

hereditaments, are exempt from liability for rates during unoccupancy. In order, however, to discourage landlords from keeping dwellinghouses unoccupied the Increase of Rent Act provided that where the statute applied an unoccupied house should be deemed liable for rates, except during any period not exceeding six months in which the premises were being altered or repaired, or further where the landlord was unable to get a bona fide tenant. In practice this liability only applied to houses below a £20 valuation, and did not consequently apply to the vacant premises in O'Connell street, referred to by the Borough Council, nor to unoccupied stores or such buildings.

THE PUBLIC LIGHTING.

Attention was directed at the meeting of the Public Lighting Committee last night to the uneven distribution of the electric standards throughout the city. It was stated that in some of the thoroughfares the lamps were too close, while in others there was a big discrepancy in the distance between them, with the result that the lighting was not quite as effective as it otherwise would be. The Mayor, while agreeing that the arrangement of the standards was not desirable, said nothing could be done to remedy the matter pending a report from the local manager to the Supply Board.

DEATH OF HON. CATHERINE E. SPRING RICE.

We regret to announce the death of the Hon. Catherine Ellen Spring Rice, sister of the late Baron Monteagle, K.P., which occurred on the 22nd instant at her residence, 92 Bambery Road, Oxford. The sad news has been received with deep regret in Foynes (the family seat), where the deceased lady resided from time to time, but she had been living in England for years past.

Miss Nestor has now returned to 1 Patrick Street, and is showing some very distinctive models in Fur-trimmed Coats, Harris and Donegal Tweeds Sports Coats, Afternoon and Evening Gowns. Inspection cordially invited.

an offer of one at £258.

Mr P. Bourke proposed that the roller purchased, and said from enquiries made they could find the money out of the amount allocated for the work of concreting.

Mr Dalton seconded the proposition which was approved.

CITY WORKER SERIOUSLY INJURED

While engaged demolishing an old wall in Michael street yesterday Thomas Blay aged 50, living in George's Quay, fell a distance of thirty feet, and sustained a fracture of the skull. He was taken in the Corporation ambulance to Barrington's Hospital where it was found that his condition was very serious. To-day he showed signs of improvement.

STONY POTATOES.

We have just seen three singular specimens of potatoes grown in the years 1928, 1929, and 1929. A correspondent states they were kept in a hip pocket as "a supposed cure for rheumatism, and so got preserved as you now see them." One would certainly not recognise them as tubers, for the specimens are quite hard and stony, and are a curiosity in their way.

REDUCED PETROL PRICES.

The reduced petrol prices which have been made by various oil companies, have come into operation in Limerick, as elsewhere in the Free State.

The price has been reduced in both Ireland and England by 2d per gallon, and that kerosene (lamp oil) by 1d per gallon. These reductions follow weaker prices in America and lower tanker freights.

GENERAL PURPOSES RATE.

A rate of one and threepence in the pound was struck by the Estimates Committee of the Borough Council last night to provide for general purposes for the half-year to end on the 31st March next. This brings the total for this rate to two and ninepence the pound, and is the same as was provided last year.