



# Bedford Row Hospital,

LIMERICK.

(ESTABLISHED IN THE YEAR 1812)

One Hundredth and Forty-First

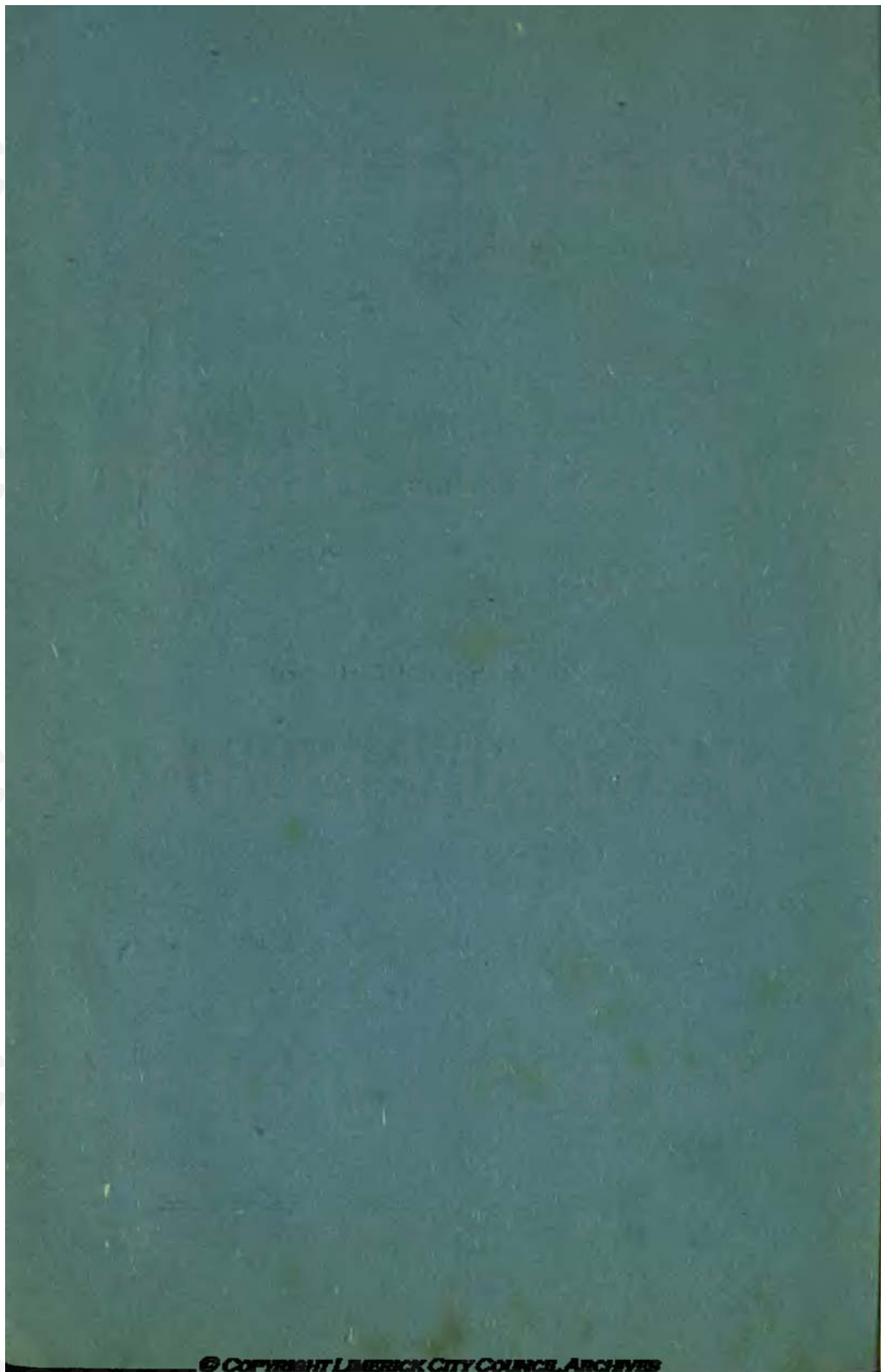
## ANNUAL REPORT

FOR

Year Ending 31st December, 1952

LIMERICK  
McKERN'S PRINTING.

1953



PS/14

*With the Hon. Secretary's  
Compliments*

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## Annual Report

FOR

Year Ending 31st December, 1952

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LIMERICK;  
McKERN'S PRINTING

# Bedford Row Hospital

Established 1812)

## OFFICERS 1952.

### Patron:

HIS LORDSHIP, THE MOST REV. PATRICK O'NEILL, D.D.,  
Bishop of Limerick.

### President:

MRS. L. O'BRIEN-KELLY  
Clonmacken House.

### Trustees:

HIS LORDSHIP, THE MOST REV. PATRICK O'NEILL.  
LADY NASH. DR. J. F. HOLMES  
MRS O'BRIEN-KELLY. MRS. SPILLANE  
MRS. TREACY.

### Honorary Treasurer:

LADY NASH, Shannon View House

### Honorary Secretary:

MRS. TREACY, Ard Caoin.

### Committee:

MRS. J. R. DUNDON. MRS. J. G. HOLMES. MRS. T. CORBOY.  
MRS. O'MALLEY. MRS. SHEEHY. MRS. DEVANE.  
MRS. SPILLANE. MRS. IRWIN. MRS. CORBOY.  
DR. J. G. HOLMES  
MRS. DOWLING (Hon. Member).

### Law Adviser:

EDWARD TREACY, Esq., Solr., 92 O'Connell St.

### Auditors:

Messrs. PURTILL & CO., Dublin and Limerick.

### Bankers:

PROVINCIAL BANK OF IRELAND, LIMITED.

### Architect:

EDWARD RYAN, Esq., A.I.A.A., Upper Mallow St.

## Bedford Row Hospital.

### THE MEDICAL STAFF,

1952

#### Consulting Accoucheur:

HUBERT ROCHE-KELLY, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

#### Visiting Physicians:

JOHN G. HOLMES, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.

TIGHE FOLEY, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.

WILLIAM P. DUNDON, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.

DENIS J. CORBOY, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

PATRICK J. McMAHON, M.A.O., M.B., B.Ch.

CECIL E. MOLONEY, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.

#### Matron:

MISS K. WALSH

Number of Patients for year ending 31st Dec., 1952—697

Number of Extern Patients—65

Number of Extern Visits—910

Number of Deaths .. 1

## **Bedford Row Hospital,**

**BEDFORD ROW, LIMERICK.**

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The Hospital was established in 1812, and now comprises:

**Maternity Wards** to which Patients in Labour are admitted at all hours, beds being available for their reception.

**Gynaecological Department** for treatment of women suffering from diseases peculiar to their sex.

**Ante-natal Department** for treatment of expectant mothers.

**Extern Maternity Nursing Service** with a qualified Maternity Nurse.

The Hospital is intended primarily for the relief of the destitute poor and secondarily for those who, although not destitute, are not in a financial position to pay for treatment either in their own homes or in a Nursing Home.

No charge is made to the destitute poor, but those patients who are insured and whose husbands are employed, contribute half their maternity benefit.

The Hospital is situated in Bedford Row, Limerick, in the heart of the City, and is readily accessible to those patients who avail of its services.

There is a resident Matron and a staff of qualified Nurses.

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR 1952.**

The Hospital continued its work in a satisfactory manner throughout the year. Details of the admissions and of the service afforded are given in the Medical Report.

As in previous years, comment must be made on the fact that the small size of the Hospital building continues to be a big handicap to the efficient carrying out of the services which it is called upon to render to the public. Notwithstanding this, it is pleasant to be able to record that this year, work was carried out without a hitch.

The Hospital is fortunate in possessing an excellent Medical Staff. All the medical men on that Staff have once again been most diligent and assiduous in their duties.

The Hospital is also fortunate in its Matron, Miss Walsh, who for many years now has guided the Nursing Services at Bedford Row. During the year under review, under her care, the Nursing Staff has, as heretofore, rendered excellent service.

The District Nursing Scheme was again carried out by the Hospital.

A. TREACY,

Hon. Secretary.

### MEDICAL REPORT FOR 1952.

During the year 1952, 697 patients were admitted to the Maternity Wards and of these 572 were delivered of live babies.

In the district there were 65 babies born in their own homes. Therefore the Hospital was responsible for 637 confinements.

Caesarian Section .....	11 cases.
Forceps .....	47 cases.
Placenta Praevia .....	7 cases.
Adherent Placenta .....	15 cases.
Twins .....	12 sets.
Abortion and Haemorrhage .....	59 cases.
Curettage .....	37 cases.
Albumin and Blood Pressure .....	26 cases.
Eclampsia .....	3 cases.

One death occurred during the year. The patient was full time and was admitted suffering from Pleurisy. She was in a very weak condition. She had an induction which she did not respond to and died without giving birth to her baby.

Caesarian Section numbered 11; an increase since last year. Four were for disproportion. Three for prolonged slow labour. Three for Placenta Praevia and one for Albumin and Blood Pressure. All patients did well and all babies survived.

There were 47 Forceps deliveries. 45 babies were born alive. In the two stillborn, the foetal heart was absent before labour set in.

There were 7 cases of Placenta Praevia. Three had Caesarian Section performed with live babies.

Fifteen cases of Adherent Placenta. Three were brought in from the district in a collapsed condition and had to be given blood transfusions.

One set of Premature Triplets were born, two boys and one girl. They were transferred to St. John's Hospital and put into the Incubator. The girl survived.

There were 12 sets of twins born. One set was stillborn. The mother had a contracted pelvis and was a long time in labour. Another set was premature and only survived birth a short time. The mother of one set had Albuminuria and one baby was stillborn.

Stillborn births numbered 14. Five were macerated. Five were due to Accidental Haemorrhage. Three to Congenital Abnormalities and one to Eclampsia.

Symphysiotomy (Pubiotomy) was performed on one occasion for contracted pelvis after trial of labour. Normal confinement took place six hours after operation and resulted in a live baby. The mother did well.

There were 59 cases of Abortion and Haemorrhage. 32 required operative treatment. 10 carried on to full time and 19 complete abortions.

Three cases of eclampsia occurred and were treated with morphia, etc., and responded to treatment. One patient gave birth to twins and one of the twins was still-born.

Two cases of Face Presentation; both babies lived. Delivery was spontaneous on each occasion.

The Maternity Mortality rate of the Hospital is low and may be regarded as very satisfactory considering that the one patient who died was in such a grave condition on admission.

The increased demand on the services of the Hospital is again evident. On frequent occasions the resources of the Hospital was severely taxed—overcrowding and the question of suitable accommodation of cases of morbidity has caused great anxiety to the Nursing and Medical Staff.

The greatest credit is due to the Matron and her Staff for the excellent and efficient manner in which they have discharged their duties. Overcrowding under present conditions is unavoidable. During one month this year, sixty patients were confined in the Hospital and seventy-seven were admitted.

When the Sweep money was first made available for Voluntary Hospitals, plans were drawn up for extra building on the present site to increase the number of beds. The site was not considered suitable and after considerable difficulties, Belfield Park, an excellent site, was purchased.

Plans for building a sixty-bed Hospital which would be suitable for Limerick City, were submitted. On one plea or another, all our plans were vetoed. In 1949, the then Minister of Health stated that he was not satisfied with the maternity services in Limerick City and recommended the building of a Regional Maternity Hospital. The Corporation were told to purchase the site at Belfield Park from the Managing Committee of Bedford Row Hospital for the proposed Regional Maternity Hospital. It was

then evident why the Department of Health and the Minister had vetoed our plans.

The Sweepstake money which was to help the Voluntary Hospitals was appropriated for State-aided and rate-aided Hospitals.

In 1949, the building of this Regional Maternity Hospital was granted first priority and work was to start at once.

No one knows now when this building will start or how long it will take to build. At any rate it appears that during 30 years of our own Government the Department of Health has not made one extra bed available for Maternity Service in Limerick City. During those 30 years, this Maternity Hospital with its voluntary Medical Staff, has devoted itself primarily to the welfare and relief of the destitute poor women who are admitted in labour at all hours.

(Signed) : J. HOLMES, M.B.

**THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1952.****Cr.****INCOME.**

	£	s	d	£	s	d
1952—Dec. 31.						
By Voluntary Gifts				14	0	0
„ Revenue from Patients				1286	7	1
„ Corporation Grant				280	0	0
„ Interest and Dividends	1141	5	6			
„ Rents Receivable	18	0	0			
				1159	5	6
„ Interest allowed on Credit at Bank				22	4	0
„ Balance being excess of Expenditure over Income for year				2822	1	2

£5,583 17 9

	£	s	d	£	s	d
To Provisions				1618	18	2
„ Surgery and Dispensary				207	4	1
„ Linen	238	6	8			
„ Hardware and Delph	7	3	0			
„ Laundry	148	9	6			
„ Cleaning and Chandlery	54	19	5			
„ Light and Heat	<u>280</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>7</u>	729	1	2
„ Salaries and Wages				2504	11	2
„ Printing and Stationery	5	12	0			
„ Telephone	26	9	5			
„ Postages	3	0	0			
„ Audit and Secretarial	<u>36</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>0</u>	71	16	5
„ Insurance of Building, etc.				36	7	6
„ Repairs to Premises, Furniture, etc.				326	12	10
„ Bank Interest & Charges	5	19	2			
„ Rent and Rates	<u>81</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>9</u>	87	4	11
„ Sundry Expenses				2	1	6
				<hr/>		
				£5,583	17	9

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT

## CAPITAL AND LIABILITIES.

	£	s	d	£	s	d
<b>Sundry Creditors</b>				38	6	10
<b>Capital Account</b>						
<b>Balance</b> at 1st January, 1952	33,798	10	3			
<b>Add:</b> Deficit Grants from Hospital Trust	2570	0	0			
	36,368	10	3			
<b>Deduct:</b> Excess of Expendi- ture over income for year	2822	1	2	33546	9	1
<b>Premises Reserve Account</b>				2042	15	0

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£35,627 10 11

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£	s	d		£	s	d
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**THE FOLLOWING SUBSCRIPTIONS AND GIFTS  
AT CHRISTMAS, 1952, ARE GRATEFULLY  
ACKNOWLEDGED.**

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SUBSCRIPTIONS, 1952.

Lady Nash .....	1	0	0
Mrs. O'Brien-Kelly .....	1	0	0
Mrs. Treacy .....	1	0	0
Mrs. Dundon .....	1	0	0
Mrs. Holmes .....	1	0	0
Guinness & Son .....	10	0	0

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GIFTS, 1952.

Lady Nash .....	Confectionery.
Mrs. Treacy .....	Ham.
Dr. Holmes .....	Wines.
Dr. Dundon .....	Turkey.
Dr. McMahon .....	Sweets.
Dr. Foley .....	Sweets.
Dr. Corboy .....	Sweets.
Dr. Moloney .....	Sweets and Cigarettes.
Mr. Sheehan .....	Turkey.
Miss Daly .....	Cake.

