

Monthly meeting of the Mid-Western Health Board.

Many of the councillors

the centre "never turns people away".

Cllr Tim O'Malley expressed his admiration

ple are to be regulated back into society. Have we a policy about alcoholics and how they are treat-

there."

The Cuan Mhuire centre has 72 treatment beds, all of which are residen-

won a Better Ireland Award for its Outreach Programme for schools.

The health board

The centre deals with mostly Limerick city and county people and is always full.

City poet helps find costumes for Ashes

By LAURA RYAN

AN enjoyable hobby for one Limerick poet may soon become the inspiration for some of the costumes for the Angela's Ashes movie.

Maureen Sparling, King's Island, has for over 10 years collected old pictures from the Memories section of the Limerick Chronicle and the Christmas Gazette.

And she was thrilled to receive a phone call from a researcher from the costumes department of Angela's Ashes asking if they could see her collection to get ideas for the film.

"I was delighted to oblige," said Mrs Sparling, who has over a dozen scrapbooks of cuttings collected. "The lady who came to view my collection described it as a veritable gem."

The researcher took almost 40 copies of pho-



Maureen Sparling, King's Island, with her collection of old Limerick scrapbooks which will be used as inspiration for costumes in the Angela's Ashes movie. (LL)

tographs from Mrs Sparling's collection and was especially interested in a pub scene photo from Quilligan's pub, Broad Street, taken in the 1930s.

"The picture shows a number of men in a pub enjoying a pint of Guinness dressed in caps and traditional 1930s clothes," continued Mrs Sparling. "That's exactly the kind of scene they were looking for to portray in the film."

The researcher intends to make a collage of photographs on a bulletin board to get a general idea of what Limerick dress was like in the 1930s.

"My scrapbook cuttings are to me an enjoyable hobby, and I'm delighted that the film costume designers may be able to get some ideas from the photos," Mrs Sparling said.

Viagra could cost us 20m

VIAGRA could cost the tax-payers in this country £20 million a year the Mid-Western Health Board was told.

Cllr Tim O'Malley, a pharmacist in Dooradoyle, initiated a debate on the drug at the board meeting by warning of the consequences of the present method of issuing prescriptions for the drug.

He felt that it was wrong that GPs could prescribe it and thought it should be issued only on a "named patient basis, under the care of a consultant".

He believed that it could be "abused widely at great cost to the exchequer". The councillor told the board that Viagra, if made available via the public health service, could cost the tax-payer £20 million every year.

This, he believed, "would affect other essential medicines".