

Archival Listing:

P98

A Administration

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F.

- /19 Maps/Architects Drawings
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Minute Books

Series of Minute Books of the Governors of Limerick District Lunatic Asylum (known as Limerick District Mental Hospital from 1922) from 1822 to 1971.

Meetings were held once a month and were attended by the Governing body, which typically included the Mayor of the City, City Councillors, representatives of both Protestant and Catholic Churches in the city, as well as leading city businessmen. The Inspector of Lunatic Asylums in Ireland attended these meetings approximately twice a year. Correspondence between Dublin Castle and the Asylum was read, noted, and responded to.

The general state of the asylum, as reported by the Resident Medical Superintendent, typically opened proceedings with reference to the current number of patients, their general well-being, recent admissions, discharges, and deaths. Overcrowding was a relentless issue.

The monthly report by the Resident Medical Superintendent 8 October 1895: P98/1/7 noted;

“I regret having to report that the number of admissions still keep on increasing as we have 580 patients in the house this morning, being 80 in excess of our accommodation and never before in the history of the asylum has this figure been reached before”.

Correspondence from the Government, the Inspectors and various other bodies was read and dealt with by the Board, and the financial day to day running of the asylum/hospital attended to. Receipts from paying patients, sales of farm produce, and rent from attendant's cottages were noted and acknowledged and accounts payable sanctioned and authorised by the Board. Staffing and related matters were regularly on the agenda for discussion by the board. The Board resolved on 12 February 1908 “that the Medical Supt be instructed to fine any attendant or tradesman late for morning duty”. P98/1/11.

A strike by staff in February 1919 necessitated a special emergency meeting of the Board where it was reported by the Resident Medical Superintendent P98/1/14,

“I beg to report that the attendant staff, male and female, and tradesmen ceased work at 3.45 p.m. on the 13th February and are still on strike. They allowed 3 of their number on each side of the house to look after the acute hospital patients on the nights of the 13th, 14th and 15th, and also gave the patients one meal daily up to Saturday last, when they withdrew altogether and since then the Police are in charge of the Institution”.

National matters occasionally prompted a response from the Board of Governors as in April 1920 when the Board unanimously adopted the following resolution:

“We protest against the effort of the Government to force on this country a miquitous Educational Bill, repugnant to the Catholic instincts of the Irish people. The effort to place Irish education in the complete control of three nominees of the Government cannot, and will not, be accepted by the Irish people”. P98/1/15

Correspondence from the Minister for Local Government and Public Health was noted on 13 November 1946, with the directive “that 1 January 1947 to be the day upon which the Mental Treatment Act shall come into operation for all purposes”. 98/1/21

Changes under the Mental Health Act 1945 are discernible in the Minutes of the Board on the 10 July 1946, when it was noted “That under the Mental Treatment Act of 1945, the name of the Mental Hospital is to be known as the Limerick Mental Hospital Board”. 98/1/21.

The final meeting of the Board on August 11 1960 reviewed “the activities of the previous century and paid tributes where tributes were due”

P98/1/21. The hospital then came under the administration of the new Health Authority established by the Government of the day and was formally designated the new title of “St. Joseph’s Hospital, Limerick”.

Standard reports ‘ 22’

1/1	10 February 1822 -5 December 1836	c.600pp
1/2	4 January 1837 - 3 May 1846	c.400pp
1/3	2 February 1846 - 16 June 1852	c.400pp
1/4	7 June 1852 - 5 January 1863	c.200pp
1/5	2 February 1863 - 12 February 1869	c.300pp
1/6	2 March 1869 - 16 December 1873	c.400pp
1/7	30 December 1873 - 13 January 1880	c.400pp
1/8	10 February 1880 - 8 February 1887	c.400pp
1/9	15 February 1887 - 10 June 1890	c.300pp
1/10	8 July 1890 - 27 March 1894	c.300pp
1/11	16 April 1894 - 14 December 1897	c.600pp
1/12	11 January 1898 - 14 June 1900	c.300pp
1/13	8 April 1903 - 10 July 1907	c.600pp
1/14	14 August 1907 - 10 May 1911	c.600pp
1/15	14 June 1911 - 20 March 1915	c.1000pp
1/16	14 April 1915 - 19 February 1919	c.1000pp
1/17	26 February 1919 - 19 July 1922	c.900pp
1/18	9 August 1922 - 14 July 1926	c.900pp
1/19	11 August 1926 - 9 April 1930	c.900pp
1/20	14 May 1930 - 19 June 1934	c.900pp
1/21	11 July 1934 - 12 July 1934	c.670pp
1/22	9 August 1939 - 9 February 1944	c.280pp

1/23 8 March 1944 - 2 April 1960 c.500pp

13 further assorted Minute Books, Board Business Books, Members Attendants Books, Members Addresses record and Minute Index Books are available from 1873 and mainly deal with matters concerning the Governing Board of the Lunatic Asylum.

1/24 1 July 1873 - 14 August 1886 Rough Minute Books containing drafts taken at board meetings, later transferred to Minute Books.

c.300pp

1/25 10 April 1929 - 26 April 1954 Board Business Book concerning business presented to the monthly board meetings for discussion..

c.300pp

Superintendents Reports.

Monthly reports written by the Resident Medical Superintendent and presented to the Monthly Board Meeting. The general state of the Asylum, patients for discharge and general concerns of the R.M.S. are the main issues noted. 3 items

1/26 11 August 1915 - 12 October 1927 c.300pp

1/27 9 November 1927 - 8 March 1944 c.500pp

1/28 12 April 1944 - 3 March 1968 c.350pp

Board Financial Transactions (Outgoing) (2)

1/29 9 March 1938 - 26 January 1943 c.300pp

1/30 3 February 1943 - 31 March 1944 c.100pp

Members Attendance Register (4)

1/31 9 October 1940 - 31 March 1947 c.20pp

1/32 1 March 1947 - 1 July 1958 c.150pp

1/33 4 January 1960 - 14 November 1963 c.400pp

1/34	1934	Register of Members Addresses	c.13p
1/35	1955	Board Business Book	c.300pp
1/36		Reports of Limerick Lunatic Asylum	

See also P98/20/1 for 1861 Annual Report Limerick District Lunatic Asylum

Annual Inspections and Visiting Committee Reports. 1831-1946

The Asylum was visited monthly by a select Visiting Committee, comprised of local dignitaries, mainly local councillors and businessmen. During their visits they were accompanied by medical staff, including the chief Medical Superintendent and inspected all areas of the Asylum, including wards, staff accommodation, kitchens, pharmacy and the farm. They engaged in conversation, where possible with patients and staff, and reported their findings to the Resident Medical Superintendent. In general their observations concluded that the hospital was well run by staff and that patient care, well-being and treatment was satisfactory. 'We inquired from a number of patients with regard to diets and they were all satisfied. We found them happy and well dressed'. P98/2/2, 7 November 1950. In April 1964 the Visiting Committee noted; 'The washing up arrangements in the male dining hall are totally inadequate and out of date. We conclude that the water was not hot enough to have the ware properly cleaned. We recommend that additional domestic staff be employed in this area'. April 1964. P98/2/3

2/1	1831 - 1896	c.300pp (in archives)
2/2	6 May 1946 - 1 November 1969	c.300pp.

Annual Inspections by the Inspector of Mental Hospitals (1932 -1955).

2/3 1932 - 1955 Reports from the Inspector of Mental Hospitals, generally on an annual basis inspected annually and on occasion bi-annually. The Inspection Reports were forwarded to the Resident Medical Superintendent for his attention and response. Often, a standard form was used.

Among the issues addressed by the Inspector were the numbers of patients, male and female, patients' physical condition, including clothes and footwear, personal hygiene, behaviour and incidence of disease and injuries, patients' diet, recreational activities and provision for their religious devotions, the physical conditions of the wards, including décor and bedding, heating and medical facilities, and accommodation and living conditions of staff.

Managers Orders (1942-1959)

Manager's Orders book from 1942 to 1956 and 1957 to 1959. The Manager of the Mental Hospital was responsible for overall day to day running of the hospital and was central to all major decisions taken within the hospital. All financial transactions were sanctioned by the Manager including payments for food produce, repairs and maintenance, medical supplies, organising and managing staff, authorising staff recruitment, staff promotions and sanctioning staff sick days, administering the tendering process for all work and supplies to the Hospital, and approval for all discharges and transfers from the Hospital. All outgoing cheques required the prior approval and written authorisation by the Manager.

The Manager's Orders Books give a comprehensive insight into the day to day workings of a large mental hospital and demonstrate the progression of the Institution through the decades. P98/3/1.

Manager's Orders No. 426, concerns sale of Institution Land to the local Railway Authority; "I hereby order that the addition plot of three and half acres of land be sold to Coras Iompair Eireann at a price of £600, subject to the approval of the Minister for Local Government and Public Health. Signed this day 2 day of August, 1946. P.J. Meghen, Manager". Order No. 1065 concerns contemporary staff issues; "Attendant Edward O' Connor, applying for permission to live outside the hospital and to be granted to the usual living out allowance, as he got married recently. Order granted provided requisite number living. Signed 2 December, 1949. M. O' Maicin. Manager".

Order No. 2075 reflects the institution's approach toward patient management and contemporary medical philosophy on issues such as smoking with the following order issue, "I hereby order, in accordance with the recommendations of the Medical Superintendent, that the issue of Cigarettes to working patients, other than farm patients, be increased to 1,000 every 5 weeks. (4 volumes)

See also P98/20/4 for Manager Orders 1940

3/1	11 November 1942 - 30 November 1956	c.450pp
3/2	30 June 1948 - 3 May 1957	c.989pp
3/3	3 May 195 - 25 February 1962	c.450pp
3/4	2 March 1962 - 3 October 1972	c. 200pp

Letter Books (1847-1953)

Letter Books available in the St. Joseph's collection; The first one covers incoming and outgoing correspondence between the Limerick Lunatic Asylum and the Office of Lunatic Asylums, Dublin Castle. The second refers to only incoming correspondence, chiefly from the Office of Lunatic Asylums, Dublin Castle and covers the period 1877- 1890. provides an insight into the nineteenth century administration and organisation of Asylums throughout Great Britain and Ireland, and demonstrates the restrictions and limitations placed on individual asylums by Parliamentary legislation and the Lord Lieutenants office in Dublin Castle. Financial management, patient care, admissions, staffing management and organisation were all tightly controlled by Dublin Castle during the nineteenth century as observed in correspondence 1/10/1869, Letter Book: 98/4/2. "The Inspectors being very desirous of establishing uniformity in the mode of rendering compliance on the part of the Chief Officers of District Asylums with the 4th Privy Council Rule, requiring that they shall transmit to them a full and accurate copy of the Minutes of Proceedings of every of the Board of Governors, within four days from the date of meeting, having selected the most comprehensive form at present in use, and adapted it to the existing circumstances of the Asylums. Frequently the Inspectors have had reason to complain of the omission of details of Finance and Statistics, and of the very meagre and obscure manner in which information regarding special business transacted has been given".

Similarly correspondence from Dublin Castle clearly outlining the position of staff salaries is noted in correspondence demonstrating the rigid and strict financial constraints placed on individual Asylum Boards; 'I am directed by the Inspectors that all proposals forwarded to them in future involving increase of salaries, wages to members of the staff or any other expenditure, shall be accompanied by the names of the Governors attending the Meetings of the Board at which the proposals were passed, and also a copy of the Notice to each Governor conveying said Meetings, specifying the objects, for the information of the Executives'. P98/4/4 (13 May 1884)

The increasingly volatile and troubled political situation in Europe in the early twentieth century is noted in a circular received by the Asylum in 1910 and noted by the Board, from the office of Lunatic Asylums, directing that all Asylums should 'state whether there are any Germans at present in the Asylum, and, if so, it is requested that their names, dates of admission, and addresses previous to admission may be furnished'.

The fourth and fifth Letter Books cover the period 1932 to 1943 and are general letters and circulars, between the Department of Local Government and the Hospital. Correspondence between Residence Medical Superintendent and The Department of Local Government and Public Health refer to medical treatment proposed for patients of the Mental Hospital. "Regarding the proposed adoption of Insulin treatment in the case of selected patients, I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to state that he presumes that you have considered the proposal from the point of view of the supplies of insulin available at present and likely to be available in future. It will of course be necessary to obtain the consent of the relatives to the treatment in the case of each patient selected'(P98/4/4). The impact of World War 2 is also noted in the Letter Books in a Circular from the Department of Local Government and Public Health announcing "The Government has made an Order under the Emergency Powers Act, 1939, empowering local authorities to promote turf production. Of interest is the proposal that Mental hospital committees should consider how far the labour of patients can be employed for this purpose'.

4/1	1847- 1859	c.300pp
4/2	1870 - 1890	c.300pp
4/3	1877 - 1890	c.300pp
4/4	1932 - 1938	c.500pp
4/4	1939 - 1943	c.500pp

General Administration.

Gate Books (1958-1959)

5/1 June 1958 - September 1959 Gate Book logged incoming and outgoing visitors through the main gates of the hospital, mainly deliveries, visitors to the hospital and staff, noting their destination and goods they carried.

c.300pp

General Administration Files

Files containing administration documents, letters and circulars regarding the maintenance of patients- private, public and servicemen with pensions. Much of the correspondence refers to communication between the British Army Pensions Office in London and the Hospital. There is also general administrative data from the Health Authority, regarding patient requirements, orders for supply of goods to the hospital, including basic food supplies, quotations for stock and labour, hardware, fuel supplies and funeral requisites.

5/ 2	1948	c.20pp
5/3	1945 – 1952	c. 20pp
5/4	1948 -1949	c.100pp
5/5	1949 - 1954	c.100pp
5/6	1964 - 1966	c.150pp

Statistical Index Returns.

Statistical Index Returns from 1938 to 1949 providing a statistical breakdown of hospital patients and staff for each year. Data is recorded under the following headings: admissions male/female, number of patients on the register on the 1 January each year, total admitted during the year, discharges, numbers improved/not improved, deaths, causes of deaths, escapees, total in the hospital at the end of the year. Includes returns for causes of insanity, length of time patient spent in the hospital, numbers who recovered, and causes of death (whether physical or mental). Also included are returns of the total acreage of land and how it was used, suicides/attempted suicides, fatal accidents/homicides, non-fatal accidents, patients' general dietary scale, salaries and allowance of 'principal officers' and wages and allowances of 'subordinate staff, male and female.

In 1939, there were 732 patients (416 male and 316 female), and a staff of 122, divided into principal officers (10 male and 1 female) and subordinate staff (61 male and 50 female). The land owned by the hospital totalled 136 acres.

5/7	1939	c. 20pp
5/8	1940	c. 20pp
5/9	1941	c. 20pp
5/10	1942	c. 20pp
5/11	1943	c. 20pp
5/12	1944	c. 20pp
5/13	1945	c. 20pp
5/14	1946	c. 20pp
5/15	1947	c. 20pp
5/16	1948	c. 20pp
5/17	1949	c. 20pp

Rent Books, Abstract of Accounts and General Financial data (1948-1949)

6/1 April 1948 – September 1949 Rent Book documenting rent paid by staff members for the use of cottages within the hospital grounds. Details recorded include cottage number, location, name of occupier, rent month, arrears, date paid, amount and arrears carried forward.

c.25pp

Abstract of Accounts. Superintendent's Statements (1938-1965)

Abstract of Accounts/ Superintendent's Statements on a bi-annual basis, providing a breakdown of financial expenditure and income for each half year. Listings include, balance at close of last half-year, income from money supplied by council, receipts from paying patients, service patients and criminal patients, other receipts and total. Expenditure was noted under repayment of loans and other expenditure. Salaries of the Resident Medical Superintendent and senior staff are also provided. Table B provided statement explanatory of the revenue account.

Receipts.

Money supplied by Councils (by far the largest source of income), payments for patients, sale of farm produce, rent of cottages.

Payments –

Salaries and Wages (by far the largest form of expenditure), superannuation, medicines, clothing, bedding, farm expenses, rent, rates and advertising.

Gross Totals are provided, giving an overall financial picture of the Asylum every six months.

A comprehensive overview of the financial state of the Asylum bi-annually from 1938 to 1965 is provided by these detailed and complete Abstract of Accounts.

6/ 2 1938 8pp

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6/11

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6/13

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6/17 1938 - 1965

c-8pp (per report)

6/18

6/19

6/20

6/21 Builders Quotation for Boiler – Francis Spaight & Sons, Ltd. 1965

Staffing (1914-1970)

There are also circulars pertaining to staff, domestic, nursing and officers, with reference to duties and daily dietary requirements

Air Raid Precautions (1939-1946)

7/1	1939 – 1946	Air Raid precautions for staff during ‘the Emergency’ and the special instructions given to all staff for use during any Air-Raids, including anti-gas measures and evacuation procedures.
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c.30pp

Staff Dietary Requirement and Duties (1946)

7/2 1946 c.6pp

Union discussions and negotiations, Health Authority Policies for Staff on staffing issue, i.e. p salaries, promotions and policies, patient admissions, discharges and care.

P98/7/3 1954 - 1966 c.60pp.

P98/7/4
1957

P98/7/5 Quotation and sample for Attendants Uniforms- from Limerick Clothing
Factory, Limerick 1957

P98/7/6 Feeding Stuffs Receipts 1966, from Dan O' Connor Ltd.

Salary/ Superannuation/Sick Leave

Salary and superannuation books recording the salary and pay of all staff, including officers, medical, domestic and part-time staff. Sick leave and absences were verified and authorised by medical certification.

8/1	April 1916 – June 1920	c.200pp
8/2	April 1921 – March 1926	c.200pp.
8/3	April 1954 - March 1962	c.600pp.
8/4	April 1963 - March 1970	c.300pp.
8/5	October 1957- February 1970 (Temporary Staff).	c.400pp
8/6	February 1932 – August 1943 (Tradesmen)	c.300pp
8/7	December 1922 –October 1941 (Termination of employment).	c. 50pp
8/8	July 19 - March 1957 (Staff sick leave)	c.100pp
8/9	August 1947 - February 1956 (Officers sick leave).	c.300pp
8/10	January 1957 - February 1957 (Nurses sick leave)	c.50pp

Salary and Superannuation.

Contributions under Superannuation Act 1909. Includes Date of Entry, Service, Name, Rank or Designation and Monthly details of salary and deductions. Includes details for tradesmen, tailors, upholsterers, bakers, ploughman, head attendants, night attendants, charge attendants, assistant attendants, nurses, storekeepers, carpenters, clerks, stokers and masons.

98/8/11	April 1910 - June 1926	c.50ff
98/8/12	April 1926 - September 1929	c.54ff

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98/8/14	April 1939 - March 1952 (Details for Salary and Superannuation are included up to May 1944. The rear of the Volume includes advanced payments to staff from October 1951 – March 1952).	c.24ff
98/8/15	May 1944 - March 1952	c.30ff
98/8/16	April 1952 - 1 November 1969	c.20ff
98/8/17	April 1949 - September 1957 (Temporary Staff and Superannuation Register. Includes details of staff name, Salary, insurance deductions, total deductions, net wages and total amount paid per month).	c.205ff

Tradesmen's Wages Book

There is one tradesmen's wages book available in the collection and covers the period ending January 31, 1914 to January 31, 1932. Tradesmen from all fields were employed in the Asylum, among them tailors, shoemakers, plasterers, clerk of works, carpenters, apprentice carpenters, plumbers, bakers and masons. A six day week was the standard working week during this period, with Sunday the only free day. Tradesmen such as stokers, whose work occasioned Sunday employment were paid at the rate of a day and a half. Tradesmen's wages were substantially below the level of officers, nurses and attendants as seen in the wages books from 1923. William McGowan, tradesman, occupation – *plumber* was paid £4 and six schillings per month ((p98/8/18) while an officer - *charge attendant*, William Murphy was paid £13 and 8 schillings (P98/8/2)

98/8/18	January 31 1914 - January 31 1932	c.300pp
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P98/9

Teaching

One teaching manual is available in the collection dated 1962, and depicts the philosophy of psychiatry in the 1960s, through its opinion on patient treatment, both physical and mental. It also demonstrates the moral and ethical opinion of psychiatry and its role in the healing and care of mentally ill patients.

Teaching memo to trainee nurses note “that the nurse should always remember that all depressed patients are potentially suicidal”.

The protocol for the care, treatment and prevention of suicide in patients with such tendencies is clearly identified and legal obligations under the various Mental Health Acts is explained in detail.

P98/9/1

1962

c.80pp

Admissions Books.

Admission books documented the details of every patient admitted to the asylum; their number in order of admission, number on the registry, date of admission, name, age, religion, marital status, occupation, address, whether country or city, by whose authority sent to the asylum, date of medical certificate and by whom signed, form of mental disorder, supposed cause of insanity, bodily condition and nature of the disease, epileptic, congenital idiots, duration of existing attacks, number of previous attacks, age of first attack, date of discharge or death, recovered, relieved or improved, died, age and observations. The admission books were an addition to the individual committal forms allocated to each patient. The Admission Books covering the initial years of the Asylum – 1822- 1847 are missing but Admission books are available from 1848 to 1971.

[1]	(missing)	
10/2	16 April 1848 - 29 December 1899	c.200pp
10/3	6 January 1900 – 29 December 1922	c.200pp (1)
10/4	6 January 1900 – 21 September 1920	c.200pp (2)
10/5	2 January 1923 – 31 December 1946 (Includes details on Temporary Patients for re-certification from years 1950-1952)	c.300pp
10/6	5 January 1947 – 20 December 1954	c.200pp
10/7	5 January 1947 – 12 February 1958 (Patient status: Patient unsound mind-pum)	c.87pp
10/8	7 March 1947 - 19 February 1958 (Patient Status: Voluntary)	c. 53pp
10/9	22 January 1947 – 17 April 1958 (Patient Status: Temporary)	c.57pp
10/10	11 September 1954 – 4 March 1969	c.203pp
10/11	25 November 1967 - 9 March 1971	c.73pp

In addition to the standardised Admission Books, an admission index and register was also maintained. Patients were listed alphabetically, and by year of admission. Date of death or discharged was noted.

98/10/13	1952	- 1962	c.200pp
98/10/14	1963	- 1972	c. 30pp
98/10/15	1973	- 1980	c.500pp

Admission Report Books (2)

Two admission Report Books are also available from 1946 – 1951. Details include Patient Name, Address, Reg. No., Date of Admission and Remarks.

98/10/16	January 1946 - February 1946	c.100pp
98/10/17	October 1951 - August 1959	c. 100pp

98/10/18 (1), (2) File of female patient lists. One relates to the list of female patients transferred to the new district asylum in Clare in Ennis on the 23rd August 1868 this includes their name, date of admission, religion, residence before admission and additional remarks while the second list records the return of the number of patients in the Limerick District Asylum for 20th/26th February 1864 (female) – 1869 detailing their name, residence before admission, date of admission (incomplete) and city or county.

Committal Forms.

Until the mid-twentieth century, psychiatry distinguished between 'lunatics' who suffered from mental illness and 'idiots' who were mentally disabled. There were two methods of admission to an Irish lunatic asylum: voluntary committal and committal under the Criminal Lunatics (Ireland) Act (1838) later amended by the Lunacy (Ireland) Act (1867) (collectively known as the Dangerous Lunatics Acts). Most were committed under the latter, which provided that if an allegation of insanity was made against a person, he/she could be detained and brought before two justices of the peace. If a physician determined that the person was a "dangerous lunatic" he/she could be committed to prison until either discharged by order of two justices or removed to a lunatic asylum.

Voluntary Committal Forms included personal details of the patient (described as a 'lunatic') such as name, address, gender, age, occupation, religion, mental health status and next of kin, a declaration sworn by a friend, relative, master of a workhouse, etc. before a justice of the peace (after Independence a peace commissioner) that the person is insane and destitute, an undertaking that if the 'lunatic' recovers, he/she will be removed from the asylum, a certificate by a magistrate and clergyman or poor law guardian and a medical certificate.

Committal Forms under the Dangerous Lunatics Acts included personal details of the patient (described as either a 'dangerous lunatic' or 'dangerous idiot') such as name, address, gender, age, occupation, religion, mental health status and next of kin, a declaration by two justices of the peace (after Independence peace commissioners) that the person is either a 'dangerous lunatic' or 'dangerous idiot', and a medical certificate.

Committal Forms from 1900 through to 1946 are almost complete, with only minor omissions; most years are in fact complete, with all patients admitted to the hospital recorded on a committal form. The changing practices in admissions through the various decades are clearly distinguishable from the Committal forms.

Years available and checked

P98/11

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Mental Health Act 1945.

After the introduction of the Mental Health Act (1945), procedures regarding admission to the hospital were radically changed and this new policy is reflected in the Committal Forms from 1947 onwards. Patient admissions were standardised and classified as follows: 'Temporary' (pink), Voluntary (blue) and 'Patient of unsound mind' (white). As with previous Committal Forms, patient name, age, address, mental health status, reason for admission, admitting physician were noted as were next of kin. The terms 'lunatic' and 'idiot' were replaced by 'patient.' Committal Forms from 1947 are recorded alphabetically, rather than the previous chronological method. The financial status of each patient was also noted, whether private or chargeable.

A survey of 919 Committal Forms filed under the letter 'L' indicates that 74 per cent of patients were admitted under the 'Voluntary' category, 21 per cent in the 'Temporary' category and 6 per cent as being 'Patients of unsound mind'.

Letters Boxed;

V. T. Q. L. N, E, I, J, Mc, O, P, G. W, Y, S, C.M. F. A. B, H, R. U, P.

Discharges and Deaths.

The Register of Discharges and Deaths recorded the departure of every patient from the hospital, noting whether the discharge was through death or recovery from ill-health. The earliest available record of discharges and deaths is 1891. There were a multiplicity of forms of mental disorder recorded on admission; ranging from the most common form of recurrent melancholia/mania to delusional insanity to the more severe forms of general and congenital insanity. Of interest to note in the Discharges and Deaths Books are the substantial deaths through Phthisis (Tuberculosis) during the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century. The Discharges and Deaths Register noted the following:

- A. Date of Discharge or Death.
- B. Date of Last Admission.
- C. Number in Registry.
- D. Patient Name.
- E. Sex.
- F. Whether Patient from the City or County District.
- G. Whether patient recovered, Relieved or Not Improved.
- F. Death.
- G. Assigned Cause of Death.
- H. Age of Patient at Death.
- I. Form of Mental Disorder on Admission.
- J. General Observations.
- K. Criminal Patient.

Following the Mental Health Act of 1945, the following categories were also added to the Register of Deaths/Discharges. Separate Registers of Admissions and Discharged were kept for Voluntary Admissions, Admissions for Patients of Unsound Mind and Temporary Admissions.

- L. Religion of Patient.
- M. Whether Patient Private/Public.

P98/12/1	5 January 1891 - 3 January 1903	c.200pp.
P98/12/2	4 January 1903 - 7 September 1922	c.200pp.
P98/12/3	13 September 1922 - 28 March 1945	c.200pp
P98/12/4	17 April 1945 - 31 December 1946	c.150pp
P98/12/5	1 January 1947 - 31 May 1958	c.150pp (Unsound Mind)
P98/12/6	10 May 1947 - 14 June 1958	c.150pp (Voluntary)
P98/12/7	11 April 1947 - 27 May 1958	c. 150pp (Temporary)

Two additional Death and discharges Books cover the period 1957 – 1959. They list the names of all patients discharged, transferred or who died in the Asylum but in a change from previous Death and Discharges Books, they also list and average monthly, the mental condition of the patients under various medical headings: Psychoses, Psychoneurotic Disorders and Disorders of Characters. Monthly averages of patient illnesses, listed under male and female patients, are added up monthly and averages carried forward. Total numbers of patients displaying symptoms of a variety of mental illnesses are listed, providing an insight as to the various mental health conditions of patients within the hospital during the period 1957-1959.

P98/12/8	1957 -1959	c.50pp
P98/12/9	1958-1959	c.50pp
P98/12/10	1936 - 1952	c. 150pp

Register supplied by the Registrar-General for Ireland for the purpose of facilitating the accurate Registrations of *Deaths* in Public Institutions.

P98/12/11	1955 - 1961	c.70pp
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Death Register giving notice to the Minister for Local Government and Public Health, of the death of patients within the Institution. Information contained within refers simply to patient name, date of admission and date of death.

D Ward Administration and Patient Care

Ward Books: Evening Reports, Summary of Nurses Evening Reports, Morning Statement Books.

Summary of Nurse's Evening Report books were kept for both female and male wards and give a detailed record of the number of male and female patients in the hospital, nursing staff on duty and incidents and observations as noted by the staff on duty. It also recorded patients admitted and discharged on any given day, as well as patient recreation, employment and medical conditions. The Summary of Nurse's Evening Report were always signed by the senior head nurse in attendance. The report books available are predominantly those kept for the female wards (27 books) whereas (7) exist only for the male wards. The following years for female ward books available are: 1949,1950,1951,1955,1957, 1958, 1959, 1960,1961,1962,1963,1964,1965,1966,1967,1968, 1969,1970.

Male ward books available are 1962, 1973, 1978, 1979,1980, 1981,1982. From 1962 Summary of Nurse's Evening Report Book became known as Evening Report Books.

To indicate the changing practices in the progression of the management of mental health in the hospital, and to give an overview of these changes, the following year books are being documented: 1949,1951,1955, 1957,1959, 1962,1964,1966,1967,1967,1969,1971, 1976,1978, 1980, and all the male ward books available. These will provide an invaluable insight into changing medical practices, fluctuating patient numbers, and general conditions throughout the decades following the introduction of the new Mental Health Act of 1965.

Morning statement books are a statistical record of patients in the hospital and recorded the total number within the hospital, male and female breakdown, classification by status, (temporary, voluntary of unsound mind) names of patients admitted and the name of the admitting medical officer. The following years for Morning Statement Books were available for 1950, 1953,1960, 1961,1962,1963,1964,1965,1966,1967,1968,1969,1970,1972,1973,1974. One Morning Statement One book from each decade is documented to give an indication of changes in admission practices and numbers throughout the decades.

P98/13/1	6 December 1948	-	Monday January 9 1950	c.300pp.
P98/13/2	23 February 1951	-	4 March 1952	c300pp
P98/13/3	8 May 1955	-	25 May 1955	c300pp
P98/13/4	30 May 1956	-	7 June 1957	c300pp
P98/13/5	13 July 1958	-	12 August 1959	c300pp
P98/13/6	11 October 1961	-	5 November 1962	c300pp
P98/13/7	17 November 1963	-	16 November 1964	c300pp
P98/13/8	10 December 1965	-	22 December 1966	c300pp
P98/13/9	26 January 1968	-	22 February 1969	c300pp
P98/13/10	23 February 1969	-	16 March 1970	c300pp

P98/13/11	22 May 1975	- 29 May 1976	c300pp
P98/13/12	12 October 1979	- 23 November 1980	c400pp
P98/13/13	29 January 1980	- 15 June 1981	c300pp
P98/13/14	17 June 1981	- 31 October 1981	c300pp
P98/13/15	17 May 1982	- 4 December 1982	c400pp
P98/13/16	20 June 1977	-14 July 1978	c300pp
P09/13/17	3 August 1979	-18 November 1980	c300pp
P98/13/18	25 November 1980	- 28 January 1981	c80pp
P98/13/19	23 August 1961	-22 August 1982	c200pp
P98/13/20	20 June 1973 -	1 July 1974	c200pp
P98/13/21	11 September 1978	- 11 October 1979	c300pp

Morning Statement Books

P98/13/22	1 January 1963	- 31 December 1963	c600pp
P98/13/23	2 January 1973	- 31 January 1973	c600pp
P98/13/24	19 March 1953	- 1 April 1955	c600pp

Patients taken over from the Matron

Register of patients taken over from the Matron lists the daily number of vacancies, through discharges or deaths in wards and records patients handed over from the Matron to morning staff. Patient information recorded includes patient name, any deaths recorded during the night, medication prescribed nightly and physical and mental well-being of the patients throughout the night. It also notes the number of vacancies each day.

P98/13/25	4 December 1969	- 7 December 1970	C.600pp
P98/13/26	26 April 1972	- 30 March 1973	c. 600pp

P98/14

Register of Mechanical Restraint and Seclusion. (Mental Treatment Act, 1945).

One book of Mechanical Restrain and Seclusion is available from 1947 - 1954. Details recorded include Registered Number, Date on which Restrain or Seclusion was used, Name, Sex, Whether chargeable or private patient, particulars of Restrain, hours of Seclusion, reasons for Seclusion and signature of Medical Officer who ordered Restrain or Seclusion.

98/14/1 **January 1947 - July 1954** **c.27pp**

P98/15

Patient Welfare

There are three books available which deal with the welfare of patients within the Institution. A Dental Treatment Record Book, A Catholic Chaplains Book and an Occupational Therapy Book

Dental Treatment Book. (1)

Details include; Date, Name of Patient, Extractions, Fillings, Dentures and Treatment.

P98/15/1 August 1944 - March 1956 c.150pp

Occupational Therapy (1)

Details include therapeutical duties assigned to patients during the day and their location within the various facilities within the Institution; Farm, Sewing and knitting rooms

P98/15/2 1975 - 1978 c.200pp

Catholic Chaplains Book (1)

Details recorded include; Date, Nature of Services, No. of Patients attending Service, Duration of Service, General Conduct of Patients attending and Remarks, Chaplain's Signature, Date of Internment, Name of Deceased Patient, Former Private Residence of Deceased if Known, Place of Internment, Whether Funeral Service was Performed, Whether Burial was becomingly Conducted and Chaplain's Signature.

P98/15/3 1942 - 1955 c.70pp

P98/16

Farm.

The Farm was an integral part of the Asylum supplying it with fruit, vegetables and meat. In addition to Asylum staff, patients also participated in the upkeep and daily running of the Farm and fruit garden. Five record books are available for the Farm; two Receipt Books, one Cash Book and two Vegetable books document the financial workings of the Farm from 1929 to 1962.

Receipt Books (2)

98/16/1	April 1929	-	September 1945	c.300pp
98/16/2	October 1954	-	August 1962	c.400pp

Cash Book. (1)

98/16/3	April 1945	-	November 1967	c. 100ff
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Vegetable Book (2)

98/16/4	August 1949	-	November 1956	c.100ff
98/16/5	April 1957	-	June 1963	c.100ff

Patient Finance

P98/17

Ledgers for paying and non-paying patients were maintained by the Asylum with individual patient financial particulars recorded on an annual basis, showing maintenance fees contributed by State, contributions from patients' family or through patients' own personal estates.

Earliest Ledgers available commence in the Financial Year ending 31st March 1912 and record a number of particulars of each paying patient: Irish Service men in the British Armed Forces and admitted to the hospital during and after service, had their maintenance paid by the British Minister of Pensions. Payments from the British Army continued throughout the Servicemen's entire stay in the Hospital. Ledgers recorded the following particulars of each patient;

1. Name of Paying Patient and Registered Number.
2. When patient admitted.
3. Whether from County or City.
4. Name of person who paid the payment.
5. Yearly rate of Payment guaranteed per week.
6. Balance (if any) due at the close of previous year.
7. Period of maintenance within the payment year.
8. Whether patient was discharged, died or were transferred to non-paying list.

98/17/1	1912 - 1930	c.400pp
98/17/2	1931 - 1943	c.400pp
98/17/3	1944 - 1953	c.400pp
98/17/4	1956 - 1964	c.600pp

From the financial year ending 31st March, 1940, Patient Financial Ledgers were further divided into Limerick City and County financial districts and continued to include both Paying and Non-Paying Patients. Further additional information for each patient was recorded as follows;

- A. Number of days the Patient was maintained in the hospital, this subdivided by months and years.
- B. Non-Paying Patients; Number of Patients who were in the Mental Hospital throughout the entire year/Number of days during the year in which other non-paying patients were in the Mental Hospital, (i.e. – for broken periods).

C. Number of days during the year in which Paying Patients were in the Mental Hospital whether for broken periods or otherwise/Total Amount Received or Recoverable for periods of maintenance. (Paying Patients were entered in the ledger in Red Ink).

.D. Amount of Capitation Granted.

(County)

98/17/5	31 March 1940 - 31 March 1943	c.200pp
98/17/6	31 March 1943 - 31 March 1946	c.200pp
98/17/7	31 March 1946 - 31 March 1948	c.200pp
98/17/8	31 March 1948 - 31 March 1950	c. 30pp

City.

98/17/9	31 March 1940 - 31 March 1945	c.200pp
98/17/10	31 March 1945 - 31 March 1967	c.200pp

Both City and County patients are included in the Ledgers 98/17/11 to 98/17/13

98/17/11	31 March 1963 - 31 March 1964	c. 50pp
98/17/12	31 March 1964 - 31 March 1970	c.200pp
98/17/13	1951 - 1971	c.400pp
98/17/14	8 January 1976 - 23 December 1983	c.150pp

P98/18

Return of Patients/Daily Averages.

Analysis of Patient Numbers.

There are five Return of Patients/Daily Averages Books available, covering the period 1873 to 1971. They give a monthly statistical breakdown of patient returns, indicating the fluctuating patient numbers within the hospital throughout the decades. Data recorded included Numbers each month in the Asylum, numbers admitted during any given month, numbers discharged during that same month, total numbers from county and city admitted and discharged, those remaining in the asylum. It also recorded the number of vacancies, both male and female, in the hospital at the end of the month. The Index was signed by the Resident Medical Officer.

P98/18/1	April 1873 - February 1888	c. 200pp
P98/18/2	April 1929 - June 1945	c.200pp
P98/18/3	August 1945 - February 1960	c.100pp

Limerick District Mental Hospital. Daily Averages Book.

From 1947, the Daily Averages Book also noted classification of patient numbers, now admitted under different headings, (as per the Mental Health Act 1945), voluntary, temporary and unsound mind.

P98/18/4	February 1947 - March 1955	c.100pp
P98/18/5	April 1960 - April 1971	c. 200pp
P98/19/1	Maps donated by former staff and employees.	

P98/20/1 1861 Annual Report for Limerick District Lunatic Asylum, Year Ended 31st March, 1861: detailing patients admitted, those discharged, the number of patients deaths, patients in employment within the asylum, receipts and expenditures for the year, patients diet for breakfast, dinner and supper and a final report/input by the Resident Medical Officer Robert Fitzgerald.

P98/20/2 File of reference material received from Gerry White and Ambrose Briscoe. Includes two nurses badges, a fragment of pottery, a suicide card, and a copy of legislation including 1966 report into Mental Health in Ireland.

P98/20/3 File of material donated by Padraig Gilligan containing Patients Christmas Entertainment Festival 1984 and a copy of the crest designed by Dr. Higgins Resident Medical Superintendant with Latin inscription: 'Tenebrae Cedant Luci' translated meaning 'Darkness gives way to Light'.

P98/20/4 5 August 1942- 30 June 1948

Managers Order Book , donated
by former staff

475pp

P98/19/1

Maps

Inventory of Maps.

1. Drawing plans of proposed renovations to Hospital 1965- B Henry, Architects. Ground floor and First Floor.
2. (7) Drawing plans by Patrick J Sheehan and Partners-Architects and Engineers-1979. Proposed Extension to existing buildings and renovations at St. Joseph's Hospital.
3. (11) Drawing plans by McMahon, McMahon and Hickey Architects-1983.
Renovations and extensions to Nurses Station, Second Floor, Extensions to Male and Female Wards, First Floor Blocks – St. Joseph's Hospital.
4. (1) Drawing of proposed Kitchen Layout
5. (1) Ordnance Survey Map of Mulgrave Street and surrounding area – 1921
6. (1) Ordnance Survey Map of Mulgrave Street and surrounding area – 1941.

P98/19/2

1. Land Registry Maps, 1953 (4) (Land acquired and owned by St. Joseph's Hospital).
2. 7 Drawings for proposed extensions and renovations. Patrick Sheehan and Partners