

ORATION COMMITTEES.

Work of the Fire Brigade.

The Housing Question.

P. J. Donnellan presided at a meeting of the Improvement Committees last

Mr. D. Hogan submitted the half-yearly report of the work of the Fire Department, which showed that 717 ambulance calls, 17 fire calls, and 36 fire calls.

MAINTENANCE OF NEW AVENUES.

In regard to the intention of the Corporation to take over and maintain St. John's and Clanmorris Avenues, a letter was read from Mr J. J. Dundon, Law Officer, stating that no obligation rested on the Council to take over the maintenance of these avenues unless they were paved, or otherwise put in condition. This question was not discussed.

BLOCK FLATS.

Mr. Bourke referred to the question of building flats on the sites of derelict houses, and said that as he saw no possibility of the Corporation obtaining sufficient virgin land on which to build houses sufficient to meet the needs of the people living in slum areas, it would be well if they gave serious consideration to raising blocks of flats on the sites in question, and in that way it would be possible to completely abolish the slums. Mr. Stenson, the Surveyor, should examine the sites in Michael Street and at the old Distillery, and give the suggestion serious consideration.

Mr. Stenson said that he had previously considered the idea of blocks of flats, but the Corporation officials discouraged it.

Mr. C. V. O'Malley said that while it was not antagonistic to Mr Bourke's suggestion he thought it would be better that the Corporation should push forward with their present plan for building single houses suitable for small families. It would be time enough when the present housing schemes were completed to give attention to the erection of blocks of flats.

Mr. M. Keyes, T.D., said it was purely a question of precedence.

DEATH OF MR. COURTENAY CROKER.

We announce with very sincere regret the death of Mr Courtenay le Poer Trench Croker, D.L., which occurred yesterday morning at his residence, Ballynagarde, Co. Limerick, in his 83rd year. He was the fifth and only surviving son of Capt. Edward Croker, D.L., J.P., 17th Lancers, of Ballynagarde, whose wife was the sixth daughter of the first and last Earl of Rathdowne. Mr Croker married in 1882 Mary, youngest daughter of the late Ven. Charles Hare, Archdeacon of Limerick. He was a Deputy Lieutenant and a Justice of the Peace for the County of Limerick. From 1882 till 1911—in which latter year he retired—he was an auditor of the Local Government Board, Ireland. Mr Croker was the embodiment of courtesy and kindness of heart. For many years he was re-elected unanimously Chairman of the County Infirmary, and when some years ago it was proposed to amalgamate the hospital with a county institution he took up a strong position in opposition, and was successful in urging on the County Council to adopt a policy in accordance with his views. In the Limerick Branch of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals he took the keenest interest and was frequently present in the District Courts in connection with presentation of certificates and other awards to Civic Guards for meritorious services for the protection of dumb animals. Mr Croker was a keen sportsman. He owned some well-known racehorses in his time and up to quite recently, and he was one of the Directors of the Race Company. Again, he took a prominent part as a member of the Horse Show Committee, and, in short, his services in social life marked him out as a gentleman who was ever ready to help in any useful or philanthropic work for the benefit of city or county. His passing has created a void in our midst which it will be difficult to fill, and the sincerest sympathy of a wide circle of friends in Limerick and far outside it is extended to his widow in her hour of trial. The funeral is announced to be private.

At a meeting of the Corporation Committees last night, on the proposition of Mr M. Keyes, T.D., a vote of sympathy was passed with the relatives of Mr Croker.