Limerick’s Claim
For Regional Maternity Hospital

LIMERICK City Council is determined to secure that the building of a Regional Hospital in the City be not shelved. This was made clear at its meeting on Monday night, the Mayor (Ald. Carew, T.D.) presiding.

An energetic move has been made by the City Council to bring to a head the Doora Doyle Hospital Maternity Project.

At its meeting on Monday night, the Council had the proposed Hospital from the Department of Health. The letter referred to a resolution from the Council early in May regarding the provision of maternity accommodation.

"Arriving out of the resolution," went on the Department’s letter, "there are a number of matters affecting the position in the County and Limerick City, which have not yet been determined. The general feeling in the community is that a final decision should not be taken until these contingent issues are settled. Facilities have now been provided for the accommodation of maternity cases in the reconstructed top floor in the acute block of the City Hospital and in view of the important additional which this unit will represent to the community, the letter considers that it should be brought into operation without delay."

SHOULD TAKE A FIRM STAND

Ald. Russell said the latter portion of the Department’s letter suggested that the Regional Maternity Hospital was being put on the shelf once more. "And under no circumstances," he said, "should we jeopardise the Regional Maternity Hospital scheme. It is now well over ten years since a site was acquired for this Hospital and I cannot understand why, during all these years, provision was not forthcoming for its completion. A contribution from one Sweep would more than build it before the war, when it would not have cost half the amount."

Ald. Reidy, T.D., said he shared the Alderman’s concern for the Maternity Hospital scheme.

FUNDATIONS OF DOORA DOYLE HOSPITAL

The City Manager (Mr. M. Morrin) said the Minister would be quite prepared to meet a deputation of the Council on the question of the City’s general hospital situation. There was no doubt the Council had impressed the Minister about the condition of the Doora Doyle Hospital. At the moment, however, the Minister was considering the provision of the new Doora Doyle Institution when completed—what type of patient would be housed, and how it affected the City. There was no doubt that the maternity block of the Hospital was finished.

Ald. Russell—Before he makes up his mind, he should hear us. It will be no use trying to change his mind later on.

INFANTILE UNIT

Manager—He is prepared to meet you.

The Manager added that in order to ease the position in the City Hospital, it would not interfere in the least with the need for the Regional Doora Doyle Hospital as the Limerick had the highest infantile mortality rate in the country. Now that the accommodation for infants was provided in the City Hospital, because of the accommodation for infants provided in the City Hospital, the Minister should be able to make up his mind.

Mr. P. O’Connell said there was a grave danger that the Minister would lose sight of the need for the Maternity Hospital while he was considering the implications of the new unit in the City Hospital.

REQUEST FOR MINISTER

The Mayor (Ald. J. Carew, T.D.) said he shared the views of the Alderman and Ald. Russell. There was no other instance in the country where there had been a site in existence for twenty years and about which nothing had been done. He believed that the Minister would meet them and discuss the general hospital situation of the city.

INTERESTING F.C.A. FUNCTION

CASTLEMADON

Generally speaking, the people of Ireland did not appreciate the splendid army they had, declared Rev. T. Culgan, C.C., who presided at a function of F.C.A. men held in Castlemahon Hall last week. There were a large and representative gathering, the function, at which mixture of cards and medals were presented to the F.C.A. Members. F.C.A. Sections as winners of the Equestrian competition at the Irish National Hunt at the present time.

As a nation, said Father Culgan, they had only just emerged from the war. If they were, perhaps, still inclined to look upon soldiers with a certain amount of hostility, apparently many people did not yet know the true facts of the situation. It was a difficult job, and was only remarkable, he thought, to see how united everyone was in support of the Army. Everything was done to support the Army, and to support the soldiers and their wives.


The presentation ceremony was presided over by the high ranking officers provided by the ladies of the part.

PROMOTION

Proposing the toast of the President, Capt. de Burt said a glowing tribute to the Battalion’s famous training officer, Capt. Larkin, who was now leaving them following his promotion. His departure would be a blow to the Battalion, and everyone was sorry to see him go. He added that the Battalion was in a state of flux at the present time, and everyone was looking forward to the future. However, a new officer had been appointed, and everyone was looking forward to working with him. He concluded by wishing the Battalion the best of luck in the future.

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VISITOR FROM THE ARCTIC CIRCLE

An unusual life-saving combination was on show last Thursday. A life-saving device on horseback, while his partner, the Army and Navy men, respectively, came to deliver the news.