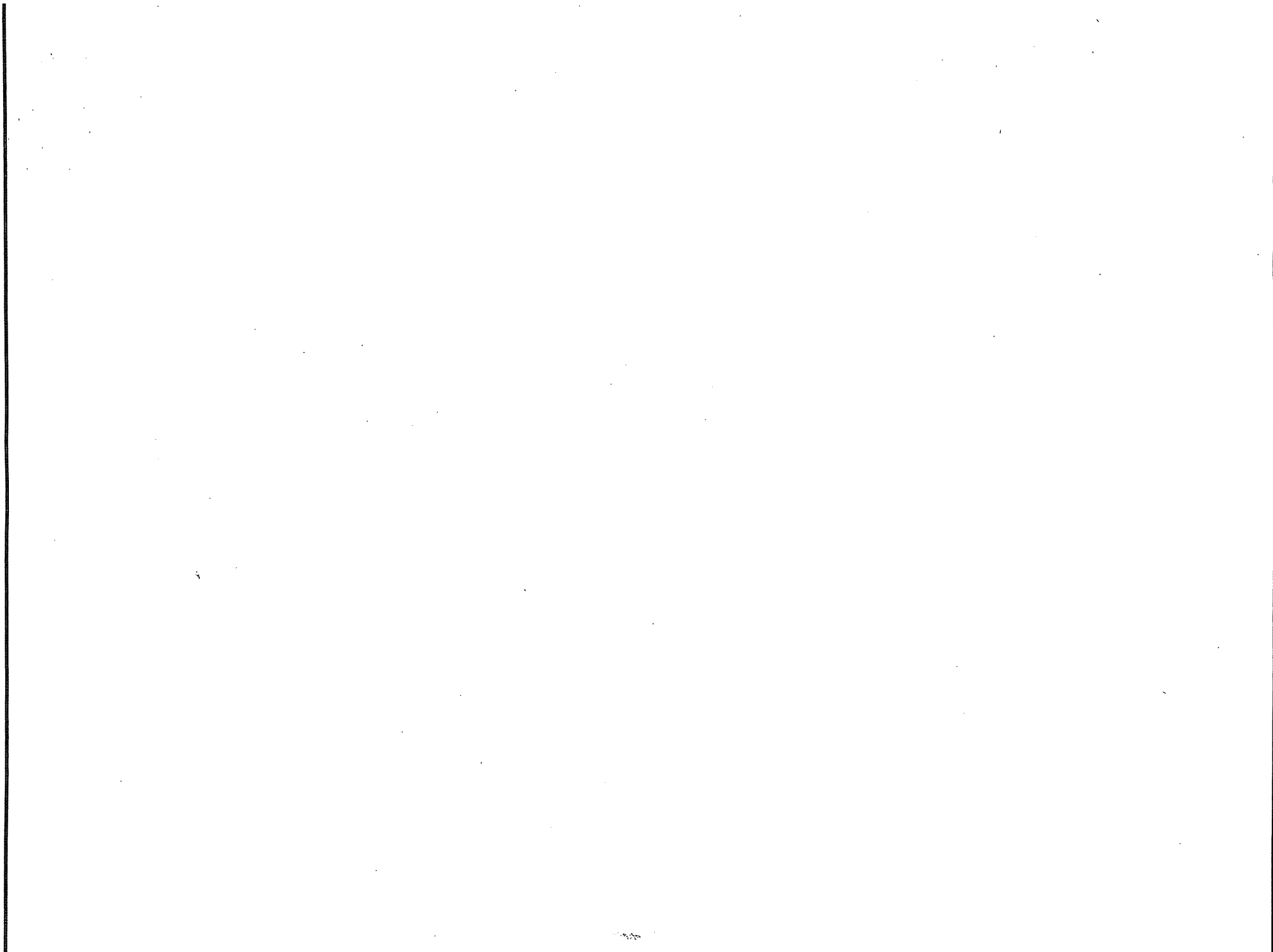

Galway Hospital, 1892-1922

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GALWAY HOSPITAL, 1892-1922

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Introduction

This collection of archives consists of volumes of minutes of the Board of Management of the Galway Hospital (1892-1922), together with minutes of the Nursing and Dispensary Committees (1913-1922), a Financial Statement Book of Receipt (1918-1922), and a Receipts and Expenditure Ledger (1904-1920).

Summary History of the Hospital, 1892-1922

WHAT FOLLOWS IS A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE HOSPITAL AS EXTRACTED FROM THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT MINUTES, 1892-1922.

The Hospital was established under the Galway Hospital Act 1892. It had formerly been called the County Galway Infirmary. The newly established Board held its first meeting on 16th August 1892, with subsequent meetings held monthly, subject to a quorum of seven. The number of members required for a quorum was reduced in January 1893 to five. The Board was comprised of 52 members elected from the representatives for the Poor Law Unions of county Galway. At the first meeting Mr Henry S Persse, of the Galway Union, was elected Chairman for one year, and Mr James Loftus was appointed Registrar to the Board at a salary of £30 per annum. The Board of Management was concerned with the management, maintenance and repair, administration and financing of the hospital, including staffing.

The Board reported to the Local Government Board and required its sanction before the implementation of many decisions. However, during the War of Independence the reporting situation changed somewhat. The minutes of 13 November, 1920 note the receipt of correspondence not from the Local Government Board but rather from the Minister of Local Government Dáil Éireann. The minutes of the Board's subsequent meeting held on 15th December, 1920, record the receipt of a letter from the Secretary of the Local Government Board stating *'that he has observed that the recent Minutes of proceedings of the Board of Management have not been received in his department, and requesting that he may be furnished with an explanation of the delay in the matter'* (GH1/12, 15 December 1920).

The next minutes record that a letter was received from the Minister of Local Government Dáil Éireann stating *'he observed that the Board read a letter from the L.G.B. asking for an explanation of the delay in forwarding the Minutes to that Body and that the order made was "Consideration adjourned". Also presuming there was no reply sent, and that there was no*



intention of doing so under the recent directions from this Department. The order made appears to be ambiguous'. The Board then resolved 'That the letter referred to be expunged from the Minutes of meeting of the 15th December 1920. No reply was been sent to L.G.B. (GH1/12, 26 January 1921).

Salaries

The Minutes of the Board of Management meetings record that the Matron's salary for the period between 28th June and 30th September 1892 was £6.9.2 (GH1/1, p16). The salary for Dr Berry in 1895 was £7.10.0, for the Clerk and Storekeeper £6.5.0 and for servants it was £2.16.0 (GH1/2, April 1895). Twenty five years or so later salaries had increased considerably. In 1917 a temporary House Surgeon was on a salary of £100 a year, together with *'with rations (subject to the Food Controller's allowances of bread, 4 lbs weekly, meat, 2½ lbs weekly and sugar, ½ lb weekly)...'*(GH1/10, p284). In 1918 an acting head nurse was on a salary of £35 per year (GH1/10, p439), a maid was on a wage of £12 a year, and a Cook received £18 a year (GH1/10, p429). By 1919 a ward maid received £16 a year, and a Cook's wage had increased to £25 a year (GH1/11, p35).

Also in 1918 Dr A. W. Colahan was appointed Resident Medical Officer of the Hospital at an annual salary of £100 together with rations (GH1/10, p440). In 1919 a new temporary Clerk was granted a salary of £100 per annum (GH1/11, p76).

Hospital Accommodation

In January 1893 the Board was advised by the Local Government Board that it had learned from the Medical Staff that provision was only available for 35 patients and stressed that the Board of Management must *'see that the Hospital is properly equipped and prepared for the reception of the full number of patients that it is capable of accommodating'* (GH1/1, p32). By 1894 the hospital had accommodation for 60 patients in total, split between 28 male and 32 female patients. The hospital's capacity increased to 62 in June 1916. At its meeting of 15th July 1916, the Board was advised by the House Surgeon that *'All the beds in the Hospital are now taken up; for the past few days we had to refuse several patients admittance. I think it would be a good thing if the Board would notify all the Unions (Poor Law Unions) for the present to inform the Lady Superintendent or myself if there are vacant beds before they sent in patients'* (GH1/10, p162).

Hospital Charges

In 1909 the Board considered increasing its charges, which proposal was sanctioned by the Local Government Board on 25th May 1909, and thus approved. Both the Glenamaddy and Ballinasloe Poor Law Unions wrote objecting to the increase. The Ballinasloe resolved *'That we, the Ballinasloe Board of Guardians having learned that it is the intention of the Committee of Management of the Galway Hospital to increase the assessment in the Unions of the county hereby enter our emphatic protest against the proposed increased taxation'* (p.9, 30 November 1909). The Medical staff also wrote to the Board objecting to the increases stating it had reason to believe *'that the additional charge for*



maintenance in the Hospital is preventing patients for whose benefit the Hospital was established taking advantage of it, and suggest that the Board of Management should seriously consider the advisability of reverting to the former charges' (GH1/12, p5, 30 November 1909).

In March 1920 the Board of Management increased its rates from 2/6 (shillings/pence) per day in general wards to 5/-, and from 4/- per day in the Dunkellin wards to 7/6 for adults, and one-half of these charges for children under 12 years (GH1/11, p174).

Sanatorium

The establishment and site for a Sanatorium was an ongoing issue. In 1906 the Board passed a resolution regarding the establishment of a Sanatorium to combat the onslaught of Tuberculosis, stating that, *'...it is essential that a sanatorium should be established in some part of the Province of Connaught, for the reception of such patients, in order to afford proper treatment, and prevent the spread of disease.*

That, in the selection of a site for any such Sanatorium, we consider that Athenry, co Galway, is the most suitable place owing to its central position and great Railway facilities' (GH1/5, pp8-9).

In May 1913 a Local Government Board letter advised that they had given public notice of 'the proposal to place certain lands vested in them for the purpose of the Galway Hospital Act, 1892, and situated near the Hospital, *'...at the disposal of the Galway County Council as a site for the Tuberculosis Dispensary; and stating that objection to the proposal has been lodged on behalf of the Medical Staff of the Hospital. The Local Government Board have, therefore instructed their Medical Inspector, Sir Acheson MacCullagh, to hold a Public Inquiry in the matter at the Courthouse Galway on Monday, the 19th inst...'* (GH1/9, f126).

Hospital Extension

A proposed extension to the Hospital was discussed from about 1910 onwards to encompass a larger building and extension to the dispensary. The Medical Staff were requested to view the plans towards the end of 1918 and reported back to the Board of Management in 1919 stating that *'It appears to us that the proposed cost is prohibitive.*

We suggest an expenditure of a sum not to exceed £2,000 for most urgent work to be provide by a rate of ¼ in the £, for four years. It might be possible to increase this sum by private subscriptions' (GH1/11, p4). The Board resolved at this point to put on the agenda to apply for a loan for at least £2,000 for the urgent necessary works repairs. At a Special Meeting in April 1919 the Board decided on a scheme of improvements to the Hospital, in order of preference, which included, repairs to the roof and windows, closets to be *'put in thorough order...'*, Pathological Room, Mortuary, Out Patients waiting room, Students Room, Construct a Tubercular Annex for surgical Tuberculosis and to provide a connecting corridor and ward between the Administration Block and Hospital (GH1/11, p 23).



Hospital Management

In July 1893 the Registrar submitted to the Board a statement of the account since the opening of the Hospital under the new Act. He advised for instance that the amount of Union Assessments received was £632.6.0 and the amount of disbursements during the year amounted to £796.9.6 (GH1/1, p64).

In July 1894 the Board had a '*long discussion*' about the management of the Hospital, in particular relating to staff structures and expenditure on medicine. The Board decided to call on the Local Government Board to hold a sworn inquiry into the matter (GH1/1, 7 July 1894). As a result the Local Government Board instructed their Inspector, Dr Clements, to make an investigation into the management of the institution.

In 1898 the Medical staff submitted a report to the Board who were concerned about the efficient running of the Hospital. They considered '*the present staff too small for the work to be done and recommends that in order to make the nursing more efficient that an additional trained nurse be obtained,....That the hospital shall not at any time be left in sole charge of one nurse, two, one of whom shall be a trained nurse shall be always on duty...*' (GH1/2, 30 September 1898).

The account against the Board in April 1896 stood at £299.18.3. In October of that year the Board directed that the Annual Establishment charge of the Hospital be regulated by fixed allocation, such as Salaries and Wages £361.7.0, Insurance £3.16.0, Gas and Coal £100.0.0, Medicine & Surgical Appliances £120.0.0, Repairs £80.0.0 (GH1/2, October 1896).

The running costs of the Hospital for 1921 were estimated by the Clerk to be £7,600 of which £3,000 was to be provided by the Poor Law Unions (GH1/12, 13 November 1920).

The Medical Staff raised its concerns, on more than one occasion about the heating of the operating Theatre. For instance in September 1906 it reported that, '*The present heating apparatus, as we pointed out at time of erection is not satisfactory, if it heats the pipes, it does not do so well, there is no hot water for washing, If it heats the water the pipes remain cold. It is essential for serious operations that the operating Theatre should be properly warmed. We suggest that the Board should authorize the House Committee to take the matter in hand*' (GH1/5, p6). Again, in September 1917 the matter was raised when the House Surgeon reported that '*I beg to draw your attention to the fact that the temperature of the Operation Theatre cannot be raised to a sufficient degree by the present heating system and therefore the danger of collapse of a patient during operation is very great, and will become increasingly so with the coming of the winter*' (GH1/10, p342).

An Medical Staff report informed that Board of Management in May 1911 that it had installed e-ray apparatus, which '*we find to work very efficiently*' (GH1/8, 20th May 1911, p5)

In June 1916 Professor R Bodkin Mahon asked the Board to install a telephone, stating that it was a '*...a matter of the greatest urgency, and may mean life or death to a patient*' (GH1/10, p153).



During the period 1914 to 1918 (World War I) the price of many commodities increased considerably, in particular the price for eggs and coal. In addition, at a Special Meeting of the Nursing Committee held on 31st July 1915 a letter from the Dublin Castle Red Cross Hospital requesting probationers nurses for '*experience in this special branch of nursing*' was considered (GH2/13, 31 July 1915). The Local Government Board subsequently advised that it would raise no objection to second or third year probationers spending a period of '*up to twelve months of the three years in the Dublin Castle Red Cross Hospital*' (GH1/13, 11 September 1915).

The hospital suffered from administrative neglect for many years which culminated '*in a scandal of major deficiency in the funds*'¹. In the summer of 1919 following an audit report from Craig Gardner & Co., Chartered Accountants, the Board of Management's Clerk, Mr Leonard, was dismissed, due to a 'defalcation' of the accounts. '*The Auditors had found a deficiency of over £2,000 in the fees paid by private patients alone between 1913 and 1919, quite apart from monies received from other sources*'². The Board passed a Notice of Motion stating '*having regard to the fact that those Accounts were certified yearly by the Local Government Board Auditor as correct we are of opinion that in the interests of efficiency and purity in public life, the Local Government Auditor or Auditors concerned should be held responsible and surcharged to the full extent of the defalcations*' (GH1/11, p77). At subsequent meeting on 20th September 1919 the minutes record that '*Mr J S Conroy Solicitor ...stated he had taken the necessary steps and a warrant had been issued for the arrest of Mr Leonard and having read extracts from Counsel's opinion with reference to the sureties of Mr Leonard, to the effect that the Sun Insurance Company could not be held liable under their Bond which had expired a considerable time since and asked for instructions to institute proceedings for recovery of the amount of their Bond ...*' (pGH1/11, p90). In February 1920 the Board was advised that Mr Leonard was arrested on the charge of embezzlement and '*is at present awaiting trial in Galway Jail*' (GH1/11, p163). Leonard subsequently pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 3 years penal servitude³.

An extract from the Local Government Board's Inspector's Report is included in the Minutes for 21 February 1920, wherein he recounts the facts of irregularities in the running of the Store by the Lady Superintendent, Sr Mary Raphael O'Farrell. Sr. O'Farrell advised him that, as she was dissatisfied with the diet scale allowed to the nursing staff, she had over a two year period substituted bacon for oatmeal and cheese. Reports also states, '*Irregularities would appear to be the rule of this unfortunate Institution which is practically in a state of bankruptcy. It has been the custom to pay Contractors so much on account and this has been going on for years, so that there are large debts outstanding and not sufficient funds to meet them. As you are aware the late Clerk absconded leaving accounts showing there was a defalcation and books not written up. Everything is in a state of chaos. ...*' (GH1/11, pp161-162).

¹Murray, James, P., *Galway: A Medico-Social History*, Kenny's Bookshop & Art Galleries Ltd, Galway, n.d. c. 1994, p69

² *ibid.*, p69.

³ *ibid.*, p69.



Termination of the Board of Management

When the Poor Law Unions were abolished in 1922 a Galway Board of Health was established in October 1921 to assume responsibility for hospitals, boarded out children and other functions which had previously been administered by the Poor Law Unions. As the Galway Hospital Board of Management was comprised of representatives of the Unions these changes effectively heralded the Board's own dissolution. In the Board of Management minutes a letter from the Secretary of Galway County Council drew attention to the amalgamation of the Poor Law Union Scheme, with the Board subsequently ordering that *'Board of Guardians be informed that their duties in regard to the appointment of members of the Committee of Management of the County Galway Hospital are now determined, and that the Executive Committee will take control of the Hospital as from the date of the last of the Special Meetings of Guardians now directed'* (GH1/12, 12 November 1921).

From 1st January 1922 the Hospital was taken over by the Hospital, Homes and Homes Assistance Committee (GH1/12, 21 December 1921). The Galway Hospital, formerly known as the Infirmary, was phased out from 1922 and closed in December 1924. The building on Prospect Hill was later enlarged and refurbished and used as office accommodation by Galway County Council⁴. The Workhouse was developed as a Central Hospital to serve both the City and the County⁵.

Under the Provisions of Article 11 of the Galway County Scheme, 1923, the Board of Health, under the stewardship of Galway County Council, was entitled to establish various committees to carry out its duties. The Galway Board had a number of committees, such as a Hospital and Dispensaries Committee, Homes and Home Assistance Committee, and District Home Assistance committees for the various Rural Districts in county Galway.⁶

The Hospital and Dispensaries Committee took charge of the working of the Central Hospital and the Dispensary and Nursing services, paying all salaries, rents and connected running expenses except capital expenditure⁷. *'The Hospital's Committee shall be entrusted with the management of and working of the Galway Central Hospital, and of any subsidiary Hospital which may at any time be provided under the Scheme, and also of the Dispensary and Nursing services of the county Galway'*⁸ (GC5/1, f128).

4 The building, originally constructed in 1802 and subsequently enlarged, was demolished in 1996, and replaced by Galway County Council in 1998 with a newly constructed modern building.

5 The Workhouse complex of buildings was demolished in the 1950, with a new Regional Hospital constructed close by. The Regional Hospital changed its title in the early 21st to University College Hospital Galway (UCHG).

6 Galway County Board of Health and Public Assistance archives collection GC5/2, ff90-91 for the details relating to various committees, their charters, responsibilities and proceedings.

7 Galway County Board of Health and Public Assistance archives collection GC5/2, f90

8 *Ibid.*, GC5/1, f128



Arrangement

This collection consists of three categories of records. The principal group is the minutes of proceedings of the Hospital's Board of Management meetings (1901-1922), which has been arranged chronologically. The second section contains a volume of minutes of proceedings of a Nursing Committee (1913-1922), and the final item is a receipts and expenditure ledger (1904-1920).

The item reference number (e.g. GH1/3) should be used in full when citing documents or records, and each reference cited should be preceded by the initial GCCA (Galway County Council Archives, e.g. GCCA GH1/3).

Place names are generally given as they appear in the records.

Overall this collection illustrates the various aspects of administration of the Hospital. It should be of interest to administrative, social, medical, and local historians. It should also be of value to anyone interested in the history of the training of nursing staff. In addition, as the names of many of the nursing staff are recorded, particularly in the Nursing Committee minutes, it may also be of interest to family historians.

The extracts from the various Minute books listed herewith are intended as a representation of the proceedings. The purpose of their inclusion is to give the reader an indication of the diversity of the Board of Management and Nursing Committees' areas of concern and responsibility. It is hoped that the extracts will clearly and fairly reflect their work, and commitment to the efficient running of the Hospital. ,

Readers are advised to consult the Galway Infirmary Minutes, 1802-1892 (GH2/), and the Hospital & Dispensary Committee Minutes (2000/16) and also the County Galway Board of Health & Public Assistance, 1922-1941, (GC5/), also held by Galway County Council Archives, for further information on the both the earlier and later management of the Hospital.

In addition, readers are asked not to view as definitive the appended list of Hospital staff or the appended statistics relating to the number of patients at various times.

Overall the collection is in relatively good condition. However, there are some pages missing from the first volume (GH1/1), such as pages 7 and 8, GH1/10 includes several inserts, and GH1/11 is on light paper.



Disclosure Requirement

As much of the information in this collection clearly identifies families and individuals researchers are requested, in order to prevent possible distress or embarrassment to near descendants, to sign a disclosure form prior to consulting the records verifying a willingness not to cite specific names in research work.

Some elements of the collection may be closed for a period of time or have restricted access.

Readers are requested to respect such closures.

Patria McWalter
Archivist

Related Collections

Records held by Galway County Council Archives:

- County Galway Infirmary, 1802 – 1892, GH2/
- County Galway Board of Health & Public Assistance, 1922-1941, GC5/
- Hospital & Dispensary Committee Minutes (GC6/) (much of the material is closed due to its sensitive content)
- County Galway Home and Home Assistance Committee, 1924-1944, (2000/52, not processed)
- Hardiman, James, volume of drawing (1812-1830), GS01/1

Further Reference

- | | |
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Appendices

**1. LIST OF SOME OF THE HOSPITAL STAFF****Hospital Registrar**

Loftus, James 1892 – 1894 (resigned)

Hospital Matron

Haughey, Miss 1892 (Mercy Nuns took over supervision of nursing care in 1890)

Lady Superintendent

Ryan, Sr M Bernard 1899 - +1918

O'Farrell, Sr. M Raphael 1918 -

Hospital Clerk / Clerk to Board of Management

Hanley, J 1894-96

Leonard, S J. [+1905] – 1919 (dismissed)

Leech, John 1919 Temporary appointment

Forde, Francis 1920 -

House Surgeon

Colohan, Nicholas 1892

Dr Lydon 1898 (resigned)

Dr McKelvey 1898

Dr Waters ? [1916]

Dr O'Malley 1915

Dr P. J. Corcoran 1916

Dr Campbell 1920

*Appendix 2***2. ABBREVIATIONS**

Co.Co.	County Council
C.D.B.	Congested Districts Board
D.C.	District Councillor
I.R.A	Irish Republican Army
J.P.	Justice of Peace
L.G.B.	Local Government Board
M.P.	Member of Parliament



3. NUMBER OF PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL AT VARIOUS TIMES

Total Number of Patients	Month End	Year
20	June	1893
18	January	
30	February	1894
21	November	
17	December	
25	January	
24	February	
29	March	
32	April	
32	May	
19	June	1895
22	July	
24	August	
20	September	
17	October	
20	November	
11	December	
21	January	
25	February	
24	March	
26	April	
33	May	
23	June	1896
33	July	
21	August	
27	September	
23	October	
36	November	
36	December	
34	January	
34	June	1897
15	December	



23	January	
33	June	1898
25	December	
33	June	
22	December	1905
39	January	
36	June	1906
39	June	
36	July	
36	August	
34	September	1908
30	October	
27	November	
23	December	
26	January	
22	June	1909
20	December	
33	June	
23	December	1910
26	January	
34	July	1911
16	December	
27	January	
33	June	1912
27	December	
35	January	
31	June	1913
36	December	
39	January	
48	June	1914
	December	
37	June	
31	December	1915
54	January	
62	June	1916
31	December	



39	January	
44	June	1917
54	December	
48	January	
53	June	1918
31	December	
32	January	
58	July	1919
37	December	
40	January	
40	June	1920
24	December.	
44	June	1921



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A. Minutes

(I) Board of Management, 1892-1922

Bound volumes of manuscript minutes recording details of attendance and proceedings of monthly meetings of the Board of Management of Galway County Hospital relating to the management, maintenance and repair, administration and financing of the hospital. Minutes, from 1894 onwards include statistics on the number of patients, male and female, admitted and discharged to the hospital over the previous month, and the number remaining, together with returns showing the several Unions in County Galway in which the patients in the hospital resided. The minutes also include confirmation that various reports, financial and other records, such as the Patients' Register, Ledger, the Clerk's Account of Petty Disbursements, and the Clerk's Estimate of Provisions and Necessaries Required, together with the reports of the Finance and Visiting Committees, the Matron (whose report often gives the names of ward maids, cooks, trainee nurses, nurses and so on), and of the Medical Staff were produced, examined and approved together with details of required action relating to the information provided therein; and also includes details of orders and letters received from or written to the Local Government Board and others, and details of subsequent resolutions passed and instructions issued authorising required action.

The minutes are generally dated, and signed by the Chairman of the Board, and the Hospital Registrar or Clerk.

Average size approximately 450pp

1. 16 August 1892 – Includes index to main items discussed: Also includes:-
3 November 1894 'A letter was read from the Local Government Board, dated 15th August, transmitting a list of the Members elected to the Board of Management of the Galway Hospital and intimating that the election of a Second representative from Clifden Union was yet to take place, the election already held being irregular'

The list referred to was read, when the Registrar noticed that there was no representative at the Meeting today of Members from the following Unions:-.....' (p3).

'Two clinical lectures weekly shall be delivered by Medical staff in rotation at 10 o'clock am, on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Clinical Instruction at bedside from 10 to 11.30 am on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Operations at 10 o'clock am on Saturday' (p9).



'A letter was received from the Registrar of the Queen's College, Galway, stating that the Council of the college have no funds at their disposal which can be applied in making improvements as suggested by the Board of Management... but that the Professor's of the Faculty of Medicine have been asked to report whether there are any educational requirements connected with the teaching of students at the Hospital to which College funds might properly be applied.' (p23)

'The Chairman, Mayor Lynch said he was happy to inform the Board that a sum of £100 was in his hands as a balance of the Dunkellin Fund, and that money would be given over for the fitting up of 2 Wards, one male, and one female, comprising 8 beds, for the use of respectable paying patients. He suggested that these wards should be termed the "Dunkellin Wards"..' (p27)

'A letter was read from Major Lynch enclosing a list of charges for pay-patients in other Hospitals viz:-

Weekly charge for paying patients at:-

Barrington Hospital Limerick £1.1.0

Longford Co. Infirmary £1.1.0

Clare Co. Infirmary Private Patient £2.2.0

Clare Co Infirmary Paying ward £0.14.0.' (p40)

'Letter....referring to a report from the Medical Staff from which it appears that the council of the Queen's College propose to give a grant of £100 for certain improvements in the Hospital including a covered way from the late surgeon's resident to the Hospital, and stating they would raise no objection to these improvements but desire that before any structural alteration is made in the buildings it will be necessary for the Local Government Board to approve of the Plans' (p48).

'A tender was read from Mr Peter McDonald to erect a water closet at the Gate House with all necessary pipes for the sum of £5.18.0' which was accepted subject to the satisfaction of the Medical Staff' (p66).

Rev. Dooley, R.C. Chaplain 'complained that persons establishing wards had a special privilege of visiting such wards and refusing admission to patients of a different denomination. And that the Sisters of Mercy should be allowed to visit the Hospital and have the same privileges' (4 November 1893).



2. 1 December 1894 – Includes:-
31 December 1898 'That we request the Local Government Board to permit the overdraft of £300 incurred on account of permanent buildings to be repaid by 3 annual instalments with interest at the current bank rate, as this arrangement is absolutely necessary in order to place the financial system by the Hospital on a sound basis' (2 March 1895).

Includes details of the nursing staff's diet (April 1895).

'Tenders were sent in from Messrs. McDonald and Semple for erecting a flushing tank at the back of the Doctors' House. Mr McDonald's tender was accepted' (September 1895).

'Tenders for meat and bread were considered, Mr Gallagher' tender for meat at 6^d per lb was accepted and Mr Burke's tender for bread at 4^d per 4lb loaf was accepted' (December 1895).

'A letter from Dr Nixon informing the Board of Management that the term of his office as Resident medical Officer, had expired and that he did not seek reappointment was read' (May 1896).

'...The Board Room to be removed to the Doctors' Residence and the present Boardroom to be fitted up for a Storeroom and Larder, and that the plans and specification be submitted to a meeting of the Board' (September 1896).

'The Medical staff reported that the space between Surgeons House and Hospital has been cleared of sheds, old walls and trees. The wards have been cleaned, ceilings whitened, floors varnished. No. 5 ward has been painted, No.7 wainscoted and in the male surgical ward the Dado has had to be repaired' (October 1897).

'The Clerk was ordered to write to Mr Cloherty, Solicitor to the Board, and get list of names of persons owing money to the Hospital sent to him for collection, with remarks thereon whether recoverable or otherwise and what steps have been taken to recover same' (January 1898).

'Dr MCKevey thanked the Board for having appointed him House surgeon and reported the roof of Pharmacy leaking and the closet in Doctors House and one in the Hospital building area frequently without waters....' (31 July 1899).

(3.)

(4.)



5. 1 April 1905 – 10
November 1906

Includes:-

Report from the Medical staff stating, 'It would be advisable that the Medical Staff should be consulted when structural alternation in the Hospital are made and which may have a bearing on its sanitation' (February 1906, p6).

'That, we the Board of Management are of opinion, in connection with the Report of the Nursing Committee submitted to us with regard to Nurse Kennedy being in the Doctors' rooms, that no breach of discipline was committed, as there is no direct prohibition contained in the rules of the Hospital against it, and we desire to add that we have full confidence in Dr Hosty and Nurse Kennedy' (31 March, 1906,p8)

'The Board give their hearty approval to the application of the Galway Orchestral Society and thank them most sincerely for their very great kindness in going to the trouble of getting up a concert, the proceeds of which are to be given as donation to the Hospital for the comfort of the Patients' (31 March 1906, p10).

Letter from the Local Government Board regarding resolution passed relating to Dr Hosty and Nurse Kennedy, stating 'they are unable to agree with the Board of Management that, because there is nothing in the rules of the Hospital directly prohibiting the conduct in question, the action of the two officers mentioned was not subversive of discipline. They desire to point out that it cannot but be detrimental to the interests of the institution that such an incident should occur...' (30 April, 1906, p8).

'Resignation handed in by Miss Kennedy staff Nurse, dated 14th April '06, giving usual month's notice' (30 April, 1906, p9)

'That we the Board of Management desire to put on record our high appreciation of the services rendered by Dr Hosty while an official in the Galway Hospital, and we regret that he should resign his position.

We desire to convey to him our best thanks and sincerely to wish him, all and every success in his future career' (31 May, 1906, p9)

'That, we are of opinion in view of the important report of Professor McWenedy, who has been inquiring into ravages caused by Tuberculosis in this country, that, it is essential that a sanatorium should be established in some part of the Province of Connaught, for the reception of such patients, in order to afford proper treatment, and prevent the spread of disease.

That, in the selection of a site for any such Sanatorium, we consider that Athenry, co Galway, is the most suitable place owing to its central position and great Railway facilities' (30 June, 1906, pp8-9)

Report from the Resident Medical Officer, stated

'1. The affairs of the Hospital have gone on satisfactorily since I took up the duties of Resident Medical Officer.

2. On one occasion, the meat was not up to standard and I had it returned...' (31 August 1906).



(6.)

Restricted Access

7. 4 July 1908 – Includes:
19 February 1910 Extract of letter from Countess Isobel of Aberdeen stating 'It has given me great pleasure to go round the wards of this Hospital, and see all the efficient and kindly care given to the patients.'

I trust the time may soon come when the Hospital authorities may be given the means of providing a special annex for the treatment of consumptive patient' (4 July 1908, p5).

'I have the honour to inform you that, in accordance with the public Bodies Order, 1904.... The financial condition of the Hospital is unsatisfactory and I would recommend the Committee to take steps towards paying off old liabilities before contracting new ones' (30 September 1908).

Transcript of letter from Rev Dr J. Clarke, Spiers Houses, Shantallow to the Hospital Board stating, "Some time ago I had reason to complain that patients belonging to the Presbyterian Church were admitted into your Hospital and registered as protestants. Although they remained for a considerable time no intimation was conveyed to me that members of my church were under treatment there. I was at pains to explain what the case required and it was arranged that when Protestant Patients were admitted there would be a specific entry of the particular Protestant Church to which the patient belonged, and in case it was a Presbyterian I was to receive a card in course of [post]. Notwithstanding this I had again reason to find fault with the action of your officials in this matter. I was on the point of writing to the then Chairman, but I refrained, as I still hoped that I could secure a satisfactory working basis without invoking the aid of the Governors.....' (31 October 1908)

'After transacting the urgent business Mr Thomas Ryan, in a most touching speech made reference to the many good qualities of the late Mr J.C. McDonnell, and the very great loss his early demise will be to the many public bodies of which he was such an excellent member, moved that we now adjourn this meeting as a mark of respect to the memory of our Chairman late Mr J.C. Donnell' (18 September 1909).

'Resolution was read from the Glennamaddy Union... "That we, the Board of Guardians of the Glennamaddy Union, strongly protest against the proposed attempt to increase the assessment on the contributory Unions in the county, towards the upkeep of the Galway Hospital. We are already paying £100 a year towards the maintenance of the Infirmary, which is exhorbitant (sic), and a gross injustice from which we derive no benefit"....(20 November 1909).



'The medical staff have reason to believe that the additional charge for maintenance in the Hospital is preventing patients for whose benefit the Hospital was established taking advantage of it, and suggest that the Board of Management should seriously consider the advisability of reverting to the former charges' (30 November 1909).

8. 21 May 1910 – 31 July 1911 Includes:

Medical Staff report for two years ending 31st March 1910 stating 'The number of patients admitted in the two years was 1214, of whom over 1,000 paid the cost of their own maintenance in the Hospital.

...the mortality in the surgical and gynaecological wards will bear favourable comparison with that of other Hospitals in similar circumstances, seeing that most of the great operations in Surgery and Gynaecology were undertaken. These facts the Medical Staff submit to the Board of Management as evidence that the Hospital has, in great measure, fulfilled the purpose for which it was founded. The conversion of the old building into a modern Hospital is necessarily expensive, and the legal difficulty which is said to prevent the Board of Works from making Building Loans, to be paid in a term of year, has imposed on the Board of Management the hardship of executing permanent works out of the years income. In these circumstances the Medical staff desire to express their recognition of the readiness which the Board has shown to carry out, with the limited means at their command, any suggestion for improvement made by the staff....

The Nursing continues to be satisfactory, and the training scheme is proving of public service in supplying temporary nurses throughout the county....

The Medical Staff invite the consideration of the Board to the increased charge lately made for Paying Patients. The usefulness of the Hospital would seem to be diminished by that increase, and it is a question whether the Hospital Act Policy is consistent with a charge on any patient greater than the actual cost to the Hospital' (18 June 1910, pp4-5)

Report from the House Surgeon stating there is '...inconvenience caused by want of sufficient lighting. If the Board would consider the question of increasing the supply of Electric light in the Operating Theatre, and the Gynaecological operating Ward (No.5) as well as the supplying of the Surgery with Electric Light, things might be much improved...' (21 January 1911, p6)

Details of accepted tenders for hospital supplies, such as beef, eggs, sugar, wine, candles, and soap (18 March 1911, p5).



9. 31 July 1911 – Includes:
19 June 1915 Report of the House Surgeon advised that 'one isolated case of Typhoid Fever was sent here from Bohermore, he was however sent to the Fever Hospital next day. Three new cases came in between the 6th and 9ths of October, and were also sent to the Fever Hospital. One of our nurses and one Patient have since developed the Fever, and have also been sent to the Fever Hospital. We have still two suspected cases, one a wardmaid and the other a Patient who has been here over three months' (f.16, 21 October 1911).
- Report of the Medical Staff referring to the appointment of Dr Walsh stating '...The Board of Management replied that it was agreeable to Dr Walsh's application provided, the Medical Staff co-operate, and ordered the letters to be sent to the Medical Staff for their observation.
- Without waiting for our observations before the letters were submitted to us, the Local Government Board, ignoring the condition on them, "the Board of Management was willing to assent", and completely ignoring the Medical Staff, on the 6th July 1911 notified the Board that they had appointed Dr Walsh a member of the Medical Staff of the Hospital.....
- At present owing probably to the late outbreak of enteric fever in the Hospital, there is not work for two men, let alone six.
- Dr Walsh is Professor of Pathology, and assistant to the Professor of Anatomy, in the College, the appropriate position in the Hospital would be Pathologist.
- As we have more than once pointed out to the Local Government Board, the services of a Pathologist are badly needed, and we have suggested that the duties of that office should be assigned to Dr Walsh'. (f.22, 18 November 1911)
- Correspondence was as read 'Thanking the Board of Management for the great kindness, care and attention shown, not only to himself but to all the other patients with whom he came in contact, by the Nuns, Medical Staff and Nurses. And that the class of food supplied was of the best description etc, and also, that no better treatment care or attention could be bestowed on Patients in any Hospital in Ireland' (f.54, 20th April 1912)
- Report of the Medical Staff, 'We beg to submit Plans revised by the Local Government Board for the Tuberculosis Annex, already appreciated by your Board.
- The Medical Staff offer no objects to the changes, although they involve the erection of a larger building and the addition of a dispensary.
- When proposing the smaller building as a starting point, the Medical Staff were not aware that Public Funds were likely to be available, and looked forward to the whole cost being borne by voluntary contributions.
- Now that Public Funds are available to the extent of 3/5 of the cost per head, per bed for Sanatoria and 4/5 of the cost of the Dispensaries we welcome the larger scheme, and strongly recommend it to the Board of Management' (ff.57-58, 15th June 1912).



Mr L Lydon, proposed, and was seconded by Mr P Ryan, that the Whitehaven Tender be accepted as during the Coal Strike, Miss Behan treated the Board with great consideration in supplying coal to the Hospital at a low price, while she was losing heavily by doing so. (f.66, 20 July 1912).

Correspondence from the Committee appointed by the County Council of Galway to 'drawn up a scheme for the provision of Sanatorium and Dispensary accommodation, informing the Board of Management that it is proposed to erect a Dispensary at Galway, under the charge of the County Medical Officer to be appointed under the provisions of the Tuberculosis Act 1908. The site suggested for the Dispensary is the field at rere (sic) of County Hospital [Prospect Hill], and if the proposal to utilize this site be adopted, it would be necessary to transfer the site to the County Council, and stating that they are prepared to pay the rent at present derived from the field.....(f.72, 17 August 1912).

'The Medical staff have further considered the question of remuneration and procedure in the case of X-Ray Treatment and Examination in the Hospital, and the suggestions of the Board relating thereto.

We suggest the following Rules which substantially give effect to the policy of the Board...' (f.119, 19 April 1913)

Local Government Board correspondence stating that '...they have approved of the Galway Hospital in pursuance of Section 16(i)(a) of the National Insurance Act, 1911 as an Institution for the reception and treatment of surgical cases of Tuberculosis, subject to the following conditions:.... (f.120, 19 April 1913)

Local Government Board letter stating that they had given public notice of 'the proposal to place certain lands vested in them for the purpose of the Galway Hospital Act, 1892, and situate near the Hospital, at the disposal of the Galway County Council as a site for the Tuberculosis Dispensary; and stating that objection to the proposal has been lodged on behalf of the Medical Staff of the Hospital. The Local Government Board have, therefore instructed their Medical Inspector, Sir Acheson MacCullagh [+1918], to hold a Public Inquiry in the matter at the Courthouse Galway on Monday, the 19th inst...' (f.126, 17 May 1913)

'Dr Kinkead reported that he had been informed by Messrs Findlater & Co. Solicitors, Dublin, that the late Miss Eleanor Mary Burke of Ballybroden Castle, Loughrea had bequeathed to him the sum of £50, and one third of the net Residue of her estate to be used at his discretion for the purposes of the Hospital....' (f.155, 15 November 1913).

Correspondence from Messrs Conroy & Sons, Solicitors, Galway relating to the title to Galway Hospital stating, "That, on looking fully into this mater, it is our opinion that the Board of Erasmus Smith are statute barred against now claiming rent from the Board of Management as, according to our instruction, no rent has been paid for over 140 years. The letter written by the Board of Management t the Erasmus Smith Board asking for a lease does not, in our opinion, contain an admission of title...." (f161, 20 December 1913)

Includes attached report on *The Proposed Reconstitution of the Galway Hospital* accepted by the Gort Board of Guardians (f.173, 21 February 1914).



Order 'As five Unions are against the proposed change as Reported by the Hospital Conference, and only one for, and four Unions not having replied the Board of Management are therefore against the suggested change in the Constitution of the Galway Hospital....' (f.179, 21 March 1914).

Transcript of letter from Mr Thomas Keane, Shop Street, stating "... Last March I contracted with your Board for eggs. At that time no one knew the exceptional things that have occurred since (onset of World War I). In consequence of Foreign Eggs not being imported into this country, our eggs have gone to a price never known before.

I hope therefore that your Board will allow me some recompense for what have lost for past 5 month...." (f.228, 19 December 1914) (see f.232)

10. 30 June 1915 – Includes various inserted letters to the Board, such as from the Local Government Board (such as relating to staff appointments and salaries, see for example p.309) and thanks of thanks on receipt of a vote of sympathy (such as p.285)

Also includes :

Report of Medical Staff stating that it wishes again to '*refer to the insufficient and unsatisfactory provision for the treatment of Surgical cases. There is only one surgical ward for the reception of Male Surgical cases (except the small 3 bed ward for which a special charge is made. There should be a Ward set apart for the reception of cases after operation into which ordinary surgical cases should not be admitted...*' (p89, 15 January 1916)

Correspondence from Professor Mahon '*Asking the Board to install a telephone in the Hospital. It is a matter of the greatest urgency, and may mean life or death to a patient.* (p153, 17 June 1916).

Report of the Lady Superintendent advising of the '*very unsatisfactory state of the sanitary arrangements of the Hospital, we have to have the Plumber continually repairing defects. I would suggest your architect be asked to report specially on the matter*' (p223, 16 December 1916; see also p238)

Letter from Dr P. J. Corcoran, Ballycastle, Co. Mayo, '*Applying for the position of House Surgeon in the Hospital, stating that he has already done duty in France in the firing line, ...*' (p274)

Loose letter from the Local Government Board to the Hospital approving of the appointment of Dr P. J. Corcoran "for one year on the terms specified, namely, at a salary of £100 a year with rations (subject to the Food Controller's allowances of bread, 4 lbs weekly, meat, 2½ lbs weekly and sugar, ½ lb weekly)..." (16 May 1917, p284).

'The sympathy of the Board of Management was unanimously tendered to the Chairman [M McNeill] on the death of his nephew the late Lieutenant Mr McKeirnan (C.R.) who died from wounds received while on service in France' (p425).

pp528 + inserts



11. 15 February 1919 – Includes:
17 July 1920 Correspondence received from the M.G.W. [Midlands Great Western] Railway Ireland 'Enclosing a Special donation of £3.3.0, to help the Hospital in the present abnormal times [War of Independence]' (p44).

'A letter was read from the Local Government Board in reference to the replies to their inquiries respecting the temporary employment of Mr John M. Leech as Clerk to the Board of Management asking to be informed whether the Board of Management fixed any remuneration for the position in question' (p74).

'The Bank of Ireland, (Treasurer) was prepared to advance a further overdraft of £2,500 to enable payment be made to Contractors...' (p164).

'No tenders received for coal, eggs, bacon, sugar, barley, flour,.. and it was ordered to purchase in the market' (p176).

Letter from the Local Government Board referring 'to tender accepted for Port wine at 7/- per bottle, as recorded in Minutes of proceedings of Board of Management of Galway Hospital on the 20th instant, and directing that Gilbeys' invalid Port @ 4/- a bottle might probably meet all requirements (p184).

Report from Mr J Gallagher, who was employed to write up the Books of the Hospital, 'reporting he had completed writing up the pay patients Register to 31st ultimo and giving Summary of Arrears as shown in Register for years 1916 to 1920.... And stating the Clerk and himself furnished every person owing arrears with a bill whose address we could ascertain, also stating a great deal of arrears will eventually have to be wiped out as bad debts, and that what struck him as strange in going through Register was that persons who failed to pay for this Maintenance were admitted over and over again, when a patient fails to pay on one occasion it should be warning enough not to admit them a second time, when children were admitted this parents name were not shown in the Register with the result that accounts cannot be furnished, as the collection of arrears is causing a lot extra work to your Clerk for which he is not responsible. I think it would only be reasonable to allow him a commission on all arrears he may be able to get in. Four Unions, namely Clifden, Galway, Gort and Loughrea have paid this half years Assessment and the Hospital now has only an overdraft of £31... I desire to return my sincere thanks to the entire staff of the Institution for their unvarying courtesy and kindness to me during past 4 months. I would like to add I feel confident the Institution will be in a sound Financial Position at close of current year...' (pp185-186).

Letter from the Local Government Board 'sanctioning appointment of Bridget Fahy, Delia M Dermody, Philomena Kearney, Annie Gavin, Teresa Dillon and Nora O'Connell as Probationers Nurses in the Hospital' (p213).

'..in future the Meetings of Board of Management be held on the 1st Saturday of each month at the hour of 2.30 pm...' (p232)

pp240



12. 5 September 1920 – Includes:-
5 March 1922 Letter from the 1st L. Battalion Adjutant 'Acknowledging receipt of the resolution passed by the Board of Management thanking the Volunteers for the way they kept order during Race Week, also stating the Volunteers only did this duty as the Competent Military Authority of the Irish Republic' (4th September 1920).

Report of the Visiting Committee stating

'...I. Having inspected the Hospital we have come to the conclusion that it is absolutely necessary to have practically the whole interior, thoroughly scrubbed and cleaned. The house shows that it has been sadly neglected for a long period, and much attention has not been paid to wear and tear. If in any way funds could be raised the walls urgently required colour washing.....

III. We recommend that electric light be installed with the exception of where gas is necessary for surgical purposes. ...

V. The Sanitary arrangements are in a most undesirable condition....(4 September 1920)

Correspondence from Dr O'Farrell 'Mountjoy Prison, requesting Clerk of Hospital to thank members of Board of Management for having elected him as House Surgeon to the Hospital, also stating he was unable to state when he could take up duty' (15 December 1920).

Correspondence from 'J Gallagher Acting Clerk of Unions of Galway, requesting to have several vacant beds provided in the Hospital, for such patients as he may require to send to the Hospital' (21 December 1921).

Includes inserted loose material relating to the proposed appointment of Dr. O'Farrell as House Surgeon, who in 1920 was granted the post though being at that time 'in Mountjoy Prison having an enforced holiday' (11 November 1920) and telegrams and minute noting that 'Clerk stated he requested Dr O'Farrell to re-apply at Saturday meeting but had upon this wire on Saturday from Dr O'Farrell saying withdraw application' (21 December 1921).



(II) Nursing Committee, 1913-1922

Bound volume of manuscript minutes recording details of attendance and proceedings of monthly meetings of the Nursing Committee of Galway County Hospital relating to the appointment, management and discipline of the nursing and trainee nursing staff, also includes details relating to salaries and training fees, and annual and sick leave arrangements.

The minutes also include confirmation that the Head Nurse's Diary and Gatekeepers attendance book were produced, examined and approved by the Committee.

The minutes are dated and signed by the Chairman of Nursing Committee, and subsequently approved by the Chairman of the Board of Management.

Size approximately 150pp

13. 18 January 1913 - Includes loose leaflet outlining the Rules and Regulations for the Training of
20 May 1922 Nurses and Rules of Probationers, which include

1. Probationers will be trained in Galway Hospital for three or four years, and during this time they must attend such lectures and classes and perform such nursing duties as may be arranged for them, including residence at such of the Galway Clinical Hospitals or (in the fourth year) service in Hospital, district, or private nursing, as may be appointed by the Nursing Committee. The residence shall always include at least six months' course of training in the GALWAY or other Fever Hospital...
4. The Entrance Fee shall be £20 when candidates agree to serve for four years, or £30 when candidates undertake to serve for three years only...
6. Probationers will be provided with residence, board and washing, in the Hospital during their training or service...
10. Candidates when selected as Probationers will be obliged to give an undertaking to remain for three months in the Hospital, ...
12. If, at the end of three months, the Candidate be finally accepted for training, she shall sign the engagement.'

Also includes:-

'It was unanimously resolved to recommend the Board of Management to increase the salary of Miss Flynn, Head Nurse, as an inducement to her to stay on as Head Nurse, as her resigning that position would be a very serious loss to the Hospital. It being understood that she is about applying for the position of Matron in another Hospital' (8 March 1913).



'According to the Rule Nurse O'Shaughnessy was placed on the Staff, at rate of £15 a year for 1st six months from 1st October 1913' (8 October 1913).

'It was left in the hands of Professor Pye and Mr M Lydon, to draw up a resolution to be forwarded to the Galway Board of Guardians to reconsider their decision as to the admission of Probationers to the Union Hospital for further training' (24 January 1914).

'It was decided to advertise for three probationers, applications to be considered at next meeting...' (19 September 1914)

'Probationers Rita Kelly and Katie Kearns having passed their examination and obtained Certificates of Training were placed on the staff...' (21 November 1914).

'Miss Flynn, Head Nurse, having volunteered and been called on by the War Office, to make arrangements for the discharge of her duty during her absence.

Miss Flynn was highly complemented on her action, and the Committee feel the loss her absence will be to the Hospital...

That Miss Flynn be allowed to go, her position to be kept open for her, and that she be allowed half salary during her absence.' (9 June 1915)

'A temporary Head Nurse to be advertised for at a salary at rate of £50 a year with apartments and rations....(26 January 1916).

'The Nursing Committee having examined the attendance Book call the attention of the Board of Management that the Nurses are not wearing out-door Uniform in accordance with the rules' (13 October 1917).

Correspondence from 'Mr J Gallagher, who has been employed to write up the Books reporting of there being a debit balance on the Nursing fund of £157.4.2 and on suggestion of Treasurer a paying order was issued on the General Fund in February last for amount of this deficit, so that there is now no such thing as a Nursing Fund in existence. As there is no prospect of re-establishing this Fund in the immediate future, I would suggest that you ask the Board of Management to continue subject to L.G. Board approval, payment of the Nurses, and all other necessary expenses out of the General Fund for current Financial year. I Have examined your Finance Statement Book of receipts since November 1916 (the Book for period previous to that date could not be found) and I find that in some instance, no money was lodged in respect of [] for certain Nurses Training in the Hospital and in other cases only one instalment of £10 each is credited. In one instance where no money is credited, I am sure the full-fee was paid, as the Nurse concerned showed me her stamped and signed receipt for £20....' (10 March 1920)

Letter from 'Lady Superintendent requesting to have hour of breakfast of Patients, changed from 8 o'clock to 7 o'clock, in order to facilitate, the morning work' (31 August 1921).



B. Financial Records

(I) Nursing Fund Account, Financial Statement of Receipts & Expenditure, 1904-1920

14. April 1913 - 31 March 1920
- Volume recording quarterly receipts and expenditure under various pre-printed headings. For Receipts the headings include date, name (such as that of private individuals, the Galway or other Unions, the Industrial School (f7)), particulars of receipt (such as for the services of a Nurse, fee for training, fees for Nurse's services, and maintenance of probationers. The expenditure details include date, name, particulars of expenditure (such as nurse, making uniforms, salaries, fees for training probationers, uniforms, advertising, other expenses. Each quarter's entry includes the signed and dated Certificate of the Clerk of the Nursing Committee verifying that the Statement is correct, and also generally includes a Certificate of Chairman of Nursing Committee certifying that the Statement had been represented to at a meeting and found to be correct.
- Also include some annotations from the Auditor, Arthur Ellis (see for instance f4).

29ff

(II) Financial Statement Book of Receipts, 1918-1922

15. 2 April 1918 – 31 March 1922
- Volume recording monthly details relating to receipts, under various pre-printed headings, such as date when lodged with Treasurer, from whom received (such as Admiralty, Galway Union, Local War, Pensions Committee), particulars and receipts, such as rent of field (f2), maintenance of patients, 'for abdominal belt' (f1), classification of receipt such as Unions, Patients and Other Receipts, which are in turn subdivided, for instance the latter has sub-headings for Casual Dressings, Surgical Appliances etc Supplied and Donations etc.
- Each month's entry includes the signed and dated Certificate of the Clerk of the Hospital verifying that the Statement is correct and that the various total amounts had been credited or debited to the proper account, and also includes a Certificate of Confirmation by the Board of Management certifying that the Statement had been represented to and confirmed by it.
- Also includes some annotations (see for instance f47).

48ff