

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD
BORD SLÁINTE AN OIRTHIR



ST. MARY'S

HOSPITAL



ANNUAL REPORT 1998

HOSPIDÉAL

NAOMH

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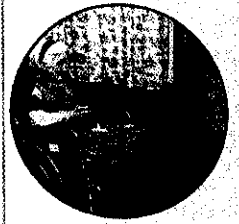


Programme Committee Acute Hospitals and Services for Older Persons

Programme Manager Acute Hospitals and Services for Older Persons

Hospital Management

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PROGRAMME COMMITTEE
ACUTE HOSPITALS AND SERVICES FOR OLDER PERSONS

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Cllr Pat Vance

PROGRAMME MANAGER
ACUTE HOSPITALS AND SERVICES FOR OLDER PERSONS

Mr Seamus O'Brien

ACUTE HOSPITALS AND SERVICES FOR OLDER PERSONS
COMMITTEE MEETING JULY 1999

REPORT ON SERVICES

1998

Hospital Manager	-	Ms Breege Carroll
Director of Nursing	-	Mrs Vera Manning-Barrett
Consultant Physician in Geriatric Medicine	-	Dr Joseph Duggan
Consultant Physician in Geriatric Medicine	-	Dr Jacques Noel
Consultant Physician in Geriatric Medicine	-	Dr John Lavan
Medical Officer (Cuan Aoibhean & Mobile Day Hospital)	-	Dr Frances Pidgeon
Engineering Officer	-	Mr Anthony Quinn



*The greatest gift we can give to another
is the gift of our time –
time to listen to another's pain,
to encourage
and lift them up when they are low*

1. O V E R V I E W

St. Mary's Hospital has a bed complement of 345 beds, of which 297 are dedicated to care of the older person. The services provided for the older person at St. Mary's Hospital have been developed in line with our Board's objectives for the provision of services for the older person outlined in its policy document "Services for the Elderly" (1989) which have also been re-affirmed in the Health Strategy "Shaping a Healthier Future". Our Board's 10 year Action Plan for Services for Older Persons (1999-2008), adopted in June 1998, also influences the delivery of services at St. Mary's.

In implementing the policy objective to maintain older people in their own home environment for as long as possible, a number of key services have been developed at St. Mary's Hospital. These include day hospital care, intermittent and respite care. A continuing care programme of rehabilitation is also provided for patients requiring medical supervision who, in addition, have physical and psychological disabilities which necessitate physiotherapy, occupational therapy and social interaction. Secondary rehabilitation is also offered to older persons who have completed the initial phase of their treatment in an acute hospital setting. When community and hospital-based intermittent care is no longer feasible, extended care beds are available to the older person.

A total of 48 beds are allocated to a residential and respite care facility for the young physically disabled adult who can no longer be adequately cared for at home. Residents at Cuan Aoibhean (Haven of Peace) are encouraged to live a full and dignified life as unique individuals.

In striving to provide the most comprehensive range of client centred care for the older person and the young physically disabled, the tremendous commitment and dedication of the staff at St. Mary's in meeting this objective throughout the year has not gone unnoticed and I would like to thank all staff for their full co-operation and support. I am also indebted to the teams of volunteers who give unselfishly of their time and support both to St. Mary's and to our Mobile Day Hospital.

Breege Carroll,
Hospital Manager.

2. STATISTICAL REVIEW

2.1 BED COMPLEMENT

Services for Older Persons	
Respite Care	6 beds
Intermittent Care	6 beds
Rehabilitation	52 beds
Welfare	16 beds
Long Stay Care	215 beds
Dental	2 beds
Sub Total:	297 beds
Services for Young Physically Disabled	
Respite Care	2 beds
Long Stay Care	46 beds
Sub Total:	48 beds
TOTAL	345 beds

2.2 HOSPITAL ACTIVITY

Patient Activity	1997	1998
Admissions	920	926
Discharges	775	809
Deaths	144	127
Bed Days:	117,167	115,659
Bed Occupancy:	93%	92%
Average Daily Occupancy	321	317

2.3 SOURCE OF ADMISSIONS

	1997	1998
Acute General Hospitals	160	203
Community	*744	*720
St. Clare's	4	1
Ashgrove House/Clarehaven	12	2
TOTAL	920	926

* Includes respite and intermittent beds

2.4 DISCHARGED TO

	1997	1998
Acute General Hospitals	28	40
Community	*707	*709
St. Clare's	20	24
Clarehaven	1	2
Private Nursing Home	13	17
R.I.P.	144	127
Other	6	17
TOTAL	919	936

* Includes respite and intermittent beds.

2.5 AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY - PATIENT DISCHARGE/RIP 1998

	1997	1998
0-3 months	797	803
3-6 months	36	32
6-12 months	18	23
1-2 years	20	25
2-4 years	22	28
4-6 years	13	12
6-10 years	9	9
10 years+	4	4
TOTAL	919	936

2.6 PATIENT AGE PROFILE AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 1998

Unit	25-40	40-50	50-65	65-80	80-90	90+
A	0	0	0	19	14	0
B	0	0	0	7	17	7
C	0	0	0	8	9	3
D1	0	0	0	6	17	1
D2	0	0	0	4	9	5
E1	0	0	0	11	8	6
E2	0	0	0	3	5	9
F1	0	0	0	6	18	6
Phoenix Unit	0	0	0	3	10	4
H	0	0	0	13	18	8
Cuan Aoibhean	5	19	17	1	0	0
O	0	0	0	6	6	3
TOTAL	5	19	17	87	131	52

2.7 PATIENT DEPENDENCY STUDY

On admission to St. Mary's each resident in the Hospital is assessed by nursing staff on the basis of:

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Psychological needs | 5. Nutritional and Hydration needs |
| 2. Mobility needs | 6. Dressing ability |
| 3. Hygiene needs | 7. Continence needs |
| 4. Pressure area care | 8. Social needs |

Based on their level of dependence, residents are then allocated to one of four care groups ranging from minimum care assistance (Care Group 1) to maximum care assistance (Care Group 4 – where the patient is totally dependant on others for care and needs).

ANALYSIS OF DEPENDENCY FIGURES AT 31/12/98

Unit	Care Groups				Total
	1	2	3	4	
A	0	6	20	7	33
B	0	3	12	16	31
C	0	4	8	8	20
D1	10	10	2	2	24
D2	0	6	10	2	18
E1	2	9	7	7	25
E2	0	2	12	3	17
F1	0	0	0	30	30
Phoenix Unit	1	4	11	1	17
H	1	6	13	19	39
Cuan Aoibhean	0	3	5	34	42
O	0	11	4	0	15
TOTAL	14	64	104	129	311

2.8 FINANCIAL OUT TURNS

	1998
Pay	£8,186,853
Non-Pay	£1,652,747
Gross Total	£9,839,600
Less Income	£1,197,060
NET TOTAL	£8,642,538

Average Daily Cost (Gross)	Ir. £85.00
Average Daily Cost (Net)	Ir. £74.00

3. CURRENT SERVICES

3.1 EXTENDED CARE - 215 beds

Older persons requiring extended care are assessed by a Consultant Geriatrician in the appropriate Department of Medicine for the Elderly prior to admission. Most patients are admitted to St. Mary's from the Day Hospital. Otherwise they are admitted directly to the Acute Assessment Ward following discussion with the patient's General Practitioner. The patient usually presents with a combination of severe physical and psychological impairments, requiring a high level of medical and nursing care. Alternative care options, both community and hospital-based, are no longer appropriate. In St. Mary's Hospital every effort is made to continue to provide as homely an environment as possible for the residents.

In 1998 there were 32 admissions to the extended care service and bed occupancy was 94%.

3.2 REHABILITATION - 52 beds

The objective of the rehabilitation service is to provide a programme of care which enables individuals with an impairment to reach their optimum level of health gain before returning home. This includes patients with stroke, patients with mobility problems following hip fracture and those with lower limb amputations. St. Mary's Hospital provides a slow stream or secondary rehabilitation service for the older person who has completed the acute phase of their treatment in an acute hospital.

In 1998 there were 217 admissions to the service and bed occupancy was 91%.



3.3 RESPITE CARE/INTERMITTENT CARE - 12 beds

Referrals to the respite care service are made via the patient's General Practitioner. There is a flexible approach to the number of beds available for respite care at any given time in order to meet the demand for the service. The availability of respite care has proven to be of great value to older persons and their relatives and has enabled them to remain in their own home for longer than would otherwise be possible.

Carers can avail of planned breaks for themselves with the reassurance that, in their absence, their elderly relative is being adequately cared for in St. Mary's.

The intermittent care service is provided for the older person who has been medically assessed to be in need of regular in-patient care every two weeks for short periods of time on a planned basis. This service enables the dependent older person to continue to live at home in dignity whilst receiving a planned programme of care at St. Mary's Hospital.

In 1998 there were 725 admissions to respite/intermittent care service and bed occupancy was 92%.

3.4 WELFARE - 16 beds

Older persons assessed as requiring a minimum level of medical and nursing support, but who are unable to continue to live independently in the community, are accommodated in our Welfare Unit. Residents are encouraged to continue to perform the activities of daily living to the best of their ability.

In 1998 there were 7 new admission to the Unit and bed occupancy was 94%.

3.5 DAY CARE SERVICES

The Day Hospital continues to provide multi-disciplinary assessment and maintenance rehabilitation on a day care basis five days a week. New patients receive medical, nursing, occupational therapy, physiotherapy and social work assessment.

In 1998 there were a total of 4,312 attendances at the Day Hospital, of which 217 were new attendances.

3.6 YOUNG PHYSICALLY DISABLED - 48 beds

Services for Young Physically Disabled Adults are provided in Cuan Aoibhean (Haven for Peace). This specialised Unit provides both long-term residential and short-stay respite care for young adults who are unable to cater for themselves in a home environment. Every effort is made to encourage residents to develop their personal skills to the maximum. Care is provided by a multidisciplinary team consisting of a Medical Officer, Nursing, Attendant and Para-medical staff. The appointment of a part-time Social Worker, Occupational Therapist and Nutritional Advisor to meet the special needs of the population of the Unit has been very beneficial. The activity programmes continue to add greater fulfilment and dimension that is required to care for the whole person. Activities include: Swimming, Social Outings, Shopping Trips, Cinema, Art and Day Centre activities. Programmes of care including Art Therapy, Aromatherapy and Recreational Therapy are also in place.



The Snoezelen Room continues to provide stimulation/relaxation to the residents with severe neurological deficits. An important feature of the Snoezelen approach is the involvement of the staff (enablers) within this environment. These enablers experience the sensations and emotions with the individuals by participating in the activities, thus breaking down conventional patient/carer barriers.

Two of the residents were able to avail of opportunities offered through outside Agencies. One resident attended a college course and the other, through Art Access, has an art studio in Temple Bar.

In 1998 there were 3 long stay admissions and 50 respite admissions to Cuan Aoibhean. Bed occupancy was 80%.



3.7 MOBILE DAY HOSPITAL

The Mobile Day Hospital was introduced to help reduce the need for patients to travel long distances to hospital and to, consequently, reduce the long waiting period in General Hospital Outpatients Department.

PATIENT CARE

Each patient is referred to the Mobile Day Hospital by their General Practitioner, Public Health Nurse, Consultant Geriatrician or other Hospital Consultant. There are no self-referrals. Patients are transported to the Mobile Day Hospital by relatives, neighbours or by taxi service. Following initial assessment a report is prepared, a copy of which is sent to the patient's G.P. Follow-up reports are also made.

The Multi-disciplinary team (Doctor, Registered General Nurse, Student Nurse, Chiropodist, Nutritional Advisor) on the Mobile Day Hospital have developed good liaison with the Public Health Nurses and specifically the District Care Unit teams.

MOBILE DAY HOSPITAL					
		New Patients		Review Patients	
		1997	1998	1997	1998
Swords	Monday	19	15	465	465
Maynooth	Tuesday*	14	9	219	223
Carbury	Wednesday	18	21	603	603
Balbriggan	Thursday	13	6	403	257
Total		64	51	1690	1548

* Alternate weeks

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The importance of continuously updating knowledge and skills is recognised by the team of the Mobile Day Hospital. Courses attended in 1998 include:

- 'Excellence in Nursing Practice – (Professor Stephen Wright) – attended by the Mobile Day Hospital's Staff Nurse
- Annual Conference of Chiropodists - attended by the Mobile Day Hospital's Chiropodist

4. MEDICAL SERVICES

The Medical Service at Cuan Aoibhean is provided by the Medical Officer with specific responsibility for Cuan Aoibhean and the Mobile Day Hospital.

The Department of Medicine for the Elderly continues to operate as part of the integrated North Dublin Geriatric Service together with James Connolly Memorial Hospital, Mater and Beaumont Hospitals. A comprehensive geriatric service, including acute assessment, rehabilitation, respite care, Day Hospital and long stay continuing care is provided.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The Department continues to develop its interest in various aspects of ageing, including blood pressure regulation. A Research Fellow continues a programme of work towards an M.D. Thesis.



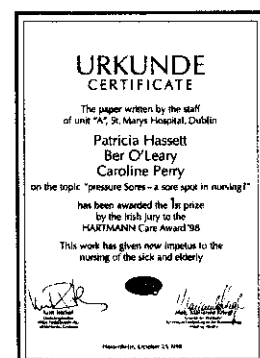
5. NURSING SERVICES

In St. Mary's there is an ongoing commitment from nursing management and the entire nursing team – wards sisters, staff nurses, enrolled nurses, care attendants and domestic staff – to be leaders in the Care of the Older Person and the Young Physically Disabled. Over the past year there have been many achievements throughout the hospital, including -

I. National Hartmann Care Award:

Nursing staff in Unit A were awarded 1st prize by the Irish jury to the Hartmann Care Award 1998 for their paper entitled 'Pressure Sores - a Sore Spot in Nursing?'

The project described the important issues surrounding the incidence, prevention and treatment of pressure sores of older patients. The project focused on a diversity of issues relating to the causes and prevention of pressure sores. The causes include: Continence, Nutrition, Mobility, Depression/Dementia, and also the vulnerability of older people to the use of many drugs. Awareness of research-based practice and the implementation of excellent nursing practice measures to address these causes has prevented the development of pressure sores in Unit A for the past six years.



II. Accreditation of the Nursing Development Unit:

A Nursing Development Unit (N.D.U.), as recognised by the King's Fund Centre for nursing development teams, was described as:

'Any defined clinical area where a group of nurses are striving to develop the service they offer to patients/clients, with the added responsibility of researching and evaluating practice, then disseminating their findings'.

The Nursing Development Unit (Phoenix Unit) at St. Mary's Hospital, first accredited in 1996, was accredited for the third consecutive year in 1998, by the Department of Nursing at U.C.D.

The Nursing Development Unit is subject to annual review by the accreditation team, formulated by U.C.D., in order to maintain their status.

5.1 IN SERVICE TRAINING

There have been intensive efforts made in the improvement of the delivery of care through staff education. Ongoing comprehensive in-service programmes for staff are offered within the hospital. Nursing staff have also availed of external training and development in such areas as:-

Computer Training	Management/Promotion of Continence
Team Building	Wound Care
E.H.B. Management Course for Front- /	Sedation in the Older Person
Line Managers	Chronic Pain in the Older Person
Quality Assurance	I.V. Training
Bullying & Sexual Harassment in the	Sonos Course
Workplace	Red Cross Hand Massage
Development of Excellence in Nursing	Palliative Care
Assessors Training Course for the National	Alzheimers Conference
Certificate for Care Attendants	Use of Restraints
Manual Handling Techniques	Disability Awareness

Diploma, conversion and degree courses were also completed by Nursing Staff.

5.2 STUDENT NURSE TRAINING

St. Mary's continues to play an important role in student nurse training in the Care of the Older Person. Student nurses are seconded from the Mater, Beaumont and the Adelaide & Meath Hospitals. This year has seen the transition from an apprentice system of training to the students having a supernumerary status on the wards.



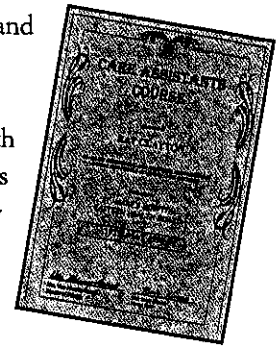
5.3 CARE ASSISTANT TRAINING

Great emphasis continues to be placed on the development of the skills and professionalism of the Care Assistant. St. Mary's Hospital offers all newly appointed Care Assistants an orientation programme, which includes a Manual Handling Day.

In addition, St. Mary's Hospital offered a further 'Care Assistant Course' for staff of the Eastern Health Board in 1998. This course aims to develop communication, practical and caring skills to enable the participants to respond effectively and empathetically towards patients in their care. It is also hoped to

empower the participant to use initiatives and imagination in order to develop ideas and good care practice.

St. Mary's is currently involved in developing the course further in conjunction with other facilities to provide a Foundation Course in the training of Care Assistants. This programme, of six months duration, will provide the participants with a nationally recognised certificate. The objective is to have this course as a core requirement for the Care Assistant position, thus having a standardised level of care nationally.



5.4 BACK TO NURSING

St. Mary's Hospital facilitated Nurses wishing to return to their career with access to work experience in our Board's Back to Nursing Programme. Participants were provided with support, in-service programmes and library facilities in a non-threatening and friendly environment that made re-entering the profession much less daunting than perhaps anticipated.

5.5 ADVOCACY PROJECT

St. Mary's Hospital, in co-operation with Age Action Ireland, agreed in Autumn 1996 to pilot an Advocacy project in the Phoenix Unit – an 18-bedded ward which provides extended care to female residents. The project commenced in 1998.

The objective of this patient-focused initiative was to offer an advocacy service to the residents of the Phoenix Unit which was completely independent from that provided by hospital and statutory staff. It is hoped that this Advocacy project will lay the foundations for an advocacy service which will be extended to all older persons and the young physically disabled adults in St. Mary's Hospital.

6. PARAMEDICAL AND SUPPORT SERVICES

6.1 PHYSIOTHERAPY

Physiotherapy continues to play an important role in the delivery of patient care in St. Mary's. Each patient is assessed on admission, and an appropriate treatment plan, specific to each individual, is implemented in consultation with the patient, the other members of the multi-disciplinary team and the relatives/carers. Home visits are carried out jointly with the Occupational Therapists to ensure a safe environment and to prepare for successful patient discharges. The Physiotherapists also liaise with community services personnel to co-ordinate discharge planning.

The Physiotherapy service to the extended care wards is provided at the request of the medical and nursing staff. This is mainly in relation to changes in the patient's mobility, the need for specialised seating or appropriate footwear.



The statistics for the Physiotherapy Department are as follows:

	1997	1998
Number of In-patient Assessments	644	506
Number of In Patient Treatments	4143	5685
Number of Day Hospital Assessments	295	253
Number of Day Hospital Treatments	725	577
Number of Group Treatments (Day Hospital)	1410	1998
Number of Home Visits	43	40



STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The Physiotherapists attend Special Interest Group meetings and avail of other educational opportunities to keep up to date with professional issues and new developments. During 1998 the Physiotherapists have been involved in in-service training for other hospital staff, and provided talks on Mobility, the Benefits of Exercise and Seating.

The Senior Physiotherapist at this Hospital is a qualified Manual Handling Trainer and, together with the other trainers in the hospital, contributed to Manual Handling Seminars and on-site training. The Physiotherapy Department continues to have links with University College Dublin School of Physiotherapy, and facilitated clinical placements for Physiotherapy Students.



6.2 OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

The purpose of Occupational Therapy is to maximise 'the fit' between what an individual wants and needs to do and his/her capacity to achieve this.

The Occupational Therapy service is St. Mary's provides individual evaluation, assessment and appropriate intervention to the Day Hospital and Rehabilitation Units and to patients in the Extended Units on request basis only.

Home Visits and the link with the Community Care Occupational Therapists continue to be a significant part of the discharge process which aims towards a seamless service. 42 Home visits were completed in 1998.

The appointment of a Head Occupational Therapist in September 1998 is a welcome development in order to facilitate a review of the organisation and management of the service and to develop it in line with current service delivery standards.



	1997	1998
Number of In Patient Assessments	986	888
Number of In Patient Treatments	1733	1739
Number of Day Hospital Assessments	255	305
Number of Day Hospital Treatments	126	165
Number of Group Treatments	1869	1257
Number of Home Visits	43	42

DIVERSIONAL/RECREATIONAL THERAPY

The role of Diversional/Recreational therapy in St. Mary's is vital in stimulating resident orientation by providing activities of a physical, social and educational nature.

Under the direction of the Head Occupational Therapist, the Diversional Therapist works in conjunction with participants of the Community Employment Project.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT – OCCUPATIONAL AND DIVERSIONAL THERAPISTS

Continuous professional development in 1998 was achieved through the attendance at meetings, study groups and conferences, including the two-day Conference facilitated by the Midland Health Board Office of Health Gain, Age & Opportunity; 'Lifelong Learning for the Older Person'.

Internal training was facilitated with talks given by Occupational Therapists to care attendants, student nurses, pre-nursing students and general staff. Clinical placement of Occupational Therapy students from both Trinity College and University College, Ulster, were continued.



6.3 COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT PROJECT

The Community Employment Project, approved by FAS (Foras Aiseanna Saothair) has been in operation in St. Mary's since 1992. Eligible projects are those which respond to an identified community need and provide development for unemployed people, as well as valuable work opportunities for participants. FAS provides grant support to the project to enable it to provide such development opportunities. At present 15 staff are employed - one Librarian, one Driver and thirteen Recreational Assistants, under the direction of a full-time Supervisor based at this Hospital.

The Recreational Assistants work closely with the Occupational Therapist, the Diversional Therapist and Nursing Staff, providing a wide range of activities for patients in both group and one-to-one setting. Weekly schedule includes Bingo, Arts & Crafts, Sonas Therapy, Reminiscence Therapy, Woodwork, Gardening club, Afternoon tea, and group games. Inter-Ward activities - team quizzes and skittle competitions - are also on-going. What generates the most excitement among our residents are the outings to events/venues such as Theatre, Cinema, Dublin Zoo and Greyhound Racing. The Christmas Shopping trips, coupled with a delicious Christmas lunch, give special enjoyment to the residents at St. Mary's.



6.4 SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

The aim of the service is to provide a Social Work Service to the patients who attend St. Mary's Hospital, which includes assessment/care planning with a focus on emotional, social, economic and environmental aspects, support and counselling with a focus on crisis intervention, information and support in accessing Social Welfare and Health systems, assessment and guidance regarding legal aspects of care of older people and discharge planning.

	1997	1998
In-Patients:		
New Cases	240	293
Total No. of Cases	-	413
In Patients - Cuan Aoibhean	-	2
Day Hospital: *(Oct. to Dec.)		
New Cases	105	10
Total No. of Cases	190	*79
Domicillary Visits	84	44

A report was commissioned by the National Council on Ageing and Older People on the Abuse, Mistreatment and Neglect of Older People in Ireland. The Senior Social Worker at St. Mary's is a co-author, with Dr. J Duggan, Consultant Geriatrician. This report was submitted to the Minister for Health in 1998. The recommendations included:

- The establishment of a Working Party on Elder Abuse.
- A review of the inspection of institutional care settings.
- Pilot projects e.g. a Community Based response to Elder Abuse, National Help-Line, Refuge/Shelter for abused Older People.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

- Continued participation in the Special Interest Group on Ageing of the Irish Association of Social Workers - currently working on proposal for Community based Social Workers for Older Persons, Social Services Inspectorate and Working Party on Elder Abuse
- Senior Social Worker to commence course at Department of Legal Medicine, U.C.D., in Sept. '99 (Higher Diploma in Health Care - Risk Management)
- Attendance at relevant Courses and Seminars.

6.5 RADIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

The X-Ray department, (comprising of a Radiographer, two Sessional Radiologists and an Attendant), provides an on-site diagnostic facility which prevents patient disruption and staffing difficulties associated with attendance at off-site facilities.

Patients availing of Long Stay Care, Respite/Intermittent Care and Day Hospital Care services are referred by the Consultant Geriatrician or his medical team to the X-Ray Department. Residents from the unit for Young Physically Disabled Adults are referred by the Medical Officer attached to the Unit.

Residents in the Cara Cheshire Home are referred to the X-Ray Department by their G.P.'s. Referrals are also received from St. John of God's, Islandbridge, for children prior to their referral to Orthopaedic Consultants.

	1997	1998
Number of Examinations	1,713	2,038
Number of Films	2,393	2,492

6.6 DEPARTMENT OF NUTRITION AND DIETETICS

The Nutritional Advisory Department consists of 2 whole-time Dieticians. This Department provides a service on two days per week to St. Mary's Hospital. The work of the Nutritional Advisor includes:

- Individual consultations for referred patients.
- On-going communication with medical, nursing and catering staff
- Education of staff in the area of nutrition and dietetics.

The Nutritional Advisor also participated in the Wound Care Study Day which was held in St. Mary's Hospital in July 1998. As well as providing a clinical service to patients, lectures on Nutrition were regularly provided to Student Nurses and Care Attendants throughout the year.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Continuous professional development is maintained through:

- Participation in various Special Interest Groups of the Irish Nutrition and Dietetic Institute, namely, the Nutrition for Care of the Older Persons Interest Group the Community Nutrition Group, and the Enteral Interest Group.

Courses completed in 1998 by Department staff -

- Nutritional Advice Group for Elderly People (N.A.G.E.) Course - certificate awarded by the British Dietetic Association.
- Supervisory Management Course, Eastern Health Board.
- Effective Oral Communication, University College Dublin.

6.7 OPHTHALMOLOGY

This service which commenced in 1990 and which is provided by a Consultant Ophthalmologist continues to operate successfully.

	1997	1998
Number of Sessions	32	36
Number of Treatments	112	102

6.8 CHIROPODY SERVICES

Chiropody is recognised as being an important element in the total care of the older person. The service is of great benefit to patients in improving their quality of life and maximising their mobility. A sessional Chiropodist visits residents at St. Mary's one day per week.

	1997	1998
Total Number of Treatments	796	799

6.9 DENTAL SERVICES - 2 BEDS

St. Mary's Hospital, in conjunction with the Dublin Dental Hospital, provides a dental theatre service on a day care basis to patients seen in the out-patient department of the Dental Hospital and offered surgery under general anaesthetic. (Patients are generally under 16 years of age or those who do not agree to local anaesthetic). Two in-patient beds are available for those who may require post-operative care.

	1997	1998
Total number of Procedures	1,196	635
Patients admitted	16	13

6.10 DENTAL CLINIC

The Dental clinic provides treatment for in-patients and day patients on a weekly basis. Patients from other hospitals and homes in our Board's area are also catered for.

	1997	1998
Total number of patients treated	221	319

7. GENERAL SUPPORT SERVICES

7.1 CLERICAL ADMINISTRATION



The success of the medical, nursing, para-medical and ancillary services is largely dependent on full co-operation of the Hospital's clerical/administration personnel. Their continued support and assistance contributes greatly to the provision of a quality service to both patients and residents at St. Mary's.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Courses successfully complete in 1998 include:

- Microsoft Excel (facilitated by Management Services at Dr. Steevens' Hospital),
- HIPE Coding, (facilitated by the E.S.R.I.)
- Receptionist Skills (facilitated by Management Services at Dr. Steevens' Hospital)
- Technical Liaison Officer training (facilitated by Management Services at Dr. Steevens' Hospital)

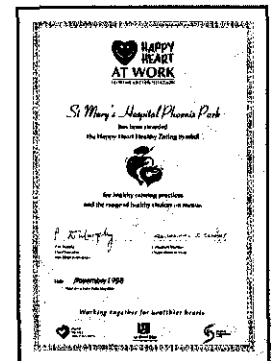
7.2 MAINTENANCE

During the year the Maintenance Department continued to make a significant contribution to the upkeep and improvement of the hospital. Apart from efficiently dealing with an ever increasing routine maintenance workload, the Maintenance Department was also involved in upgrading and refurbishment works throughout the Hospital.

In 1998 works included:

- Replacement of floor covering in Staff restaurant
- Painting of interior of Administration building
- Re-roofing of Administration building
- Creation of new Nurses' stations in Units B and C
- Replacement of Windows in Units D, E and F
- Refurbishment of disused Units to facilitate the accommodation of Central Pharmacy personnel
- Creation of pathway and pedestrian crossings at entrance to Hospital
- Erection of automatic barrier at entrance to Hospital

The provision of maintenance services in an old hospital like St. Mary's is a challenging task and Mr. Tony Quinn, Engineering Officer, Mr. Tommy Gavin, Maintenance Officer, and their committed staff are to be complimented on their success in meeting this challenge.



7.3 CATERING SERVICE

During 1998 the Catering Department met the nutritional needs of both patients and staff, together with our Board's personnel attending meetings or conferences at St. Mary's. The Department also provided a total of 6460 meals via a Meals-on-Wheels service to River Court, Chapelizod and Islandbridge.

It is the policy of the Department to provide safe wholesome food to all clients and customers. 'Healthy Eating' and a high standard of hygiene is the ethos of the Department. In 1998 the catering staff achieved the 'Happy Heart at Work' Award by displaying healthy cooking practices and offering a healthier choice of food without incurring substantial cost. These practices complied with the requirements of the Department of Health and the Irish Heart Foundation.



During 1998 the Department also commenced the development of a Food Safety System - 'H.A.C.C.P.' This is a proven systematic approach to ensure food safety. It is planned to continue the work on this system throughout 1999.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The catering staff continue to develop their skills in Food Handling and Food Hygiene. Two of the Chefs have completed a course in 'Management of Food Hygiene' in C.E.R.T., for which they were awarded certificates. This is a very intensive course and great praise must be accorded to them for their hard work. In 1999 three other members of the Chef's team will attend the course. It is also planned in 1999 to have in-house Hygiene and First Aid Courses.



7.4 PHARMACY

The Pharmacy Department continues to provide a supply service of medicines, dressings, intravenous equipment, nutritional feeds & equipment, oxygen/nebulising masks to the wards at St. Mary's Hospital.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Consideration is currently being given to initiatives which will provide an expanded service in the coming year. These include:

- The introduction of ward pharmacy to ensure safe/cost effective prescribing.
- Patient counselling and seamless care.
- The introduction of frequently used stock items on wards.
- The removal of non-pharmaceutical items from the Pharmacy.
- Improvement in computer hardware and software to facilitate audits and ordering.

7.5 PORTERING AND TELEPHONISTS

The portering staff, in fulfilling their duties, have continued during 1998 to support the provision of a comprehensive hospital service.

The Telephonists situated at the main entrance of the hospital have continued to efficiently manage the switchboard and courteously attend members of the public, providing assistance with enquiries relevant to the hospital.



7.6 MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

The Materials Management Department supplies to each department Food, Cleansing Materials, Hardware, Stationery, Appliances and Dental Appliances.

7.7 CHAPLAINCY DEPARTMENT

Fr. Lorcan O'Toole, the resident hospital chaplain, co-ordinates the Roman Catholic religious services in the hospital. Mass is celebrated in the hospital on a daily basis. The Church of Ireland residents are visited by Rev. Ivor Power. Clergy of all other denominations are available to patients, on an on-call basis. Facilities are available for all religious services.

7.8 FUND RAISING

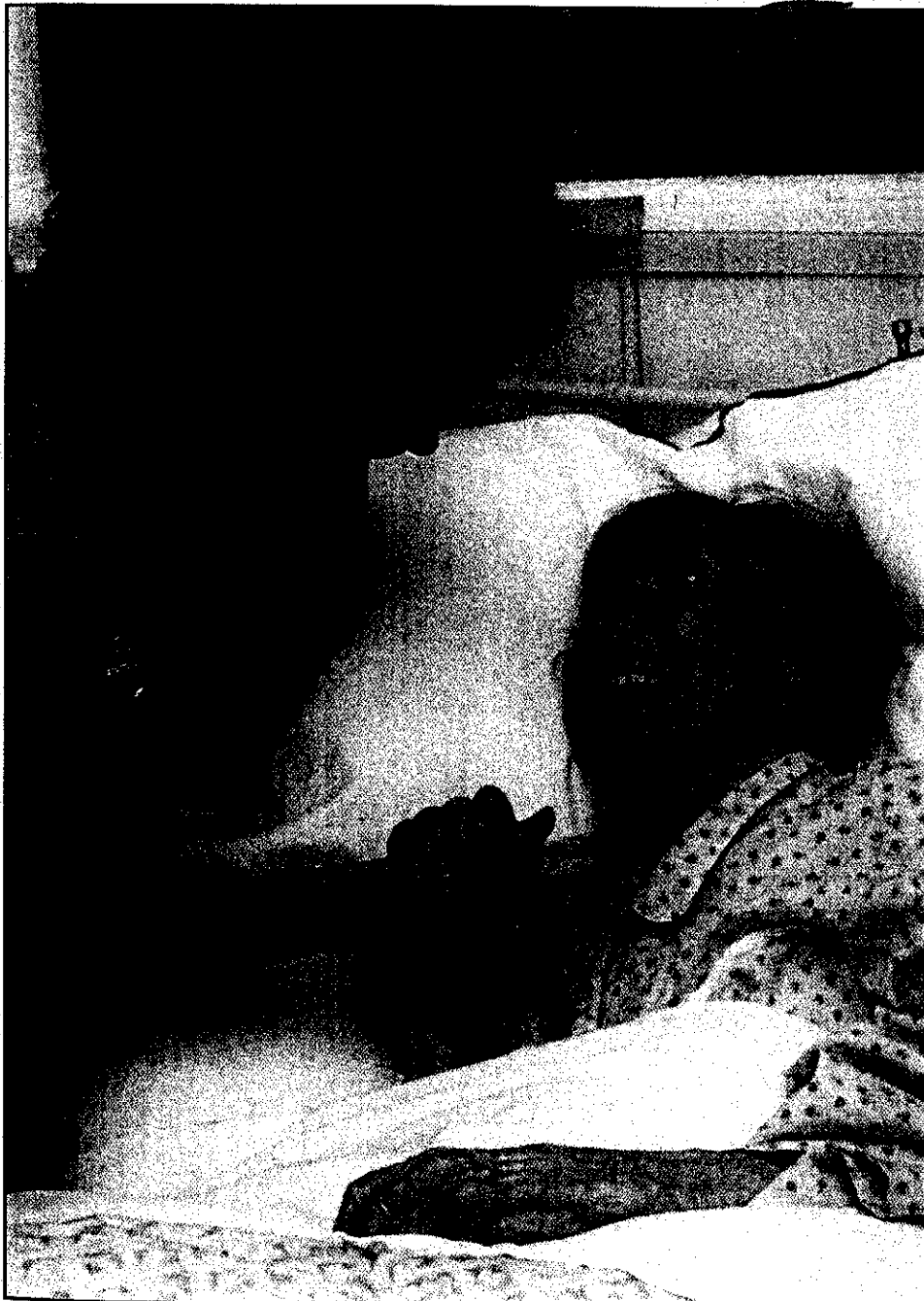
The Hospital Fund Raising Committee ("The Friends of St. Mary's") comprises of members drawn from staff, relatives and interested friends of the hospital.

Fund raising during 1998 included the annual Race Night, participation in Dublin City Marathon, Flag Day at The Square Shopping Centre, Tallaght, sponsorship of Christmas Lights. The weekly lotto is also a great success. In 1998, in excess of £8,000.00 was raised. The fund raising activities provide additional financial resources towards comforts for residents outings and social occasions e.g. theatre, cinema outings and social occasions.

St. Mary's Hospital is indebted to the assistance given both by event organisers and those who support the initiatives.

8. SERVICE NEEDS

- The further development of the Advocacy Project.
- The continuation of the programme of refurbishment.
- The replacement of essential ward equipment such as beds and hoists.
- Replacement of kitchen equipment (Refrigerated cold counters, Blast chiller, Dishwasher, Dishwashing Table, Pre-Rinse Spray Unit, Three-tier cleaning trolleys) to meet Environmental Health Regulations.
- The replacement of X-Ray Equipment.
- The appointment of a Head Physiotherapist and Basic Grade Social Worker.
- The further computerisation of the Hospital and upgrading of its computers to ensure Year 2000 compliance.



Thank You

Thank you for understanding my faltering step and unsteady hand.

Thank you for realising that my ears must strain to catch the things you say.

Thank you for looking away when the soup spilled today.

Thank you for stopping to chat with your cheerful smile and friendly way.

Thank you for not reminding me that I had told that story twice today.

Thank you for listening as I rambled back amidst memories of yesterday.

Thank you for letting me know that I'm loved, respected and not alone.

Thank you most of all just for being my friend.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

St Mary's Hospital was built in 1769 as the Royal Hibernian Military School. The school provided care and education for the children of members of Irish Regiments who had been orphaned or whose parents had been posted abroad. The Royal Hibernian Military School continued to operate until 1922 when the building was handed over to the Free State Government.

The building was subsequently developed as a hospital by the Irish Army and continued as a hospital for the Defence Forces until 1948.

In 1948 the Hospital transferred to the Dublin Health Authority and was developed for use as a Chest Hospital including the care of TB patients until 1964 when the hospital's role changed to a facility for the care of the elderly.



Bowling Alley hand-made and presented to the Residents of St. Mary's by Basin Lane Youth Reach Programme

