

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of Proceedings of Monthly Meeting of the Eastern Health Board held in the Boardroom, St. Brendan's Hospital, Grangegorman. on 4th March, 1976, at 6 p.m.

Present:

Cllr. Mrs. J. Barlow	Cllr. P. Hickey
Mr. M. Birmingham	Mr. K. Harrington
Cllr. M. Brady	Cllr. D. Kinsella
Cllr. D. Browne	Miss K. Kinsella
Cllr. M. Carroll	Cllr. Mrs. E. Lemass
Cllr. J. Connolly	Cllr. T. Leonard
Mr. J. Corcoran	Dr. J. R. Mahon
Mr. H. Corrigan	Dr. A. Meade
Dr. J. Cullen	Deputy C. Murphy
Cllr. G. Doyle	Deputy Dr. J. O'Connell
Dr. J. S. Doyle	Mr. D. O'Flynn
Cllr. J. Durning	Mr. M. Ruane
Ald. A. FitzGerald	Cllr. J. Sweeney
Cllr. Mrs. A. Glenn	Dr. J. Walker

Apologies for Absence:

Cllr. H. P. Dockrell. T.D.; Cllr. T. Hand, Dr. P. C. Jennings.
Miss M. Lacey and Dr. J. McCormick.

Mr. D. O'Flynn, Chairman, presided.

Officers in Attendance:

Mr. E. O Caoimh	<i>Chief Executive Officer</i>	Mr. J. Doyle
Mr. J. J. Nolan	<i>D/Chief Executive Officer</i>	Mr. K. Quinn
Mr. F. Donohue	<i>Programme Manager</i>	Mr. H. Dunne
Mr. T. Keyes	<i>Programme Manager</i>	Mr. T. Mernagh
Mr. J. Sadlier	<i>Technical Services Officer</i>	Miss K. Dolan
Mr. R. N. Lamb	<i>Personnel Officer</i>	Mr. T. McManus
Mr. J. F. Reynolds	<i>Finance Officer</i>	Mr. M. Murray-Hayden
Mr. F. Elliott	<i>Planning & Eval. Officer</i>	Mr. P. A. O'Neill
Prof. B. O'Donnell	<i>Dublin Medical Officer</i>	Mr. J. A. Duggan
Mr. P. J. Swords	<i>Administrative Assistant</i>	Mr. T. Barry
Mr. F. McCullough	<i>Administrative Assistant</i>	Mr. A. O'Brien
		Mr. B. Garvey

25/76 ILLNESS OF MEMBER

The Chairman informed the meeting of the illness of Cllr. T. Hand and the members directed that their best wishes for a speedy recovery should be conveyed to him.

26/76 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of meeting held on 5th February, 1976, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr. Hickey, seconded by Ald. FitzGerald.

- (a) Arising from the minutes Cllr. Connolly enquired if any further information was available regarding the death of the infant and he was assured that information was still being sought.

27/76**PROCEEDINGS OF VISITING COMMITTEES**

Reports of proceedings of the following Visiting Committees having been circulated, were dealt with as follows:—

- (a) *No. 1 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. Columcille's Hospital on 19th February, 1976—Noted.*
- (b) *No. 2 Visiting Committee meeting held at Adeiphi Nursing Home on 18th February, 1976—Noted.*
- (c) *No. 2 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. Patrick's Home on 14th January, 1976.*

This report was noted and Dr. Walker then enquired if the recommendation to retain the maternity unit at St. Patrick's was now Board policy. He was advised that this was so until such time reconsideration of the decision might be necessary.

Mr. Ruane, Ald. FitzGerald, Dr. Walker, Cllr. Browne and the Chairman contributed to the debate.

Mr. J. J. Nolan, in reply, pointed out that the Board's decision meant the retention of the costly staff-intensive under-used unit and would necessitate a cost cut of a further £30,000 under some other service heading to enable the money to be provided for the Maternity Unit.

- (d) *No. 2 and 3 Visiting Committees meeting held at St. Brigid's Home, Crooksling, on 11th February, 1976—Noted.*
- (e) *No. 4 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. Loman's Hospital, Ballyowen, on 21st January, 1976—Noted.*

28/76

PROCEEDINGS OF LOCAL HEALTH COMMITTEES

- (a) *Minutes of Dublin City Local Health Committee held on 28/1/1976*—These minutes were noted following a debate on item 6 (a) re battered babies, to which Cllr. Browne, Mr. Ruane, Cllr. Connolly, Mr. Corcoran, Cllr. Mrs. Glenn, Mr. Birmingham, Deputy Dr. J. O'Connell contributed and to which Dr. O'Donnell, Dublin Medical Officer, and Mr. Donohue, Programme Manager, Community Care, replied.
- (b) *Minutes of Dublin County Local Health Committee held on 2/2/1976*—Noted.
- (c) *Minutes of Dun Laoghaire Local Health Committee held on 27/1/1976*—Noted.

29/76

DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY AT SWORDS

Report No. 7/1976 from the Chief Executive Officer (adjourned from the last meeting) was reconsidered. After a debate to which Mr. Harrington, Dr. Meade, Deputy Murphy, Mr. Ruane, Cllr. Mrs. Lemass, Mr. Birmingham, Cllrs. Connolly and Mrs. Barlow and Cllr. Mrs. Glenn contributed and to which the Chief Executive Officer and Mr. Keyes replied, the following motion, proposed by Ald. FitzGerald and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Glenn, was passed by seventeen votes to nine:—

"That the proposals outlined in Report No. 7/1976 be adopted."

For Cllr. Mrs. Barlow, Cllr. Brady, Cllr. Browne, Cllr. Carroll, Cllr. Connolly, Mr. Corrigan, Dr. Cullen, Cllr. Duming, Ald. FitzGerald, Cllr. Mrs. Glenn, Cllr. Hickey, Cllr. Kinsella, Cllr. Mrs. E. Lemass, Dr. Mahon, Deputy Dr. O'Connell, Mr. O'Flynn, Cllr. Sweeney—(17).

Against: Mr. Birmingham, Mr. Corcoran, Cllr. Doyle, Mr. Harrington, Cllr. Leonard, Dr. Meade, Deputy Murphy, Mr. Ruane, Dr. Walker—(9).

30/76

LEASING OF MOUNT BROWN SITE AT ST. JAMES'S HOSPITAL

The following Report No. 12/1976 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

" In July, 1969, the Dublin Health Authority consented to the leasing of a site of approximately half an acre to the Governing Body of University College, Dublin, for the erection of an Endocrinology Research Unit to undertake research in the field of biochemistry of the brain and mental illness. The lease was for an initial term of five years from 1st March, 1970, subject to renewal, at a rent of 50p a year. Subsequently, the Authority, at its meeting on 25th March, 1971, consented to the endorsement of the original lease to include an extra half acre of ground and the extension of the original term to 31st March, 1981.

At its meeting on 11th July, 1974, the Board agreed to make a grant of £25,000 available for the provision and equipment of a Demonstration Health Care and Psychosomatic Unit by the Foundation for Man of the Department of Psychiatry, University College, Dublin. The Board also agreed in principle to meet the operating costs of the unit by way of an annual grant. The Unit was to operate in association with a Centre for Community Studies to be established, also by the Foundation for Man, in the Garden Hill premises which the Board had earlier agreed in principle to make available for this purpose in view of the close connection between the various research activities projected for the Mount Brown Site. (Paragraphs 13/73, 75/74 and 85/74 of minutes.)

Later, the Board approved of a proposal for the establishment of a Mental Health Centre at the Garden Hill premises from which a mental health service would be developed for the Tallaght area. (Paragraphs 83/75 and 99/75 of minutes.)

The Foundation for Man has since been incorporated as the Irish Foundation for Human Development. In order to provide an alternative site for the proposed Demonstration Health Care and Psychosomatic Unit, the Centre for Community Studies and to provide for future expansion, the Foundation has applied to the Board for a lease of the entire Mount Brown Site, excluding the Garden Hill premises, the site of the adjoining Animal House and the site at present occupied by the Endocrine Unit.

I propose to grant a lease of this site containing about 3-25 acres, excluding (a) the Garden Hill building and its curtilage, (b) the site of the Animal House, and (c) the site at present occupied by the Endocrine Unit as shown on a map to be submitted at the meeting, to the Irish Foundation for Human Development for an initial term of five years, from 1st April, 1976, subject to renewal, at a yearly rent of £1. The lease will contain such normal conditions as may be appropriate to protect the interests of the Board in the special circumstances

of this case, particularly in relation to the engineering and transport services and to the provision of services to patients. The conditions must preserve the Board's right of access to the Garden Hill Building and to the public road at Mount Brown. It should also be provided in the lease that any use or development of the site will have due regard to the possible needs of the St. James's Hospital Board for access on transit. An additional condition should ensure that in the event of dissolution or failure of the Foundation, the land and all thereon erected will revert to the Eastern Health Board.

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

Section 83 provides that at the first meeting of the Eastern Health Board held after the expiration of ten clear days from the date of 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 terms specified in the resolution.

If the Board resolves 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 shall be carried out, the disposal may, with the consent of the Minister for Health, be carried out in the manner set out above."

Dr. Mahon, while agreeing with the proposal, requested that the lease should not be of such a nature that St. James's Hospital Board would be unable to have user of a part of the site should future developments at the Hospital warrant it. Mr. Nolan, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, explained that in the drafting of the lease it was hoped to cover all such possibilities. Dr. Walker also contributed to the debate, following which the following resolution, proposed by Dr. Mahon and seconded by Cllr. Hickey, was unanimously adopted:—

"That the proposals outlined in Report No. 12/1976 be adopted."

31/76 OVERDRAFT ACCOMMODATION

The following Report No. 16/1976 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

"At a meeting held on 5th February, 1976. the Board approved of temporary borrowing by way of a term loan of £1,552.666 and overdraft during the two-month period to 31st March, 1976. up to an overall limit of £8m.

The Minister for Health and Allied Irish Banks have approved of the term loan of £1,552,666 over a three-year period at the

AAA 1/3-year Term Loan rate (currently 10-5% per annum). Specific provision for repayment of principal and interest has been made in the Minister's allocation to the Board for the current year.

It will be necessary to incur overdraft during the quarter ending 30th June next. A projection of our current payments and receipts indicates that overdraft will rise to £6-5m. during this period. The position will be kept under review, and if it appears that this limit will be exceeded, a further report will be submitted.

I recommend, therefore, that the Board consent to temporary borrowing by way of overdraft up to a maximum of £6 5m. during the quarter ending 30th June, 1976."

Information was requested by Dr. Meade and Cllr. Mrs. Lemass and Dr. J. O'Connell on this item, and following an explanation by the Finance Officer the following resolution, proposed by Cllr. Browne, seconded by Cllr. Durning, was unanimously adopted:—

" That the Eastern Health Board hereby consent to the temporary borrowing by way of overdraft as outlined in Report No. 16/1976."

32/76

SITE AT CURLEW ROAD — EXTENSION OF LEASE

The following Report No. 13/1976 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

"At the meeting held on the 3rd January, 1974 (Minute Number 8/74 refers), the Board approved the terms on which an area (2 roods 25 perches) of the Board's land at Curlew Road, Drimnagh, was to be leased to the Steering Committee of Moume Road Parish, for the purpose of building a centre for retired people and the provision of a girls' dub. The centre, a permanent structure, has since been erected.

The Steering Committee has requested that the term of years for the purpose of the lease be increased from ten to thirty-five years, and Dublin Corporation, the head landlords, have consented to the request. The Minister for Health has sanctioned the increase in the term of years.

I propose to accede to the Steering Committee's request."

On a proposal by Cllr. Connolly, seconded by Mr. Corrigan, it was unanimously resolved as follows:—

"That the proposals outlined in Report No. 13/1976 be adopted."

33/76 CAPITAL ALLOCATION 1976

The following Report No. 15/1976 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

" At its meeting held on the 8th January the Board adopted the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Committee of the Whole House held on the 11th December, 1975, which considered the capital budget for the current year. The Board's priorities approved at the Special Committee meeting were sent to the Department of Health on the 18th December, 1975.

In circular letter No. 1/76 the Department has indicated the basis on which capital funds will be allocated, viz.:—

1. The purpose of this circular letter is to convey information about the allocation of resources towards capital works and equipment under the health services in 1976. The difficulties in relation to the current economic circumstances and the financial constraints necessary have already been outlined in circular letter of 12th January, 1976, regarding the non-capital allocation and they apply equally to the capital allocation.
2. A sum of £11.2 million has been allocated for 1976, as compared with £10 million in 1975, to meet capital expenditure arising in the current year. Expenditure on approved on-going projects (i.e., 52 major projects each costing upwards of £100,000 and 61 smaller projects) is contractually committed and will absorb much of the allocation. Commitments in respect of the purchase of approved items of equipment which have already been ordered or supplied, for contingencies and emergencies and for professional fees for projects for planning have also been provided for. Due to the estimated high level of outgoings, it is regretted that it will not be possible at present to allocate capital funds for new starts involving expenditure in 1976. The position will be kept under review, however, in the light of the outturn of expenditure during the year.
3. Planning of general hospitals under the National Hospital Plan is proceeding and, in regard to four specific major projects under the plan, project teams are already working. It is the Minister's intention, on completion of current discussions, to initiate further planning under the National Plan on an ordered basis. Similarly, planning of other projects in the ordinary programme will be considered soon and suitable arrangements therefore worked out.
4. Health Boards should not, in pursuance of general approvals, undertake new works or enter into new commit-

ments without the agreement of the Department and a specific intimation that funds will be available for the project. Some health boards in recent years have made grants under Section 65 of the Health Act, 1953, in support of capital works undertaken by voluntary bodies. You are requested to notify the Department as soon as possible of any decisions taken by your Board to assist projects sponsored by voluntary bodies in 1976. Pending an intimation from the Department of the availability of funds under this head, no anticipatory payments should be made.

5. The Minister confidently asks for the understanding and co-operation of the health boards in implementing the above programme in the present difficult times.'

The following are the more important projects coming within the terms of the Minister's allocation:—

	£
St. Ita's Hospital—72-Bed Unit	120,000
St. Ita's Hospital—Female Chronic Block	70,000
St. Ita's Hospital—Heating services, etc.	50,000
Arklow—Health Centre	60,000

The other projects are listed on Appendix 1 of report to Committee of the Whole House on the 11th December, 1975.

Delegation to Tanaiste regarding Fire Precaution Works

On the 24th inst. the Tanaiste received the delegation accompanied by the Chief Executive Officer, the Technical Services Officer and the Fire Officer. The Board's chairman put forward the submission set out in the following memorandum supplemented by oral submissions by members of the delegation.

1. The several Visiting Committees of the Board have, as a matter of course, enquired into the arrangements for safeguarding patients and staff of the hospitals and homes.
2. One of the Committees includes in its rota the Legion of Mary Hostels at North Brunswick Street which provide a most valuable service. The Health Board is, of course, responsible for the maintenance of these buildings.
3. The Committees, in reporting to the Board, have in general expressed satisfaction with the arrangements for the regular inspection and testing of basic fire-fighting equipment and the instruction of staffs in regard to fire hazard and the action to be taken in an emergency.

4. But they, and the Board, have been seriously worried about inherent problems presented by the age, lay-out and general construction of many of the buildings; the types of patient being looked after; the inadequacy or lack of fire alarm and communication equipment and of fire-stop doors and alternative exits.
5. The Board felt it its duty in the circumstances to have a full survey of the situation carried out. A detailed report was presented by the Deputy Chief Executive Officer in May, 1975; it listed, in order of fire hazard priority, twelve institutions (including the Legion of Mary premises), two hostels and one office complex.
6. This report was considered in detail in June with the assistance of the newly-appointed Technical Services Officer in consultation with the Chief Fire Officer and accepted as a factual statement of a very disturbing situation.
7. The Board, being conscious of the severe restrictions on funds for capital purposes and appreciating that the remedying of all the fire precaution problems listed will involve substantial expenditure, adopted a four-phase corrective plan.
8. But there are five fire hazard situations of real urgency:—

		<i>Brief Description</i>	
(1)	<i>Legion of Mary Hostels:</i>	New and replacement fire escapes, fire-stop doors, minimal emergency lighting, closing up of open fires, fire fighting equipment	_ £37,000
(2)	<i>Bru Chaoimhin:</i>	Fire alarm system; emergency lighting	_ _ _ _ _ £41,000
(3)	<i>Lower House. 5c. Brendan's Hospital:</i>	Fire-proofing of partitions, fire-stop doors, fire escape alterations	_ £25,000
(4)	<i>St. Clare's Home:</i>	Structural works including fire-stop doors, re-wiring	_ _ _ _ _ £22,000
(5)	<i>Mr. Pleasant Sq. Hostel:</i>	Fire escape and fire alarm	_ _ £10,000
			£135,000

The Board asks the Minister as a matter of grave urgency to make the sum of £135,000 available as a separate special grant to enable the most pressing of the safeguards against loss of life or severe injury to be undertaken within the year.'

The Minister stated he shared the concern of the Board regarding the importance of fire precautions in the interest of patient safety. He regretted, however, that on account of the present economic situation he was not in a position to allocate any further funds over and above those notified in Circular 1/76. If it turned out that later in the year the current financial restrictions could be eased he would review the situation in the light of the submissions made by the delegation."

The Chairman drew attention to the account given in the report of the recent meeting with the Minister for Health in relation to fire precaution projects.

In reply to enquiries Mr. Sadlier, Technical Services Officer, informed the meeting that fire escapes have already been ordered for the Legion of Mary Hostel and he outlined the other efforts being made to reduce fire hazards in other institutions with the resources presently available. It was agreed that the fire hazards problem should be kept under continuous review.

Dr. O'Connell, T.D.; Deputy Murphy, Mr. O'Flynn, Cllr. Durning, Cllr. Hickey, Cllr. Mrs. Lemass, Cllr. Mrs. Barlow and Mr. Ruane contributed to the debate, following which the following resolution, proposed by Cllr. Browne, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Barlow, was unanimously adopted:—

" That the Board notes this report (15/1976).**

34/76

REVENUE ALLOCATION 1976

The following Report No. 14/1976 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

" The further meeting with the Secretary of the Department of Health to which I referred in Report No. 11/1976 took place on the 24th February, as arranged, when the situation was again reviewed in depth. The Department had been informed beforehand of the conclusions reached by the Board at its meetings on the 29th January and 5th February, in relation to the allocation for 1976 in respect of services provided directly by the Board as notified by letter of the 12th January, 1976, from the Department. In the interval, officers of the Department had availed of the opportunity afforded them to examine in detail the basis on which the costs of maintaining services in 1976 had been estimated by the Board.

At the further meeting on the 24th February I was given to understand that there could be no expectation of an increase in the allocation of £33.59m. net conveyed by the letter of the 12th January, 1976. (That allocation made, of course, no

provision for any increases in pay further to the 16th round or in costs arising from the National Budget.) Of necessity, therefore, the discussion was based essentially on the general questions of:—

- (a) Estimation of expenditure and of income.
- (b) Reductions of expenditure by means of deferment of works, economies in maintenance, purchases, etc., and by containment of expenditure on individual services.
- (c) Consequences of reductions in expenditure of the order necessary to stay within the approved allocation.

In relation to expenditure it was, I consider, established that estimation had in general been realistic having regard to the growth in demand for services, the need for a planned maintenance programme, increases in costs, etc. The estimation of income from sources other than the Health Services grant was held by the Department to have been conservative and open to adjustment.

In relation to reductions in expenditure and increases in income the items comprising the £1 - 61 m. which the programme managers had informed the Board of their willingness to try to secure across the full range of the services, in the exceptional position of the National economy, were discussed and noted. The Department of Health officials expressed the view that substantial additional cuts in the estimated requirements could be taken into account in further reduction of the shortfall between the Board's estimate of necessary expenditure and the allocation proposed by the Department; these eventuated in a figure of £1 -336m. including a sum of £-2m. in respect of overdraft interest. They considered, in the latter connection, that the provision under this heading could be reduced by that amount on the assurance of regular remittances by the Department of both Revenue and Capital monies and having regard to the recent reduction in lending rate.

So far as income was concerned the combined effect of some further proposals which the programme managers felt able to advance and of proposals which the Department officials put forward would be to increase the figure of £2 06m. already referred to in Report 11/1976 to £2 -26m.

In the course of the meeting the further reductions which could be effected subject to administrative action on the part of the Minister to produce savings of £-711m., as set out in the Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 29th January, were also examined and were noted for the Minister's consideration.

The position resulting from the application of the cut-backs in estimated expenditure and increases in income to produce net cost cuts of £1 61m. submitted to the Board by the programme managers as possible means of effecting savings, and of the further reductions arising from the subsequent detailed discussions in the Department of Health in the context of an unalterable allocation would be as follows:—

Estimated net expenditure 1976 _____	£37 -309m.
Reductions in estimated expenditure	£2-741m.
Increases in estimated income _____	-205m.
	----- 2.946m.
Revised estimate of net expenditure. _____	£34-363m.

The figure of £34-363 millions represents an increase of 8-4% over the out-turn of net expenditure in 1975.

There would still be a short-fall of £-773m. from the original estimate which was framed, in the normal way, on current levels of demand and on identifiable trends in expenditure in meeting the Board's obligations. We are now advised that the Minister proposes to take action which may reduce this short-fall by £ 450m. We are informed also that there will be further discussions on the balance. Without minimising in any way the problems of working within an allocation fixed by the Minister and affording an increase of no more than 8-4% over the net expenditure in 1975 I would, therefore, recommend that the Board adopt at this time an estimate of £34 -363m. for the current year apportioned as follows:—

ESTIMATE OF EXPENSES 1976

<i>Estimated Expenditure</i>	£000	£000
General Hospital Programme:		
General hospitals	6,610-0	
Long stay homes	982-4	
Extern hospitals and homes	1,759-3	
Ambulance and transport of patients	901 -1	
	-----	10.252 8
Special Hospital Programme:		
Psychiatric hospitals and services	10,282-1	
Extern services	1,212-2	
	-----	11.494-3

Community Care Programme:		
General Practitioner and General Medical Services	4,109-0	
Maternity and Child Health	1,557 7	
Children in care	566 4	
infectious Diseases	919 6	
Dental, Ophthalmic and Aural	911-2	
Rehabilitation (care of the handicapped)	2,207 0	
Blind Welfare	208 1	
Supervision of Food and Drugs	142 8	
Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages	36-6	
Contribution to Voluntary Organisations	281 3	
Welfare Homes	167 9	
	-----	11,107-6
Central Services		3,772-7
Total Estimated Expenditure		£36,627-4
Estimated Income		2,264-0
Estimated Net Expenditure		£34,363-4

Apart from continuation of discussions with the Department of Health with regard to the remaining short-fall of £-323m. it will be necessary to keep the Minister fully and regularly informed of the results of our actions aimed at containment of expenditure within the limits which we have been advised he intends to prescribe and of the effects of these actions. In the light of experience over the next few months it may be found essential to request him to raise these limits or some of them if drastic curtailment of services is to be avoided or, alternatively, to take the administrative action on matters already referred for his consideration which could enable the Board to reduce expenditure still further, e.g., re-negotiation of the terms on which medicines are supplied under the long-term illness scheme, etc.

As I have previously stated, we are in an exceptional situation in which there can be no question of expansion of existing services or of commencement of a new service this year. The severest economies will, indeed, be necessary if expenditure under the various service headings is to be kept

within the limits to be prescribed by the Minister. These limits will be binding on me and on the Board save with the Minister's consent. Over the next few months in particular the understanding and co-operation of the staff and of the public will, therefore, be of the utmost importance."

A letter dated 3rd March, 1976, from the Secretary, Department of Health, and a note of the various resolutions adopted by Dublin County, Dun Laoghaire and Wicklow Local Health Committees were also circulated. The members were seriously concerned about the press reports which had been in circulation of closures of clinics and dismissal of temporary medical officers and other staffs. The Chairman read a memorandum from Professor McCormick, who was unable to attend, in which he expressed the view that while there is a great temptation to economise in the area of preventive medicine because the price of neglect is not immediately apparent, it should be realised that failure to achieve diagnosis of abnormality in childhood may have life-long and serious consequences, resulting in substantial human suffering and in further economic burdens.

The Chief Executive Officer, in reply to Dr. Walker, informed the members that the services of certain temporary medical officers would be retained until 30th June. Cllr. Durning referred to an uninformed alarmist press report in one of the morning dailies. Mr. Keyes then read -a letter in refutation of unfounded statements in the press report in question which he had issued to the press during the day. Mr. J. J. Nolan, Mr. Donohue and Mr. Keyes replied to the various points raised. The following members contributed to the debate, in the course of which a letter on the subject of prescribing costs issued by the General Medical Services (Payments) Board, in response to the Board's request, to doctors participating in the choice of doctor scheme was read: Dr. O'Connell, Dr. Meade, Dr. Walker, Cllr. Mrs. Lemass. Mr. Ruane, Deputy Murphy, Cllr. Hickey, Alderman FitzGerald, Cllr. Mrs. Barlow, Mr. Birmingham, Cllr. Connolly, Cllr. Mrs. Glenn, Dr. Mahon, Cllr. Durning, Cllr. Browne and Mr. Corrigan, after which the following resolution, proposed by Cllr. Browne, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Glenn, was unanimously adopted:—

" Propose that Report No. 14/1976 be adopted."

35/76 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO IRISH PUBLIC BODIES MUTUAL INSURANCES LTD.

On a proposal by Cllr. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Browne, it was unanimously agreed that Cllr. M. Carroll be re-appointed for the coming year.

36/76

NOTICES OF MOTION

- (a) The following motion proposed by Dr. J. O'Connell, T.D., was seconded by Cllr. T. Leonard:—

" That the EHB make available to the Simon Community the hostel at Usher's Island for the care of selected cases by that Community or, alternatively, provide a centrally situated building to the Community for this purpose."

Dr. O'Connell gave a brief resume of the work of the Simon Community and the reasons for his motion. Cllr. Mrs. Lemass, Cllr. Hickey, Cllr. Mrs. Barlow, Cllr. Browne, Cllr. Mrs. Glenn, Cllr. Leonard, Alderman FitzGerald and Miss Kinsella supported the motion, after which it was agreed that the proposal should be examined and a report submitted to the Board at a later date.

- (b) The following motion, proposed by Dr. J. O'Connell, was seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Barlow:—

"That the EHB set up Planning and Finance Committees from among its members."

After a short discussion the proposer agreed to amending the resolution by the deletion of "planning and finance committees" and the substitution therefor of "finance and general purposes committee". The members unanimously agreed to the amended proposal.

37/76

CORRESPONDENCE

Due to the lateness of the hour the members agreed to defer the correspondence to the next meeting. The meeting terminated at 10 p.m.

CORRECT:

E. O. CAOIMH.

Chief Executive Officer.

Signed-

Chairman.