Winckworth completed their year’s work as Clinical Clerks. I would like to thank all those junior members of the Medical Staff for the work which they have done for the Rotunda.

In September, 1954, we had much pleasure in welcoming Professor Bruce Mayes as a visitor to Dublin. He gave most interesting lectures in each of the Dublin Maternity Hospitals.

Reconstruction is now completed in the Pathological Laboratory and the new facilities should prove of great assistance to Dr. Moore and his Staff. It is with much regret that we record the death of Miss I. Swift, our radiographer, which took place early in the year and following a prolonged illness. She had served for eighteen years on the Staff and had achieved much during that time for the benefit of the Hospital. Our Paediatric Service has continued to give good service both to the Hospital and the city. The provision of these units has proved a most important advance to the medical services of the Country. The work of our Specialist Anaesthetists has been placed on a more satisfactory footing and we now make use of their services to a much greater extent, especially for emergency cases when particular anaesthetic care is considered essential. Medical complications have been numerous. Our Visiting Physician, Dr. P. B. B. Gatenby, visits the Hospital daily and has under his control an intern student who acts as House Physician.

In conclusion I would like to thank all Departments of the Hospital not specifically mentioned for the work which they have contributed, and also our Visiting Surgeon and other Consultants whose help has been sought on various occasions. I would also like to pay tribute to our Honorary Visiting Assistants for the help they have given in the work of the Out-Patient Department. Finally a special word of thanks is due to all who have contributed to the compilation of this Report and especially to Miss Mildred Aherne, our Records Secretary, without whose able assistance the task would be rendered much more difficult.

MASTER.

SOCIAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT.

MISS E. HOLMES.

Nineteen fifty-four saw a change in the staff of the Department, Miss Connor, the Senior Almoner resigned in order to take up duties as Medical Social worker in a Chicago teaching hospital and to continue her studies for the degree of Master of Social Work at Loyola University. We wish her every success and happiness.

Despite several false alarms regarding the full implementation of the new Health Service, work in the Social Service Department has continued with few changes during the year under review. Nevertheless, the initial changes which have taken place in the administration of the available Health Services leave much to be desired, for great delay is caused in the application and the investigation of many cases often causing distress to the patients. We hope that in due course such difficulties will be lessened.
In the Maternity Department of the Hospital, whilst all patients were interviewed by the almoners, special attention was focused on those mothers referred to the medical clinics where problems of a definite medical social nature frequently arose.

We had occasion to approach the Housing Department of the Dublin Corporation in an endeavour to assist certain cardiac patients living in surroundings which were detrimental to their medical condition. We would like to thank this Department for their assistance and courtesy.

A very common problem which we have encountered, is the patient who is required to take adequate rest at home on account of hypertension, history of toxaemia, or other complaints. In many instances this is not a practical proposition owing to the lack of home help. We have succeeded in obtaining the assistance of certain voluntary organisations for some of these cases, but there is a very real need for an organised and supervised Home Help Service.

In addition to the above category of patient, many mothers have facilities for domiciliary confinement, but through lack of competent help in the home, are compelled to come into hospital for their delivery. The age of the unofficial handy-woman seems to be passing. Perhaps this is not a bad thing.

Due to the high incidence of unemployment and to the attendant insurance and assistance benefits being well below subsistence level, 784 of the patients attending the general antenatal clinic, were referred to the Catholic Social Servicee Dining-rooms, where each was provided with a well-balanced meal daily. For those patients who lived a distance from the Dinner Centres, the Maternity and Child Welfare Department continued to arrange the provision, free, of a pint of milk daily for three months before the expected date of confinement.

Throughout the year the Clinical Clerks, Nurses and Students in attendance on the District, referred a number of puerperal patients who were found to be in need of assistance. In the course of the postnatal period the staff of the Paediatric Unit kept us informed of those requiring help.

Eighty-three mothers expecting illegitimate children had their babies in the Hospital, and seven patients were delivered on the District. We are most grateful to the moral welfare agencies who have co-operated with us in finding accommodation, where necessary, for these mothers during the prenatal stage, and in due course arranging for the care of the baby, as well as the eventual rehabilitation of the mother. The following social analysis table regarding these patients may be of interest.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category of patient</th>
<th>Total number interviewed</th>
<th>Para 1</th>
<th>Para 2</th>
<th>Para 3 plus</th>
<th>WHERE DISCHARGED TO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Own home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Patients</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out-Patients</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>—</td>
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</tbody>
</table>