

D.70/10.

22 January, 1942.

Dear Garvin,

/ I am sending you, as requested,
a note of our discussion yesterday.
I trust you will find it satisfactory
as far as your Department is concerned.

Yours sincerely,

HA

J. Garvin, Esq.,
Department of Local Government
and Public Health,
Custom House,
DUBLIN.

SÓC/EC.

*Copies to Secretary
+ Mr. Shanahan*

MEMO.

Mr. Randall and Mr. O'Connell had a discussion in the Custom House on the 21st instant with Mr. Garvin of the Department of Local Government and Public Health regarding the arrangements in connection with the issue of ration books to the various institutions under that Department's control or supervision. Dr. Kearney, Inspector of Mental Hospitals, was also present during the portion of the discussion relating to mental hospitals. Mr. Randall outlined the procedure which had been agreed upon in the case of the Army and the prisons, and added that it was hoped to make arrangements on similar lines in the case of the institutions in which the Department of Local Government and Public Health was interested. These fall into the following categories:-

(1). Dundrum Criminal Lunatic Asylum and Mental Hospitals under the control of Local authorities. The patients here are mostly permanently attached to the institutions to which they are committed. It was agreed that books in these cases should be sent to the Resident Medical Superintendent or other officer in charge who should retain them while an inmate was domiciled in his asylum. It was considered undesirable that the address of the asylum should be inserted on the cover of the book. When a patient was being discharged the Resident Medical Superintendent would insert his new address in the appropriate space on the cover of the book and hand it to the patient before leaving, at the same time notifying this Department of the new address if we should so desire. A similar procedure will be adopted in the case of patients who had left an asylum between Registration Night, (16th November, 1941) and the date on which the books are issued generally. The Resident Medical Superintendent will return to this Department books relating to persons who had died in that interval.

It was also mentioned that there were 11 private mental homes in the State and it is considered that the procedure outlined above might also be applied to them.

(2). County Homes. These have a static population of about 100,000, consisting of chronic invalids and harmless insane persons. There is also a fairly large proportion of casuals, mostly of no fixed address. It was decided that the books should be issued to the Matrons of the County Homes, and should be retained by them as long as the patients to whom they related were attached to the Home. Where a person had left since Registration Night the Matron would send on his book to his present address if she knew it. If such a person had no fixed address she would return the book to this Department. It was agreed that in the first instance no address should be written by Hospitals Trust Ltd. when writing up books in respect of persons in County Homes.

(3). County and District Hospitals. The average duration of a patient's stay in one of these hospitals is about 3 weeks. It was considered that in practically all cases the patient's home address would be inserted in the

appropriate column of the registration form for persons temporarily away from home on Registration Night, and that the patient's ration book should be sent to that address.

(4). Homes for Unmarried Mothers, at Pelletstown, Tuam, Castlepollard, Shan Ross Abbey, Roscrea and Bessborough, Cork. It was agreed that in these cases it was highly undesirable that the names of the institutions should appear in the space for the address on the cover of the ration books, and that it would be sufficient if the names of the persons concerned were inserted on the cover and the books for the institution in question sent to the matron. In cases where a home address was given on the registration form the ration book might be sent to that address.

(5). Extern Institutions, (a list of which is contained in Appendix XXXIII of the Report of the Department of Local Government and Public Health for 1927/28). These institutions contain about 1,270 adults and 1,400 children who are mostly long term inhabitants of the institutions. The books would, in these cases, be sent to the person in charge and retained by him while the persons to whom they related were attached to his institution.

Mr. Garvin said he would send to this Department, for our guidance, a list of the institutions with which his Department was concerned, together with the names of the persons in charge of them. It would, he said, be necessary to send a circular containing comprehensive instructions to all such institutions, and he would let us know in the course of a few days, whether his Department would consider it preferable ~~whether~~ for such a circular should emanate from his Department or ours.

Mr. Garvin also mentioned that in most of the institutions under discussion both patients and staff were supplied with certain commodities by the institutions, and before any particular commodity was rationed he would like to have a discussion with this Department to see if any special arrangements were necessary. Mr. Randall undertook that this point would be borne in mind.

806.

22 January, 1942.

SOC/EC.