

PRIVATE

an American Army ambulance knocked him down. He died from his injuries in October 1942 when I was five months old.

Coneywarren Children's Home (1949 / 1950 – November 1950)

4. I was placed in Coneywarren when I was seven or eight years old. At a meeting of the Tyrone County Welfare Committee on 18th July 1949 it was agreed that the Committee take over responsibility for the maintenance and boarding out of my sister [REDACTED] and I. [REDACTED] may have already been with [REDACTED] at this time. I knew that my mother had died but I do not remember who told me.
5. I have been shown Tyrone County Welfare Committee meeting minutes by the HIA which show that the issue of my migration to Australia under the Migration Scheme organised by the Presbyterian Church of Victoria was discussed during Committee meetings held in July, September and November 1950. In particular during a meeting on 17th July 1950 the minutes state that 'the County Welfare Officer suggested that [REDACTED] HIA 354 [REDACTED] might be considered for emigration to Australia.' It was agreed by the Committee that the Officer pursue enquiries in relation to this. The Welfare Officer was called V C Jones. The Tyrone County Welfare Committee agreed to pay my medical fee and to pay for clothing for the journey and pocket money.
6. I recall being asked what I would like when I got to Australia and I replied that I wanted a brown and white horse. I think it was an official from the Welfare Department that asked me but I do not know his name.
7. Whilst at Coneywarren I recall having an operation on the glands on my neck. At the same time I was also circumcised without any explanation. I do not have many memories of being in Coneywarren. However I vividly recall the trauma and emotional turmoil I suffered at being separated from my brother and sister.
8. I recall being taken from Coneywarren to Manor House in Lisburn where I stayed for about a week. I remember being taught hymns and on one evening having a

HIA 354

PRIVATE

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PRIVATE

bath. We were given new clothes and we were taken by boat across the Irish Sea to Liverpool to board a ship to Australia. I recently found an article in the Tyrone Constitution newspaper about me going to Australia.

9. My medical certificate is dated 13th September 1950. I left on 7th November 1950 on the M V Cheshire when I was eight years old. On board a Minister called Reverend [REDACTED] was looking after us along with a Scottish lady called [REDACTED] who was moving to Australia with her son.
10. There was no duty of care shown to us whilst we were on the ship. After two or three days into the journey a boxing ring was set up and we were made to fight each other for the entertainment of the other passengers. This was a horrendous experience as I had never boxed before and I was one of the youngest boys on board. I didn't know what was happening to me.
11. When we crossed the equator we were made to sit in a chair and we were then tipped backwards into a tub of water. Apparently it was a tradition but I found it a very frightening experience and I hid on the ship for two days in case it happened again. I befriended a worker on the ship called [REDACTED] and he eventually found me. On the ship we docked at Port Said. Local men in rowing boats came over to the ship to barter for goods. I thought this was a good opportunity to get a treat so I sent down all my clothes on a rope and in return I received a box of Turkish delight. When I opened the box it was full weevils. I was only left with the clothes I was wearing.

Dhurringile Rural Training Farm, Victoria, Australia (15th December 1950 – 1961)

12. We arrived in Melbourne Port on 15th December 1950. We were taken on a bus to Dhurringile Training Farm which was about a hundred miles from Melbourne. It used to be a prisoner of war camp and when we arrived it still had barbed wire around the grounds.

Manor House Home, Lisburn.

N.I.

COPY OF MINUTE No. 16066 dated 18th September, 1925.

LISBURN

Miss Stannus' Home

Extracts were read from Mr Truesdale's Journal describing his meeting with a Miss Stannus of the Manor House, Lisburn, who had seven child rescue cases in her home, for which she accepted responsibility and was prepared to will her farm and house, 30 acres of land, and a little money, to the I. C. M., if the I.C.M. would supply and pay for a matron to superintend the children, and would carry on the work after her decease. Mr Hammond pointed out that such a Home in the Six Counties Area would be a most useful asset to the Mission, but the difficulty would be to ensure happy relations between the proposed Matron and Miss Stannus. The possibility of a Scripture Reader's wife acting as Matron was mentioned, and the advantages and disadvantages of a deed of gift were discussed. After careful consideration, Mr Hammond was deputed to thank Miss Stannus for her proposal and to report further after consultation with her and her solicitor as to the procedure by which the proposal might be made effective.

Copy Minute 16081 dated 22nd October, 1925.

Mr Hammond reported that Miss McIlwrath had been lent to Miss Stannus to help at the Home in Lisburn, and the Committee agreed to allow him to draft a final basis of Agreement re the Home, in consultation with Webb, Scott and Seymour, and to submit it to the Committee when ready.

Copy Minute dated 16194 dated 23rd September, 1926.

A letter was read from Miss Stannus, renewing her offer to give her Farm House with some land to the Society for the purpose of a Home for Foundlings in Northern Ireland, and stating that she herself was going to live in the Manor House. The Secretary was directed to interview Miss Stannus and see if a clear understanding could be reached as to absolute ownership & full control of the premises by the Society.

Copy Minute 16201 dated 28th October, 1926.

The Secretary reported a further interview with Miss Stannus in which she declared her willingness to give the Manor House itself, rather than the Farm House, to the Society for the purposes of a Home for Foundlings. The question of transferring the children from Dublin to Lisburn was discussed, and it was decided that the initial outlay and yearly expense of such a work in Lisburn should be carefully gone into, and a report submitted to next meeting, before any definite decision could be made.

Copy Minute 16213 dated 25th November, 1926.

House A draft conveyance and draft agreement were submitted from Joseph Allen and Co., Solicitors for Miss Stannus, Lisburn, offering the Manor on certain conditions. It was decided that Mr Hammond should take the matter up and that Clause No. 1 should be made to state clearly that the rest of the building must be quite separate from the return portion and that the I.C.M. have unquestioned control and authority, and that a--- Clause No. 4 should read "at a date to be agreed on," instead of "as and when required by her."

ICM/BA/0254

Copy of Minute 16248 dated 24th February, 1927.

The amended Draft agreement from Miss Stannus' solicitors was examined, but as it was not found to embody two of the particulars required, viz. separate entrance to Miss Stannus' quarters, and an undertaking by her not to interfere in any way with the work and management of the Home, it was decided to send the amended draft to Mr Hammond and await his reply.

Copy Minute 16258 dated 24th March, 1927.

A letter was read from Allen and Co. accepting for Miss Stannus the proviso required by Mr Hammond as an amendment viz., "the said right of ingress, egress and regress, with the right of way, does not confer any right of entrance to any rooms, dormitories or kitchen occupied by, or under the control of, the Society for Irish Church Missions, or any of their accredited agents," and asking that our solicitors should apply to the Board of ~~Wra-de-Trade~~ for the necessary permission for the Trust to hold more than two acres of land.

Copy Minute 16310 dated 23rd June, 1927.

A letter was read from Mr Hammond reporting the beginning of actual work in the Manor House Home. After consideration it was decided that Miss Farrell, who was temporarily in charge, be allowed 3/- per week for her room expenses; that the children should be taught in the Home by one of the Society's teachers; that Mr Gilmore, Scripture Reader, be allowed to live on the premises and to conduct a weekly meeting as an experiment; that a temporary Matron be appointed until September; that Miss Gilmore be appointed Matron from September 1st, with a salary of £75 per year, with a deduction of £2.15.0 per month for board, on six month's probation; that a capable man should be found to work the garden, and make it pay as far as possible. The Committee expressed their indebtedness to Mrs Hammond for her kind help in choosing the first instalments of furniture for the new Home. The Secretary reported that £150 would cover the initial expenditure and that £105 of this had already come in.

Copy Minute 16338 dated 22nd September, 1927.

The Bill of Costs for £52.4.8 from Messrs. Joseph Allen & Co., Solicitors, for transferring the Manor House Home to the Society, was presented and passed for payment. Mr Hammond wrote that it would be necessary to furnish a room as a class-room, and the Committee decided to ask for estimates.

Copy Minute 16353 dated 27th October, 1927.

It was reported that the Official Opening of the Manor House Home had been fixed for November 2nd. The Matron, Miss Gilmore wrote that a considerable saving would be effected if she had a machine with which to make the children's clothes. Estimates for desks £18.15.0, and chairs for £10 were presented. These necessary items were passed, and Mr Leonard was instructed to deal with these matters.

Copy Minute 16434 dated 24th May, 1928.

The Rev. T. G. Hammond reported that he did not feel justified in recommending the closing of the Manor House Home, Lisburn, as it had not yet become known in the North of Ireland, but suggested giving the Home a further trial. A Special Appeal is to be issued in September and it was agreed to wait for a time and to watch what progress is made in the matter of income for this branch of the Trust.

Copy Minute 16679 dated 22nd November, 1928.

It was decided to invest the Legacy of £500, when it is received from the estate of the late MH 60 as an endowment for the Manor House Home. The Committee however made it clear that if the Home at any time ceased to exist, the capital may be used for any other purpose at their discretion.

Copy Minute 16715 dated 28th February, 1929.

The Rev. T. C. Hammond suggested that the Revs. R.J. Prole, H. O'Connor and S. J. Greer, be asked to act as regular visitors to the Manor House Home, Lisburn, as it was felt their influence would add prestige to the work of the Home, and be a help in extending interest in the North of Ireland. By their visits they would also be enabled to make a regular report of the conditions in which they found the Home.

Copy of part Minute 16718 dated 29th February, 1929, referring to Manor House Home, Lisburn.

We recommend that this be closed temporarily. Mr and Miss Gilmore to remain as caretakers; but Miss Gilmore's salary to be discontinued. The children to be transferred to the Fold, etc. Mr Hammond consents to this as an emergency measure, but would ask that no action be taken until there is an opportunity of seeing the results of Mr Truesdale's activities. The whole question to come up for review at the June Committee, and then to be definitely settled.

During the period of probation we propose further to go carefully into the Deed of Gift and make a full report as to our powers in relation to the property. We will also carefully consider possibilities of reducing expenditure on the present management, tho' we cannot hold out much hope of a substantial reduction.

Copy Minute 16770 dated 27th June, 1929.

The question of continuing the Manor House Home, Lisburn, was again considered, but it was decided to issue a special Appeal from the North of Ireland, and after its circulation to review the position. In accordance with the Rev. T.C. Hammond's suggestions it was decided to seek the advice of the Rev. S.J. Greer and the Rev. H. O'Connor as to the wisest way of launching the campaign.

Copy Minute 16797 dated 24th October, 1929.

The question of continuing the Manor House Home, Lisburn, was again carefully considered. In consideration of the lack of support from the North of Ireland, and the inability of the Committee to continue a growing liability owing to the present financial crisis, it was regretfully decided to close the Home on the 31st December, 1929, and to transfer the children to Dublin.

Accordingly instructions were given that Miss Gilmore, the Matron, be notified of these arrangements, Miss Harris, the Teacher, be asked to hold herself in readiness to return to Dublin, and Miss Stannus, the donor of the House be acquainted of the position, and the necessary steps be taken to re-convey the Manor House back to her.

This decision, proposed by Dr. Stoney, and seconded by the Rev. R. Ross, was arrived at, owing to urgent necessity, and only after many months of prayerful thought.

Copy Minute 16814 dated 28th November, 1929.

Correspondence was read which conveyed the information that Miss Gilmore, the Matron at the Manor House Home, Lisburn, had been circulating the Committee's letter re the closing of the Home, among a number of people in Lisburn and the North of Ireland.

The Secretaries were instructed to make further enquiries and to report later about it.

Copy Minute 16822 dated 19th December, 1929.

It was reported that all the children at the Manor House Home, Lisburn, had been removed to Dublin, and that Mr Hammond and Mr Leonard were arranging for the disposal of the furniture, etc.

A letter was read from Mr Truesdale explaining the source of information regarding the action of Miss Gilmore, the Matron of the Manor House Home, and the Committee decided to consider the matter closed, as Miss Gilmore had acted under a misapprehension.

" And the Justice was of opinion that in the event of the said Committee raising funds to repair the premises granted by said Indenture and making them fit for a Home that the Plaintiff should be paid a reasonable sum for the repairs executed by her to the said premises since the 2nd day of November, 1929."

" The JUSTICE DID DIRECT that the Plaintiff and the respective Defendants bear their respective costs of this application and Order!"

The names of the existing Northern Committee to be duly forwarded to the Attorney General as approved by the London Committee General Committee, together with the names of those who are acting with in conjunction with the Northern Committee as a local Committee for the Manor House Home, and that the Draft Agreement between the Society and the Northern Committee be engrossed and formally passed and signed by a representative of the Northern Committee and returned for the Seal of the Trust.

Copy Minute 17055 dated 24th September, 1931.

Mr Hammond reported that Miss Stanhus is threatening legal proceedings to recover her claim for compensation for monies spent on the Manor House Home since the Irish Church Missions has ceased to use it as a Home, and suggested that the Committee offer £30 without prejudice, and inform Messrs. Galway, Mollwaine and Seeds that if Miss Stanhus brings the matter into Court, and puts the Society to further expense, the Committee will contest the claim to compensation, as Judge Wilson had given no ruling on the matter, but had suggested that the Northern Committee, when in funds, might consider re-imbursing Miss Stanhus for amounts expended in repairs to the Home.

The Committee accepted this suggestion, and asked Mr Hammond to deal with the matter.

Copy Minute 17077 dated 22nd October, 1931.

The Rev. T. C. Hammond reported that he had written to Messrs. Galway, Mollwaine and Seeds, offering £30 to Miss Stanhus in settlement of her claim for compensation in respect of money spent on repairs to the Manor House Home, Lisburn, but had pointed out that the Committee were discharging a moral, and not a legal, obligation, and that if the offer was not accepted it would be definitely withdrawn.

The Committee approved of this action.

Copy Minute 17088 dated 26th November, 1931.

Further

The Sub-Committee reported that they had gone carefully that the Rev. H. O'Connor hoped to issue shortly an appeal for the Manor House Home, and that he was advertising in the press that the Home would be opened in January, 1932.

Copy Minute 17139 dated 25th February, 1932.

The Rev. T. C. Hammond brought forward a request from the Northern Committee, asking whether the Irish Church Missions Committee would assist the Manor House Home with the cost of a Matron for a year, should adequate funds for carrying on the Home not be forthcoming immediately. The Committee decided to contribute a sum not exceeding £52 for one year towards the cost of a Matron.

Copy Minute 17159 dated 28th April, 1932.

The Rev. T. C. Hammond reported that the Manor House Home, Lisburn, would be re-opened by the Northern Committee on May 18th, and that the appeal for 10,000 shillings was having a fair response.

Copy Minute 17206 dated 23rd June, 1932.

A letter from Dr Peatt, Treasurer of the Manor House Home, Lisburn, was read, asking when he might expect payment towards the Matron's salary, and the interest on the legacy of the late

MH 60

continued on next page ---

Copy Minute 16823 dated 19th December, 1929.

A letter was read from Mr R.O. Hannister regarding the allocation of the balance of £100 of the late **MH 60** Legacy, which was to have been spent on repairs and decorations at the Manor House Home, Lisburn, and the Financial Secretary was requested to suggest to Mr Hannister that this amount be invested for the benefit of the Children's Fold and Anslagh Orphanage respectively, as the Manor House children had now been transferred to these Homes.

Copy Minute 16833 dated 23rd January, 1930

A letter was read from Dr. Peate, deploring the closing of the Manor House Home, Lisburn, and pointing out reasons why he and other friends felt that sufficient funds could be raised locally to support the Home, and to warrant its being re-opened.

The Financial Secretary was instructed to reply that, while the Committee fully appreciated his remarks, there are many difficulties in the way of re-opening the Home, but that the matter would receive further consideration at a later date.

Copy Minute 16849 dated 27th February, 1930.

Further communications were read re the Manor House Home, Lisburn. The Rev. T.C. Hammond reported that he was awaiting a letter from the Attorney General of Northern Ireland in connection with the question of the Trust, and would report later.

16935 Minute dated 27th November, 1930 (Copy)

The Rev. T. C. Hammond reported that the Court Case brought by Miss Stannus re the Manor House Home, Lisburn, had been struck out with liberty to the plaintiff to re-enter when the decision in the Court of Appeal is available.

Mr Hammond had had an interview with Mr Hector Hughes, K.C. who is of the opinion that if the Northern Committee would take over the Home it would be the best solution of the difficulty, as the Trust would then be fulfilled and this would deprive Miss Stannus of any claim.

The House is in need of repairs to the extent of about £200. Mr Hannister has nearly £100 in hand, the balance of the late **MH 60** legacy to the Manor House Home for that purpose, and the Committee decided to give £100 towards the repairs on the understanding that the Northern Committee took over the entire liability of running the Home.

Copy Minute 16995 dated 17th March, 1931.

Mr Hammond reported that the Northern Ireland Committee in Belfast had agreed to take over the working of the Manor House Home, and promised to forward copy of their agreement re same.

Mr Hammond suggested that the Rev. S.S. Hall might be appointed as a Deputation Secretary for the Home, as he had much influence in the North of Ireland. No decision was made regarding this until Mr Hammond had made further enquiries.

Copy Minute 17038 dated 28th May, 1931.

It was reported that the case re the Manor House Home had been before the Judge in the Belfast Courts, and the following decisions were made by His Lordship :-

" That the Defendants the Society for Irish Church Missions to the Roman Catholics Trust do appoint a Local Committee to carry on the said Charity with powers to the said Defendants to co-opt on the death, resignation, refusal or failure to act of any member of said Committee so appointed, and with power to add to the number of the said Committee from time to time, and that they do submit from time to time the names and addresses of the members of the said Committee when so appointed to the Defendants His Majesty's Attorney General for his approval."

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ate 17206 continued.

It was decided to pay the Matron's salary as from the date of the re-opening of the Home (18th May, 1932), but not in advance, and that a cheque for the interest on the £400 War Stock be drawn half-yearly at the Committee Meeting next after the date of receipt of the interest, i.e. June and December Committees. The first half-years payment to be made in December next.

Copy Minute 17251 dated 24th November, 1932.

A letter of thanks from Dr. Peatt for the half-year's payment towards the Matron's salary at the Manor House Home, Lisburn, was read.

The Committee were glad to hear that the Home was making progress and that it was being supported locally.

Copy Minute 17314 dated 23rd March, 1933.

A proposal to build twelve houses on the Manor House Home Estate, Lisburn, to be let at 12/6 per week, for which £5,000 would be required to finance the scheme, was postponed for consideration at a later date when the matter could be more fully discussed.

Copy Minute 17426 dated 22nd February, 1934.

The appointment of the Lisburn Home Committee was also confirmed.

" And the Justice was of opinion that in the event of the said Committee raising funds to repair the premises granted by said Indenture and making them fit for a Home that the Plaintiff should be paid a reasonable sum for the repairs executed by her to the said premises since the 2nd day of November, 1929."

" The JUSTICE DID DIRECT that the Plaintiff and the respective Defendants bear their respective costs of this application and Order!"

The names of the existing Northern Committee to be duly forwarded to the Attorney General as approved by the London Committee General Committee, together with the names of those who are acting with in conjunction with the Northern Committee as a local Committee for the Manor House Home, and that the Draft Agreement between the Society and the Northern Committee be engrossed and formally passed and signed by a representative of the Northern Committee and returned for the Seal of the Trust.

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The Committee accepted this suggestion, and asked Mr Hammond to deal with the matter.

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Copy Minute 17206 dated 23rd June, 1932.

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MH 60

continued on next page ---

9

A Meeting of Committee was held on the 28th December 1945
Canon J.S. Taylor presided. Present Messrs J. Forsythe. J. Doran
R. Gurd and R.C. Bannister. Apology Rev H.O. Connor.

The proceedings were opened and closed with prayer.
The minutes of last meeting were adopted.

It was reported that the Afternoon Meeting at the Home on the
12th Decr. had been a great success; the children acquitting
themselves well and the collection amounting to over £9.
Rev H.O. Connor gave an account of I.C.M. work Canon J.S.
Taylor occupied the chair.

The arrangements were made by Messrs J. Doran J. Forsythe R. Gurd
and the Matron.

An application re admission of child six weeks old was received
per Rev W.B. Evans Derry. It was agreed that as no question of
religion existed in the case and as it was impossible to board
out children the request could not be granted.

MH 69 having renewed his proposal to give the children
a treat at Christmas and having been informed by the Hon Sec
that the Committee did not meet till the 28th expressed his
willingness to postpone it till the New Year the matter was
fully discussed. Rev H.O. Connor expressed the view that
it should be declined Canon J.S. Taylor was of the same opinion
Mr Gurd thought we should reconsider the question and accept
his offer; the Home needed money; the previous refusal had
been adversely commented upon; MH 69 had dropped the
gambling machines and his play fair in Lisburn was closed
Mr Bannister said he would vote against the proposal but he
felt grave doubts when he considered the acceptance of money
by the Churches from publicans and Brewers without demur.
Mr Doran thought from a Christian standpoint we should not
take tainted money. Eventually it was agreed that in view of the
diverse opinions the matter should be referred to the Head
Office I.C.M. for their view on the principles involved.

A letter from Mr Houston applying for 25 feet of frontage
along the Avenue with a depth of 100 feet. It was pointed out
that this ground would require to be measured so that any
letting should be adjusted to fit in with a given number of
houses to be erected and further the question of allowing the
ground to be used for business purposes would need careful
consideration. Mr Houston offered £12.10 per annum more than
twice the price for other lettings along the Avenue. The matter was
adjourned.

Feb. 12th 1946

Signed J.S. Taylor

10

A meeting of Committee was held on 12 Feb. 1946
Canon J.S. Taylor presided

Present Rev 140' Comm. Messrs Bannister
Forsythe, Doran. Rev R.J. Coates and
Rev F. Taylor (England) also attended

The minutes of last meeting were adopted
It was reported that a letter had been received
from 1. cm. London approving ^{the request} of actions of
Committee in declining etc. MH 69 offer of

gifts for children in Xmas 1944 and reaffirming view
of the H. Committee that such gifts should not be accepted
It was agreed in view of the fact that the land
along Avenue had been let on the basis of
residential holdings and that no business should
be carried on that the request of Mr Houston
should be refused.

A letter from Rev M. Cullagh Castlewellan was
read asking for admission of a child which
a young girl in his Parish expected to just come
to shortly. There was a danger of child going into
R.C. Home. It was decided that nothing could be
done as we had no facilities for receiving the
child and could not get a Foster mother yet.
It was agreed to print out these facts to Rev Cullagh
and about his assistance toward the

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Manor House Home

18th October 1951 - Continued
Answers.

Questions

No. 6

On what conditions are
the children received into
the Home

(a) Age limits

Three ten years except in
special cases which require
sympathetic consideration
by the Committee.Advertisement
for Collectors(b) Parental support
and visitationWhere the parents means
permit a maintenance fee
is asked but very rarely
secured.(c) Inspection by Health
or other AuthorityRegistered under Welfare
Authority who have the
right to inspect when they
so desireDr. J. G. Johnston is the
Medical Officer for the
Home and gives every
attention to the health
of the childrenManor House Home. 18th October 1951 - ContinuedMrs Weir having enquired regarding the
possibility of Miss Jameson undertaking
Miss Johnston's duties as collector for Manor
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not possible for her to do so.The Committee agreed that an advertisement
for a collector for the Home be inserted in
the Belfast Newsletter and Northern Whig
the name of the Home not to appear the
advertisement to read for a Christian Charitable
InstitutionThis concluded the business of the
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B/151

237

Manor House Home

18th October 1951 - Continued
Answers.

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B/151

Manor House Home 21st February 1947.

the care of her adopting parents.

Treasurer's Report The Treasurer submitted his report for the year ended 31st December 1946 which was most satisfactory, showing income

£2170.12.2 Expenditure £1760.7.11 Balance at 31/12/45 £136.11.2 Debit, and at 31/12/46

£273.13.1 Credit Balances at 21/2/47 are

N^o 1 Account Credit Balance £310.7.7

N^o 2 Account Credit Balance £113.15.2

N^o 3 Account Debit Balance £5-9-2

The Matron reported that some boys had been cutting down branches of trees in the grounds of the Home, and Mr McAdoo promised to inform District Inspector Currie.

Payment of Bonuses

It was proposed by Mr Gird, seconded by Mr Doran and agreed that the usual bonuses be paid to the collectors.

MH 44

Miss Porter, the amount of

MH 44

Collection was £1050.17.0 Miss Porter collected

£193.17.0, Bonus amounted to

MH 44

£42.10.0 and Miss Porter's £8.0.0

It was reported that Mr Hew Antwine Ade who was very much interested in children had given a subscription of

Manor House Home 21st February 1947.
about £4 to the Home.

It was agreed that Rev Canon Taylor and Rev H. Osbourne be invited to collaborate and write a short introduction to our yearly report.

Ap-11th-47 Signed J.B. Taylor

Manor House Home 13th November 1951 Contd.
 Mr Gird and Mr M^r Adoo to comply with
 Mr Horan's suggestion it is estimated that
 for the maintenance of the home about £2000
 would be required annually and if our finances
 are to be kept in a satisfactory state a steady
 reliable and adequate income is necessary
 and if to secure such income the Committee were
 of opinion an Organiser should be appointed
 such appointment should be given very
 careful consideration. Mr Hordern intimated
 that Miss Pattison Financial Secretary to Irish
 Church Missions London would probably be visiting
 Ireland shortly and if the Committee so desired
 would call at the home and perhaps her advice
 in financial matters would be helpful. the
 Committee hoped so and would be very glad to
 see Miss Pattison

Miss Pattison

A letter of thanks to the Committee for their appreciation
 of her work for the home was read from MH 44
 who for 14 years had been its devoted faithful
 and successful collector.

Request for
 Admission
 (Rev. A. J. Douglas)

A letter was read from Rev A. J. Douglas Maralin
 Rectory asking if help could be given to place 2 boys
 aged 4 years and 3 months respectively in a school

Manor House Home 13th November 1951 - Continued
 or Home. the father is a Roman Catholic and the mother
 a member of the Church of Ireland. the family is living
 with father's parents and consequently coming under
 pressure from Roman Church. as the father is the
 legal guardian of the children it is regretted no
 interference is possible; Rev Douglas to be so advised.

MH 63

The mother reported she had not yet been able
 to see Mr. Murrick regarding sending a claim
 for maintenance of the child MH 63
 whose mother wished to have her custody.

reported that the beds etc.
 from Dublin had now reached Portadown
 and should shortly be delivered.

children
 (Temporary
 accommodation)

Some misunderstanding or mistake had been
 made with regard to two children who Mr. Horan
 and were to have taken over to England
 to night, as a telephone message just now received from
 their intended destination stated they were without
 any information regarding these children the
 Committee agreed that the children in the circumstances
 should be given temporary accommodation here.
 Mr. Horan & Mr. Thompson thanked the Committee for
 their kindness. This concluded the business of the meeting

Thomas. Cregan Jan 10th 1952

Mr Gurd presented financial statement which showed extraordinary expenditure amounting to £125 and a consequent adverse balance of £145. It was stated that the Herald Office had been offered the printing of the Annual reports at the figure for which the Standard had done the job last year. If they did not agree estimates to be obtained. A quotation from the Northern Publishing Co for printing 200 books of receipt of 100 each was considered. It came to about £9.15. Their previous quotation four years ago was 6d per book. After consideration in view of the improbability of getting work done for any less sum locally and urgency of the matter [redacted] requiring receipt immediately it was agreed to accept the price quoted.

It was reported that the boys had broken several windows and it was decided that if this occurred again they should be brought before the Committee.

A request for lantern slides to illustrate work of Home was received from Organising Sec. of I.C.M. in S. England. It appeared that work in N. Ireland was followed with interest in England. It was decided that [redacted] should see about this matter. *Rev E. H. M. was 19 Sylva w. London m 22*

[redacted] MH 1 said the children were prepared for the Annual Meetings on Feb 11 and that Miss Martin Head Office I.C.M. had visited the Home recently and was well pleased with what she saw on her visit. In view of the very cold weather [redacted] MH 1 had tea ready for the Committee at the outset of the Meeting which was much appreciated.

Signed

J. S. Taylor

Feb. 23rd '45

A meeting of Committee was held on the 23rd February 1945. Canon J.S. Taylor presided. Pres Rev H.O. Connor. Messrs R.C. Bannister. J. Doran. R. Gurd and J. Forsythe. The proceedings were opened and closed with prayer. The minutes of last meeting were read and adopted.

It was reported that Rev R.J. Coates had visited the Home together with Rev Gordon Hill of London and had inspected the site of the proposed Nursery Creche of which they approved. It was agreed that Rev R.J. Coates should communicate with Rev H.O. Connor about seeing the Prime Minister with a view to obtaining the necessary materials for the new building. Mr James Shortt had prepared a Bill of quantities from which it appeared that 22 sq. of flooring would be required. This item seemed the one likely to cause any difficulty.

Mr Bannister mentioned that he had written to Mr B. Maginess who had promised to further the application but as he had now left the Ministry of Commerce his help would not be available. Rev H.O. Connor agreed to see the new Minister of Commerce and push the matter forward as far as possible.

It was decided that [redacted] MH 44 and her proposed assistant should attend the next meeting of committee.

An application re adoption of [redacted] child at present boarded out with [redacted] was considered it appeared that the home of [redacted] was not ideal and that the child would have little religious or moral training there. The Committee felt they could not recommend the adoption of the child by [redacted] it was decided that [redacted] MH 1 should see [redacted] and arrange for the child to be brought into the Home for six months so that the matter could be further considered.

Rev H.O. Connor was very congratulated [redacted] MH 1 on the excellence of the children's performance at the Annual Meeting. They had won the plaudits of the many.

The members of the Committee inspected the proposed site of the new Nursery creche and generally approved of it. It was reported that [redacted] had improved in his work.

Signed

J. S. Taylor

March 2nd '45

- 12 September 1966: Miss Hill visited (and inspected the home) with the MOHA Minister and other officials¹⁰ ;
- September 1970: *“Miss Hill called and carried out an inspection, bringing with her Dr Bell”*¹¹.

1.8 On account of the incidents outlined in paragraphs 3.3-3.4 below, the Manor House Home was included within the scope of the Hughes Inquiry¹². The Inquiry found that the frequency of inspections by the Social Work Advisory Group (SWAG) for the period 1978 to 1983 to be *“no more than adequate”*. According to the Hughes Report, SWAG had inspected the home in July 1978 and September 1981¹³. The report acknowledged that a Social Work Advisor had visited the home in: January and August 1978; July 1979; and that a follow up visit to the 1981 inspection had been made in December 1982. The report did not reference SWAG visits made (probably) in July 1982¹⁴ and (definitely) in September 1982¹⁵. The Hughes report concluded that *“in any event, SWAG’s inspections could have had no direct bearing on the prevention of such incidents.”*

1.9 At present the Department has no further evidence of inspections or visits by Inspectors other than those reported above.

2. HIAI Question 2

2(a) Did the Department carry out any inspections of Manor House prior to 1950. If not, why not?

2.1 With regard to children’s institutions that were not reformatories or industrial schools, section 25 of the Children Act 1908 (the 1908 Act)¹⁶ provided that *“the Chief Secretary may cause any institution for the reception of poor children or young persons, supported wholly or partly by voluntary contributions and not liable to be inspected by or under the authority of any Government Department, to be visited and inspected from time to time by persons appointed by him for that purpose”*.

2.2 The Department does not hold any information with reference to the implementation of this provision. The Departmental submission to the Hughes

¹⁰ MNH-2042

¹¹ MNH-2056

¹² The Committee of Inquiry into Children’s Homes and Hostels.

¹³ The 1981 inspection report is contained within the HIAI evidence MNH-

¹⁴ see paragraph 3.3

¹⁵ see paragraph 3.4

¹⁶ As read within section 133(1) of that Act

2. Interaction between MoHA and Manor House pre 1950.

2.1. There is likely to have been contact between Manor House and MoHA in the period between 1927 and 1950. MoHA employed Children's Inspectors from 1922. Whilst the Manor House files from this period no longer exist, evidence available within the Nazareth Lodge module confirmed these Children's Inspectors were inspecting and reporting upon Industrial Schools¹. The frequency of any interaction/inspection is not clear but unlike the situation in England, discussed in the January 1938 report entitled 'The Fifth Report of the Work of the Children's Branch'² (The "1938 Report"), where at that time some homes were unknown to the Home Office, it is inconceivable given the small geographical area of Northern Ireland that this situation pertained here.

2.2. The 1938 Report is illuminative of the practice being applied in England at that time. It is of note that of over a thousand homes that had forwarded particulars to the Home Office (as they first were required to do by the Children and Young Person Act 1933) *"visits have been paid to over 300 homes and in many cases repeated if this seemed necessary."*³ It is of note the nomenclature used was "visit" rather than inspection, albeit the officials were referred to as "Home Office Inspectors". Further the report suggests a routine visiting pattern had not been established, rather follow up visits occurred only if it was found to be necessary.

2.3. The earliest file (TC 168) which is still available dates from 1948⁴, but it is likely children's inspectors were engaging with the home from when it opened. It can also be seen that the home had ready access

¹ Evidence of Dr. Harrison Day 176, Pg. 10, lines 16-22.

² Submitted to the Inquiry and referred to in evidence by Dr Harrison on Day 176, pgs. 7-9.

³ The Fifth Report of the Work of the Children's Branch' Page 104.

⁴ MNH-2566.

8.6.50

R: Miss Hamlin and I visited Manor House Home, **MH 1** and a husband and met the Matron, **MH 1** and a member of the Cttee, Mrs Barnister, widow of a solicitor who formerly acted for the Home. The Home does not profess to deal with adoptions unless of children from the Home itself & even that is exceptional. Mrs Barnister is opposed to the Cttee of the Home becoming an adoption society. They have no outside worker who could undertake enquiries into proposed adopting homes, and the Matron has her hands full with her own work. 20 children, (12 at school, 3 toddlers).

Staff - Matron, Assistant Matron, nursing assistant aged 16, & cook live in, domestic staff living out.

We think the question of the necessity for registration should be taken up with Mr Mansel, solicitor.

We reminded **MH 1** and Mrs Barnister of the obligation to register as a voluntary home. **MH 1** thought they had been told at a meeting of the B. Council of Social Welfare that

There was no need to register! She seemed to
 think that registration was tied up only with
 application for grant. We made the position
 clear to both of them, and reminded them of the
 time limit. They said it would be necessary
 to get the approval of Mr. Giff (Superintendent
 of Irish Church Missions, Dublin) or even of A.A.
 in London, before making application. Advised
 them to see Mr. Merrick at once about this.
 They are handicapped by losing two members
 of staff: Eamon Taylor and Eamon O'Connor.
 We were shown over the Home. It was
 very clean, but shabby. Decorating work is in
 hand at present. Seemed generally to be run
 on good lines, handicapped by lack of money.
 One flaw is in the actual method of reception of
 the children. They do not normally take
 children under 4 years. The usual method of
 intake is from the crèche in Dublin at Ballybogan
 (which is stated to be worth seeing as a model of
 all that is most up-to-date in arrangements for

babies). At 10 yrs old the boys leave Manor
House & return to Dublin. It seems very hard
that the children should be shunted to go in
this way. The other house had in mind
of some time to give a babies' wing of about
15 children, but find the cost prohibitive,
estimated at £6,000. Looking around at present seems inadequate
for MH1 thought them quite sufficient.
Mr Wilde D.W.O. later told us that the
D.M.O. thought the health of the children who
attend school is not up to scratch.

TELEPHONE
LISBURN 3229.

A. S. MERRICK, LL.B.
SOLICITOR,
32 MARKET SQUARE,
LISBURN.



21st June, 1950.

Children & Young Persons Act (N.I.) 1950.
re Manor House Home, Lisburn.

Dear Sir,

I enclose Application for registration on behalf of the above Home.

As I understand that the Home can arrange for adoptions of children through various Adoption Societies or Welfare Societies, it would not appear to be necessary that the Home should be registered as an Adoption Society, and further, to be so registered would involve a considerable amount of trouble to the authorities of the Home. In the circumstances, you may treat the application under the Adoption Act as withdrawn.

Please return the documents of title, which I sent to you.

Can you please indicate what conditions are attached to the making of a Grant to a voluntary Home referred to in Sections 118 and 119 of the Children's Act.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "A. Merrick".

The Secretary,
Ministry of Home Affairs,
Stormont, Belfast.

Enclosures.

T.119.

29th June, 1950.

Sir,

I am directed by the Minister of Home Affairs to refer to your letter of the 21st instant and to inform you that the Manor House Home, Lisburn, has been registered as a Voluntary Home for children in accordance with Section 99 of the Children and Young Persons Act (Northern Ireland), 1950. A Certificate of Registration is enclosed.

In connection with this matter I am to inform you that under Section 117 of the Act the Ministry proposes to make regulations for the conduct of Voluntary Homes and for securing the welfare of the children therein. You will be notified when the regulations have been made. The Ministry's power to inspect Voluntary Homes will, however, be put into force straight away and the Department's Inspectors will carry out their first inspection within the next few weeks.

In regard to the granting of financial assistance to Voluntary Homes under Section 118 of the Act, I am to state that, generally, these grants are designed to help Homes which are doing valuable work but which are prevented by lack of funds from making improvements themselves. It is not, however, intended that the grants should replace voluntary effort and financial assistance will not be available towards the construction or acquisition of new premises or towards the ordinary maintenance and general management of a Home.

The Ministry will be prepared to consider an application for grant towards the improvement of premises or the equipment of the Home or securing that the Home is better provided with qualified staff, if your Committee propose to apply for a grant I am to suggest a formal application therefor, stating the purpose for which the aid is required, should be made to the Ministry and the matter can be discussed with representatives of the Committee.

Document of title which accompanied your letter of the 26th

/May

TELEPHONE
LISBURN 2163
7

HAYCROFT

LISBURN

N. IRELAND

11/8/52.

Dear Mr. Maginness,

I hope you will pardon my writing to you, with regard to the Fire Protection Report received some time ago, on the "Maunder House House" hospital, for destitute children.

The committee regret a reply has not been sent before this date, they have given the report much thought, & fully agree that the House would benefit by the suggested improvements, but at the moment have not the money to carry it out. The existing fire escape has recently been made stronger.

The House is financially embarrassed at the present time, chiefly with regards to repairs to the building which necessitated an expenditure of over £900/-

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The Scheme is financially embarrassed at the present time, chiefly with regards to repairs to the building which necessitated an expenditure of over £900/-

12th August, 1952.

Dear Mrs. Bannister,

I am making enquiries to find out if a Government grant is possible to the Manor House Home. My first impression would be that it is not, as the Government is precluded by the Government of Ireland Act from making contributions to any religious body, and it would seem to me that the Manor House Home would come under this prohibition. However, I am making enquiries and will write you further.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN MAGNESS

Mrs. G.S. Bannister,
Haycroft,
Lisburn,
Co. Antrim.

A.S.C.
Joseph.
JQ

13th August, 1950

Dear Mrs. Bannister,

In further reply to your letter of the 11th August, it is possible in certain circumstances for this Ministry to make grants to voluntary homes such as the Manor House Home under the Children and Young Persons Act (N.I.), 1950. I enclose a memorandum setting out the conditions under which such a grant may be made. If there is any further information you would like please do not hesitate to ask.

Yours sincerely,

BRIAN MAGNESS

Mrs. G.S. Bannister,
Maycroft,
Lisburn,
Co. Antrim.

MANOR HOUSE HOME, LISBURN

(IRISH CHURCH MISSIONS)

TELEPHONE: LISBURN 2120

Matron:
MH 1

Chairman of Committee:

Canon J. S. TAYLOR.

Mrs G. L. Bannister. M.B.E.

Hon. Treasurer:

Mr. R. GURD,

Northern Bank, Lisburn.

Secretary:

R. J. BARCLAY,

*24 Bannockburn Road, Lisburn.
16 Clewellyn Avenue.*

We hereby certify that the above voluntary organisation, having expended £1000 (one thousand pounds) in the last five years towards necessary repairs and improvements, now finds itself unable to pay any portion of the cost of work for which a grant is now being asked for.


There is a debt of over £600 (six hundred pounds) due to Bank.

G. S. Bannister . Hon. Chairman.*R. Gurd* Hon. Treasurer.

the time of L.S. & the
the I. B. R. has no funds.
X [Copies of the latest B.M. balance
sheet reports are to be furnished.
During the discussion I formed
the opinion that these premises
are very old & that extensive
repairs, for which they have
not the money, are necessary
& I would wish the local
committee will be able to
face up to the expenditure.
I would therefore like to have
the opinion of an architect
on the premises before we
make any grant.

X Mrs. Bannister, when I spoke to her
on 6.2.53, was surprised to learn that
the Ministry had not received any documents
from I.C.H. Apparently she had written
to her soon immediately following her visit
to Stormont. She said she wd. approve them again. 2/6/53.
D.J.C. agrees that we should not
these premises with an architect
before making any grant.

D/P.C.
 Understand
 Antine W.A. have an
 adverse report on this
 home. We will defer
 our inspection until
 we see what they
 have to say.

 13

Miss Forrest,

To rec. $\frac{5/14}{.5}$
 13

D/P.C. I have talked to Mr. Millock
 & to Mr. Hilditch D.W.O. or appears
 there was a rumor about children being
 beaten, that the children, rather
 subsequently denied this & denied hearing
 stated the rumor. The children did
 find the food mountains & dull the
 not sufficient in quantity. This
 is believed to have improved since.
 Mrs. Bonniester is aware of all this, I
 believe. The other complaint is of
 insufficient staff. Mr. Hilditch on one
 visit found only a senior girl in charge.
 KMF 4/2/53

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 Nov 4/2/53

T.168

Visit to Manor House Home, Lisburn, with Mr. Jackson
and Mr. Gibbs on 6th February, 1953.

I have read Mr. Jackson's memo, having previously made my own notes in rough. I agree with what he has written.

There is insufficient and unsuitable staffing. The Matron, MH 47 is apparently untrained and inexperienced; the Assistant Matron's experience is, I think, solely in this Home. The Matron has only been there a few months and she and the Assistant Matron, who has been there longer, do not hit it off together. There is also a resident domestic who is stated to be a good worker, and a sewing woman who comes on three mornings a week and makes and mends clothes for the children. Mr. Jackson has described how the staff were congregated in the kitchen. The atmosphere was most peculiar. Mrs. Bannister made no attempt to introduce the Matron, whom we now saw for the first time. I went forward and spoke to her and shook hands, but have the same impression that the staff were "averting their eyes" from us and disassociating themselves from our visit. Why any person, let alone two persons, should be standing up to darn a pile of children's socks I cannot imagine. The whole episode had a most unreal air, as if they were protesting "This is the way we have to work". Why shouldn't one of them take her darning and sit with the children? There was formerly a daily domestic. In order to economise Mrs. Bannister cut her down to three days per week after which she wouldn't do any work properly.

There seemed little evidence of any standard of child care, though Mrs. Bannister says the Assistant Matron is "good with the children". I think she may be, and she certainly looked more alive and interested than MH 47 Also her "young man" was chopping sticks in a shed with two of the boys helping him and he seemed on friendly terms there and is probably helpful in providing a man's interest about the place.

The children, though not unhappy looking, seemed dull and I thought them unresponsive and not so much ill-mannered as un-mannered. They are just untrained. One good point is that they attend outside organisations such as Scouts and Guides and have the appropriate uniforms. Their clothing seemed comfortable and sensible, but some outdoor clothing seen in the cloakroom was a bit shabby.

The building and equipment conveyed a most depressing impression of dilapidation and dirt. Practically every part of the Home needed a really thorough cleaning and polishing. The kitchen and dining-room were the only places that looked at all clean. The domestic hot water boiler is very old and wasteful as doors are missing from it. It heats the kitchen instead of the water I should imagine. The gas stove in the kitchen seemed very small to cook for such numbers, but we did later smell something being fried for tea. Mrs. Bannister asked whether I thought there ought to be tablecloths. She seemed not to have given it a thought before we mentioned it. I suggested seersucker which is quite cheap and doesn't need ironing.

There are no W.C.s, basins or baths for children's use on the first floor, where the bedrooms are. The toilets used by the children are those furthest from them and are extremely cold. Two W.C.s open off the room where the bath and sink are. The pans are in bad condition and should be replaced. The sink is too high and too big. The two other combined bath-basin-W.C. rooms are used, one by the Matron and Assistant Matron and the other by the maid. I think that the one on the ground floor might well be used by all three staff and the one upstairs be used by the children for bathing, washing and night W.C.

The bedrooms were as described, cold and bleak and drab, and the beds looked most uncomfortable. In one room was an iron bedstead with a broken spring drooping on the floor. It looked very "slummy". I suggested removing it as it was obviously no use there, but Mrs. Bannister said it would have to

T.168

MEMORANDUMManor House Children's Home, Lisburn.

I visited this Home on Friday afternoon last in company with Miss Forrest, the Ministry's Children's Inspector, and Mr. Gibbs, an Architect on the staff of the Ministry of Health and Local Government. The object of the visit was to survey the premises and take stock of the general situation, especially with regard to the children in the Home and how they fared, so as to form an idea whether or not the Ministry would be justified in making a grant towards -

- (a) fire protection works - estimated cost £400
- (b) a new sewer - estimated cost £300, and
- (c) the surfacing of the playground - estimated cost £300,

as requested recently by the Board of Management.

Mrs. Bannister and Mr. McAdoo, both of whom are members of the Board, met us upon our arrival at the Home and conducted us on a tour of the premises. We were taken first of all into a large room on the left of the hall - a room which Mrs. Bannister explained served as a boardroom and also as a dining hall on occasions such as Christmas when special parties were held for the children. There was a musty odour in this room which suggested that it was rarely used; it was also rather untidy and appeared to me in need of cleaning or at least dusting. A large-sized black dog on wheels stood at one side of the room and it seemed rather strange that it was not more readily accessible to the children.

The playroom on the opposite side of the hall was our next port of call. This room, equally large and inadequately heated, was occupied by a dozen or so children seated at old school desks. They were all very much engrossed in dog-eared comics. All were comfortably clad, had pleasant manners and looked reasonably well-nourished. Their ages ranged from 2 to 11 or thereabouts, with a sturdy looking girl of 14 who had been reading or explaining the comics to five or six of the younger ones. There was a stove at one side of this room surrounded by a fireguard. It seemed to me to give insufficient heat, but the children did not look cold and were apparently content to sit at the desks some distance from the stove. No toys or playthings were available in the room at the time of our visit.

From what I saw of the remainder of the Home, conditions are far from good. The entire premises are very much in need of cleaning and renovation; the dormitories and staff quarters with their shabby and sagging beds present a most unattractive appearance and there is a general untidiness, if not dirtiness, which suggests that the staff is insufficient, incompetent or lazy. In one room there is a number of toys of all kinds piled in a large heap and in several others children's books, many of them much dilapidated, are stacked in disorderly array on shelves. Worst of all, perhaps, is the children's dining-room, which has two stout plain wooden tables more like carpenters' benches than dining tables. Tablecloths, I was informed, are never used.

In an icily cold dormitory we found a young girl in bed. Her face was flushed and she obviously had a high temperature. In reply to a query from Miss Forrest she said she had a hot-water bottle in bed beside her. A young boy was asleep in another room, but we were informed that he was merely resting.

The whole house was very cold except in the kitchen where a well-tended stove was burning. It was here that we discovered the members of staff - the Matron, the Assistant Matron and the resident domestic. The first two were standing on their feet beside a table darning children's socks, while the domestic was busying herself at a sink. All three seemed determined to avert their eyes from strangers. It occurred to me that either the Matron or the Assistant Matron would have been better employed with the children in the playroom.

Ablution facilities for the children consist of a large sink such as is used for cleaning vegetables or saucepans. For sanitary purposes there are two small-sized W.C.s without seats. There are no urinals as such.

be repaired and didn't seem to see any point in moving it meanwhile. The bedclothes looked poor and drab. However, the children have got individual lockers. New stair lino and safety edges have been supplied. There were a lot of toys in a room in the basement but all in a jumble - probably gifts at Christmas time. Quite a lot of things might well have been in use in the playroom.

The bedwetters had been sleeping in an awful little room in the basement, quite away from everyone, but had been brought back to sleep with the others after we protested to Mrs. Bannister when she visited Stormont. Apparently their condition has improved since.

There is a good vegetable garden, which looked quite well kept, and Mrs. Bannister says they are able to sell vegetables and tomatoes, as well as supplying all the needs of the Home.

Mrs. Bannister seems not to have heard of the Regulations and asked would I send her a copy. The Register is not kept up to date as far as discharges are concerned. There is no other record book as far as we could ascertain. The Medical Officer does examine the children and gives attention also to the general condition of the Home, as he has reported to the Committee that it is dirty.

It would be interesting to know whether the Home ^{can be registered} ~~is~~ complying with Regulation 6.

Kathleen B. Foster
11th February, 1953.

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The children, though not unhappy looking, seemed dull and I thought them unresponsive and not so much ill-mannered as un-mannered. They are just untrained. One good point is that they attend outside organisations such as Scouts and Guides and have the appropriate uniforms. Their clothing seemed comfortable and sensible, but some outdoor clothing seen in the cloakroom was a bit shabby.

The building and equipment conveyed a most depressing impression of dilapidation and dirt. Practically every part of the Home needed a really thorough cleaning and polishing. The kitchen and dining-room were the only places that looked at all clean. The domestic hot water boiler is very old and wasteful as doors are missing from it. It heats the kitchen instead of the water I should imagine. The gas stove in the kitchen seemed very small to cook for such numbers, but we did later smell something being fried for tea. Mrs. Bannister asked whether I thought there ought to be tablecloths. She seemed not to have given it a thought before we mentioned it. I suggested seersucker which is quite cheap and doesn't need ironing.

There are no W.C.s, basins or baths for children's use on the first floor, where the bedrooms are. The toilets used by the children are those furthest from them and are extremely cold. Two W.C.s open off the room where the bath and sink are. The pans are in bad condition and should be replaced. The sink is too high and too big. The two other combined bath-basin-W.C. rooms are used, one by the Matron and Assistant Matron and the other by the maid. I think that the one on the ground floor might well be used by all three staff and the one upstairs be used by the children for bathing, washing and night W.C.

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T.168

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-2-

At the rear of the house there is a fair-sized playground which Mrs. Bannister would like to have surfaced with concrete or tar macadam. She would also like to provide play equipment such as swings, see-saws, etc. Mr. McAadoo, however, was opposed to a concrete surface on the grounds that it would injure the children's knees.

Mr. McAadoo also referred to the sewer, which he said was broken at a point in a hollow about 150 yards from the Home. He based his statement on the soggy condition of the ground in this hollow, but said later that the hollow was originally the bed of a lake or pond. He complained that the Local Authority had been informed of the defective sewer, but had shown no interest in the matter. In his opinion the Home should be disconnected from the existing main sewer and be linked up with the mains which have been laid to accommodate several new houses in the laneway leading to the Home. It seems desirable, however, that the Board of Management, before incurring any expenditure on a scheme of this kind, should obtain the advice of the Local Authority about the efficiency or otherwise of the present sewerage arrangements.

Neither Mrs. Bannister nor Mr. McAadoo impressed me favourably. Both too old for the job of managing a Voluntary Home, and quite apart from their wits' end to know how to raise money by voluntary subscription. They have very little idea of the standards required in Homes of the kind. Mr. McAadoo admitted to me that he had never been in any other Children's Home. He told me that he had been found a place on the Board of Management so that he could be in a position to give advice on gardening. As for Mrs. Bannister, her influence is limited to a visit to a Home run by the Irish Church Mission in Glendhu. If these two persons are the leading lights of the Board, then it is understandable that the Home should lack funds. A lively go-ahead body would soon find ways and means of stimulating interest and secure for it adequate financial support without recourse to the Local Authority.

As far as I can gather, the Irish Church Missions, with Headquarters in London and a sub Headquarters in Dublin, is associated with this at least is Mrs. Bannister's belief, although she admits that the financial support they get nowadays comes from nonconformist churches. If the Irish Church Mission is worth its salt it should be able to maintain a proper footing and it seems to me high time that they face their responsibilities.

In the course of conversation with Mrs. Bannister I learned that she had recently lost the services of a collector who regularly collected a year. This person has not yet been replaced, and Mrs. Bannister's plight that she should enquire of us to take on the job.

So far from recommending a Government grant that we should seriously consider the transfer of the Home to the Welfare Authority if the Irish Church Missions cannot do so within a reasonable time.

11th February, 1953.

Reference Manor House Childrens HomeM. Jackson.

The home appears structurally, in a fair state of repair. The roof, walls and floors are generally sound and weatherproof. It is, however, in a very dilapidated condition.

Painting + decorating is necessary, practically throughout, internally and externally. Certain walls + ceilings need replastering and the stucco rendering outside is starting to break away in large sections.

The wooden fire escape appears to me to be very insecure. The treads are becoming rotten and are covered with green moss, which in the event of a fire could be highly dangerous. The combustion stoves for heating are old and inefficient.

The outbuildings are in a very bad state of repair. I understood from the Committee members that the drainage leaks. If more information is wanted regarding this I think the local Sanitary Inspector would know about it.

P. Gibbs

9.2.53.

in the way of providing voluntary homes, and they dislike having to pay these grants. The argument I eventually sold them - at all events for the time being - is that these grants are only paid to Homes that were functioning satisfactorily before the Welfare Authorities were set up, and if we allowed such Homes to close down it would only mean, in the long run, that Welfare Authorities would have to provide and run additional homes themselves, which would be quite uneconomic. The authorities who are hardest to satisfy are the outlying ones - Londonderry Co. Borough, and Londonderry County, Tyrone, Armagh, etc. This is understandable as they feel that the majority of these Voluntary Homes are round about Belfast and Co. Antrim, and therefore those counties, only, get any benefit there is to be had from them. The fact that Belfast and Antrim are much less wholehearted in their objections to the scheme only increases the suspicion of the outside authorities.

The facts in this case are as follows:

Immediately after the passing of the Act all these homes applied, as they were bound to do, for re-registration, and we had to adopt the usual course in such circumstances - that is to register them all pending inspection.

We were not terribly impressed with this application when we got it; references in the report to the need for "more prayer, interest and financial support" and to "our wonderful matron battling bravely against all difficulties" and "achieving under God a marvellous measure of success" scarcely suggested a hard-headed and businesslike committee running a well organised home; and when we were able to inspect the place our worst fears were realized.

The following extract from Mr. Jackson's report gives the general picture:

'From what I saw of the remainder of the Home, conditions are far from good. The entire premises are very much in need of cleaning and renovation; the dormitories and staff quarters with their shabby and sagging beds present a most unattractive appearance and there is a general untidiness, if not dirtiness, which suggests that the staff is insufficient, incompetent or lazy. In one room there is a number of toys of all kinds piled in a large heap and in several others children's books, many of them much dilapidated, are stacked in disorderly array on shelves. Worst of all, perhaps, is the children's dining-room, which has two stout plain wooden tables more like carpenters' benches than dining tables. Tablecloths, I was informed, are never used.

In an icily cold dormitory we found a young girl in bed. Her face was flushed and she obviously had a high temperature. In reply to a query from Miss Forrest she said she had a hot-water bottle in bed beside her. A young boy was asleep in another room, but we were informed that he was merely resting.

The whole house was very cold except in the kitchen where a well-tended stove was burning. It was here that we discovered the members of staff - the Matron, the Assistant Matron and the resident domestic. The first two were standing on their feet beside a table darning children's socks, while the domestic was busying herself at a sink. All three seemed determined to avert their eyes from strangers. It occurred to me that either the Matron or the Assistant Matron would have been better employed with the children in the playroom.

Ablution facilities for the children consist of a large sink such as is used for cleaning vegetables or saucepans. For sanitary purposes there are two small-sized W.C.s without seats. There are no urinals as such.'

T.168

IRISH MISSION ASKS FOR MORE SUPPORT

NORTHERN

WHIG.

10.2.53.

I spoke to Mrs Bennister about this, as she had suggested we might go to see Mr Horan if we were in Dublin & had not mentioned that he was coming here. He attended the Home Office quite often. She had some general conversation with him about the Home but apparently did not tell him particularly about our visit & our criticisms. She did tell me however that there has been a letter meeting since our visit & all the members are confident that they can & should carry on the Home & that they can bring it up to scratch. The Motion

MH 47 leaves tomorrow

"the Anti Motion will be

A COLPORTEUR of the Society of Irish Church Missions while carrying on his work in a remote district in the South, when told by a rector that the Society workers were not popular because they were too controversial, retorted that Jesus Christ was one of the most controversial figures of all time.

Mr James Wheatley, who related the story at the afternoon session of the I.C.M. annual meetings in Belfast yesterday, said he could not understand why some Protestants attended the Clonard Roman Catholic mission in the city, and were perhaps contemplating accepting a doctrine which was full of delusions and errors, after being brought up in the Protestant and reformed faith with its spiritual freedom.

The Rev. J. B. Lowe, who presided, posed the question— "Is a mission to Roman Catholics necessary and justifiably necessary?" He said that many people would say that the Roman Catholics were after all Christians, and there were so many heathen people in the world to-day, and why should they bother about Roman Catholics.

Mr. Lowe said that anyone who visited the South and West of Ireland would be convinced that the mission was necessary.

An appeal for additional finance to provide more colporteurs to help spread the Gospel in these parts of Ireland was made by Mr. Lowe.

The Rev. G. G. Thompson, presenting the financial report, said there had been a fall in the returns from the Belfast district, the total of which was only a fraction of what it should be from such a populous area.

Mr. B. Livingstone, colporteur, and the Rev. M. Handford, assistant superintendent of I.C.M. Headquarters, Dublin, also spoke on the need for increased support.

Many conversions

Speaking at last night's session, the Rev. T. R. Horan, Irish superintendent, said that with the single object of spreading the Gospel among the Roman Catholics of Eire, the I.C.M. had many wonderful cases of conversion in recent years. In the few years since he joined the organization, Mr. Horan said, 10 converts had left the Church of Rome to become Protestant ministers in England or Ireland, and in the same period six priests, two of them Italian, had been converted through the efforts of I.C.M. workers. One of these priests, once a Roman Catholic missionary in China, was due to sail soon to become a Protestant missionary in South America.

carrying on membership with a daily domestic added to help her. Mrs Bennister also said she herself would go in and give as much help as she could. She hopes to get two retired missionaries (not with becoming age) over from England to run the Home & has written to HQ about this a week ago.

10/2/53

Visit to Manor House Home, Lisburn,
with Miss Forrest
on Thursday, 12th February, 1953.

As Mr. Jackson and Miss Forrest visited this Home on the 6th February and have written a full description of the conditions in the Home on that day, I do not propose to write a detailed report. Miss Forrest stated that the Home had obviously been thoroughly cleaned since her last visit and it appeared to me to be reasonably clean. Mrs. Bannister, a member of the Committee, arrived at the Home shortly after our arrival and showed us round the premises. She stated that she was visiting the Home every day and sometimes twice a day. She also stated that she had helped in cleaning the Home. The premises obviously require re-decoration and renovation which will involve considerable expenditure.

There were fourteen children resident on the day of our visit, one of whom was a sixteen months old baby and another a four year old girl. The remainder were children of school age. The children were all well-nourished and I thought happy and active. Their clothing was comfortable, although one or two of the boys were a trifle ragged.

Since Miss Forrest's previous visit the Matron had left and the staff consisted of the Assistant Matron and a Resident Domestic Servant. This is clearly insufficient staff to care for fourteen children, some of whom are under five years of age.

I noted that pillows were not provided on the beds. Some new bedclothes had been acquired and Miss Forrest stated that the appearance of the beds had been improved.

I agree with Miss Forrest's comments about the bathroom accommodation. It was not a cold day, but I think that in cold weather the rooms, apart from the kitchen, would be exceedingly cold, and if the premises are to be used some form of additional heating will be required. However, it was clear that a very considerable attempt had been made to improve the conditions as far as this was possible without the expenditure of any considerable sum of money. Mrs. Bannister, I think, has been responsible for the improvements and has clearly devoted personal time and effort to this end. However enthusiastic her efforts, it is obviously impossible to run a Children's Home on these lines. Some younger and more active Committee members should interest themselves in the Home. The main lack is obviously money and in my opinion a considerable sum of money will be required. Additional staff, e.g., a Matron and at least one other in addition to the present Assistant Matron, will be necessary. Given money and additional staff it would be possible to convert the premises into a satisfactory Children's Home.

The Assistant Matron appeared to me to be naturally good at looking after children, but obviously one person cannot run a Children's Home with the help of one resident Domestic.

I understand that as a temporary measure a daily help is also employed.

Norman J. Simpson.
17th Feb., 1953.

S/BI

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S/BI

Society for Irish Church Missions.

(WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED THE SCRIPTURE READERS & IRISH SOCIETY.)

11. Buckingham Street, Strand, London, W.C.2.

TELEPHONE: TRAFALGAR 4257.

Your Ref. T-168.

10th February, 1953.

Mr. Dunlop,
Minister of Home Affairs,
Stormont, Belfast.

Dear Sir,

I have been asked by Mrs. G. S. Bannister of Haycroft, Lisburn, Co. Antrim, who is connected with the Society's Manor House Home at Lisburn, to send you the Society's Income and Expenditure Accounts for the past two years, and I have pleasure in enclosing these for your perusal.

I understand that you were seeking information regarding the number of Homes of the Society. We have none in England, but two in Ireland. The Manor House Home mentioned above, at Lisburn, and a Nursery for children from birth up to three years of age at Boley, Monkstown, Eire.

The Society is also interested in educational work in Dublin, and supplies the teaching staff for Mrs. Smyly's Homes, consisting of the Boys' Home, Grand Canal Street, Dublin; the Elliott Home Dublin; the Birds' Nest, Kingstown. In addition we supply the teaching staff for two outdoor schools, one at Mountjoy Street, and the other at Grand Canal Street, Dublin. The Society has been doing work amongst children for almost 100 years, and thousands of them have passed through our hands in the course of the years. May have attained to positions of trust and eminence.

If we can give you any further information I shall be glad to hear from you.

Yours faithfully,

V. B. Patterson

PERSONAL CONFIDENTIAL

Honor House Children's Home, Dublin.

A.S.C.,

Dr. Simpson's report on this Home is not so condemnatory as those made less than a week earlier by Miss Forrest and myself. Nevertheless I am far from satisfied with the general conditions and am still of opinion that the Committee, if it is to do a worthwhile job for the children, must have an infusion of new blood.

Information now to hand from the London Mission of the Irish Church Missions indicates that they have two Children's Homes — one in Kiburn and the other at Boley, Kinkstown, Eire. Other activities include the supply of teaching staff for these additional Homes and two Schools in Eire.

Statements of accounts covering the Mission work in 1950/51 and 1951/52 have now been furnished which shows that there is little prospect of financial assistance being available to Honor House to carry out any of the much needed improvements. In a way this is unfortunate since the Home, if it were doing its job well enough would be eligible for a grant, but I do not see that we would possibly consider making a grant now — at least not until there is some evidence that the Committee of Management is fully capable of helping itself.

It seems to me, therefore, that we should have a heart-to-heart talk with the Committee at an early date and endeavour to make the members realize that it is not a Government grant they need so much as a series of schemes which would secure for the Home a much larger annual income than is being raised at present.

S.D. $\frac{19}{2}$
33.

*Received from D.A. Brown**Copy of Report sent to I.L.H., London by Home Office on 15/3/55.*REPORT OF THE MANOR HOUSE HOME COMMITTEE.**I. PREMISES:**

The Manor House is structurally sound. The bedrooms, living rooms are in reasonably good repair, but all of the other rooms need repairs (mostly re-plastering) and repainting: It is twelve years since the exterior was repainted: part of the roof is in urgent need of re-asphalting and re-leading; existing W.C.'s and Bathrooms are defective and more must be provided. Fire escapes and precautions are non-existent, and the Authorities insist on their installation. Heating is inadequate, and could be provided efficiently only by central heating. As long ago as 1948 it was decided that the yard - the only out-door playspace - should be concreted and equipped as a playground, but lack of funds prevented this. The outbuildings should also be converted to wet weather covered playgrounds.

The electric wiring is inadequate and in need of overhaul.

2. EQUIPMENT:

Nearly all furniture and equipment is inadequate and defective. This is particularly so in the kitchen, where cooking, washing and food-storage facilities are in need of complete renewal. Modern standards would require a large cooker of the "Esse" or "Aga" type with sufficient cooking utensils, new sinks and draining boards and a complete set of convenient cupboards for food and equipment.

Practically an entire new set of crockery, glass and cutlery is urgently needed.

If modern standards are to be reached a refrigerator is necessary.

There are no chairs, tables, cupboards or bookshelves in the childrens' dayroom, and all are necessary.

- 2 -

Curtains and floor-coverings are insufficient throughout most of the rooms.

Some beds are worn out, others must be repaired. There are not enough beds or bedding if the home were full. Most of the mattresses are beyond repair, some are in an insanitary condition and there is a lack of the rubber sheets and draw sheets so necessary for small children.

3. LAUNDRY:

There are no proper facilities for washing or ironing. A properly equipped laundry and sewing room is a necessity.

4. COST OF REPAIRS, IMPROVEMENTS and REEQUIPMENT:

It is impossible to make even an approximate estimate of the costs of minimum essential repairs, improvements and re-equipment until a Schedule has been agreed and contractors' estimates have been obtained, but from the information in their possession the Committee are of the opinion that the costs could not be less than £3,500 and possibly as much as £5,000.

5. FOOD:

The accounts show that in 1951 expenditure on all food, including milk, was about 10/- per person per week, including the staff, and in 1952 about 13/- per person, an amount far below the minimum for proper nourishment and a balanced diet.

6. CLOTHING:

The children's clothing consists mostly of Castoffs given by sympathisers, ill-fitting, and patched, so long as it will hold together. There is not enough ~~new~~ clothing to allow proper changing of soiled, damaged or damp wear so that the staff cannot keep the children in decent, and sometimes not even in clean clothes. The footwear is similarly

- 3 -

deficient, only £217 was spent on new clothing in 1952.

7. STAFF:

At present the staff consists of an Acting Matron employed at £3:5:0 per week, a general maid, a cleaner for 3 hours on five days weekly, a sewing woman, also 3 hours five days weekly and a part time Caretaker-Gardner. This is far short of what is essential for the proper supervision and care of the children. A Matron, an Assistant Matron, a Cook, two maids and a handy-man-Gardner are required. These could look after 25 children, a number which the Manor House can accommodate, and which Welfare Experts consider the minimum for which a home can be run economically, whereas for the last two years the home has been able to keep only between 14 and 18. The lack of money has made it impossible either to pay salaries such as will attract experienced staff or, indeed, to employ sufficient staff and not only the discipline and welfare of the children but also the condition of the equipment and premises have suffered accordingly.

8. INCOME:

The Hon. Treasurer has made a careful examination of cost and finds that at today's prices and salaries an income of £3,800 is necessary for the maintenance of 25 children, including the employment of two collectors.

9. CONCLUSION:

The Manor House Home can no longer clothe, nourish and care for the children entrusted to it unless a large sum of money is spent on repairs, re-equipment and improvements, and the annual income is very greatly increased. Even a standard of living for the children that was satisfactory in the past is no longer considered tolerable. A Government

- 4 -

inspection recently commented unfavourably upon the Home, and it is possible that the Authorities will insist on the closing of the Orphanage unless conditions are quickly improved.

For practical purposes the income of the Manor House Home comes from voluntary subscriptions which have been falling recently and has been insufficient for efficient maintenance so that the Home has deteriorated. The falling value of money together with rising costs have made it impossible to make good the depreciation, and much more so to carry out the improvements required to maintain modern standards.

Present Financial and Social conditions are such that it is absolutely impossible for the Committee to obtain from voluntary subscriptions or by its own efforts the money required to continue the work of the Manor House Home.

MANOR HOUSE HOME, LISBURN

(IRISH CHURCH MISSIONS)

TELEPHONE: LISBURN 2120

T. 168
9 APR 53

Matron:

Miss ~~SCOTT~~ Millar.

Hon. Treasurer:

Secretary:

Nelson

Chairman of Committee:

Catharine TAYLOR.

Mr. R. GURD.

Northern Bank, Belfast.

Phone 57710

Mr. R. J. BARCLAY.

24 Bechemers Walk, Lisburn.

16. Kewellby Avenue,

Lisburn.

8th April 1953Mrs. G. S. Bannister. M.B.E.
Phone Lisburn 3183.The Secretary
Ministry of Home Affairs
Stormont.
Belfast.

Dear Sir, The Committee of Manor.

House Home. have directed me to enquire if our application for a grant. to enable the Fine Authority's requirements to be carried out. a necessary playground for the children to be made. etc. has had the attention of your Ministry, and what the position is at the present time. After our deputation had visited Stormont, at your suggestion and had given full particulars. Officials from your Ministry inspected the House, and no doubt, would report fully, regarding conditions; it is hoped to have an early reply to this enquiry and that favourable consideration has been given to our application.

Yours faithfully

For the Committee of Manor House Home

R. J. Barclay
Secretary

Manor House Children's Home, Lisburn.

c.w.
to see further
development
in committee. 9/12/53.

See Kirk 21/4/53

Memo.

Mr. O'Neill and I travelled to this Home on Friday afternoon, 17th April, 1953, where we met the Management Committee by appointment for the purpose of discussing the question of a grant under Section 118 of the Children and Young Persons Act (N.I.), 1950.

Immediately prior to the meeting we availed ourselves of the opportunity for a quick survey of the premises and found conditions reasonably clean if somewhat spartan especially in the matter of floor coverings. A young man whom I know to be the Home's financial officer acted as our guide.

A girl of 13 was in bed in the sick-bay suffering from mumps. She said Dr. Johnston of Lisburn was attending her.

When we were admitted to the Board Room there ^{were} five ladies and four gentlemen present; our guide formed one of the latter group.

One of the gentlemen who acted as Chairman explained that he was doing so.

the request of Mrs. Baunister who, although present at the meeting, was not fully recovered from a recent illness.

Mr. O'Neill was then invited to address the meeting. In his remarks he drew attention to the Regulations (S.R. & O. 1952, No. 131) which Voluntary Homes are required to observe and to the conditions under which grants can be made available to voluntary organisations. He mentioned particularly that before making any grant the Ministry would require to be satisfied that the finances of the organisation were such as would enable it to carry on its functions as regards general maintenance and management.

Some discussion then took place about the Home's connection with the Irish Church Missions and that body's inability to make sufficient grants for the upkeep of the Home. At this stage the young man who had earlier acted as our guide made some remarks which indicated his dissatisfaction with the present state of affairs. He alleged that if, say, £20 were raised in Dublin only a small proportion of this sum would accrue to the Manor House Home.

One of the ladies - a youngist woman - then stated that she had only recently become a member of the Committee and that when she first visited the Home after her appointment she was shocked by the conditions obtaining there. She also declared that she along with other members of Committee were completely in the dark about the Regulations and other conditions mentioned by Mr. O'Neill. This lady apparently had the support of some of the other ladies who were present. It was evident that they were critical of the general system of management and there is some reason to hope that they have sufficient energy and initiative to remedy the position.

The Chairman made notes of the Regulations in question and also of the Home Office Memo. on the conduct of Children's Homes with a view to procuring copies for the Committee. He also stated that consideration would be given to the appointment of an Architect to prepare estimates of the cost of the Fire Authority's requirements since the re-surfacing of the playgrounds with the intention of making re-newed application for Government grant.

Mr. O'Neill and I then withdrew. Another lady member of Committee escorted us from the premises and made it quite clear that she has realised the need for the Committee to pursue a more live policy than has been the case hitherto. We both wished her good luck in her efforts.

The following points were noted during the discussion with the Committee:-

Manor House is the only I.C.H. Home in N.I.

It is intended mainly for children of mixed marriages if the father is Protestant and consents to the children being received into the Home.

The consent of parent or guardian is always obtained before a child is admitted.

No R.C. children are received.

No Medical Officer has been appointed, but Dr. Johnston of Lisburn is called upon when the necessity arises.

The present staff comprises the Matron, a resident maid and a gardener. An Assistant Matron, who is said to be very capable, is due to take up duty shortly.

There are 14 children in the Home at

present. It has accommodation for
a total of 30.

There are now two collectors in
the service of the Committee.

The sewerage system has been declared
satisfactory by the local Sanitary Authority.

[Signature]
20
4
53.

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Notes of discussion at the Ministry
on 22.5.53

T.168.

Present :-

Mr. J. B. O'Neill
Mr. J. Dunslop
Mr. E. Jackson
Miss K. B. Forrest

Ministry
of
Home
Affairs

MH 52

MH 51

Committee of
Management
Hansen House
Children's Home,
Lisburn.

MH 52

made it clear at the outset that she and her two colleagues were approaching the Ministry without the knowledge of their fellow members of the Committee. She also stated that the members of the delegation were no concerned about the development state of affairs at the Home lest they have travelled to Dublin to discuss the position with the Superintendent of the Irish Child Welfare Service. This gentleman, it appears, disclaimed any responsibility for Hansen House and declared that the I.C.W. could not afford to keep the Home in being.

On the question of transferring the Home as a going concern to the Local Welfare Authority, A.D.C. explained that since the Home had been requested by Mrs. Stammers to the I.C.W. for use as an orphanage, a Court Order would be necessary if the I.C.W. wished to transfer their responsibility to another organisation such as the Welfare Authority.

MH 51

stated that a report had been sent by the Management Committee to H.M.G. in London on 15.3.53 (copy of report attached) and she mentioned that I.C.W. were due to have a meeting on 16.5.53 to consider the matter of further grants. Nothing further had been heard from H.M.G., but their files indicated that they have no money available for the Home.

MH 53

said that appears one lady of the Management Committee thinks the Home is quite satisfactory - the other lady being most dissatisfied with the conditions. Only the Mother, a young woman, is present in the Home at night. The other members of staff consist of two daily help.

MH 52

explained that the Home was already £800 in debt and that she recently organised a Coffee Party which raised £30 for the purchase of clothing for the children. Many of their former garments have been destroyed by storage in the damp basement.

All the members of the delegation favoured transfer of the Home to the Dublin Welfare Authority.

Ultimately it was agreed that extracts from the inspection report should be sent to the Ctee (addressed to Mr. Ginn) with a stiff covering letter intimating that resignation of the Home would have been with drawn if the conditions were not made right within a reasonable

series. Copies of the correspondence should be sent to the I.C.W. H.M.G. in London. This minute was submitted to the I.C.W. for their consideration and then submitted to the parent committee of affairs. 22/5/53

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Ministry of Home Affairs,
Stormont, Belfast.

A.S.C.

Here are some brief summary impressions of the different Voluntary Children's Homes.

- | | | |
|----------------------|--|---|
| <p>No</p> <p>1.)</p> | <p><u>Dr. Barnardo's</u>
<u>National organisation</u></p> | <p>Macedon:- For school-age children. Well-staffed, well-equipped, excellent care and training. Children attend outside schools.</p> |
| <p>2.)</p> | <p></p> | <p>Manor House:- The same. For babies and toddlers.</p> |
| <p>3.</p> | <p><u>Glendhu:-</u>
<u>Local Voluntary Committee</u></p> | <p>Very high ratio of staff to children, very good quality staff. Many voluntary helpers in addition. Excellent care for all ages of children, boys up to about 9 years, girls up to school-leaving age. Equipment and activities excellent. Whole atmosphere warm and homely.</p> |
| <p>4.</p> | <p><u>Johnston Memorial:-</u>
<u>School</u>
<u>Presbyterian</u>
<u>Voluntary Committee</u></p> | <p>Very good care by good quality staff. Children go to ordinary day schools and Technical schools. Natural, happy atmosphere. House a bit shabby, but homely.</p> |
| <p>5.</p> | <p><u>Moyallon:-</u>
<u>Charitable trust.</u>
Really a private charity of Richardson family, Quakers.</p> | <p>Will probably wind up as soon as present few teen-age girls are on their own feet. Very good care as in an ordinary family. Girls go to Grammar or Technical schools.</p> |
| <p>6.</p> | <p><u>Manor House, Lisburn:-</u>
<u>Voluntary Committee</u></p> | <p>Has been poverty-stricken both in money and ideas for some time past. Insufficient staff of poor quality in recent times. Equipment and maintenance very poor. Some improvement in recent weeks, but needs a large amount of money spent on, e.g., floor-coverings, heating, beds, tables, chairs and play equipment. Attend outside schools.</p> |
| <p>7.</p> | <p><u>Childhaven:-</u>
<u>Methodist</u>
<u>Voluntary Committee</u></p> | <p>Lively energetic young Matron is just in process of introducing a homelier atmosphere to this somewhat bare and spartan Home. Is not helped by the other 3 members of staff, who are little more than domestics. Would need more, better-quality staff and more equipment. Committee would be willing, I think, if helped. Have football field, swings and large playhall. Attend outside schools.</p> |
| <p>8.</p> | <p><u>Victoria Homes:-</u>
<u>Voluntary Committee.</u>
Combines a voluntary Home and Shamrock Lodge Training School.</p> | <p>Insufficient staff, and not of highest quality. Equipment and maintenance good, but one room full of lovely toys never seen to be entered or used by children. Happy enough atmosphere, however, and children lively. Attend outside schools.</p> |

/9. Thorndale:-

MANOR HOUSE HOME, LISBURN.

Mr. Dunlop and I visited this Home on 22nd May, 1953, arriving at about 2.30 p.m.

The Matron, **MH 54** was not in when we arrived but expected soon. We explained to the part-time domestic who admitted us who we were, and while waiting for **MH 54** we walked through the ground floor rooms and out to the yard where three or four children were playing, some back from junior school, one little girl not yet attending school. **MH 54** arrived later and took us all over the premises. We found that she had been back a little while and apparently did not know we were there, as she had gone straight into the "Boardroom" to see a man who was waiting for her there.

Although the premises generally were cleaner than previously, ^{and} a certain amount of painting had been done, the state of disorder and untidiness was appalling. The standard of housekeeping was extremely low. My view is that the Matron's own personal standards of hygiene and orderliness are low, and this is reflected in the Home. Her own bedroom, into which I only glanced when she opened the door at my request, was incredibly untidy, the dressing-table cluttered, and the bed not made.

1st Floor - Children's Bedrooms

Floors were clean and beds made. New quilts have been supplied. Most mattresses were thin and sagging, and springs sagging. Some mattresses had been re-made and springs repaired and Matron told us they were all being sent in sequence. Not all the children have lockers; there are only one or two in each room. No chairs. Sheets appeared to be clean. There did not seem to be any underblanket between the sheet and rubber sheet. This would be very cold and clammy. There are no pillows. There is no floor covering except an odd piece of lino here and there.

I had suggested verbally to Mrs. Bannister that the children should be allowed to use the Matron's bathroom and W.C., which is nearest their dormitories, (or else the maid's bathroom, which is on the ground floor and not at present in use as there is no resident maid), but this had not been done and the children's bath and W.C.s and basins are still as far as possible almost from their bedrooms.

On this floor there is also the collector's room (not seen) and an Assistant Matron's bedroom not in use and calculated to put off anyone who might apply for the post. Dirty and untidy and utterly comfortless.

Matron's Quarters

The Matron's sitting-room was untidy and her bedroom as described. Her kitchen, which is not in use, provides yet another dumping ground for rubbish. The two little rooms behind her quarters were also untidy. One of them in which the baby **[REDACTED]** formerly slept is now used by the sewing woman. It is cramped and untidy and has in it a bed and two cots, one of them broken. We saw two mattresses which had come back from re-making but had not yet been put into use.

Ground Floor - Boardroom

Not seen.

Playroom

Very untidy, though floor clean. I would not mind an untidiness of toys, but this was littered with torn paper. A bleak room with no chairs. In fact there is hardly a chair anywhere in the children's quarters. Hardly any play material in this room.

Maid's bedroom

This is not in use but was clean and tidy. I dare say it might be used instead of the room upstairs for an Assistant Matron.

- 2 -

Maid's bathroom

Not in use.

Storeroom

A room with cupboards and a sink. Not in use, very shabby and dilapidated.

Children's bath etc.

One W.C. is being re-plastered and is not in use. The other is still very disagreeable although some effort has been made. A new seat has been fitted but the W.C. pan is disgusting-looking. There is one sink for the children to wash in and we were told that three of them wash in it at once. No individual towels are issued unless a child has a skin infection. We saw two towels hanging there, one filthy and one just dirty. The children have their own toilet bags with face-cloths, soap and toothbrush and paste. They are said to have one bath per week, but it was said rather doubtfully. Hair^{is} washed once a week too.

Cloakroom

Very untidy, partly because ill-equipped. Outdoor clothes flung just anyhow on to a shelf and some hung up. We saw a boy sitting on the floor changing his shoes. Everything was in a muddle.

Wash-place beside cloakroom

There are two basins here not in order. There appears to be re-plastering going on. The W.C. has had a new seat fitted.

Clothes store

Indescribable! There are large cupboards filled with old clothing in a wild jumble as if stirred with a stick. The dog appears to make his bed in one cupboard on ground level on a pile of children's clothing. The general impression given by this place and by the clothing seen on the children is that a child or someone on his behalf dives into the jumble, ferrets about for a garment that fits and pulls it out and puts it on.

Some clothing and blankets which had come from the laundry were in opened parcels on the floor; the top few garments didn't look as though they had been worth sending to the laundry. The "Sunday" clothes are hung in a cupboard off this room and are not well kept either.

Basement - Dining-room

They now have tablecloths on the tables, but no chairs, only backless forms to sit on. The tablecloths were fairly clean.

Kitchen

Reasonably clean but untidy. A saucepan of liquid (? stock) was on the floor without a lid. The kitchen sink is apparently used by Miss Miller to do whatever washing is not sent to the laundry and as this will usually be the bed-wetter's sheets and night wear it is not a very hygienic arrangement. She says she does this because she has to keep an eye on the dinner at the same time. She prepares all the meals. She told us they had had champ for dinner, and she would give them either baked beans or scrambled eggs for tea. Breakfast is porridge and bread and butter and tea.

There is ⁱⁿadequate and unsuitable storage space for food. The so-called pantry, which leads into what was formerly a laundry, was just chaotic; the impression was of a collection of rubbish with odds and ends of food, e.g., a bowl of dripping.

The cooking stove is too small for these numbers; it was formerly in the Matron's kitchen upstairs and has been used to replace a large stove not

- 3 -

yet sent for repair.

Staff dining-room

There is a suggestion to turn a small basement room into a staff dining-room. There are one or two bits of furniture in it and a small new piece of lino on the floor.

Toy store

This is an even worse jumble than before. It would not be possible to get to the far side of this room without removing the contents, which are mixed together, one thing on top of another - some quite nice things but will soon be destroyed if left.

Staff

At present there is the Matron as the only resident member of staff. There are two part-time domestics; one works from 9 till 1, the other from 2 till 6. The sewing woman is said to come every morning.

Children

The children looked well and healthy. They seemed quite happy, perhaps because they are left very much to their own devices. They were untidy in their clothes, buttons off and jerseys frayed and torn. The younger ones are said to start for bed at about 7.30, the eldest about 9.30 - 10. The eldest girl, Maud, who is about 13, sees to the younger ones as regards washing and undressing.

They still attend Girl Guides and Boys' Brigade.

Kathleen B. Foster
29/5/53

MANOR HOUSE HOME, LISBURN.

Mr. Dunlop and I visited this Home on 22nd May, 1953, arriving at about 2.30 p.m.

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Maid's bedroom

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A.S.C. ✓ To see attached report with which I agree.

This was my first visit & I was amazed at the condition of the premises both inside & out. No attempt had been made to make the best of what they had.

The furniture, such as it was, was in bad condition & I did not see a chair in any of the rooms used by the children.

I was surprised at the way the clothing was thrown on the floor or in the cupboards all mixed up together, old & new.

In my opinion the home should be closed until it is put in order by the present organization or taken over by some responsible body.

L.D. 1/6

COPYMinistry of Home Affairs,
Stormont, Belfast.Reference: T.168

8th June, 1953.

Sir,

The Ministry has been giving careful consideration to the question as to whether it would be justified in continuing to register the Manor House Home, Lisburn, as a voluntary home for the purposes of the Children and Young Persons Act, 1950.

As your Committee is aware, when an application was received at the end of last year for a grant from the Ministry to enable the Committee to carry out certain improvements to the Home an inspection of the Home was carried out by the Ministry. This inspection revealed that not only was the Home very inadequately staffed but that the conditions in the Home were extremely unsatisfactory. An informal discussion of the position was held with certain members of the Committee and subsequently a visit was paid to the Home by officers of the Ministry, who attended a meeting of the Committee.

At that meeting the Ministry pointed out to the Committee that an application for any grant from Government sources could not be entertained until the Ministry was satisfied that the Home was being satisfactorily run as a voluntary home for children. It was explained to the Committee that it was their responsibility to satisfy the Ministry that they were financially able to run and administer the Home, to provide the necessary equipment and adequate staff for looking after the children. The Committee promised to consider the Ministry's representations.

The Ministry has not received any further communication from the Committee and a further inspection of the premises was made on the 22nd May, 1953. This report, while it reveals certain very minor improvements, disclosed that the conditions in the Home are very far from being satisfactory.

The Ministry appreciates the work that has been done by the Committee in the past and is aware that the present conditions are no doubt due to lack of funds and to other circumstances not within the Committee's control. At the same time the Committee will appreciate that the Ministry has to perform its functions as set out in the appropriate Acts of Parliament, and that it cannot maintain on the register of Voluntary Homes any Home in which conditions are as unsatisfactory as they are in this case despite what the Committee has done.

Extracts from the officers' reports of the inspection are attached and the Ministry would be obliged if the Committee would give these their immediate attention. The Ministry understands that some members of the Committee are anxious to see the children cared for by a body with funds sufficient to maintain the Home in good condition and able to provide adequate care and maintenance for the children, whilst others are reluctant to see any change in the management.

Reluctantly, therefore, in view of the amount of voluntary work which has in the past been devoted to the upkeep of the Home and to the care of the children, the Ministry considers that changing conditions have made and will continue to make a satisfactory condition of affairs under the present system almost an impossibility. Unless the Committee can assure the Ministry

/that

that immediate steps will be taken to bring the Home up to the necessary standard I am afraid that the Ministry will have no alternative but to withdraw the Home from the register.

The Ministry is sure that the Committee will consider this letter immediately and will reply as quickly as is possible.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) J.B. O'NEILL

Assistant Secretary

R. Gurd, Esq.,

Northern Bank Ltd.,

LISBURN.

8th June, 1953.

Sir,

I enclose a copy of a letter which has to-day been sent to the local committee in charge of Manor House Home, Lisburn. I understand from the officers of the Ministry who attended the meeting of the local committee that although the Home belongs to your Missions the actual running of the Home is left to the local committee. It will be seen from the letter that the Ministry has asked the local committee to take immediate action in regard to the Home.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

*Miss Forward, ✓
To see. 8/9
1/53.*

(Sgd) J. B. O'Neill

Assistant Secretary

W.B. Patterson, Esq.,
Secretary,
Society for Irish Church
Missions,
11 Buckingham Street,
Strand,
LONDON, W.C.2.

*d.(v)
W.B.
8/6*

Ministry shall give the applicant notice in writing of the refusal.

(4) Where at any time it appears to the Ministry that the conduct of any voluntary home registered under sub-section (1) of this section is not in accordance with regulations made or directions given in that behalf under this Part of this Act or is otherwise unsatisfactory, the Ministry may, after giving to the persons carrying on the home not less than twenty-eight days' notice in writing of its proposal so to do, remove the home from the register.

(5) Any person who carries on a voluntary home in contravention of the provisions of sub-section (1) of this section shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds and to a further fine not exceeding two pounds in respect of each day during which the offence continues after conviction.

(6) Where—

(a) a voluntary home is carried on in contravention of the provisions of sub-section (1) of this section; or

(b) notice of a proposal to remove a voluntary home from the register is given under sub-section (4) thereof;

the Ministry may, notwithstanding that the time for any appeal under the next succeeding section has not expired or that such an appeal is pending, notify the welfare authority in whose area the home is situated, and require them forthwith to remove from the home and receive into their care under section eighty-one of this Act all or any of the children for whom accommodation is being provided in the home; and the welfare authority shall comply with the requirement whether or not the circumstances of the children are such that they fall within paragraphs (a) to (c) of sub-section (1) of the said section eighty-one and notwithstanding that any of the children may appear to the welfare authority to be over the age of seventeen. For the purposes of the provisions of this Act relating to payment of contributions to a welfare authority any such children received by a welfare authority in pursuance of a requirement under this section shall be deemed to be children received into the care of the authority under section eighty-one of this Act.

(7) For the purpose of carrying out the duty of the welfare authority under the last preceding sub-section,

that immediate steps will be taken to bring the Home up to the necessary standard I am afraid that the Ministry will have no alternative but to withdraw the Home from the register.

The Ministry is sure that the Committee will consider this letter immediately and will reply as quickly as is possible.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) J.B. O'NEILL

Assistant Secretary

R. Gurd, Esq.,
Northern Bank Ltd.,
LISBURN.

Honor House

T 168

Mr O'Neill

Have suggested a more
friendly and sympathetic
letter which I would like
to discuss with you

RMH

6-5-53

MANOR HOUSE HOME, LISBURN

(IRISH CHURCH MISSIONS)

TELEPHONE: LISBURN 2120

Metrop.
MH 1

Chairman of Committee:

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
CATH. MRS. TAYLOR.Mrs G.S. Bannister, M.B.E. Willowfield,
Belfast.

Hon. Treasurer:

Mr. R. GURD,
Northern Bank, KXXXSecretary:
R. J. BARCLAY,
24 Bachelors' Walk, Lisburn.

10th June, 1953.

Ref. T.168

The Secretary,
Ministry of Home Affairs,
Stormont,
Belfast.

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter of 8th inst. enclosing Report on the Home. A meeting is being called for Friday, 19th inst. when very full consideration will be given to the contents and I hope then to be in a position to answer the points you have raised.

May I add my personal thanks for going into the matter so exhaustively as I am one of the members who feel that we are not able to provide adequately for the children in our care from the funds at our disposal.

Yours faithfully,

R. Gurd Hon. Treas.

Min. Miller
o/c
P.R.
To see.

6.6.53

11/6/53

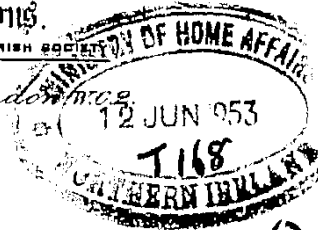
7.168. CW File with D/PC.

Society for Irish Church Missions.

(WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED THE SCRIPTURE READERS & IRISH SOCIETY)

11 Buckingham Street, Strand, London, W.C.2.

TELEPHONE: TRAFALGAR 4257.



10th June, 1953. (4)

The Secretary,
Ministry of Home Affairs,
Stormont,
Belfast.

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of the
8th instant together with copy of your
letter to the Manor House Home Committee.

At a Meeting of our Committee
recently, it was decided that the Irish
Church Missions, as such, could not offer
any financial help to the local Committee.

Yours faithfully,

V. B. Patterson

Financial Secretary

Society for Irish Church Missions.

(WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED THE SCRIPTURE READERS & IRISH SOCIETY.)

11. Buckingham Street, Strand, London, W.C.2.

TELEPHONE: TRAFALGAR 4257.

P.C.

I think we must accede to this request and give these people a chance to put the house in order, but we should impose a time limit of, say, two months.

20
J.E.
53

18th June 1953



The Secretary,
Ministry of Home Affairs,
Stormont,
Belfast.

Dear Sir,

Further to my letter of 10th June,
I am instructed to say that since writing
my Committee has further considered the
matter of the Manor House Home at Lisburn.

They are trying to see if fresh
arrangements can be made for the Home, and
are going into the possibility of reconstituting
the Trust.

This will, of course, take some while,
and we shall be glad if, in the meantime, no
action is taken by you.

Yours faithfully,

V. B. Patterson

Mr Willis would have to see
he may be doing for
consider the Home in the meantime.

Miss Miller This might drag on for years,
and I agree with Mr Willis.

Miss Forrest I wonder what they mean by "reconstituting"?
Does it mean a proposal to let the Home to get rid
of their responsibility for the Home? 20/6/53

D/P/C

P.C.

To see, please.

19
6
53.

T.168

22nd June, 1953.

Sir,

The Ministry received your letter of the 18th instant regarding the Manor House Home at Lisburn. The Ministry is glad to learn that your Committee are considering the possibility of reconstituting the Trust but I am afraid it does not appreciate the seriousness of the present position. As you will see by the report, copies of which were sent to you, there is at present only one member of the staff on duty at night and the Ministry could not allow such a state of affairs to continue more or less indefinitely. It was understood that a meeting of the local Committee was being held on the 19th instant to consider the whole position but the Ministry learns now that this meeting has been postponed for some reason. A letter is, however, being sent to the Committee to-day requesting them to take immediate steps to deal with the matter. I may say that it is the Ministry's intention to give notice to the Committee that the Certificate of Registration will be withdrawn as from the 1st August. If, of course, subsequently the Committee is in a position to convince the Ministry that it is able to administer the Home satisfactorily and in accordance with regulations the Ministry will be only too pleased to renew the Certificate of Registration. The present condition of the Home, however, is such that not only is the staff totally inadequate but a very considerable

present

/measure

measure of reconstruction will be necessary before
the Home can be considered satisfactory.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Assistant Secretary

W.B. Patterson, Esq.,
Financial Secretary,
Society for Irish Church
Missions,
11 Buckingham Street,
Strand,
LONDON, W.C.2.

T.168

22nd June, 1953.

Sir,

The Ministry was pleased to receive your letter of the 10th instant informing it that a special meeting of your Committee was being called for Friday the 19th instant to deal with the position of the Manor House Home, Lisburn. It has since learnt, however, that this meeting did not take place and that no arrangements have been made for any meeting to consider the Ministry's report on the Home. The Ministry views the position of the Home as extremely serious for not only is the Home in very great need of redecoration and reconstruction but the staff is totally inadequate to deal with the children. Your Committee does not seem to realise that there is only one adult person resident in the Home at night. I must therefore request you to convene a meeting of your Committee immediately to deal with the matter as the Ministry cannot continue to permit of any children being accommodated in a Home under such unsatisfactory conditions.

A letter has been sent to the Financial Secretary of the Society for Irish Church

/Missions

Missions stating the present intentions of the Ministry to withdraw the Certificate of the Home as from the 1st August next and a copy of this letter is attached for your information.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

Assistant Secretary

R. Gurd, Esq.,
Hon. Treasurer,
Manor House Home, Lisburn,
Northern Bank,
Willowfield,
BELFAST.

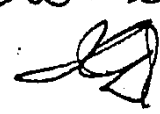
Mr. Gurd phoned me today
that arrangements had already
been made for two responsible
people to sleep in the home
until the end of July.

He also informed me that
he had telephoned the I. G. M.
in Dublin - that they agreed
that the only thing to do
was close the home immediately.
But that the certification
should be retained. I

pointed out that it would
be more satisfactory if the
certificates were returned as this
would avoid any chance of
the home being reopened
before they were in a
position financially &

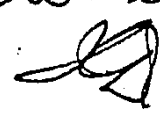
T.168

I phoned Mr. Gurd & informed him that the meeting on Monday 20th was informal & that no mention of it should be made at the Committee Meeting.

I also told him that the Committee might like to consider asking the Ministry not to take any action on its letter & that the Committee would agree to disperse the children, promise not to admit any more, & to hold the certificate until the Chairman returns when they could then consider what action they should take.  24/6.

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File Acc

MANOR HOUSE HOME, LISBURN

(IRISH CHURCH MISSIONS)

TELEPHONE: LISBURN 2120



MH 1

Chairman of Committee:
Canon J. S. TAYLOR.

Hon. Treasurer:
Mr. R. GURD,
Northern Bank, ~~Lisburn~~
Willowfield, Belfast.

Secretary:
R. J. BARCLAY,
24 Bachelors' Walk, Lisburn.

29th June, 1953.

Ref. T.168.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of 22nd inst. I have to inform you that an emergency meeting of our Committee was held on the 25th inst.

At that meeting it was resolved to close the Home as soon as arrangements satisfactory to the Committee can be made for the reception of the children elsewhere. No further children are to be admitted.

We should be glad if you will please take no further steps regarding withdrawal of registration as after these arrangements have been made we will ask you to accept a voluntary surrender of our registration until such time as we are in a position to carry on again.

Yours faithfully,

Regard Hon. Treas.

The Secretary,
Ministry of Home Affairs,
Stormont,
Belfast.

File Acc

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(IRISH CHURCH MISSIONS)

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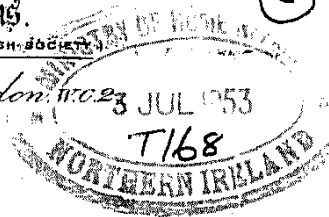
CW File with PC

Society for Irish Church Missions.

(WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED THE SCRIPTURE READERS & IRISH SOCIETY)

11. Buckingham Street, Strand, London, W.C. 23 JUL 1953

TELEPHONE: TRAFALGAR 4257.



2nd July, 1953.

The Secretary,
Ministry of Home Affairs,
Stormont,
Belfast.

A.S.C.

To see.

Together with
Miss Forrest's

report of 4.7.53.

Nothing further
is necessary

at the moment

in view of our

letter of 3.7.53.

Miss Forrest

is due to visit

the Home again

on 10.7.53.

Dear Sir,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of
your letter of 22nd June last which has
received the careful consideration of my
Committee.

We note that it is the intention of
your Ministry to withdraw the Certificate
of Registration of the Manor House Home
at Lisburn on 1st August.

In the circumstances we are arranging
to have the children transferred to Mrs.
Smyly's Homes, Dublin, and meanwhile have
provided for additional staff to be engaged
at the Home.

My Committee hopes within the next
few months that it may be found possible to
reconstitute the Manor House Home on a basis
satisfactory to your Ministry.

Yours faithfully,

U. B. Patterson.

Financial Secretary

you may like to see the
correspondence which took place in your absence on leave
JBM 9/7/53

Adl.
See Hanks. If
our enormous Act
has some thing
at least
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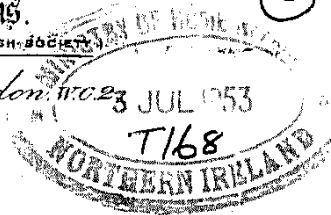
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at least
clears our
this dump!

T. 16

Memo.

I phoned [redacted] (Dummary 2361) to day at her request. She informs me that the Manor House Committee of Management has now been replaced by a new body where she consecutive was composed of 7 clergymen together with Mrs. Hannister and **MH 10** one of the Collectors.

Mr. Gurd, the Treasurer, was offered a place on the new Committee but refused to accept in view of the treatment accorded Mrs. Doonan & her colleagues. He has, however, agreed to continue in post for a few weeks until his successor is appointed.

According to [redacted] three of the clergymen are named [redacted], [redacted] & [redacted].

It appears that the selection and appointment of the new Committee was effected at the London Hqsrs. of I.C.M.

[redacted] has reason to believe that the children in the Home are due to be removed to the Single Homes in Dublin next Wednesday.

Mrs. Forrest / 10/7/53

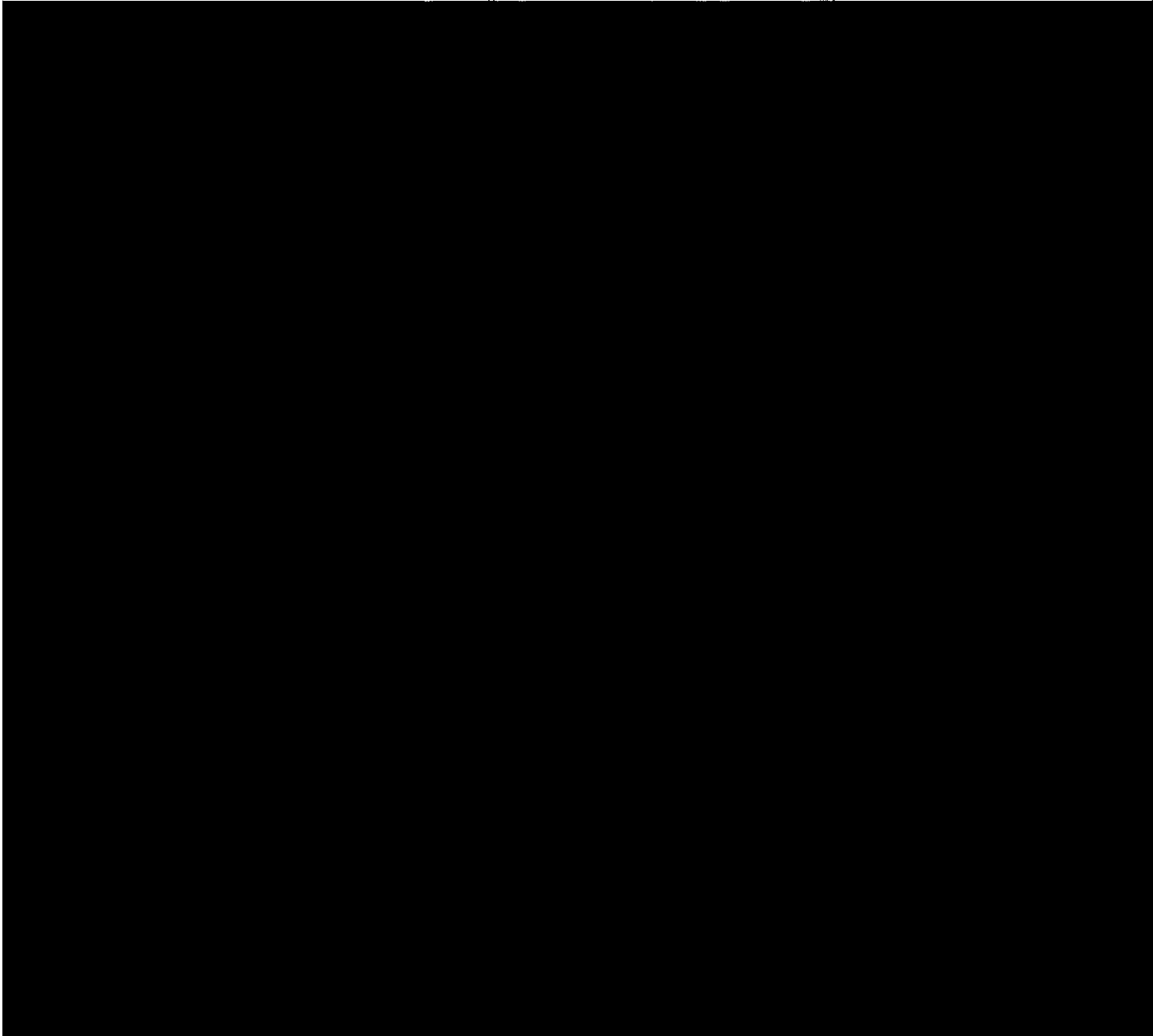
A.S. [redacted] To see, 3/10/7/53

8/7/53

P. 1168

Mr Gurd informed me by phone today that all the children have been removed from Manor House, the Treanagh child to the W. A. & the others to Singly. Some, Dublin. No more children are to be admitted in the meantime.

Mr Gurd is to send us a



P.C.,

To see attached plans with reports from our inspectors regarding proposed alterations and improvements at the Hanor House Children's Home, Lisburn, the cost of which is estimated at £6,000.

You will recall that, about 6 months ago, because of an extremely unsatisfactory state of affairs in this Home, the Management Committee, under pressure from the Ministry, decided to close the Home to further admissions and, pending consideration of the Home's future, arranged for the 12 children then in residence to be accommodated elsewhere. As a result, 11 of the children, all of whom were the responsibility of the Management Committee, were transferred to the Smyly Home in Dublin and the remaining child for whom the Fermanagh Welfare Authority was responsible was boarded-out with foster parents. These arrangements were completed on 20.7.53 and, although the Hanor House Home has not been in use since then, it is still registered as a Voluntary Home.

From our enquiries at the time, it was evident that the Management Committee had insufficient funds at their disposal and were unlikely to be able to raise the money necessary to enable them

Reference.....

Miss Forrest's report heightens the Charles Dickens atmosphere - "... the bed-wetters had been sleeping in an awful little room in the basement", "... the building and equipment conveyed a most depressing impression of dilapidation and dirt..."

From a rather different point of view - we find the Fire Authority regarding the premises with some concern. On the 15th May, 1953, they wrote to the Ministry enclosing "Copy of second follow-up Fire Protection report on the Manor House Home" and saying that "the Authority is seriously disturbed to find that, at this late date, little or no effect has been given to the recommendations ..." and the Authority "express the hope that the Ministry will pursue the matter with the Voluntary Committee ..."

It is, therefore, quite clear that we could not, for a moment, claim that this was a "reasonably well run Voluntary Home paying its way" when the Act came into operation, and on these grounds justify to the Local Authorities our paying grants to it from their funds.

There is in fact little doubt that the correct course for us to have taken, having regard to the terms of the section and our understanding with the Local Authorities, would have been to have withdrawn the Certificate of Registration forthwith.

Our then Minister felt, however, that the local committee was a well-meaning and kindly body of persons (as, indeed, they certainly were) and that their failings were due to utter ineptitude rather than lack of good intentions; and he instructed the Division not to withdraw the Certificate in any way that would bring scandal upon them.

Accordingly it was arranged that the Committee should themselves close the Home - at least temporarily - and surrender the Certificate to us "on their own volition"; and that we would give them some advice as to what would be required to be done before we could consider allowing the Home to reopen.

In the event, the Home was closed with due despatch, but the Certificate has not, so far, been returned.

I do not wish to occupy your time with further details or forecasts.

Whether, assuming that the Committee could raise funds sufficient to put the place in reasonable (if not entirely satisfactory) structural and decorative order, and to run the place in that condition, employing a reasonably satisfactory (if not really adequate) staff, we could then re-register the Home and pay grant towards improvements, would depend, in practice, on the extent to which the Local Authorities maintain their present critical attitude. Even at that, it would be somewhat sharp practice on our part vis-a-vis the Local Authorities, and a considerable straining of our powers under the Act. We might, however, be able to do something for them.

But unless and until the Committee accomplish the foregoing and show us that they have a reasonable prospect of being able to meet normal running costs, no question of a grant ~~can~~ be considered, and the time has now come when they must be told that.

[Signature]
1st September 1953

42530/2809
250,000 1/47
T51-7705
(REGIMERE)
CODE 5-30-0

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T51-7705
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Reference

Ministry of Home Affairs,
Stormont, Belfast.

A.S.C.

Manor House Home, Lisburn

For years before 1950 there existed in Lisburn a Children's Home called the Manor House Home. The Home was owned by the Society for Irish Church Missions, a body with headquarters in England, whose activities are directed to the bringing of the Truth to brands burning in the fire of Roman Catholicism. The Home at Lisburn was essentially a place of refuge for child debris salvaged by the Society from broken mixed marriages. It was run by a purely local Committee which received very little financial assistance from headquarters and although, like all other existing Homes, it had, to begin with, to be registered by the Ministry under the 1950 Act it became evident by 1953 that the place was so poverty stricken and run so badly by the completely inept and energyless Committee that it would have to be closed down. The pressure applied to it by the Ministry was sufficient to cause it to be closed down and the children removed to Dublin, but it stopped short at the actual withdrawal of the certificate. The then Minister felt that the Institution was much too close to his own doorstep to be denied an opportunity of putting its affairs in order and perhaps starting a lease of renewed and more perfect life. The Committee did approach the Ministry about receiving a grant, and in February 1954 the Ministry gave its approval to a number of proposals for the physical improvement of the premises submitted on behalf of the Committee by their architect at the end of November 1953.

The position, as we saw it in the Autumn of 1954, is set out on the paper flagged "A" in red on the file and it is suggested that it would be worthwhile for the Minister, who necessarily knows little or nothing about the background of this case, to read this and other documents on the file, to which special reference will be made, rather than to depend entirely upon this present summary. He will, for example, find very interesting the papers flagged "B" and "B.1", which are the review of the case submitted by the Secretary to Mr. Hanna on 1st September, 1954, and the Minister's reaction thereto.

Round about this time a very important event for the Home occurred. A new really energetic Committee was appointed - by whom or in what manner I have never been able to find out. However, they were appointed and they began in a most energetic manner to raise money and plans for the future. Our first contact with this new development is indicated in the note of an interview I had with the Secretary (Rev. G.G. Thompson) on 13th September, 1954 (flagged "C"). It will be seen that at this stage we did not fully appreciate the change that had occurred in the situation because we anticipated that the case would go into abeyance for an extended period. However, immediately afterwards proposals for some further improvements were submitted by the architect and received our approval. At this stage there was no question of any grant.

There then did ensue, so far as we were concerned, an interval of quiescence, but during it the Committee were as busy as beavers raising money and their architects and contractors were busy re-modelling the premises, and on 25th May, 1956, the Secretary of the Committee put forward an appeal to the Ministry for a substantial grant. At this time the Maconachie Committee had begun to function and so the case was referred to that Committee with a short informative memorandum, copy of which is flagged "E". The Committee in

/due

(78)
WET/1133/450
7/55 456,000
JC&SLtd
Gp671/33
REQUIRE
CODE 18-73

T.168

24th December, 1957.

Sir,

I am directed by the Minister of Home Affairs to refer to the Ministry's letter of the 23rd July, 1953, stating that the use of Manor House Home, Lisburn, Co. Antrim, had been discontinued temporarily, as a Voluntary Home for children, until further notice, and to inform you that the Home, having been completely renovated and provided with appropriate staff, is now reported by the Ministry's inspectors to be suitable for the accommodation of children.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

MH 54

for Secretary

The Secretary,
Antrim Co. Welfare Committee,
545 Antrim Road,
BELFAST.

The Secretary,
Down Co. Welfare Committee,
65 University Street,
Belfast.

The Secretary,
Armagh Co. Welfare Committee,
22 Russell Street,
ARMAGH.

The Secretary,
Fermanagh Co. Welfare Committee,
Castle Barracks,
Enniskillen,
Co. Fermanagh.

/P.T.O.

ANTHONY F. LUCY

F.R.I.A.I., F.R.I.B.A.

Chartered Architect

LOMBARD CHAMBERS - LOMBARD STREET

BELFAST

TELEPHONE 21380

AFL/DJ.

Your Ref. T.168.

27th. November, 1953.

The Secretary,
Ministry of Home Affairs,
Stormont,
Belfast.

*Mr. Wright**Mr. Simpson**Miss Rogers*

For the favour
of your
observations

8/12/53

Dear Sir,

Re Manor House Homes, Lisburn.

I have been requested by the Committee of above Homes to prepare proposals for alterations and renovations to above and I now enclose them for your consideration.

You will note that I have endeavoured to include requisite accommodation within the compass of the existing walls and I should be glad to discuss this with your Technical Representative at an early date.

Reference.....

1.168

Mr Jackson. I inspected the house with reference to the plans submitted in company with Miss Forest & Dr Simpson. My observations are as follows:—

1) Structure Briefly this is only in fair condition & if the ^{overall} state of plastering, ceilings, stonework garden, yards, etc. taken into consideration then I would say it is generally poor, with signs of long continued neglect & lack of essential maintenance.

The basement or cellar ^{AND} which runs under the entire house & beyond ^{ARE} is fit only for storage ^{BUT} & the cellar itself is wet. The areas at the sides of the house are overgrown & rank.

There is a musty smell in the 'Lounge' & in one of the upstairs rooms which may signify rot but might only have been caused by atmospheric damp in a building unoccupied over a long period.

Though I did not observe any rot there is definite evidence of rot-brown. To ascertain the extent of any of the forms of decay would require a minute inspection.

A ^{beam} ~~beam~~ over the staircase has been propped up by a wooden stanchion.

done only at the expense of planning. The worst feature in this respect is the toilets which will prove poorly lighted & ventilated.

Fire Precautions. A new fire escape is shown on the drawings but in view of the layout & structure of this building it is suggested that the fire entrance be ^{at the same time as} ~~unrelated~~ ^{the} structural alterations being undertaken.

Externally. The walled-in yard is dilapidated & depressing & all round the building is a jungle of unkempt hedges & trees & some clearance here would be essential.

Cost. I understand that a figure of £6000 has been suggested to cover the proposed alterations. This would go a long way towards putting the house in decent order & providing central heating & some other amenities but to cover everything essential & desirable would need much more & in my opinion there are possibilities of limitless expenditure. *W. W. M.*

[redacted] It was reported by the Secretary that a Mrs. Browne with whom this child has been for some years, now wished to adopt her legally. On the motion of Dr. McCann it was decided that if the Secretary considered, after visit the home, considered that everything was satisfactory, the committee would approve of the adoption. The Secretary promised to investigate the matter.

Collecting Boxes. When it was reported that we had no Manor House home collecting boxes, it was suggested by Mr. Jamison that a stock should be acquired, and the Secretary promised to ask estimates.

Jno. More
2.11/9/54.

A meeting of the Committee of the Manor House Home was held on Tuesday, Sept. 21st at 4 p.m. in the C. I. Y. M. S. Rooms, 20, Donegal St., East, Belfast.

Present: The Revs. J.B. Lowe (Chairman), E.C. Jamison, G. G. Thompson, ^{Hon. Secretary} Mr. Bannister, Mr. R. Gurd.

The meeting having been opened with prayer, the minutes of the previous meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

Grant from Government. Arising out of the Minutes, the Secretary reported three conversations, one with a Mr. Jackson, one with a Mr. Duff (both of the Ministry of Home Affairs, and a third with Mr. G.B. Hanna, D.P., the

Minister. Regarding the question of whether it was likely that the Manor House Home would receive a government grant. Mr. Jackson was encouraging, but Mr. Duff's remarks seemed calculated to persuade the Committee to close the Home. As a result of this seeming difference of opinion, the Secretary felt it necessary to seek an interview with the Minister. After a frank discussion, he was given to understand that if the Committee could find £7,000 of the £12,000 needed for reconstruction, and show evidence that they could augment the regular income considerably (i.e. to about £5,000 p.a.), the Minister of Home Affairs would be likely to give a grant of something in the region of £5,000. On hearing this report, the reaction of the Committee as a whole was that while it was recognised that costs have risen, yet an income of £5,000 p.a. was far more than was likely to be needed, and it was decided that the Secretary and Treasurer should endeavour to work out what they considered was a more reasonable estimate of the running costs.

Collecting Boxes. Regarding Collecting boxes, the Secretary reported that the lowest estimate he had obtained was that of the London firm who make the I.C.M. ^{collecting} boxes, and it was resolved to employ this firm. Miss Thompson, of Upper Falls Parish, to whom the Committee were indebted for having made the designs for badges for the recent May Day, was to be asked to furnish a design for the boxes.

T.168

I am not happy about this matter.

Following reports wanting the closing of the home
("wanting" is perhaps too mild) an arrangement was
made of a face-saving nature, under which
arrangement the registration was to be surrendered. This
promise was not kept - the Ministry did not act!
Instead of insisting when the bargain being kept, the
Ministry seems to have condoned the whole business
because an architect entered into consultations with the
Committee's architect regarding re-modelling. In my
view these consultations commit us to the home
of re-establishing this home unless we can find some
change of circumstances, or other reason for saying "No."
Two possibilities occur to me. In the

CHILDREN'S HOMES AND TRAINING SCHOOLS COMMITTEE

Telephone: Belfast 63210.

Telegrams: "Homaff," Belfast.

Any reply to this communication should be addressed to

"THE SECRETARY"

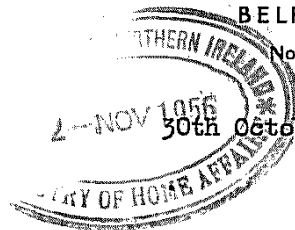
and the following reference quoted:

T.477.



MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS,
Room 352, STORMONT,
BELFAST,

Northern Ireland.



My dear Minister,

Manor House Children's Home, Lisburn

My Committee has visited the Manor House Children's Home, Lisburn, and conferred with its Management Committee regarding its application for grant aid in respect of the renovation of the premises. The Statements of Accounts for the 3 years ended 31st December, 1955, have also been scrutinised.

We consider that the premises are now quite suitable for the reception and accommodation of 19 or 20 children, plus staff, and that the Management Committee is a responsible and conscientious body of persons. Accordingly, we recommend Government grant aid amounting to 70% of the approved cost exceeding £10,000 of the expenditure incurred in the modernisation of this Home.

Yours sincerely,

*Bessie H. Macdonald*Chairman of Committee

The Rt. Hon. W.W.B. Topping, Q.C., M.P.,
Minister of Home Affairs,
Stormont,
BELFAST.

SHB/MA

original on T.398 (Nazareth Lodge, Belfast) (re: grants and improvements to the building)
COPY for T.168 (Manor House, Lisburn)

GOVERNMENT OF NORTHERN IRELAND

Ministry of Finance,
 Stormont,
 Belfast.

A.393/50

Your Ref: T.168, T.170, T.398

15th January, 1957.

Sir,

I am directed by the Minister of Finance to refer to Mr. O'Neill's letter of the 4th December and subsequent correspondence on the question of grants to Voluntary Homes, and as already orally intimated to convey authority for the payment of the undermentioned grants to the Home Authorities concerned:-

1. Nazareth House, Londonderry.

- (a) £5,000 being 50% of the cost of providing a recreation room, combining play room and sun roof for infants, of size and amenity reasonable to the needs of the children in permanent occupation.
- (b) £830 being 60% of the cost of carrying out fire precautions as recommended by the Northern Ireland Fire Authority.

2. Manor House, Lisburn.

70% of approved expenditure in excess of £10,000, the total grant not to exceed £7,000 without the specific approval of this Ministry.

The Ministry further agrees in the light of Mr. O'Neill's letter of the 9th January that a grant of £6,350 may be made to the Order responsible for the running of Nazareth Lodge, Belfast, so that certain works, chiefly renovation and re-equipment of kitchen premises and heating alterations, all of which have the approval of your Ministry, may be effected. It is further agreed that a grant of £650, being 90% of the cost of augmenting qualified staff employed at Nazareth Lodge during 1954/55, may be made.

In conveying the above authorities, it is understood that as there is insufficient provision in the current Estimate to meet the grants now approved in full, it is your Ministry's intention to make partial payments in the current year and to provide the balance in the 1957/58 Estimate.

I am, Sir,
 Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd.) D.C.B. HOLDEN

The Secretary,
 Ministry of Home Affairs,
 STORMONT.

Reference T.168

Ministry of Home Affairs, Stormont.Manor House Children's Home, LisburnP.C.

Our inspectors (Mr. Wilkinson, Dr. Simpson and Miss Forrest) carried out an inspection of this Home on Friday last, 25.1.57, in the presence of two representatives of the Management Committee, Dr. McCann and the Rev. Thompson.

When Miss Forrest returned to the Ministry on Friday afternoon, she told me that Dr. McCann had referred to several additional projects which the Committee have in mind, namely -

fencing for the garden,
a greenhouse,
re-surfacing of part of playground with tarmac,
the provision of shelters in the playground, and
a new house for the gardener/handyman.

(The gardener/handyman is at present functioning as caretaker and is accommodated in the Home with his wife and child.)

According to Miss Forrest, Dr. McCann was anxious to know if the Ministry would approve these projects and take the cost of them into account when deciding upon the proposed payment of grant. He said they had already been mentioned to the members of the Maconachie Committee when they visited the premises on 4.10.56, and he desired particularly to be informed later in the day of the Ministry's views about including the cost for grant purposes.

Miss Broderick (Secretary to the Maconachie Committee) has confirmed that the additional projects were, in fact, mentioned to the Committee, but she is quite confident that they were not considered by the Committee when the recommendation about the amount of grant was decided upon. Her view is that these additional projects, being entirely new developments, were not mentioned in the Ministry's brief to the Maconachie Committee and therefore could not form the subject of a recommendation until fuller particulars, with details of the probable cost, have been furnished by the Management Committee and formally referred to the Maconachie Committee by the Ministry.

I think Miss Broderick is quite right. The original estimate which suddenly jumped from £15,000/£16,000 to £20,000 was primarily in respect of the renovation of the main building and, according to the Maconachie Committee's minutes of 16.10.56, also took into account the cost of furniture, equipment and fire precautions. The additional projects listed above are an entirely separate matter and should be dealt with as such, full details being submitted for consideration before any decision is taken about grant-aiding the expenditure involved.

In consequence of all this, I phoned Dr. McCann about 5 p.m. on Friday and advised him that, while the projects in question appeared to be the kind of developments for which grants could be paid under Section 118(1) of the relevant Act, the Ministry, in the absence of detailed information, could not commit itself in advance to the payment of grants. He seemed disappointed with what I had to say as he was hopeful of being able to assure his colleagues of the position about grant-aid at the meeting of his Committee to be held on the afternoon of Saturday, 26.1.57.

Provided you agree, a letter will now issue to Dr. McCann confirming what I told him about the payment of grant and asking him to arrange for full particulars of the additional projects, with details of the estimated cost, to be submitted for consideration.

/Meanwhile

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Code 18-73

T.168

12th November, 1957.

Sir,

I am directed by the Minister of Home Affairs to refer to your letter of 17th October and to state that the Ministry's Inspectors who visited Manor House Children's Home on 8th November, 1957, have now submitted a report to the effect that while the new dwelling-house intended for the caretaker or gardener is ready for occupation the Home itself is still in process of being furnished.

It would therefore be appreciated if you would kindly arrange to notify the Ministry as soon as the Home is available for the reception and accommodation of children.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

E. JACKSON

for Secretary

Rev. G.G. Thompson, B.A.,
Honorary Secretary,
Manor House Home (Lisburn),
City Office,
20 Donegall Square East,
BELFAST.



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T. 168

DPK

Manor House Home for children, Lichburn (Voluntary Home)

A certificate of registration of this Home as a Voluntary Home for children, under Sec. 99 of the C & Y. P. Act (N.I.), 1950, was issued on 29th June, 1950, and ^{was} sent with the Ministry's letter of that date to Mr A S Woodcock, solicitor & local ~~the~~ Committee for the Home.

You know the history of this place but I have tabbed the more important papers relating to the birth of registration, discontinuance of use of premises and re-opening of Home when re-organised under its new Committee.

3/6/53. Mj's letter to the Secd, the (then) Hon. Treasurer & the local Committee.

22/6/53 Mj's letter to the Secd.

24/6/53 PC's minute notes.

3/7/53 Mj's letter to the Secd.

23/7/53 " to re-open Committee.

11/8/54 Item 3 in Mr O'Sullivan's note - in particular, "on the Ministry's instructions we did not cancel the registration of the Home so that all intents and purposes it is an existing voluntary home".

28/11/54 } Inspector "reports".
2/12/54 }

The Committee as re-organised and the Home are no doubt different from that described in the Affirm Form (dated 20/6/50) for registration, but I expect the Ministry's inspector will shortly carry out a formal inspection of the Home and give a comprehensive report giving complete data. (This should be placed on the new file for Inspector's reports (T. 546))

T.168

24th December, 1957.

Sir,

I am directed by the Minister of Home Affairs to refer to your letter of the 11th December, 1957, and previous correspondence about Manor House Home, Lisburn, Co. Antrim, the use of which as a Voluntary Home for children had been discontinued, temporarily, in July 1953 until such time as its affairs had been reorganised and the Home brought up to modern standards, and to inform you that the Ministry now approves of the Home as being suitable for the accommodation of children, subject, therefore, to adequate staffing arrangements being made, your Committee is authorised to reopen the Home for the reception of not more than twenty children.

The Certificate of Registration, dated 29th June, 1950, of Manor House Home, Lisburn, Co. Antrim, as a Voluntary Home for children, in accordance with Section 99 of the Children and Young Persons Act (N.I.), 1950, was issued with the Ministry's letter of that date to your Committee's solicitor, 32 Market Street, Lisburn.

... Two copies of the Children and Young Persons (Voluntary Homes) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1952 (S.R. & O. 1952, No. 131) are enclosed for the information of your Committee and the staff of the Home.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

The Rev. G.G. Thompson, B.A.,
Hon. Secretary,
Manor House Home (Lisburn),
City Office,
20 Donegall Square East,
BELFAST.

(115) ...

for Secretary*Despatched
25th Dec 1957*

T.168

24th December, 1957.

Sir,

I am directed by the Minister of Home Affairs to refer to the Ministry's letter of the 23rd July, 1955, stating that the use of Manor House Home, Lisburn, Co. Antrim, had been discontinued temporarily, as a Voluntary Home for children, until further notice, and to inform you that the Home, having been completely renovated and provided with appropriate staff, is now reported by the Ministry's inspectors to be suitable for the accommodation of children.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(PHILIP J. COLLIER)

The Secretary,
Antrim Co. Welfare Committee,
545 Antrim Road,
BELFAST.

The Secretary,
Down Co. Welfare Committee,
65 University Street,
Belfast.

for Secretary

The Secretary,
Armagh Co. Welfare Committee,
22 Russell Street,
ARMAGH.

The Secretary,
Fermanagh Co. Welfare Committee,
Castle Barracks,
Enniskillen,
Co. Fermanagh.

/P.T.O.

The Secretary,
Co. Londonderry Welfare Committee,
1 Strand Road,
Coleraine,
Co. Londonderry.

The Secretary,
Tyrone Co. Welfare Committee,
County Welfare Offices,
High Street,
Omagh,
Co. Tyrone.

The Welfare Officer,
Belfast County Borough Welfare Authority,
16 College Street,
BELFAST.

The Secretary,
Londonderry Co. Borough Welfare Committee,
1A Hawkin Street,
LONDONDERRY.