MERICK BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

The Insurance Act.

B's Important Letter.

Emly presided at the meeting of the Board of Guardians yesterday. There were present—Mrs. McDonnell, Mrs. O'Brien, Ald. Matthew P. Fourke, P. Hassett, Sullivan, J. Cahill, J. Lalor, B.C., P. C. Quilligan, R. Frost, B.C., Malone, J. Mulcahy, M. Laffan, M. A. Brennan, K. O'Brien, J. P. Lynch, Quilligan, J. Fitzgerald, E. J. O'Dwyer, Shreys, and P. K. Hogan, J.P.

Officials in attendance were—Messrs H. J. Clerk; E. Dundon, Master; and Dr. McDonnell, R.M.C.

A PATIENT'S COMPLAINT.

Bourke drew attention to a complaint from a patient named Sarsfield, who said he was put into a bed that was not fit. The patient had further complained that he brought the matter before the officials and discharged by Dr. Mulcahy, although he was a suitable patient by the Resident Medical Officer, Dr. McDonnell.

O'Brien wished to know if a visiting doctor had power to discharge a patient admitted by the Resident Medical Officer.

Mr. McDonnell pointed out that the visiting doctor had power to discharge the patient.

Quilligan—What Sarsfield complained of was that he was discharged because he complained of an unclean bed.

Mr. McDonnell—The individual patient is put into one bed without the clothes being changed. This has been the rule since I came here six years. That is a direct denial to the allegation, and I can say that with absolute certainty.

Emly—I suppose we are all agreed that nothing should be changed before another patient is put into the same bed.

Mr. McDonnellan thought a committee should be appointed to investigate the *bona fides* of the patient.

Emly fell in with the view of a committee, and a committee, consisting of Messrs. J. Quilligan, T. Brennan, and C. Quilligan, was deputed to enquire into the merits of the complaint.

In a short absence.

Mr. McDonnellan said the committee had come to the conclusion that the better course to pursue was to refer the matter to Dr. Mulcahy for a report.

INSURED PERSONS.

The following was read from the Local Government Board, dated 6th February, 1913:—"I am directed by the Local Government Board to state that they have been asked by certain Boards of Guardians whether the wives of insured persons in respect of whom maternity benefits are paid under the National Insurance Act are entitled, in addition to free medical attendance and medicines under the Medical Charities Act. This is an important question, and one which arises in every union, and the Board, therefore, consider it advisable to embody their opinion in a circular for the information of the Guardians, Relieving Officers generally throughout the country. It should be borne in mind that the intention of the Medical Charities Act is to provide medical relief and medicine at the public charge to poor persons who are unable to pay for themselves. It is, therefore, the duty of Guardians and Relieving Officers before issuing orders for free medical attendance and medicine to satisfy themselves by careful inquiries that the applicant could not otherwise obtain this aid. Under the National Insurance Act every insured person is entitled to an allowance of 30s. for the express purpose of meeting maternity expenses, and this should be taken into account by the person making application for a ticket is made. In a number of cases it will probably be found that the recipients of maternity benefit under the National Insurance Act would not in addition be entitled to relief from the rates under the medical relief Act, but on the other hand there will no doubt be many cases of exceptional poverty where the new benefit cannot be maintained. The Board accordingly, are of opinion that a relieving officer and Board of Guardians on being satisfied as to the existence of those exceptional circumstances would be justified in issuing tickets entitling the persons to dispensary relief notwithstanding the fact that they were in receipt of maternity benefit under the Insurance Act. It is obvious, however, that the amount of the fee that a Medical Officer or midwife would be willing to accept from a poor person must form an important consideration in deciding whether a relief ticket should be issued, and the local Government Board would therefore suggest that Boards of Guardians should make arrangements regarding the matter with the officers concerned bearing in mind that the 30s. is intended for the provision of the other comforts besides professional attendance.

"(Signed),
"A. R. BARLAS, Secretary."

Mr. Clerk said the letter was a most important and required serious consideration.

Emly—I agree with you.

Mr. Donnellan took the same view, and in order that it might be properly discussed he proposed that it be printed and circulated among the members.

Mr. Lynch seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. P. Bourke said a question arose some time ago with regard to the number of insured persons in the consumptive wards. The Master was to furnish a return, and he (Mr. Bourke) would like to know how many patients of that class the Guardians maintaining in the hospital.

The Master said that according to the census taken recently there were seven in the consumptive hospital, and a few had left since then. The patient's maintenance was costing 5s. a week.

Mr. Bourke—We are contributing at the rate of 30s. a week per capita for those people, when they should not. I hold that these people should be provided for by the Insurance Committees, and that we should consider the whole question as soon as possible.

Emly—Certainly.

Mr. McDonnell observed that none but advanced cases were sent into the workhouse hospital, as they would not be taken in sanatoria.

Mr. Bourke—The question is, that there are people in this hospital who should not be here, and that a place was in sanatoria, where they could be cured after by the State.

The Master—That is so.

Mr. Bourke—I think it is highly illegal for us to keep these patients in this house.

The Master—You are perfectly right.

Mr. Bourke—If a person is fit to be sent to a sanatorium he should be sent and not kept here. I want to know from the Master if people fit for sanatorium treatment and insured are sent in here by the Insurance Committees?

The Master—I could not say whether they are sent in by the Insurance Committees. They are sent in by the Relieving Officers.

Mr. Bourke—The rates are contributing towards the keep of these people who should never have been sent in here. Why should we as a Poor Law Authority be asked to maintain these consumptives? The onus is now thrown on us to do what should be done under the National Insurance Act. Once a person is adjudged to be suffering from tuberculosis and insured he should be sent to a sanatorium.

The Master reminded the Board that a resolution passed there recently referring to the subject was [illegible]

TOLL OF LIFE IN ARCTIC REGIONS.

The toll of life that the sea has taken back into its [illegible] year, perhaps even longer (writes the *Daily News and Leader*). Several hundreds of lives have been lost, and though the number is in itself, perhaps, small, the percentage of those who have gone north or south and never returned is very large.

1553.—Three ships sailed from Ratcliffe under Sir Hugh Willoughby and Richard Chancellor in search of a North-East passage to India. Willoughby and all the men of his ship perished during the winter on the northern coast of the Kola Peninsula.

1556.—Chancellor, on a second voyage, was wrecked, and perished off the coast of Scotland.

1580.—Charles Jackman, with his ship and company, fitted by the Muscovy Company, perished on the way back from the Kara sea.

1576.—Sir Martin Frobisher's expedition to find a North-West passage lost a pinnace of ten tons and a boat with five men.

1596.—Barentz, a Dutch explorer, died during voyage.

1610.—Hudson's third voyage. He was set adrift in an open boat with his little son by mutineers and perished.

1619.—A Danish expedition under Jens Munk; 62 men perished, and only two and a boy survived.

1848.—Sir John Franklin, with two ships, the Erebus and the Terror, and 123 officers and men perished. One of the vessels was crushed in the ice, while the other was stranded. The survivors of this disaster perished while making their way across the ice.

1871.—Charles Hall (American) died on second expedition with the Polaris in Thank God harbour.

1881.—The "Jeannette," under Lieut. de Long of the United States Navy, was crushed in pack ice. The officers and men dragged their boats over the ice to an island. One boat reached the Sena Delta; one perished; three survivors reached Siberia in the third. Dr. Long and two of the crew died of exhaustion.

1884.—Several of Lieut. Greely's observation party died of starvation at Cape Sabine.

1897.—Adrie, with two companions, perished in balloon expedition.

Personnel of Expedition.

Captain Scott's Assistants and Crew.

The following is a list of the men of science and others who accompanied Captain Scott, and also of the crew of the Terra Nova:—

Lieutenant E. R. G. R. Evans, R.N., second in command (Western Party).

Dr. E. A. Wilson, chief of scientific staff, zoologist and artist (Western Party).

Lieutenant V. L. A. Campbell, R.N, leader of the Eastern Party.

Lieutenant H. R. E. Pennell, R.N, magnetic and meteorological work in [illegible]

Lieutenant R. E. de P. Kennedy, R.N. (Western Party).

Lieutenant T. R. Bowers, Royal Indian Marine (Terra Nova).

Engineer Lieutenant R. W. Kemp, R.N, chief engineer (Terra Nova).

Surgeon E. L. Atkinson, R.N, [illegible] zoologist, etc. (Western Party).

Surgeon E. L. Atkinson, R.N, doctor, bacteriologist, parasitologist.

Mr. F. H. R. Drake, R.N, secretary (Terra Nova).

Mr. C. H. Meares, charge of ponies and dogs (Western Party).

Captain L. E. G. Oates, Inniskilling Dragoons, charge of ponies and dogs (Western Party).

Dr. G. L. Simpson, physician (Western party).

Mr. T. Griffith Taylor, geologist (Western party).

Mr. E. W. Nelson, biologist (Western party).

Mr. D. G. Lille, biologist (Terra Nova).

Mr. A. Cherry Gurrard, assistant zoologist (Western party).

Mr. H. G. Ponting, photographer (Western party).

Mr. B. C. Day, motor engineer (Western party).

Mr. W. G. Thompson, geologist (Western party).

Mr. C. S. Wright, chemist (Western party).

Mr. T. Gran, assistant (Western party).

Boatswain R.N., Mr. T. A. F. Feather, charge of sledging outfit).

Boatswain Mr. A. Cheetham (Terra Nova).

Chief Engine-room Artificer, R.N. Mr. W. Williams, second engineer (Terra Nova).

Chief Stoker, R.N., Mr. W. Lashley, assistant to motor engineer (Western party).

Chief Steward, Mr. W. Archer.

Petty Officer, R.N, E. Evans.

Petty Officer, R.N., R. Forde.

Petty Officer, R.N, T. Crean.

Petty Officer, R.N, T. S. Williamson.

Petty Officer, R.N, F. Parsons.

Petty Officer, R.N, P. Keohane.

Petty Officer, R.N, W. A. Johnson.

Petty Officer, R.N, G. P. Abbott.

Petty Officer, R.N, A. J. Brewster.

Petty Officer, R.N, F. V. Browning.

Able Seaman, R.N, H. Dickenson.

Able Seaman W. L. Heald.

Able Seaman J Paton.

Able Seaman W H Schermaly.

Sailmaker W Smythe.

Shipwright, R.N, F E C Davis.

Leading Stoker, R.N, N Brissenden.

Leading Stoker, R.N, E A M'Kensie.

Stoker, R.N, W Burton.

Stewards, T Clinold (cook), F Hooper, and W H Neald.

A number of the above have since returned, including Dr. Simpson and several others. Probably those who have perished with Dr. Scott do not number more than half a dozen at the most.

Scott's Last Message.

The *Daily Telegraph's* own correspondent in New York cables—It was my privilege to say farewell to Captain Scott when he sailed from London on the first stage of his first journey in quest of the South Pole. Pressed to give a message for publication Captain Scott said—"If I don't come back, you may rely upon it that I am dead; and when you know I'm dead I'll let you say this "It is my intention to find the South Pole. If I fail the first time I shall know why I fail and try again It is my desire to keep on trying until I succeed. No effort of which I am capable will be spared. So far as human ingenuity and our means can devise, we shall eliminate danger, but there will be a risk—possibly a great risk—and that risk we are prepared to face cheerfully. If I never return England will know that I and those with me have done our best, and will give us credit for our work." The correspondent adds that the above brief message he afterwards wrote in shorthand, and treasured it as a souvenir. At the time Captain Scott was seated in the cabin of the staunch old whaler, and wished to say nothing until he had done something.

Captain Scott's Fate.

Breaking the Sad News to His Mother.

The *Daily Mail* says:—Lady Ellison M'Cartney, Captain Scott's sister, was the first to learn of his fate, and that the news might be

FATALITY AT NEWCASTLE WEST.

Grandson Charged.

A special Court, consisting of Messrs. R. J. Murnane, V.S. (in the chair); M. H. Woulfe, and W. A. Roche, was held at Newcastle West, on Monday evening, to investigate a charge against D. Meehan of causing the death of his grandmother, Johanna Manning, who died on Saturday morning as the result of a fall at Boherbee, Newcastle West, on Saturday evening last. An inquest was held earlier in the day when a verdict that death was caused by a fall was returned.

District Inspector O'Regan, Newcastle West, conducted the proceedings on behalf of the Crown, and Mr. James P. Lavan, solr., Newcastle West, defended the accused.

Mrs. Bridget O'Shea, examined by Mr. O'Regan, deposed she was a married woman, residing with her husband at Boherbee, Newcastle West. The deceased (Johanna Manning) was her mother. She remembered Saturday evening. Her mother left the house at or about 10 o'clock unknown to her, and about a quarter of an hour later a woman called her, and she found her mother lying on the footpath outside Meehan's house, which was next door. She assisted Mrs. Sullivan and Mrs. Cronin in bringing her mother into her house. She then ran for the priest and doctor. After going for the priest, and before she went for the doctor she met Constable Kirwan and made a complaint to him. She said to him that the Meehans kicked her mother outside the door, as she said so when she was "rambling" in her talk, but after coming back with the doctor her mother told her it was how she fell. The accused is her nephew.

Cross-examined by Mr. Lavan, solr.—Her mother was a very old woman, and very feeble. About a week previous she had a fall in the back premises of her house, and only for she (Mrs. O'Shea), going to her assistance she would not be able to rise. There was a large flag outside the door of Mr. Meehan's house; it was raised six or seven inches above the footpath, and her mother got a fall there three weeks previous. She found her lying on the footpath on that occasion, and helped her home. On Sunday, and until she died, she was "raving" occasionally.

Mrs. Margaret Sullivan deposed she was a widow, and residing next door to the deceased at Boherbee, Newcastle West. She heard "screeching" on Saturday night about nine o'clock, and she came out of her own house and saw the deceased (Johanna Manning) stretched on the footpath near Meehan's house. No one was around at the time. She lifted her up. Mrs. O'Shea was standing near Meehan's door, and she called to her, but as she was so confused she did not come to her assistance at once. Mrs. Cronin, came to her assistance also Mrs. O'Keeffe, and then Mrs. O'Shea, helped in the carrying in of the deceased. When she came up to the deceased she said "I am dead," or "I am killed." She did not make a statement to the police that deceased said "They have killed me." If she used the words she meant she said "I am killed." They are all the same.

Cross-examined by Mr. Lavan—She knew the deceased for a long time; she was very old and feeble. She used a stick when walking, as she was doubled up. She knew her to be in bed for three months together. She did not make any charge against accused, or any other one in her presence.

Mrs. Catherine Cronin deposed that she lived with her husband, John Cronin, at Boherbee, Newcastle West, a few doors from the deceased's house. In consequence of what one of her children said she went out from her own house on Saturday night last, and saw Johanna Manning (the deceased) lying on the footpath in front of Mrs. Meehan's house. Mrs. Sullivan was with her. She and Mrs. O'Keeffe, and Mrs. O'Shea carried the deceased into her daughter's (Mrs. O'Shea's) house, and when she was put into bed she complained she had a pain in her side—the old sore side. She did not make the remark that she was dead or killed in her presence. She made no complaint against anyone in her presence. Mrs. Meehan, and her mother, the deceased, were often arguing, but she never took any notice of them, as they would be friendly again in a short time.

Cross-examined by Mr. Lavan—She only lived three doors from the deceased's house. She heard no arguing that night. If they were arguing she would have heard them. Deceased seemed to be very friendly with the accused—in fact, he appeared to be her favourite. There were other families in Boherbee arguing besides the Mannings. The deceased was old and "crotchedy," and given to arguing.

Constable K. Kirwan deposed that on Saturday night he was on duty in the Square, which is about a quarter of a mile away from Boherbee, and Mrs. O'Shea came up to him, Constable Kelly was on duty with him at the time—and made a statement. In consequence of that statement he and Constable Kelly proceeded to the residence of Mrs. O'Shea at Boherbee, and found Mrs. Manning, the deceased, in bed. She appeared to be in pain. He asked her a question, and received a reply to it. In consequence of that reply he knocked at the door of Mrs. Meehan's house and found it locked. He wanted to enter Mrs. Meehan's house to make inquiries and take statements.

Cross-examined by Mr. Lavan, solicitor—On the following morning all the family were there, and he had no difficulty in making inquiries. He saw nothing unusual in having Mrs. Meehan and her family in bed at 10 o'clock on Saturday night. His attention was called to the step outside Mrs. Meehan's door; it was dangerous in the dark.

District Inspector O'Regan said he did not propose to call any more witnesses that day, and he asked for a remand for eight days.

Mr. Lavan said he would not object to a remand, but, as they could see, not one particle of evidence was produced against his client, and he could assure them that in the other evidence that would be produced by the Crown, nothing would be proved against his client, who was perfectly innocent of the charge preferred against him. He was only a youth, scarcely 16 years of age, and he asked the magistrates not to send him to prison while the Crown was completing their case, as it was degrading to this poor young fellow to have to mix with criminals. They were prepared to offer substantial bail.

District Inspector O'Regan said he agreed with Mr. Lavan that it was very degrading to send young fellows like the accused to mix with criminals, but they had to remember that a life had been sacrificed, whether by violence or accident—that was for them to inquire into. He would leave the matter in the hands of the magistrates to deal with as they saw fit.

The magistrates unanimously decided to remand the accused for eight days or sooner.

Mr. O'Regan stated he would push on his inquiries as quickly as possible, so that the young lad might be detained in custody on remand only as short as possible.

Mr. Lavan inquired if Mr. O'Regan would have his inquiries complete for the next Court day.

Mr. O'Regan said he would push them on as quickly as possible.

Mr. Roche said the magistrates would sit here on any day that would be convenient to the Crown and Mr. Lavan.

The accused was then removed in custody.

THE CALF FATHER TO THE BULL.

SESSION OF 1913.

THREE BIG BILLS PROMISED.

The Parliamentary Correspondent of the *Freeman's Journal* writes:—

"The Government programme for bringing the present Session to an end and beginning the new Session consequential on the forecast made in our columns that Parliament would be called back to Westminster on March 4, and that a new Session would be opened on the following Monday. Prorogation cannot take place earlier than March 6, because the Welsh Disestablishment Bill was not sent to the House of Lords until Wednesday night, and as March 6 is to be set apart for the consideration of amendments of Bills which may be returned from that Chamber, the Session will be continued until March 7.

"An extremely short interval only is possible between the two Sessions, because of the urgent demands made upon Parliament by financial business before the last day of March, and the discussion of the King's Speech. But—considering the matter for a moment from the point of view of members—that is not the whole hardship which they have to endure. They will come back, that is, as the Prime Minister contemplated some weeks ago, to a comparatively short and hard term, but to one of really hard work, which will consume their time and attention in a degree at least equal to the experience of a normal Session.

"Until the terms of the speech from the Throne are made known no one can state definitely what legislation the Government intend to introduce [illegible] the Home Rule and Welsh Disestablishment Bills, which are bound to go through all their stages again, now only next session [illegible] they are to be become law over the heads of the Lords. There is, however, promised one Bill—a colonial measure, to quote the Bill, which is designed to remove the whole of our national education system from top to bottom; and it is in connection with this bitter controversy is likely to be revived in a form that will command the greatest interest in Parliament and in the country.

"It is a well recognised fact that no Liberal Government can bring forward a Bill to remodel our education scheme without attempting to deal with the so-called religious grievance entertained by their Nonconformist friends. Equally well recognised are the difficulty of arriving at any settlement of this religious problem on equitable lines and the fact that already the Government have twice failed with Bills whose object was to find a solution. In these circumstances the introduction of an Education Bill must ensure a session of hard work, constant duels between the two sides of the House, and long sittings."

"While our information is necessarily incomplete, we are aware of at least two other Bills of great importance which must be dealt with during the coming months. They are the Woman's Suffrage Bill, and the Bill to complete Land Purchase in Ireland.

"With regard to the former the position has been fully explained. We have enumerated the complex consideration involved in its presentation to, and subsequent progress through the House of Commons, and indicated the need for particular care both in its draughtsmanship and examination throughout its various stages. A week or two will be required for it.

"As to the Irish Land Bill, Mr. Birrell has expressed the opinion—or rather the hope—that it will be a small Bill, and, one supposes, therefore, comparatively non-controversial. On neither of these points is there any assurance; and it would be fairly safe to assume that the measure will lead to a great deal of discussion—subject, of course, to the inevitable guillotine.

"Then there will be the Scottish Temperance Bill (if the Lords insist upon their amendments), the Pure Milk and Mental Deficiency Bills, in addition to the routine business in which the Budget is included. The prospect of such a list is sufficient to dispose once and for all the idea that the coming session will be a short one—and we are not sure that the list is fully comprehensive, because, in the opinion of the Premier, it would be premature to make any announcement now as to the actual business of the session."

PUBLICATIONS.

"MACDONALD'S IRISH DIRECTORY AND GAZETTEER."

William MacDonald and Company, Limited, Directory Press, London Road, Edinburgh; London Office: 72 Leadenhall Street, E.C.; Dublin Office: 7 Fleet Street.

We have received a copy of the 26th annual edition of this eminently useful and practical work, which contains a vast amount of information of value and interest to manufacturers, merchants, traders, hotels, and public institutions. The exhaustive alphabetical and classified lists that it contains have been compiled, as usual, with the utmost care and lucidity, and thus the Directory is an excellent *vade mecum* for business men. Since the last edition the book has undergone a complete and thorough revision, and brought thoroughly up to date. Several important sections are now included. These are Members of Parliament for Ireland, Magistrates, Municipal Lists for Dublin, Belfast, Limerick, Londonderry, and Cork, and County Councillors. British Consuls and Vice-Consuls in Foreign Countries are given. The Gazetteer Section contains the populations according to the 1911 census; the Bank Section gives the names of all the Banks and Bankers in Ireland, with the branches, sub-offices, and agents; a railway map of Ireland, and specially drawn plans of Dublin, Belfast, and Cork, are other useful features of the work. In addition to all this varied and comprehensive information concerning Ireland, we find extended sections relating to Liverpool and Glasgow, which are a valuable adjunct, seeing how intimately this country is associated in its business relations with these important centres of commerce. The opening portion of the work is devoted to an Irish Municipal Directory. Then the towns and villages are divided into sections according to provinces and counties, and following these are the Irish Bank section, a Home, Colonial, and Foreign Mercantile guide, and an Irish Commercial gazetter of counties, cities, towns, and parishes. Liverpool and Birkenhead, and Glasgow form a considerable portion of the bulky volume, which is turned out in highly superior style, the letterpress being excellent, while the work is strongly bound in green, and illuminated covers. There is, it should have been stated, an alphabetical index which enables one to place his finger on any information he requires with the readiest ease. The price of the Directory is 21s. for Great Britain, 26s. for foreign countries, [illegible] to subscribers, ordered before publication, 12s. 6d., carriage free.

"THE IRISH CHURCH DIRECTORY, 1913."

Dublin—Church of Ireland Printing and Publishing Company, Ltd., 61 Middle Abbey Street.

This handsomely turned out Directory contains a large amount of local and general information of importance to churchmen, clerical, and lay. Amongst the contents may be mentioned an alphabetical list of the clergy, the Dean and Chapter of St. Patrick's National Cathedral; each Diocese, with the Bishop, Dean and Chapter, Incumbents and Curates, with an alphabetical index to the Incumbencies showing the Diocese in which each is situated. A very interesting feature is a list giving the succession of Bishops of the Church of Ireland down to the latest appointments. There is also a variety of matters relating to Educational subjects, Church Government, Statutes of the General Synod and

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Notice to Members of Friendly Societies.

THE FEDERATION OF FRIENDLY SOCIETIES have reduced the Panel of Medical Practitioners to the following:—

J. F. DEVANE, M.D., 1 Upper Hartstonge street—'Phone No. 284.

J. McNAMARA, L.R.C.P. and S.I., 74 O'Connell street—'Phone No. 95.

On and from this date.

THOMAS S. LAWLOR, Hon. Sec., Limerick Federation of Friendly Societies.

Feb. 11th, 1913. (x2 f13)

Clyde Shipping Co., Ltd.

TRADERS are informed that the Sailing from Glasgow to Limerick on 11th inst., and Limerick to Glasgow on 14th inst., has been Cancelled.

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