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Hospital of St. Margaret of Cortona.
~~Westminster Lock Hospital~~ // E3
Townsend Street. 000000

Dublin. 12th September 1946
Hgh. (ad) RECEIVED
GENERAL POST OFFICE
DUBLIN

19180

A. Chara

I am directed by the Board
of Governors of the above Hospital
to inform you that great difficulty
is being experienced in finding foster
mothers even for healthy babies.
Local authorities will not take
these children unless the mother
accompanies the child.
Our Almoner can very often find
work for decent girls who have
just been unfortunate if the
child could be looked after.

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My Governors consider that if
the question of placing these
children were taken up by the
Central Authority, the existing
situation could be greatly improved.

mine le meas.

W. Sterling Berry.

Secretary and Registrar.

The Secretary.

Dept. of Local Govt + Public Health.

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P. 19180/46.
Ilgh. (Ad).

27 November, 1946.

A Chara,

With further reference to your letter of the 12th September last in regard to the difficulty of procuring foster homes for healthy infants suitable for discharge from the Hospital of St. Margaret of Cortona, I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to state that the reluctance of local authorities to admit to district institutions destitute infants unaccompanied by their mothers, is understandable inasmuch as with the exceptions of St. Patrick Home, Pelletstown, Dublin, and the Children's Home, Tuam, Co. Galway, the facilities for the care of infants are not available in their institutions and the public assistance authorities find it more difficult to procure suitable foster homes for infants than for older children.

* || The ~~case~~ of infants as well as the general work of County Homes is, as a rule, carried out by mothers who are maintained therein and the motherless child is liable to neglect, but there should be no difficulty in having infants, who are chargeable to counties Galway, Mayo and Dublin (including Dublin City) where proper care can be given to motherless infants, discharged to the public assistance authority concerned where an unmarried mother is willing to go into an institution such as the Good Shepherd Home for penitents, the baby should be discharged to the public assistance authority concerned. It is also suggested that the authorities of your hospital should consult the Reverend Director, Rotunda Girls' Aid Society, Marlborough Street, Dublin. This Society aims at helping mothers and infants born in the Rotunda Hospital, and appears to be able to procure foster homes for these infants.

I am to add that an Inspector from the Department will continue to keep in touch with the Almoner of your hospital with a view to making arrangements for the welfare of each child suitable for discharge therefrom.

Mise, le meas,

Dr. W. Sterling Berry,
Secretary & Registrar,
The Hospital of St. Margaret of Cortona.

a. s. Rúnaf.

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