The Committee discussed the problems of medical staffing which might be eased by recognition for a Medical Registrar. They discussed also the Coronary Care Unit and noted that the provision of one extra monitor had been sought but had not been sanctioned by the Department of Health.

The need for new accommodation for medical and nursing staff was also discussed.

The Committee decided to look at the existing accommodation at their next visit on Thursday, 19th August, 1971, at 4.30 p.m."

The provision of an additional monitor for the Coronary Care Unit was recommended. Members requested that further representations be made to the Department of Health on the question of recognition for the post of Medical Registrar. A detailed report on lifts for the hospital was requested.

(f) Report of Meeting of No. 3 Visiting Committee held at St. Vincent's Hospital, Athy on 20th May, 1971.

"PRESENT:

Councillor P. Hickey (Chairman), Mr. J. Corcoran, M.B. Mr. Dermot O'Flynn. Dr. D. O'Herlihy, Councillor M. Cunningham, Councillor A. Mahon, Councillor J. Dowling.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Sister M. Dominic, Matron; Dr. J. T. O'Neill, Medical Officer; Mr. P. Sheehan, Staff Officer.

BUSINESS

Inspection:

The Visiting Committee were greeted by the Matron, Sister Dominic, and Medical Officer, Dr. J. T. O'Neill. They were conducted on a tour of the new Units in the Hospital, new kitchen and new maternity section. They were also shown through the old administration block in which there were still patients maintained.

The Committee reviewed the developments in the institution that had taken place over the last eight years and the second stage about to be begun, and felt that these should be pressed ahead for completion in 1973. They felt that plans for further

blocks should now be drawn up. Special attention should be paid to the accommodation needs of the staff, whose great work entitled them to that recognition.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 19th August, 1971, at 2.30 p.m."

It was agreed, at the request of Councillor Hickey, Chairman of the No. 3 Committee, that the Report be confirmed subject to an amendment recording his thanks to the Matron and Sisters for the manner in which the Committee was received at the hospital.

50/71 TRAVELLING AND SUBSISTENCE EXPENSES FOR MEMBERS ATTENDING MEETINGS OF HOSPITAL BOARDS AS HEALTH BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

The following Report No. 18/1971 from the Chief Executive Officer was noted:

"At the Meeting on 6th May, 1971, it was requested that the question of payment of expenses to members attending meetings of hospital boards be examined (minute 37/71 refers).

The Department of Health has advised that these expenses are not covered by the circular which was before the Board but are a matter for the Boards of the hospitals concerned.

There is provision in the James Connolly Memorial Hospital Board Establishment Order, and in the draft Order in relation to St. Kevin's Hospital, for the payment of travelling and subsistence allowances to members".

51/71 CAPITAL BUILDING PROJECTS

The following Report No. 19/1971 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:

"I submit a schedule of works planned or in hands in various areas of the Board's responsibility, showing in each case the stage of development, probable date of completion where it can be foreseen and estimated cost. There are other projects under consideration, particularly new health centres in developing areas and replacement of old centres, the final form of which will depend on how the general practitioner service may develop. These will be submitted for the Board's examination as they mature."

DUBLIN PROJECT	STAGE	PROBABLE DATE Of COMPLETION	COST (Estimated)
<i>St. Kevin's Hospital:</i> Premature Baby Unit - - Mortuary and Post-mortem Unit	Sanction awaited		£35,000
Adaptation of Old Canteen	Work in progress	December, 1971	
Telephone system P.A.B.X	----- *" " "	June. 1971	
Renovation, Hospital 3 - Provide Recovery Room, Hospital 7	Proposal being prepared	June, 1971	
Additional Computer space			
<i>St. Columcille's Hospital:</i> Staff dining, office and physiotherapy space -	Sanctioned in principle. Tenders received.		
<i>Regina Coeli Site:</i> New Hostel	Work in progress	September, 1971	
<i>Morning Star Site:</i> New Hostel - -	Proposal submitted to Department of Health		
<i>Bru Caoimhin:</i> Kitchen Renovations - - New lift shafts - - - -	Tender received Proposal in Department. Sanction awaited.		
<i>St. Mary's Chest Hospital:</i> Kitchen renovations	Proposal being prepared		
<i>Welfare Homes:</i> Three 40-place units pro- posed	Sanction to siting awaited.		
<i>St. Helena's, Finglas:</i> Children's Home - - -	Work in progress.	July, 1971	
<i>Ballyfermot:</i> New Day Nursery - - -	Sanctioned in principle.	November. 1972	

DUBLIN PROJECT	STAGE	PROBABLE DATE Of COMPLETION	COST (Estimated)
<i>Health Centres:</i> North Strand New building	Department of Health approval of Bills of Quantities awaited.	1973/74	£85.000
Ballymun New building -	Department of Health approval of acceptance of tender awaited.	1973/74	£114.000
Rathfamham - Extension of Health Centre - -	Work almost completed	August. 1971	£25.000
<i>St. Brendan's Hospital:</i> Reconstruction Division 4 New Water Main - - - Improvement to Lower	In progress. Out to tender. Approval in principle awaited.	1972 1972 —	£30,000 £20.000 £70.000
<i>St. has Hospital:</i> Mentally Handicapped 100 new beds for adults - 70 new beds for disturbed adolescents & adults - Physiotherapy Unit - Re- newal of central heating system New Water Storage Tower Conversion of Female Chronic Block to Adult Mentally Handicapped Unit Improvement to Divs. 9 and 11 (temporary buildings)	Sanctioned in principle. Preliminary scheme prepared. Preliminary work completed: Tenders received for main installation. Tenders received. Sanctioned in principle. Contract documents being prepared. In progress.	1973 1973 1972 — 1972	Not yet available say £300.000 £230.000 £55,000 £120,000 £11.000
<i>St. Loman's Hospital:</i> Extension of School (New classroom block) - -	In progress.	1971	£21,000
<i>Garden Hill Day Centre:</i> New School	Approved in principle. Plans being prepared.	—	Not yet available say £60.000

DUBLIN	STAGE	PROBABLE DATE OF COMPLETION	COST (Estimated)
PROJECT			
<p><i>St. John of God's Hospital, Stillorgan:</i> 50 bed adult unit for catchment area and 25 bed children's unit -</p> <p><i>St. Vincent's Hospital, Elm Park:</i> 60 bed psychiatric unit -</p>	<p>Plans being prepared by St. John of God Order.</p> <p>Approved in principle. Negotiations in train with St. Vincent's Hospital.</p>	<p>1974</p>	<p>£250,000</p> <p>£200,000</p>
KILDARE			
<p><i>St. Vincents Hospital, Athy:</i> Stage 2 reconstruction -</p> <p><i>County Hospital, Naas:</i></p>	<p>Contract documents being prepared.</p> <p>Work in progress.</p>	<p>1973/74</p>	<p>£225,000</p> <p>£2,500</p>
WICKLOW			
<p><i>Welfare Home, Bray:</i> New 40 place unit - -</p> <p><i>Killarney Road Clinic, Bray:</i> New Toilets</p> <p><i>Rathdrum:</i> Modernisation of County Home</p> <p><i>Battlinglass:</i> 30 place geriatric extension to District Hospital • -</p> <p><i>Newcastle Hospital:</i> Demolition of timber buildings; erection of indus. therapy unit; improved heating and electrical services - - - -</p>	<p>Tenders received.</p> <p>Work in progress.</p> <p>Working drawings completed. Bill of Quantities to be prepared.</p> <p>Contract documents being prepared.</p> <p>Approved in principle. Final plans in preparation.</p>	<p>1972</p> <p>July, 1971</p> <p>1972</p>	<p>£100,000</p> <p>£2,000</p> <p>£200,000 (original proposal)</p> <p>£80,000</p> <p>£60,000".</p>

The Chairman advised Dr. Jennings that the final decision on the accommodation (including the question of facilities for group practice) to be provided in North Strand Health Centre must await the acceptance by the medical profession of the Minister's proposals for a choice-of-doctor scheme. He confirmed that new works proposed for St. Kevin's Hospital would be the concern of the new Hospital Board.

Mr. Nolan advised Dr. O'Connell that the Regina Coeli Hostel would be operated by the Legion of Mary as the Eastern Health Board's agents.

It was agreed, following further questions from Dr. O'Connell, to have a report submitted to the next meeting on the accommodation and care of homeless mothers and children.

52/71 AUTHORISATION OF EXCESS EXPENDITURE

The following Report No. 21/1971 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:

" 1. *Junior Hospital Doctors*

Provision has been made in the Estimate for the current year for an increase in the complements of Junior Hospital Doctors and for higher salaries operative from 1st January, 1971.

The increase in complements followed on the acceptance by the Minister of a recommendation of a Working Party that the duty week for these staffs should be 40 hours on duty and 30 hours on call.

In March 1971 the Minister recommended to Health Authorities that compensation for intrusion into private time be made to these staffs in respect of the period between 1st July, 1970, and the date of the coming into operation of the reduced duty hours.

From the claims received to date, it is estimated that the cost of this compensation will be of the order of £20,000. As there is no provision in the Estimate to meet this commitment it will be necessary for the Board to authorise the expenditure involved.

2. *Capitation Grants for Blind Workers*

The Department of Social Welfare, in their circular letter A.D. 173/64, H/A 3/71 dated 8th April, 1971, indicate that

the Minister for Finance has agreed to increase the state capitation grant in respect of outworkers employed by the Board for Employment of the Blind. The increase from £135 to £180 per annum is to be effective from 1st April, 1970 on the understanding that local authority grants would be similarly increased from 1st January, 1971.

The increased grants are required to offset additional expenditure incurred by the Board following increased wage rate settlements for workers negotiated at the Labour Court.

£2-50 per week from 1st September, 1970.

£1-00 per week from 1st April, 1971.

There are 26 men from the Eastern Health Board's functional area employed in the Workshop and the cost to the Board would be approximately £1,200. A sum of £81,300 is provided in the Estimate of Expenses for the year 1971/72 for Blind Welfare expenses of which £23,000 represents capitation payments and £10,000 special grant to the Board for Employment of the Blind. As provision was not made for the above increase in capitation payments, it will be necessary for the Board to authorise the additional expenditure of £1,200".

It was proposed by Dr. O'Heriily, seconded by Or. de Burgh Whyte and unanimously resolved:

"That the Eastern Health Board authorises expenditure of £21,200 in the current financial year in excess of that provided in the Estimate of Expenses for that year, under the following headings:

<i>Service</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount</i>
		£
HEALTH	Institutional Services	20,000
	Blind Welfare	1,200
		£21,200".

53/71 DEVELOPMENT OF SERVICES

The following Report No. 20/1971 from the Chief Executive Officer was adopted:

" 1. *Geriatric Service:*

Following on the reduction in the need for bed accommodation for T.B. patients in the early sixties, the Dublin

Health Authority approved of a proposal that St. Mary's Hospital, Phoenix Park, should be developed as a Geriatric Centre to augment the service available at St. Kevin's Hospital and its associated Homes, and at St. Columcille's Hospital, Loughlinstown. The initiation and development of the service was assigned to Dr. Godfrey, Medical Superintendent of St. Mary's.

One of Dr. Godfrey's objectives was to establish closer links with the Voluntary Hospitals so that facilities needed for the care of the aged would be shared between them and the Local Health Authorities Hospitals—an objective subsequently endorsed in the Fitzgerald Report (Chapter 10, paragraph 10. 40). After protracted negotiations agreement was reached with St Laurence's Hospital under which a small number of assessment beds would be earmarked in that hospital to be backed by long-stay beds in the converted Visiting Hall in the grounds of St. Brendan's (approximately 50 beds). These assessment and long-stay beds together with the Lower House of St. Brendan's where some 400 geriatric patients are at present accommodated would then be afforded a full range of co-ordinated medical cover.

These arrangements have recently been approved in principle by the Minister who has suggested however, that implementation be deferred until the Geriatric Physician who has been offered an appointment on the Recommendation of the Local Appointments Commission takes up duty. The Appointee has not yet accepted the appointment and I have been advised by the Board's Medical Staff that there is no reason why the arrangement negotiated should be deferred further.

In view of the urgent need to improve the services for the aged I propose to implement the arrangements negotiated.

2. *Psychiatric Service:*

(a) In previous Reports the Board has been informed of the policy decisions of the former Dublin Health Authority to develop this service in association with the Voluntary Hospitals. In furtherance of this policy the Chief Psychiatrist has recommended that negotiations be set in train with the recently constituted Joint Board of the James Connolly Memorial Hospital to establish an acute psychiatric admission unit there of approximately 50 beds for the North Eastern areas of Dublin City and County. Subject to the concurrence of the Board I propose to accept the recommendation.

2. (b) *Cluain Mhuire, Blackrock:*

The Dublin Health Authority adopted a scheme for the development of the Psychiatric Services on the basis of integrated self-contained area services with in-patient facilities in each of seven catchment areas. The scheme adopted provided for the allocation of catchment areas to St. Patrick's Hospital and St. John of God Hospital, Stillorgan, involving the provision of additional in-patient accommodation, as neither hospital could make available a sufficient number of beds for the extra case-load to be dealt with in the case of St. Patrick's the additional beds have been made available in a unit in St. Kevin's Hospital which has been functioning for the past few months. At Stillorgan, it will be necessary to build a new unit, the planning of which is now at an advanced stage.

In addition to the in-patient facilities, it will also be necessary to provide community facilities in each area, functioning on the lines of the Day Centres already established at Crumlin, St. Gabriel's, Clontarf and at Finglas. A suitable premises has become available in the St. John of God catchment area and it is proposed that it should be rented by the Board, on terms to be negotiated by the Valuer, and made available to the Order of St. John of God for the development of a community service.

The property in question, Cluain Mhuire, Newtown park Avenue, is owned by the Sisters of Mercy who have for some years past used it as a psychiatric institution. Preliminary discussions have taken place with the Order and it has been agreed in principle that the property can be leased by the Board for a term of 21 years, subject to conditions which will be the subject of further negotiations.

The Chief Psychiatrist has recommended that the premises be leased by the Board and placed at the disposal of the Order of St. John of God for use as a community psychiatric centre. I have accepted this recommendation and, subject to the consent of the Board, propose to complete negotiations for the purchase or leasing of the property".

**54/71 DISPOSAL OF LAND ATTACHED TO THE
HEALTH CENTRE AT CURLEW ROAD, DRIMNAGH**

The following Report No. 17/1971 from the Chief Executive Officer, having been circulated, was submitted:

'The land attached to Curlew Road Health Centre is held on lease from Dublin Corporation for a term of 150

years from 25th March, 1958 at a rent of £90 per annum. Up to 1967 the area of the land was two acres, one rood, and eight perches (including the ground on which the health centre stands). In December, 1967 the Authority gave a portion (two roods, ten perches) of the plot to the Association of Parents and Friends of Mentally Handicapped Children for the purpose of erecting a Special Care Unit. The Unit has since been built. In October, 1968, the Dublin Health Authority approved of the leasing of the balance of the plot shown on drawing A.2. submitted with this report to the Mother McAuley Girls' Club for the purpose of providing a Girls' Club with outdoor games facilities. Reverend Sister M. de Paul asked subsequently that the user of the plot be extended to provide for a multi-purpose building which would cater for a Girls' Club, and for old people with appropriate facilities.

In their letter of the 28th February, 1969 the Department of Health advised that the facilities on the site should, as far as possible, be of a community service nature (Social Service Centre, Old Folks' Club, etc.). The Department pointed out also that the close physical proximity of health and welfare facilities would lead to better co-ordination and recognition by local people of the community facilities available there.

Following discussions between officers of the Board and the Committee of Moume Road Parish, the Committee has now made application for the plot for the purpose of building a centre for Retired People and a Girls' Club. The Committee also has submitted plans for the building. The latter, with the small area of outdoor play and recreational and car parking facilities attached, occupies the entire balance of the land at Curlew Road, but they do not infringe on, nor detract from the requirements/amenities of the Health Centre.

Apparently as a result of discussions between the local branch of the Credit Union and the Steering Committee of Moume Road Parish, separate office accommodation for the Credit Union was provided for in the plans. Since then, the Credit Union has requested a separate site on the plot for their offices. They have also forwarded plans.

Allowing for outdoor games facilities and car parking there is not sufficient space on the plot for separate buildings and I consider that the centre for Retired People and Girls' Club must take precedence over the Credit Union offices. In this connection. Reverend V. Martin, C.C., of the Steering

Committee of Mourne Road Parish has given an assurance that accommodation (separate) will be made available to the Credit Union on the ground floor in the Committee's building.

I propose that subject to the consent of Dublin Corporation and of the Minister for Health, the balance of the vacant land, 2 roods, 35 perches, at Curlew Road, be leased to the Steering Committee of Mourne Road Parish and for a period of ten years at a rent of £1 per annum—the plot to be vested in the Diocesan Trustees, the St. Laurence Trust.

The Lease shall contain such normal clauses as are customarily included and such special clauses as may be appropriate to protect the interests of the Board in this particular case.

This report is submitted in accordance with the requirements of Section 83 of the Local Government Act, 1946.

Section 83 provides that at the first meeting of the Board held after the expiration of ten clear days from the circulation of this report the Board may resolve that the disposal of this property as proposed shall not be carried out or that it shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the resolution. If the Board resolve that the disposal shall not be carried out it shall not be carried out.

On the other hand, if the Board does not pass a resolution as to the manner in which the disposal should be carried out the disposal may, with the consent of the Minister for Health, be carried out in the manner set out above".

On the suggestion of Deputy Dowling, it was agreed to defer the matter pending further consideration of the Credit Union's request.

55/71

NOTICE OF MOTION

The following motion was proposed by Councillors Dowling, Cunningham, Mahon, Hickey, Carroll, Temple, Clinton, Burke. Senator Dr. Belton, Dr. O'Heriity and Miss Horgan:

"That Article 2 of Standing Orders, fixing the time of monthly meetings of the Board, be amended by the substitution of '5 p.m.' for *3 p.m.* and '8 p.m.' for '6 p.m.*.

The Chairman said that as there was not a sufficient number of members present to consider the motion, it would be placed back on the Agenda for the July Meeting.

56/71

CORRESPONDENCE

The following letters were read to the meeting:

Letter dated 17th May 1971 from the Department of Health—

"I am directed by the Minister for Health to refer to Mr. Swords' letters of 24th February and 31st March, 1971, (Ref. H.D. 248), concerning the recognition of the grade of State Enrolled Nurse and to state that there have been no further developments in this matter from the position outlined in this Department's letter of 3rd June, 1970 and a discussion with the Minister for Health on 16th October, 1970.

It is noted that the Health Board have succeeded in employing a large number of this grade on the conditions and terms approved by the Department and the Minister hopes that the efforts being made to recruit adequate nursing and other staff for the institutions concerned will meet with success".

Letter dated 14th April, 1971 from An Bord Altranais—

"In reply to your letter of 7th instant, ref. H.D. 239 (S.I.), I wish to inform you that An Bord has decided that all student nurses commencing training after 1st January, 1975 must obtain experience in Geriatric Nursing. All hospitals are being encouraged to second their students for training before this date, and in this connection An Bord has approved of St. Kevin's Hospital, James's Street, Dublin, and St. Mary's Hospital, Phoenix Park, as hospitals suitable for the provision of Geriatric experience for student nurses".

Letter dated 21st May. 1971 from the Law Agent—

"Section 8 of the Health Act 1970 gives the Board very wide powers to appoint committees. This would include power to appoint visiting committees over the Board's own hospitals and, indeed, visiting committees for other hospitals under the control of third parties but in which the Board has a special interest. However, in the latter case I am of the opinion that the third party concerned would have to agree to the visiting committee visiting the hospital concerned.

In the case of the James Connolly Memorial Hospital Board a special corporate body has been set up to perform the functions set out in article 4 of the relevant Establishment Order. In my view this corporate body has an independent and autonomous status. The James Connolly Memorial Hospital buildings and contents are being made

available to that corporate body under a special long-term lease. The end result, therefore, is that the operation of the hospital becomes the entire responsibility of the new corporate body subject only to such controls or reservations, either in favour of the Minister or the Eastern Health Board, as are set out in the Establishment Order or otherwise have statutory force.

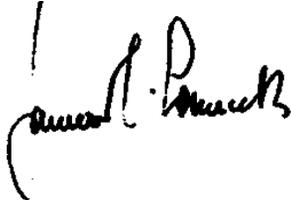
In my opinion the James Connolly Memorial Hospital Board is not bound, as a matter of legal obligation, to accept visits from a visiting committee set up for the purpose by the Eastern Health Board under section 8 of the Health Act 1970. But the visiting committee could be accepted as a matter of voluntary arrangement if there was mutual agreement on this".

The meeting concluded at 5.40 p.m.

CORRECT:

EOGHAN O CAOIMH,

Chief Executive Officer.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James P. Smith', written in a cursive style.

Chairman.