

## Ireland.

[FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS.]

### INSURANCE ACT.

ONE of the Insurance organizers, addressing the Athlone Board of Guardians last week, foreshadowed an amendment to the Insurance Act to improve the position of Post Office contributors, who, he said, were not really insured persons at all. He said also that he understood that rules were under consideration for dealing with employers' contributions towards casual employment. As the Act stood, the person who employed the casual worker on Monday morning, even though he required help only for the day, had to pay the employer's contribution for the week. The Irish Commissioners were considering whether it might not be possible to divide the employer's contribution amongst all the persons with whom the casual worker laboured during the week.

### CENSUS RETURNS.

The Registrar-General has issued the census returns for four more counties—Carlow, Longford, Kerry, and Fermanagh. There is a decline of the population in all four; in Carlow the fall is 1,500, in Longford nearly 3,000, in Kerry over 6,000, and in Fermanagh between 3,000 and 4,000. In the first two counties the check to the flow of emigration in the decade compared with that ending in 1901 is barely appreciable. Kerry, however, shows the remarkable drop in the decade of more than 15,000. In Fermanagh also the emigration has declined by 2,000. In all four counties the number of persons receiving outdoor relief shows a marked decline. This is specially noticeable in Kerry, where last year there was 1 person in every 48 in receipt of relief, in place of 1 in every 35, as in 1901. One disturbing factor seen in the returns of all the counties that have been published so far is that the decrease in the population is most marked in the country districts; and even in such cases as Fermanagh, which shows decreases in all districts, both urban and rural, the decrease is comparatively less in Enniskillen Urban District than in the rural districts. This emigration from the country to the towns is particularly marked in Kerry, and points to the urgent necessity for a further broadening of the interests of rural life.

### IRISH WORKHOUSE ASSOCIATION.

In pursuance of a suggestion made by the Vice-President of the Local Government Board on the occasion of a recent deputation headed by the Earl of Mayo, a special meeting of the committee was held in Dublin recently. It was resolved that a register of suitable homes wherein to board out pauper children should be kept by the Irish Workhouse Association; the secretary will be glad to hear particulars of suitable homes from ladies in the country who are interested in the matter. Committees are in course of formation in various counties, and it is hoped that the association will thus be enabled to help the boards of guardians, who now find a difficulty in procuring suitable homes for children whom they wish to board out.

### GARDEN PLAYGROUNDS IN DUBLIN.

The Lord Lieutenant opened St. Monica's Garden Playground in St. Augustine Street, Dublin, last week. The existence of such playgrounds in London and Edinburgh determined the Women's National Health Association to extend the scheme to Dublin. This playground has been made on a derelict site, which the Corporation gave for the purpose at a nominal rent. It contains a convenient shower bath, which will be used under supervision, and a number of cradles in which babies may enjoy the air in comfort and safety. A trained nurse will attend daily to look after the children who are under school age. After 3 p.m. school children will be admitted, and they will be looked after by ladies and gentlemen who engage in such social work. A second playground in another quarter of the town is soon to be opened on much the same lines by the Women's National Health Association.

### TUBERCULOUS COWS.

A veterinary surgeon writes in the *Irish Times* from Naas to say that the existing laws controlling the inspec-

tion of cows and milk are, to his mind, useless, and the present legislation for dealing with tuberculosis inadequate. As inspector he notified his urban council of the case of a cow suffering from open tuberculosis, but without the characteristic signs of a tuberculous udder. The absence of the latter symptom debarred the council from taking any step in the matter, and the Department of Agriculture would deal with the case only as regards its statistical value. The cow, fortunately, died.

### MULLINGAR ASYLUM.

A curious point has arisen at the Mullingar Lunatic Asylum. Shortly before last Christmas Dr. Gavin, who is a Westmeath man, was elected by a large majority by the committee to be successor as resident medical superintendent to Dr. Finegan, who had resigned. Subsequently the Inspectors of Lunacy wrote raising the objection that Dr. Gavin was not yet "a fully qualified medical practitioner of seven years' standing." Since then there has been further correspondence on the subject, and the Lord Lieutenant's advisers have definitely stated that the election is illegal. The next meeting of the committee will not be held till April 11th, and, as Dr. Gavin will be legally qualified for the position on April 10th, it is probable that the matter will be settled at the next meeting by Dr. Gavin's reappointment, as the post has been again advertised. Dr. Gavin had resigned his position as medical officer of Horton Asylum in England as a result of his election in Mullingar.

### THE LATE DR. HENRY CULLINAN.

At the last meeting of the Portrane Asylum Visiting Committee, Dr. O'Connor Donelan in his report stated that by the death of Dr. Cullinan the institution had sustained a loss which could not easily be replaced. He was an able physician, an earnest officer, an honourable and straightforward gentleman, a kindly and loyal colleague. The following motion of condolence was passed unanimously, all present standing:

The Portrane Visiting Committee of Richmond Asylum heard with great regret of the untimely death of Dr. Cullinan, Deputy Resident Medical Superintendent, and they tender to his widow their heartfelt sympathy in her sudden bereavement.

### SALARIES IN BALLINROBE.

At a recent meeting of the Ballinrobe Board of Guardians certain regulations regarding the salaries of the doctors were carried by a majority of 11 to 7. The increases sanctioned were shown by the doctors to involve an increase in the rates of not more than a halfpenny in the pound. At the next meeting there was a notice of motion to rescind the increase. The board-room was filled with young and old men, nearly every one of whom had an ashplant. When the motion to rescind the increase had been moved one of the doctors attempted to speak and explain the state of affairs, but he and some members of the board, who asked that the doctors should receive a peaceful hearing, and the Local Government Board inspector were howled down, and the notice to rescind was carried by 14 votes to 10. At the next meeting a letter of protest from the doctors, complaining that intimidation had been practised and asking for the appointment of a small committee of the guardians to consider and report on the cost, was marked "read."

### ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS.

At the last quarterly meeting of the Dublin Corporation a report of the Public Health Committee recommending the compulsory notification of acute poliomyelitis was adopted.

## Scotland.

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### DR. BYROM BRAMWELL.

THE colleagues of Dr. Byrom Bramwell, who, under the time limit, is retiring from the post of Senior Physician to the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, intend to mark their appreciation of his great services as a teacher of clinical medicine by entertaining him at a complimentary dinner on May 17th. The arrangements are in the hands of Professor Harvey Littlejohn, Dr. Norman Walker, and Dr. Haultain.