



THE IRISH HOSPITALS' SWEEPSTAKE AND BARRINGTON'S HOSPITAL: 1931-1937

by *Mark Tierney*

In 1956, the Hospitals' Trust – the body responsible for administering the Irish Hospitals' Sweepstake – published a book entitled *Ireland's Hospitals, 1930-1955*, edited by J. O'Sheehan and E. de Barra. The book, in fact, is nothing more than a history of the Irish Hospitals' Sweepstake. It gives the facts and figures showing the use made of the money raised by the Sweepstake for Irish hospitals during its first twenty-five years of existence. One particular chapter is of importance when studying the impact of the Sweepstake on Barrington's Hospital. It is called 'The Advent of the Sweepstakes', and a summary of its contents will help to provide the economic background to the history of Barrington's during the years 1931 to 1937.

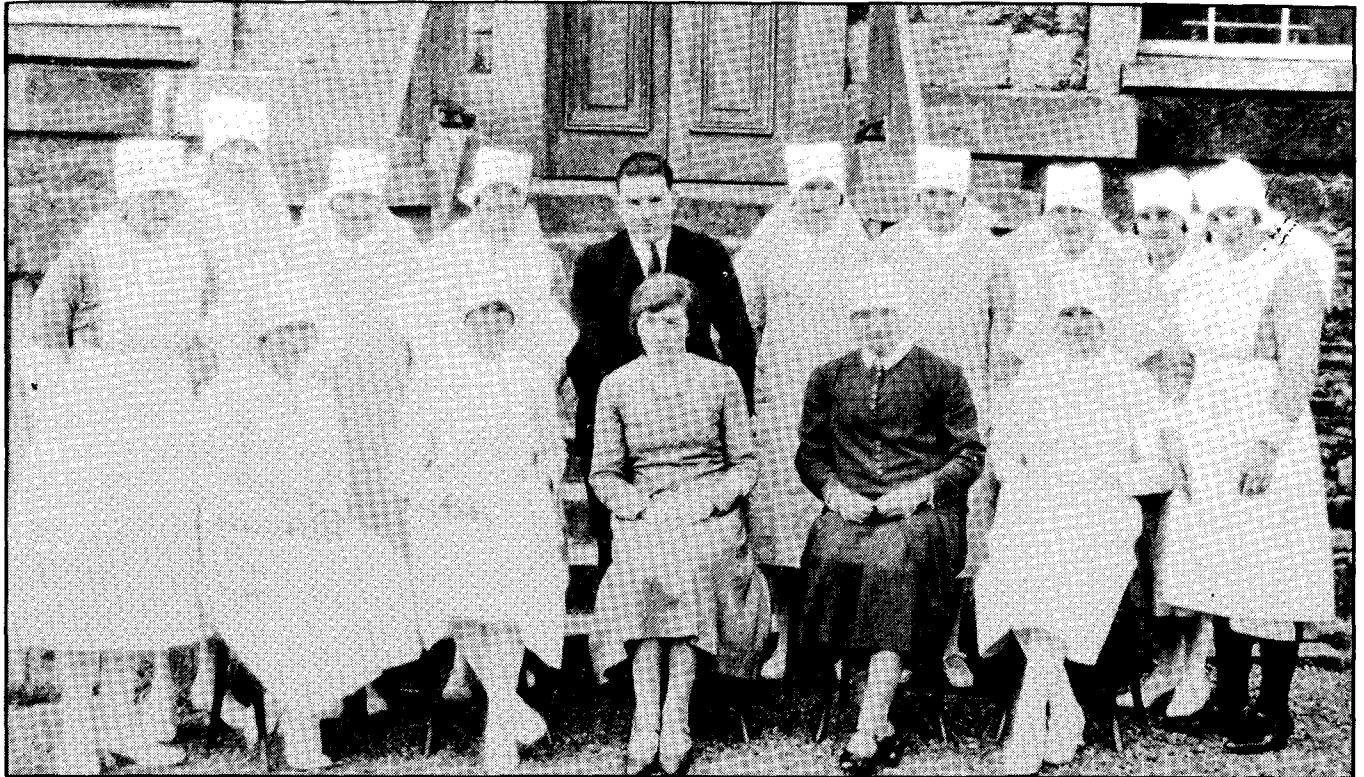
In 1930, six of the Dublin voluntary hospitals approached the Cosgrave government, with a view to holding a Sweepstake 'for the support of Public Charitable Hospitals and Sanatoria'. They received the necessary permission, under the Public Charitable Hospitals' (Temporary Provisions) Act, 1930, 'to enable funds to be raised by means of Sweepstakes and Drawing of Prizes'. The hospitals' committee entered into an agreement with the new Hospitals' Trust Limited to promote and organise the first Sweepstake on the Manchester November Handicap, 1930. The proceeds made available to the six participating hospitals from that venture amounted to £131,797. The second

Sweepstake was held in 1931, and twenty-six hospitals participated in it, including Barrington's Hospital. They shared between them the proceeds, which totalled £439,858. The third Sweepstake produced a total of £698,365, which was distributed among the thirty-four participating voluntary hospitals. It meant, in all, that the three Sweepstakes had given the hospitals an injection of over a million and a quarter pounds. The money was to provide new buildings and new equipment, and the hospitals looked forward to further injections of money in future Sweepstakes.

Resulting from this situation, the Dáil passed a further Act, called the Public Charitable Hospitals' (Amendment) Act, 1931, which made two important changes concerning the distribution of



Barrington's Hospital, 1932.



Hospital staff, 1932.

the surplus money of the Sweepstakes: (i) by providing for the appointment of a Committee of Reference and (ii) decreeing that the available surplus should be divided, with two-thirds to be distributed among the participating hospitals and one-third to be paid to the Minister for Local Government and Public Health 'and shall be applied by him in such manner as he shall think fit in and towards the provision, improvement or equipment for institutions for the prevention, treatment or cure of physical or mental diseases or injuries of human beings'.

The Committee of Reference made several reports and recommendations. They proposed changing the method of distribution from a percentage basis (Barrington's Hospital had received 4.5 per cent of the proceeds of the first three Sweepstakes), to specific amounts based on the total financial needs of each of the hospitals. The new system meant that each hospital put in a claim for certain improvements or needs, under five headings: (a) Repayment of Loans (b) Building works (c) Furniture (d) Medical, Surgical and Pathological apparatus (e) Investment. This led to a certain amount of confusion, and certainly led to less money going to each hospital as a direct grant, as in the first six Sweepstakes. When all the plans and claims were sent in, 'many assumed grandiose proportions without relation to the planned hospital needs of the country as a whole'.

It was in the light of this situation that the de Valera government passed the Public Hospitals Act, 1933, which made

some very important changes in the procedure for dealing with the available surpluses of the Sweepstakes. The first change was the suppressing of the Committee of Reference and the setting up of a Hospital Commission. The second change related to the procedure for making applications for grants out of the Hospitals' Trust Fund by which the Minister for Local Government and Public Health was empowered to oversee the payment of grants to hospitals. It was in exercising its functions under these conditions that the Hospitals' Commission went beyond the original aims of the Sweepstakes, which had been directed to helping voluntary hospitals. In fact, the Hospitals' Commission soon took on a role more like that of a government department, being empowered to conduct an inquiry into the entire hospital needs of the community. It was in this context that the Commission proposed scrapping the existing voluntary hospitals in Limerick (Barrington's and St. John's) and replacing them with a regional hospital. They also envisaged schemes for the development of hospitals in three chief areas: Dublin, Cork and Galway, thus bypassing Limerick.

Finally, it is worth quoting from Appendix I of *Ireland's Hospitals*, which gives details of 'Payments to Hospitals and Health Agencies from Sweepstake Funds from 1930 to 1955 inclusive'. Barrington's Hospital received the following sums:

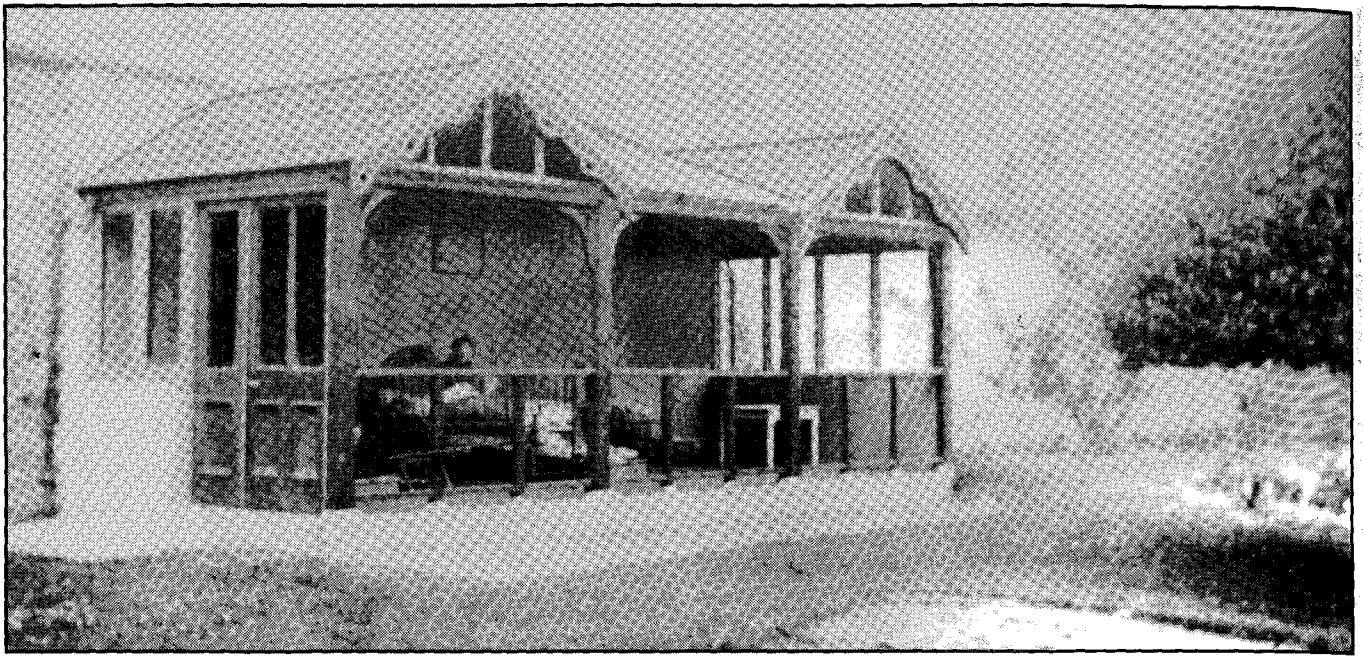
Funds received from 1st six Sweepstakes:	£55,398. 9s. 6d.
Maintenance payments:	

	£79,907. 0s. 0d.
Capital Grants:	£17,908. 3s. 9d.
TOTAL:	£153,213. 13s. 3d.

Obviously such a large sum of money, relative to the total collected, was not accepted ungratefully by the committee of Barrington's Hospital. Unfortunately it did not come in regular allowances, and there was an air of great uncertainty about such grants after the first six Sweepstakes. The story of the Irish Hospitals Sweepstake and Barrington's Hospital, as told here only goes as far as 1937, but it reflects the day-to-day worries, anxieties and hopes of the hospital during these seven years.

The first intimation that the committee of Barrington's Hospital received of the Irish Hospitals' Sweepstake scheme was at a meeting held in the hospital on 9 September, 1930, when Dr. O'Sullivan, secretary of the hospital, reported that he and Mr. George Ryan had attended a meeting in Dublin of representatives of the hospital on 4 September, 1930. It was pointed out that Barrington's Hospital would not bear any liability if the Sweepstake scheme failed. The main concern was to learn what proportion or percentage each hospital would receive of the monies to be distributed. Dr. O'Sullivan told the committee that Barrington's would not be included in the first sweep, but would be in the next year's, which was to start with the Grand National, in March, 1931.⁽¹⁾

At the monthly meeting of the committee of Barrington's Hospital on 11



The Croker Barrington Memorial, in the grounds of Barrington's Hospital, 1932.

October, 1930, further information was provided. Under the Act of the Oireachtas which set up the Sweepstake, 'it was necessary that all hospitals participating in the Sweepstake should bind themselves together to act under a Deed of Trust'.⁽²⁾ The committee agreed to this condition. At its December, 1930, meeting, it was learned that the proportion of the money to be allocated to the hospital would be 4.5 per cent. The Co. Infirmary was to get 3 per cent, and the Bedford Row Nursing Home 2.5.⁽³⁾ At this same meeting of December, 1930, an interesting letter was read from the Church of Ireland Bishop of Limerick, Dr. H. Vere White, opposing the Sweepstake idea, because it involved gambling. The letter is dated 12 November, 1930:

'Dear Sir, As a Governor and friend of Barrington's Hospital, I beg, with all respect, to express my deep regret that at its last meeting your Committee gave its approval to the "Sweepstake" method of raising funds for our hospital.

The vast majority of considerate and public-spirited people feel that gambling is the most widespread and destructive vice of our days; and it is, in my opinion, lamentable that action taken by our Committee should give support to those who make it their business to organize gambling on a huge scale.

Believe me, Yours faithfully, H.V. Limerick'.⁽⁴⁾

The governors replied that they 'could not see their way to agree with his Lordship'.⁽⁵⁾ No other dissenting voice was raised on the issue, and the Committee decided to give its full support and co-operation to the organisers of the Sweepstake. They qualified for a good proportion of the proceeds of all future Sweepstakes. One factor in their favour

was that no hospital could benefit from the Sweepstake unless it was shown that 25 per cent of the beds were free. 'In the case of Barrington's, over 50 per cent. of the beds were free'.⁽⁶⁾

A number of matters relating to the Sweepstake were raised at the meeting of the committee of Barrington's on 13 January, 1931. Firstly, it had been proposed that participating hospitals in the Sweepstake should have a sign exhibited outside the hospital to this effect. The committee were not happy about this and asked the Sweepstake to submit a design. Apparently, there was not much enthusiasm for this 'sign' idea, and they were much relieved to get a letter from Joseph McGrath, dated 20 January, 1931, which stated:

'We thank you for your letter, and wish to state that we have postponed for the time being our intention to erect Signs outside participating hospitals'.⁽⁷⁾

Secondly, the committee of Barrington's was asked to provide a list of 25 names of overseas people, who would help to sell tickets.⁽⁸⁾ This they were very happy to do. In fact, from the very beginning, the committee, and more especially the matron, Miss M.E. Gleeson, took a great interest in selling Sweepstake tickets. A special 'record book' was kept for this purpose, in which the names of those who sold and bought tickets were recorded.⁽⁹⁾ Many of those who sent money and bought tickets were from U.S.A. and Canada.

On 25 March, 1931, the matron received a letter from the Limerick Town Clerk, William Nolan, which came as a shock when it was read at the March meeting of the committee:

'I desire to inform you that at a meeting of the Estimates Committee of the Limerick Corporation, held last

evening, a discussion took place relative to the annual contribution from the Rates made by the Council to your Hospital, and the position that now arises owing to the fact that your Hospital will benefit substantially from the Hospital Sweeps organised under the Irish Free State Public Charities Hospitals Act 1930. The Committee decided to appoint a deputation to meet your governing Committee and discuss the question of future annual contributions from the City Rates'.⁽¹⁰⁾

In 1930, the Corporation grant to Barrington's was £400.⁽¹¹⁾ A very stormy meeting ensued, and it was decided to send a letter to the Town Clerk, stating clearly that 'the Committee of Barrington's Hospital view with regret and alarm the suggestion that the annual grant be withdrawn'.⁽¹²⁾ A compromise was reached, by which the hospital got its grant of £400 for the year 1931, but this was reduced to £200 in 1932 and 1933. In 1934, the Corporation raised the grant to £400, mainly because the hospital had difficulty in getting money from the Sweepstake fund that year.

The first contribution from the Sweepstake to Barrington's was received in April, 1931, and it came to the very substantial amount of £19,793. 12s 7d. It was a welcome windfall, and immediately set on foot plans for expansion of the buildings, the acquisition of much needed equipment, etc. On 20 June, 1931, a further sum of £20,950. 19s 7d was received from the Sweepstake, and when the interest of this money was taken into consideration, the total value of the Sweepstake money for the year ending 31 December, 1931, came to £41,451. 18s. 0d.⁽¹³⁾ The money was put into the Provincial Bank of Ireland, and helped to pay for:

Central heating installation £850

Reconstruction of roof
1st payment £800
New floor in basement £64 11s 4d
and other sundry items.⁽¹³⁾

One of the most pressing needs of the hospital was the accommodation for nurses. Towards the end of 1931, it was decided to build a nurses' home, to be financed mainly from Sweepstake money. Other urgent needs were a new operating theatre and the refurbishing of some of the wards.⁽¹⁵⁾ It is quite clear from all the records of the hospital, that the year 1931 was one of the most satisfactory in the history of Barrington's, thanks to the receipt of the Sweepstake money.

However, a gloomy note was struck in the summer of 1932, when the July meeting was informed that 'up to this date, no money had been received from the last three Sweepstakes'.⁽¹⁷⁾ At the September, 1932, meeting, the situation had improved somewhat, in that two cheques had been received from the Sweepstake, on the Manchester November Handicap 1931, one for £1,753 and the other for £3,331. It was announced at this same meeting that '5 per cent. of the Sweep Money for the Hospital had been reserved by the Minister'.⁽¹⁸⁾ All in all, no less than 18 projects were funded from Sweepstake money during the year 1932. It was necessary to go ahead with these projects, because it was suggested that all future monies from the Sweepstakes would depend on claims for projects on hand.⁽¹⁹⁾

The March, 1933, meeting of the committee was informed that 'it was possible that the Sweeps' monies would be held up by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health'.⁽²⁰⁾ However, by June, 1933, a cheque for £9,391 was received, as Barrington's share in the proceeds of the Grand National and Derby, 1932. It was very frustrating for the committee in trying to plan ahead, not knowing exactly how much money they might hope to receive in any one year. They knew also that the de Valera government was about to set up a hospitals' commission to study the whole future of Irish hospitals. Final confirmation of this latter government plan came in November, 1933, when members of the new Hospital Commission visited Barrington's. Their object was to discuss with the authorities of Barrington's, a *Central Hospital for Limerick*. This would mean the scrapping of existing City Hospitals, regardless of the money already spent on them in building and improvement. This matter would have to be discussed with the other Limerick Hospitals'.⁽²¹⁾

The next stage in the saga of the Hospitals' Commission came in February, 1934, in the form of a letter from the commission to the secretary of the Limerick Trades' Council. The government was evidently trying to sell



No 5 Ward, 1932.

its idea of a central hospital for Limerick city and country. The following is a short extract from this long letter:

'When the Commission visited Limerick in November, 1933, it urged the various Hospital authorities there to come together for the purpose of securing for Limerick a modern up-to-date hospital on a good site. The advantages to be secured by the creation of such a Hospital are so obvious as to need no further elaboration. However, both existing Hospital Authorities and Medical Staffs did not receive the proposal of the Commission with any great enthusiasm, in marked contradiction to the reception accorded to amalgamation and nationalisation proposals in other cities.

The Commission is still not without hope that the opportunity now being offered to Limerick City to secure out of Sweepstake funds, a modern up-to-date Hospital, an opportunity that in all probability will not recur for at least 100 years, will not be irretrievably lost, and hence the reluctance to sanction the present extension scheme of the individual hospitals, as such schemes cut directly across a National Scheme for Hospital service in Limerick City'.⁽²²⁾

What, in fact, all this spelt out for Barrington's no one could say. The annual general meeting of the committee, held on 22 January, 1935,

was highly critical of the government's plan to build a central hospital for Limerick, and scrap the two existing voluntary hospitals. Thus, during the early months of 1935, Barrington's was in a state of uncertainty, which was expressed in the hospital's report of January, 1935, to the effect that 'During 1934, owing to the continued withholding of the Hospital Sweep monies, the financial condition of the institution has become most precarious, and it is becoming increasingly difficult to meet our lawful obligations'.⁽²³⁾

The years of 1933-37 were the years of the so-called Economic War, when trade between Ireland and Britain was at its lowest ebb. Shades of this war were felt in Barrington's, early in 1935, when the architect of the new laundry unit was refused a licence from the Department of Industry and Commerce to import laundry machinery from England. The authorities in the hospital were recommended to try the continent for the required machine.⁽²⁴⁾ One of the factors overlooked by historians of Irish hospitals during the 1930s is this factor of the Economic War. Many of the medical supplies, both of instruments and drugs, came from Britain. The severe restrictions laid on the import of goods from Britain by the Irish government of the day made life very difficult for hospital administrators. The laundry machinery incident at Barrington's was only one of several such restrictions.



**This Sweepstake is held under the
IRISH FREE STATE PUBLIC CHARITABLE HOSPITALS (TEMPORARY PROVISIONS) ACT, 1930.**

The undermentioned Hospitals have combined together and will benefit according to the proportions shown.

COUNTY DUBLIN AND COUNTY OF CITY OF DUBLIN.		COUNTY AND CITY OF CORK. Percentage	
	Percentage		Percentage
The Charitable Infirmary, Jervis Street ...	4	North Infirmary ...	4
Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital ...	6	South Infirmary ...	5
The Meath and County Dublin Infirmary ...	8	County and City of Cork Lying-in Hospital ...	1.5
Children's Hospital, Temple Street ...	4	North Fever Hospital ...	3.5
St. Ultan's Infant Hospital ...	2	Cork Dental Hospital ...	1
St. Patrick's Infant Hospital ...	1.6	LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY.	
The Incorporated Dental Hospital ...	1	Barrington's Hospital and City of Limerick Infirmary ...	3
Richmond Hospital ...	5	Limerick County Infirmary ...	2
St. Vincent's Hospital ...	3	Bedford Row Lying-in Hospital ...	2
House of Recovery and Fever Hospital ...	6	WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY.	
Mater Misericordiam Hospital ...	4	Waterford County and City Infirmary ...	4
The Royal City of Dublin Hospital ...	7	Waterford Maternity and Lying-in Hospital ...	1.5
Beaumont Convalescent Home ...	1	Martin Hospital, Portlaw, County Waterford ...	6
St. Michael's Hospital, Dun Laoghaire ...	2.6	COUNTY LOUTH.	
National Children's Hospital ...	2	Louth County Infirmary, Dundalk ...	2.6
Cheeverstown Convalescent Home ...	1	COUNTY DONEGAL.	
National Maternity Hospital, Holles Street ...	5	Shiel Hospital, Ballyshannon ...	1
Coombe Lying-in Hospital ...	6	COUNTY KILDARE.	
Linden Convalescent Home ...	1	The Drogheda Memorial Hospital, Curragh ...	6
		COUNTY WICKLOW.	
		Countess of Wicklow Memorial Cottage Hospital, Arklow ...	1

List of Irish Hospitals' Sweepstake beneficiaries, under the Public Hospitals Act, 1930.

The annual report of Barrington's Hospital for 1936 contains a very telling account of the financial problems facing its administrators that year. Its problems were due, not simply to the Economic War and the depression of the years 1930-36, but also to the apparent misconception in the public mind that Irish hospitals were suffering from 'an embarrassment of riches' received from the Sweepstake. The following is a short extract from this report of 1935:

'During the past year, in spite of every effort at retrenchment and economic administration commensurate with efficient working of the institution, the overdraft steadily increased, reaching on December 31, 1936, the sum of £7,317. There are several contributory causes for this unhappy position. The difficulty of collecting out-standing debts increased yearly, and is partly due to the natural, but misguided belief that the Free State voluntary hospitals are suffering from an embarrassment of riches, which belief has, unfortunately, been fostered by the announcement in the public Press after each Sweep Draw, that vast sums have been paid over to the hospitals, the truth being, as far as is known, no capital sums whatever, have been paid out to the voluntary hospitals since the Caesarewitch Draw of 1932. Last year (1936), this Hospital only received £286, and without the disbursement of these monies, which total in the neighbourhood of five million sterling, no improvement financially can be hoped for.'⁽²⁵⁾

The total amount of money received by Barrington's from the Sweepstake for 1934 had been £939. That for 1935 had been £248. The committee had put a special balance sheet into their annual report each year from 1931-5, under the heading 'Sweepstake Account'. This special balance sheet appeared for the

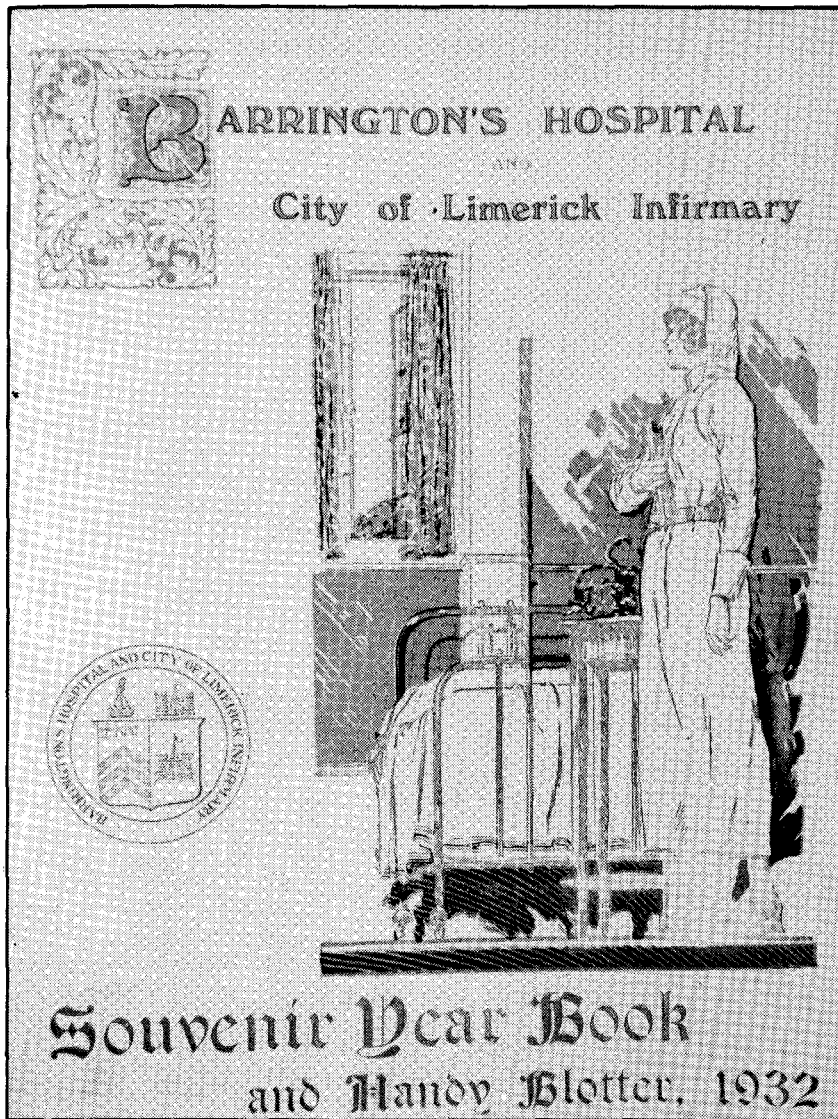
last time in 1935. Throughout the first six months of 1936, the committee, along with the committee of St. John's Hospital, Limerick, wrote several letters and sent a deputation to Dublin to the Minister of Local Government and Public Health, asking for an explanation of the delay in obtaining money from the Sweepstake, and also opposing the plan to close the two hospitals, in favour of a central or regional hospital.⁽²⁶⁾

The year 1937 turned out to be a very frustrated time for the committee of Barrington's Hospital. Despite numerous letters to the Minister for Local Government and to the trustees of the National Hospitals' Sweepstake, no further monies were received. All attempts to arrange a meeting with the Minister failed, until April 1937, when a deputation from Barrington's 'saw the Minister and were favourably impressed by his attitude. He informed the Deputation that he personally knew nothing about the 1934 accounts being taken as a standard, and that he would have the matter looked into'.⁽²⁷⁾ However, further meetings with the Minister were cancelled 'in view of the imminence of the General Election for June 1937'.⁽²⁸⁾ This so infuriated the Barrington's committee that they informed the Associated Hospitals' Committee 'That it was being seriously considered in some quarters that the Sweeps should be abolished on the grounds of mis-application of funds and breach of trust'.⁽²⁹⁾

Barrington's Hospital found itself cut off from funds at every quarter because of the belief generally held that it was receiving substantial monies from the Sweepstake. A typical example of such a belief was that held by the Provincial Bank, with whom Barrington's had been doing business for 107 years. Each year, up to 1933, the Provincial Bank of Ireland had sent a subscription of £1 to the hospital. Then the subscription had ceased. In June, 1937, the secretary of

Barrington's Hospital wrote asking the Provincial Bank to subscribe to the hospital and to make their subscription retrospective. The Provincial Bank replied 'That they could not see their way to subscribe to a Hospital which benefitted under Sweepstake Fund'. The committee was so enraged with this reply that they immediately voted in favour of clearing their overdraft with the Provincial Bank and changing to another bank.⁽³⁰⁾ After further correspondence with the manager of the Provincial Bank, the secretary of Barrington's reported to the August, 1937, meeting, 'that the Provincial Bank had since grudgingly sent £1 subscription for the current year, and further that it would not be retrospective'.⁽³¹⁾ If the Provincial Bank, which had been entrusted with the hospital's accounts, was so reluctant to come forth with financial help for Barrington's, one could hardly blame other organisations and individuals, who could not have been aware of the real situation facing the hospital's administrators. Everyone thought that Barrington's was receiving vast sums of money from the Sweepstake, but, in fact, this was not the case.

The reality of the situation was clearly stated in the annual report for the year ending 31 December, 1939. It spells out the dilemma facing the administrators of Barrington's Hospital, who were caught up in a no-win situation. When the Sweepstake had first been set up in 1930, under the Cosgrave government, a reference committee had been formed. It was foreseen that the money gained from the Sweepstake would be distributed to the voluntary hospitals. When the Fianna Fáil government came to power in 1932, one of the first moves they made was to scrap the Reference Committee and set up a Hospital Commission, whose mandate was to oversee the distribution of the Sweepstake monies, and have it allocated to whatever was thought to be



Cover of the 1932 Year Book.

in the best public interest. This Hospital Commission came up with the proposal to use the Sweepstake money to build regional or central hospitals, and to scrap the voluntary hospitals. The Sweepstake monies were put under the control of the Minister for Local Government and Public Health, and taken out of the hands of the people running the Sweepstake. At no time did the Barrington's Committee criticise the Sweepstake authorities themselves. All their criticism was levelled at the Hospital Commission and the Minister in charge of distributing the funds of the Sweepstake.

The following are the relevant paragraphs taken from the 1937 annual report:

'The Hospitals' Sweepstakes were instituted by and for the VOLUNTARY HOSPITALS OF THE IRISH FREE STATE, who alone have a right to the proceeds, and until their just wants are satisfied, no other institution, state-aided or otherwise, has any real right to the monies. The actual position, however, is unfortunately very different; as for some years past, the monies that in

actual justice belong to the Voluntary Hospitals, are being freely voted to State aided and non-voluntary Institutions. Protest after protest has been made without the slightest avail, and now, even the promise that we would be recouped out of the Sweep monies for our annual deficit has not been kept. (Deficit 1935, £1480. Sum received £286).

To date the Hospital has received since April, 1931, £56,337. 9s. 7d. out of original grant of £94,262. 12s. 7d. Consequently at lowest, £37,925 is still owing to Barrington's and urgently required.

The Hospital Commission who visited this Hospital in November, 1933, expressed in no uncertain terms their desire to "scrap" this Institution, and apparently they have not undergone any change of heart and have never even visited the Hospital since that date.

It had better be clearly understood that if this considered policy of gradually withdrawing the monies, which are our just due, be persisted in, there can be only one ending, that

is for Barrington's Hospital to realize its investments, pay its debts, and close its doors forever. When about 30,000 attendances annually are recorded for the external departments alone, then, perhaps, it will be realised what a loss this will be to the City'.⁽³²⁾

When the time comes for writing the definitive history of Barrington's Hospital, the impact of the Irish Hospitals' Sweepstake will have to be taken into account. It certainly presented itself at the start as a godsend, but as time went on it became a mixed blessing, and finally turned into a disaster. The story told here only takes the matter up to 1937. It is a strange and sad story. It should have had a happy ending.

NOTES

1. Board book of Barrington's Hospital, 1928-1937. (Henceforth B.B.), pp. 99-100.
2. B.B. p. 105.
3. Ibid. p. 108.
4. Ibid. p. 110.
5. Ibid. p. 110.
6. Annual general meeting of the committee of Barrington's Hospital for year ending 31 December, 1930; meeting held 13 January, 1931. B.B. p. 112.
7. B.B. p. 118.
8. B.B. p. 116.
9. 'Record of Sweep Tickets', a large notebook among the Barrington's Hospital records, now in Glenstal Abbey archives.
10. B.B. pp. 124-5.
11. Annual report for year ending 31 December, 1930, p. 11. (Printed report).
12. B.B. p. 127.
13. Annual report for year ending 31 December, 1931, p. 12. (Printed report).
14. Ibid.
15. B.B. pp. 164 and 174.
16. B.B. p. 191.
17. Annual report for year ending December, 1932. (Printed report).
18. B.B., p. 195.
19. B.B., p. 211.
20. B.B., p. 216.
21. B.B., p. 238.
22. B.B., pp. 257-8.
23. B.B., p. 306. This is the report of the annual general meeting.
24. B.B., p. 312.
25. Annual report for year ending 31 December, 1936, p. 7. (Printed report).
26. B.B., p. 360.
27. B.B., p. 388.
28. B.B., p. 289.
29. B.B., pp. 289-90.
30. B.B., p. 391.
31. B.B., p. 394.
32. Annual report of Barrington's Hospital for year ending 31 December, 1937, p. 8.