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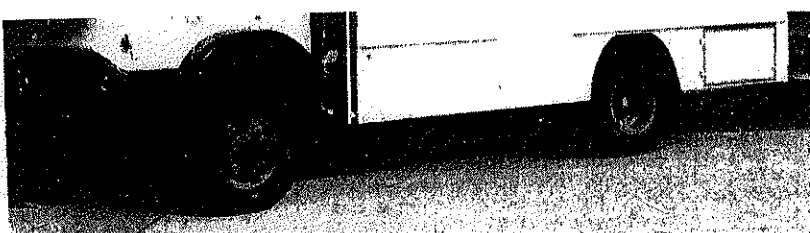
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The centre enables the ambulance personnel to operate a more efficient service in that all their drivers can be in constant contact. Later this year, the Mid-Western Health Board intend to complete the helicopter pad in the grounds of the Regional 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 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.

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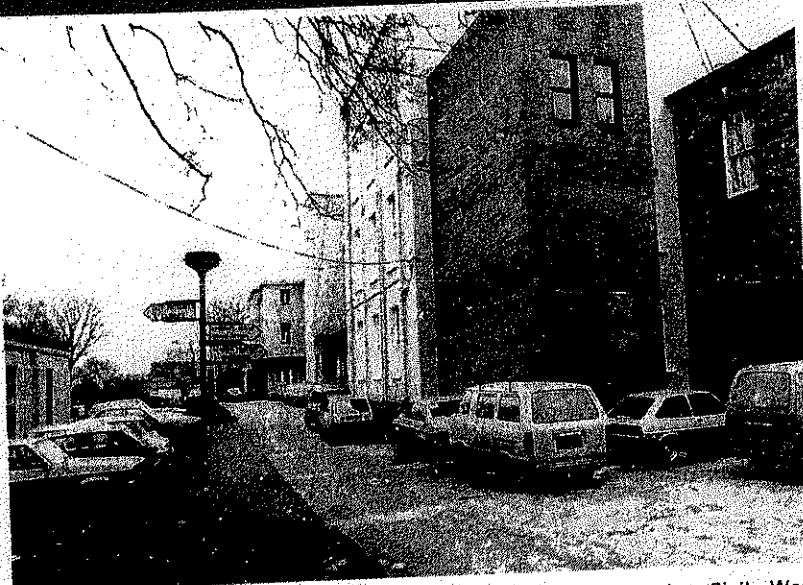
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PHOTONOTES OF OLD LIMERICK



Count Moore's generosity, his portrait hangs in a place 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 Colleen Bawn, the Oriental style bazaar pavilion (with a Céad Míle Fáilte greeting above its doorway), 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 Governors in Guy's Hospital 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 milling firm; Mr. Archibald Murray, of Cannocks; Messrs. Denny (of the famous bacon factory in nearby Cathedral Place), Mr. Michael O'Callaghan, B.C., Sir Vincent Nash (Castletroy) and Mr. Stephen O'Mara (of Strand House, a member 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 established a convalescent home at Milford House at Plassey, 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 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 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 terrorist activities of a large British garrison in Limerick City, Sister Aquin, the outpatients 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 white-walled building, now replaced by a modern outpatients surgery, beside a small surviving gateway of the Old Citadel.

During the Civil War (1922-23) the Blue Nuns 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 on 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 visiting Sister to citizens sick or confined to their homes throughout the city. Sister Basil, who died in the early 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.

St. John's Hospital is situated beside the stretch of City Walls heroically and 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 included 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

marks the site of the Black Battery, where either by superb military planning by General Sarsfield, or accident, the explosion of some mines virtually annihilated King William's crack Brandenburg (German) Regiment, an event which decisively turned the fortunes 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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