

COUNCIL FOR THE IRISH CENTRE.
BLESSEE OLIVER PLUNKET HOUSE, 51/52,
CAMDEN SQUARE, LONDON, N. W. 1.

EIGHT ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST. DECEMBER, 1962.

COMMITTEES: All three Committees, Administrative, Carey Club, and Welfare met regularly each month and worked with energy and enthusiasm in their various spheres of activity resulting in a more widespread knowledge of the Centre and its work.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE like the wise father was mainly concerned with finance and planning for more space for the increased activities. The Balance Sheet which you have before you gives testimony to the fruits of their labours in the financial field as the loan from the Archdiocese of Westminster has been reduced by a further £1,500 and this loan now stands at £11,500 as against the original £15,000. The story of their success in the planning operations cannot be unfolded in this report.

THE CAREY CLUB COMMITTEE played their full part in the raising of the much needed finance by organising the Sunday evening Bingo Sessions, and the selling of tickets for the many social functions held. Their success in increasing the Membership of the Club is very noteworthy; from just under 100 to over 600.

THE WELFARE COMMITTEE too put their shoulder to the wheel in the raising of general finance although they had their own objective to reach the raising of funds to meet the salary of a full time Welfare Officer, as well as having some money at hand to meet urgent cases of distress.

Their appointment of Miss C.A. O'Sullivan, B.A. H.Dip., as full time Welfare Officer fulfills a longfelt need. Since she took up her appointment on 1st. September she has interviewed 125 men, 34 girls and 16 families, giving advice in many problems and financial assistance where she judged it was deserved. This Committee expresses a great debt of gratitude to the Cork, Clare, Galway, Meath, Longford, Associations, and the Irish Club, National University of Ireland Club, The London County Board, G.A.A., The Emerald Hurling Club, The Geraldines Hurling and Football Club, to Galvin, Burgess & Co., to John Murphy & Sons Ltd., and to the hundreds of Irish men and women here and at home who contributed so generously, many by Bankers Orders. The Priests too both here and at home deserve our thanks.

PREMISES: The decorations of the Residential accommodation were completed during the year and the Club Rooms, entrance Hall, main Stairways etc., were also redecorated and essential new fittings were added to the bar.

RESIDENTS 697 men were given accommodation during the year, bringing the total number of men accommodated to date to 4,941. The Ages varied from 15 to 60, and all 32 counties were represented. Marian House continued to play its part in the accommodation of girls, 843 for 1962 bring the total to date to 5,528. Here again there was a wide age range $\frac{1}{3}$ of the total number being under 18 years of age on arrival. The debt on Marian House now stands at £2,500 against the original £6,500, plus the £6,000 spent on Central Heating, furniture and fittings.

STAFF: With increased activity the staff both full and part time had to be increased. This increase in staff is reflected in the balance sheet.

We wish to pay tribute to the loyalty of the members of the staff who have been with us for years. Mrs. Harrington and Eithne Ivory, (Marian House), Miss Mary Mulhearn and Mr. Lawrence Gosling at the Centre. Miss Marie Harrington, Mrs. O'Donnell, Mr. John Geraghty and Mr. Michael Farrell joined us early in 1962, and all will agree that they have added in no uncertain manner to the efficient working of the Centre; we hope that they will spend many happy years with us.

VOLUNTARY HELPERS: Despite our increased staff, the organisation and enjoyment of many functions e.g. Bacon and Cabbage Suppers would not have been so helpful without our voluntary helpers, who have impressed all our visitors from London, and home; perhaps we might mention Miss Nellie O'Sullivan, our longest serving volunteer.

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