

Bill turns the key on a century of successful business

Liston's Chemist closes its doors

THIS year saw one of the Limerick's best known businesses, Liston's Chemists of O'Connell Street, close its doors after caring for the needs of Limerick families for generations. Bill Hanley had decided to call it a day.

ONE of the most popular figures in Limerick's commercial centre, Bill will indeed be missed by his many clients, for his humanitarian approach and friendly manner. Although only in its last premises since 1965, the history of Liston's Medical Hall goes back over 100 years.

One of the city's best known music shops, "The Apollo," was situated in Patrick Street in 1854, and just around that time it moved to a premises in 108 O'Connell Street, which was owned by Mr. Edward J. Corbett. This premises was built in the 1793 by Colonel Anthony Lejoy on his retirement from the Army. Mr. Lejoy died in 1819 and is buried in a tomb which can still be seen in St. Mary's Cathedral, raised high above ground level. Buried also in the same tomb are the Lerays of Fern Hollow, Killa-loe, and late of Australia.

In 1820, 108 O'Connell Street was sold by the Lejoy family to Mr. Brian O'Brien, a bookseller, of Limerick, and the premises was given to his daughter, Kate O'Brien, whom she married Edward Corbett.

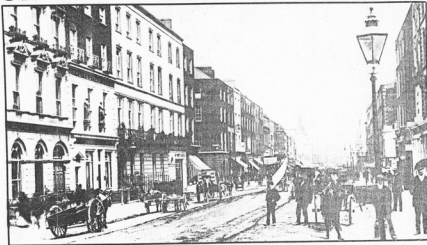
Between 1839 and 1854 the premises was leased to the Bank of Ireland and was later taken over by Corbett's Music Shop up to 1887. The

following year a trio of Limerick doctors, Dr. Michael Roderick O'Connor, M.D.; Doctor John Holmes, M.D. and Dr. Patrick F. Graham, M.D. took on the premises on a 150 year lease, at a cost of £110 per year. They appointed Mr. P. J. Pearse as manager on their behalf from December, 1888 to April 1892.

Mr. Pearse was paid a salary of £100 per annum, while his two assistants were paid the princely sum of £2.10s each per month. £20 per annum was allowed for the payment of servants, while Mr. Pearse was to be paid one quarter of the annual profits.

Trading under the title of Pearse and Co., the premises was then sold to John Hughes, M.P.S.I. for a sum of £1,100. Mr. Hughes subsequently became a partner with Doctor Graham and Doctor Holmes on the death of Doctor O'Connor, but this partnership was dissolved in 1895. Mr. Hughes continued to manage the premises. On March 20, 1901, Mr. Graham and Mr. Holmes sold out to Mr. Pat Liston for a sum of £1,100, and this transaction was completed on March 3rd, 1914.

The goodwill of 108 O'Connell Street, Limerick



Liston's Medical Hall is seen here on the left of this picture of O'Connell Street (then George's Street), Limerick. Other premises prominent are the Munster and Leinster Bank (now the A.L.B.); the Royal George Hotel and Leverett & Frye.

was transferred across the road to 41 O'Connell Street in 1965, with the Allied Irish Bank taking over the site for new development. It was the end of a great era for the Hanley family. The old family residence, situated over the business premises, was the scene of much happiness and entertainment. It was the centre of much good-hearted and innocent partying.