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ing the Guinness in the front portion of the hotel told her afterwards that he picked up the glass of Guinness from the floor. Following a submission by Mr. Curtin, Justice Maguire dismissed the summonses against the persons found on the premises.

found on the premises.

FOR THE DEDICATED and expert ministrations by the Sisters of the Little Com-pany of Mary and its house

pany of Mary and its house and visiting doctors, St. John's Hospital (above) has earned the gratitude of Limerick citizens since it first opened in 1881.

The story of the Little Company of Mary Sisters (popularly known as the Blue Nuns from their distinctive garb) arrival in Limerick began in Rome, pearly a century ago.

nearly a century ago.
Lady Moore, the wife of
Count Moore, an Irish landlord, was nursed back to health during a serious illness by the Little Company of Mary nuns in Rome. In gratitude for her restoration to health, Lady Moore decided to have this nursing order introduced to Ireland, and she made every effort to achieve it.

achieve it.

The Little Company of Mary nuns had been founded in England seven years before their arrival in Limerick, by Mary Potter, a convert to Catholicism. Bishop Edward Thomas O'Dwyer dearth, wished to have a Edward Thomas O'Dwyer dearly wished to have a Catholic Hospital established in Limerick city. He succeeded in getting possession of the dilapidated Fever Hospital, beside the Old Citadel and City Walls, near St. John's Cathedral. This building originally was St. John's Barracks, a British military installation for military installation for some years after the 1690-91 Sieges and the Treaty of

some years after the 169091 Sieges and the Treaty of Limerick.
In 1781, Lady Hartstonge took over St. John's Barracks and established the first fever hospital in the British Empire there. With the acquisition of this dilapidated 18th century Fever Hospital, Bishop O'Dwyer invited the Little Company of Mary to Limerick to staff a Catholic hospital there.
In 1878 the first Little Company of Mary nuns came to Limerick and founded a hospitable base with the Sisters of Mercy at St. Mary's Convent, in The Isle Parish. With heroic spirit and spartan labour they succeeded in cleaning and disinfecting the Old Fever Hospital and making it suitable for the reception and treatment of patients. New equipment was installed. equipment was installed.
The first patients were
admitted in 1881.
Count Meore (1849-1904)

assisted the Little Company of Mary's establishment of St. John's Hospital with a generous financial donation.

The centre onables the ambu-

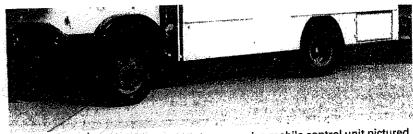
The centre onables the ambulance personnel to operate a more efficient service in that all their drivers can be in constant contact.

Later this year, the Mid-Western Health Board intend to complete the helicopter pad in the grounds of the Regional Hospital.

The only remaining work to be completed on the pad is the erection of floodlights to enable helicopters to land at night.

The pad will be the only one of its kind in the country and will no

The pad will be the only one of this kind in the country and will no doubt add to the already efficient system being operated by the ambulance service attached to the Mid-Western Health Board.



The Mid Western Health Board ambulance service mobile control unit pictured in the grounds of the Regional Hospital.

### PHOTONOTES OF OLD LIMERICK



Count Moore's generosity, his portrait hangs in a place of honour in the Admissions of honour in the Admissions Office at St. John's Hospital. In the patients' reception room there's a beautiful colour lithograph poster for the 1903 Limerick Grand Fair and Carnival (with the Colleen Bawn) in aid of St. John's Hospital. This poster is by Guys, Printers and Lithographers, Limerick, and it features depictions of the Colleten Bawn, the Orienthe Colleen Bawn, the Oriental style bazaar pavilion (with a Céad Mile Fáitte greeting above its door-way), the Old Citadel and St. John's Hospital, its features as they were when the Blue Nuns opened it in 1881.

An indication of the high and widespread appreciation by Limerick Citizens of the healing ministrations of the Blue Nuns of St. John's Hospital and the medical staff can be seen from the list of the hospital's Board of Caronario Cavic Limerick Governors in Guy's Limerick Directory for 1914.

arish. With heroic spirit arish. With heroic spirit and spartan labour they ucceeded in cleaning and lisinfecting the Old Fever lospital and making it suitble for the reception and reatment of patients. New quipment was installed. The first patients were idmitted in 1881.

Count Meore (1849-1904) rissisted the Little Company of Mary's establishment of the John's Hospital with a generous financial donalion.

In commemoration of Directory for 1914.

They include: Most Rev. Dr. O'Dwyer, Bishop of Limerick; the Rt. Hon. Lord Emily, of Tervoe; Mr. J. F. Bannatyne, of the famous bacon factory in Merses. Denny (of the famous bacon factory in Michael O'Callaghan, B.C., Sir Vincent Nash (Castletroy), and Mr. Stephen of the O'Mara's Bacon Factory family).

Following their establishment of their pioneer St. John's Hospital in Limerick, the Blue Nuns established foundations in Galway, Fermoy and Dublin. In 1923 St. John's Blue Nuns estab-lished a convalescent home at Milford House at Plassey, an idyllic Shannonside area, an idyllic Shannonside area, near Limerick city. In recent years, the Blue Nuns have established a Hospice at Milford House, a mansion and demense once owned by the famous 18th-19th century Limerick milling family, the Russells.

Today, as for many years

Today, as for many years past, St. John's Hospital, thanks to the dedicated and expert ministry of its nuns and doctors and nurses, is one of the leading hospitals in the south of Ireland. In in the south of Ireland. In fact, it serves not only Limerick region patients, but patients from the surrounding counties and those from farther afield.

During the War of Independence (1919-21) despite the presence and terroriet

pendence (1919-21) despite the presence and terrorist activities of a large British garrison in Limerick City, Sister Aquin, the outpa-tients surgery nun, in her quiet and fearless way, tended the badly-wounded Volunteers of the Mid-Limerick Brigade I.R.A., and ordinary citizens injured during reprisals by the British forces, in the little whitewalled building, now re-placed by a modern outpatients surgery, beside a small surviving gateway of the Old Citadel.

During the Civil War 922-23) the Blue Nuns ministered to wounded and ministered to wounded and injured citizens. During the "Third Siege of Limerick", in July, 1922, between the occupying Republican forces and the Free State Army, who eventually dislodged the Republicans-one day along there were one day alone—there were thirty wounded or injured citizens in St. John's Hospital. Typical of the dedication of the Blue Nuns of St. John's was Sister Basil, the John's was bister Basil, the visiting Sister to citizens sick or confined to their homes throughout the city. Sister Basil, who died in the early 1970's, unsparingly visited 1970's, unsparingly visited these patients by day and, undeterred by the worst weather, often wended her way clutching her medicine bag guided by the light of her torchlamp, through dark streets to minister to them at the most inconvenient hours of night. nient hours of night.

St. John's Hospital is situated beside the stretch of City Walls heroically and brilliantly defended by brilliantly defended by General Patrick Sarsfield and the Jacobite Army and the men and women of Limerick in the 1690 Siege by King William's much bigger and better equipped English Army, which in-cluded contingents from many European nations. At the far end of the photo, a section of the City Wall extends towards the modern road at Lelia Street. This section of the City Wall

General Ele marks the site of the Black Battery, where either by superb military planning by General Sarsfield, or accident, the explosion of

PHOTO: JOHN WRIGHT

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accident, the explosion of some mines virtually annihilated King William's crack Brandenburg (German) Regiment, an event which decisively turned thefortunes of the 1690 Siege of Limerick in favour of General Sarsfield, the Jacobite Army and the equally heroic men and women of Limerick

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