

LIMERICK LEADER

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PRICE TWO PENCE

S.B. CLERICAL STRIKE IN FULL SWING

On new developments took place to-day in the E.S.B. strike of clerical workers, involving 1,500 clerical workers. In Limerick some fifty clerical workers are affected. The Limerick showrooms of the E.S.B. in O'Connell St., the depot at O'Curry St. and the Power House, Ardacrusha, were picketed throughout the day.

PASSING THE PICKET. Annual workers employed by E.S.B. have, however, been instructed by their Unions to pass strike pickets. These instructions will, it is observed, ensure that all supplies are maintained. The unions involved in the strike had informed the other unions that they did not expect them to instruct their members to pass pickets.

CLOSING OF SHOWROOMS. The first effects of the strike include the closing down of showrooms throughout the country. Work in the E.S.B. headquarters in Fitzwilliam St., Dublin and in district offices in 10 towns will be disrupted. Bills will not be sent out or collected. Correspondence will not be dealt with. Applications for new installations or supplies cannot be dealt with. E.S.B. sales of cookers, washing machines, and other electricals and appliances will be affected. Three E.S.B. stands at the Spring View will be closed by the strike.

Increase In Negro Catholics In United States

According to an American magazine, more than 100,000 Negro Catholics have been baptised in the past decade and they are served by 748 priests (says Catholic Notebook, issued by the Catholic Library Information Bureau in Dublin). But the magazine says "a recent survey revealed that there are only 73 Negro priests out of 48,000 in the entire country." Some 30 orders of nuns exist throughout the country. Negro novices and an equal number of sisterhoods exist with racial memberships. There are 11 all-Negro orders of nuns. Nearly two-thirds of all Negro Catholics live in Southern states; nearly 160,000 are located in Louisiana alone. There are more Negro Catholics in the city of Lafayette, La., than in any other city in America.

THE LATE JOHN CASEY,

Great Record Of Work At St. John's Hospital

THE annual report for St. John's Hospital, Limerick, for 1957 is very illuminating, inasmuch as it gives a good deal of valuable information concerning the administration of a modern voluntary hospital.

A preface or foreword to the report contains some pertinent observations. "Hospital authorities in an increasing number of countries are giving more and more thought to the patient as a person. To-day, the patient is coming into his own; he is an individual and not an occupied bed," it states.

WHAT IS BEING DONE

"St. John's Hospital," the report points out, "has been to the forefront in this recognition of the patient. Consequently, emphasis has been laid on the importance of a pleasing appearance to the Hospital, on colour and colour schemes, the size of wards, privacy, noise, etc."

The Committee of Management, in order to extend this atmosphere of homely welcome, has made arrangements to permit daily visitations to the sick. This wonderful facility applies even to child patients, but, in this instance, there are certain reservations for reasons that must be obvious.

The report continues: "It is gratifying to report that during the year, the Minister for Health sanctioned the purchase of a new x-ray control unit and a new operating table out of Hospital Trust Funds. Unfortunately, no grant has been received to help reduce the capital debt since 1955."

LOWEST COST PER BED

"Everyone has become familiar with the term cost per occupied bed and in the 1955 report it was shown that St. John's cost per occupied bed was well below the national average. As considerable comment has been made on the increasing deficits, by the Minister for Health over the past years, a schedule has been included in this report setting out the loss per occupied bed. It will be seen, that

allowing for the enormous amount of bank interest, St. John's figure is the lowest in the country since 1950, with the exception of 1956.

"During the year the Voluntary Health Insurance Scheme and the Specialist Service Scheme came into operation. On 1st September, 1957, the subvention payable by health authorities was reduced by 4s. per day in respect of Section 25, patients obtaining institutional services in accordance with the provisions of the Health and Mental Treatment Act, 1957, and the patients' contribution was increased to 10s. per day."

It was pointed out in the report that during 1957 some 2,151 patients were admitted, a fall of 90 from the previous year, the respective bed days being 23,584 as against 29,809, a decline of four point two per cent. The total number of out-patients increased by 282 to 12,743. One of the advantages of having an out-patient clinic like St. John's is that cases which would otherwise be sent to hospital, can come daily for treatment.

RESIGNATION OF OPHTHALMIC SURGEON.

The report expressed regret on the resignation of Dr. Charles McDonnell as Ophthalmic Surgeon. In recognition of over thirty years of invaluable service the Management Committee has appointed him Hon. Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Vital statistics for the hospital for the year under review are as follows:—Pathological laboratory, 6,914 examinations; X-ray dept., 3,059; out-patients dept., 12,744 treated; eye, ear, nose and throat section, 962; physiotherapy department, 12,372; total admissions to hospital for year—2,151.

Five Lobster Boats Pass Through

Possible New Industry To

MONSIGNOR ADDRESS CLOSING CITY RETREAT

Right Rev. Monsignor Moloney, P.P., Vic. Cap., the special Mass for the of St. Clement's Division Holy Family Confraternity assembled in the Retreat Church yesterday morning General Communion in connection with their annual retreat.

At the conclusion of the retreat Monsignor Moloney with members of the Confraternity joy on that happy afternoon, and went on to week, under the direction of good Retreat Fathers, prepared yourselves in quiet prayer to come to the altar. This morning the visited His people in the sacrament of Peace; the grace of

OUR LADY'S MON

"My dear men, during while you prayed here May came to us—Our month. You remember the calm, peaceful and radiant they are reminders of our Lady that heaven came to the Lord and Master of the world. When we are like lost children, who can back better to Him. Blessed Mother through whom we came to us. In the Holy Sodality you are reminded of the gracious of His Blessed Mother Joseph, the humble, steady St. Joseph, who was special providence of above them—God's stewards to see to their few needs."

"This week," added Monsignor Moloney, "we have been his Feast—St. Joseph the St. Joseph, whose work is a port to the Holy Family; a group of all those who work in every rank in life and duty. In this city of ours, a great family and which fraternity and Sodality presents, alas, I suppose homes where there is no where there is want. You take the place of God in this city; and in this Our Lady, I am sure if you pray and work together will do something for Limerick to bring to an end that unhappiness, and it is something we have Our Lady's When her neighbours were of something, like the labour, she prayed for her to give it to them, and He. "We cannot be sure that worldly demands will be when we make demands