

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR  
CORK.

THE question of the appointment of a successor to the late Dr. Wall was discussed at a recent meeting of the Cork Town Council.

The salary to be paid to the incoming officer—£200 or £150—led to a division, which resulted in a majority voting for the latter sum.

Mr. Dunlea said that some members of the council might not be aware that by parliamentary grant they were refunded half the salary of this officer by the Local Government Board. The committee considered that the officer was obliged to give a great deal of his time to the duties, and that as the Government paid half the salary, £200 a year was not too much. The reduction to £150 meant that they would relieve the ratepayers of £25 a-year, while they handed back to the Government a similar sum. Under the circumstances he thought it would be unfair to deprive a duly-qualified medical officer of the £25 a-year they would have to pay.

Mr. Creedon said he was told by one of the candidates that £150 a-year was quite enough.

Mr. Dunlea—That man must have had no chance of the appointment!

Mr. O'Brien—They could get a quack for any salary. He deprecated cheese-paring in an important appointment like this, where increased pauperism resulted from the neglect of attention to the public health.

Messrs. Scott and Murphy supported the fixing of the salary at £150.

Mr. Dale said he should uphold the unanimous decision of the committee at which Mr. Creedon was present.

Mr. Creedon said he had a right to change his mind, and he would exercise it.

Mr. Lennie said one of the candidates told him that £150 a-year was quite enough for the office, and that he would not like to take any more from the ratepayers.

Mr. Scott—That's the man for us.

Sir George Penrose declared himself in favour of £150 a-year.

The Mayor said if he were at the committee he would have been in favour of £150, considering that public bodies were prone to increasing salaries to deserving officers, and that there should be an incentive to deserve increased remuneration.

At the request of Mr. Hooper, the secretary read the duties of the Officer of Public Health, from which it appeared that he was obliged to attend committee meetings when required, inspect, report, and recommend sanitary works, and supply returns to the Local Government Board of the state of the public health.

The council was then about to break up, when,

Mr. Murphy (South Mall) said he had another amendment to the minutes of the committee—namely, that whoever was elected should not hold any other public appointment—whether a dispensary, or as a physician to the workhouse hospital.

Mr. Hooper thought this matter should have been mentioned before they fixed the salary.

The Mayor—I think so, too. It would certainly have altered my vote.

Mr. Hooper—And mine, too, I must say.

Alderman Daly—Is Mr. Murphy aware that a dispensary doctor can't hold the appointment?

Mr. Murphy—No.

Mr. O'Brien, on the minutes of the same committee, complained of the large number of cases in which landlords had neglected to comply with corporate notices to carry out sanitary arrangements on their property.

Alderman Daly said this subject was engaging the serious attention of the committee—he himself had a list of such cases in his own private office at present for the purpose of looking into them. There were over 5,000 houses of the class Mr. O'Brien referred to in the city

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