POOR DOCUMENT

MC 2034

MEDICAL INSPECTION IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

(Continued from Page One.)

the Board of Education to make arrangements for attending to the health and physical condition of the children educated in public elementary schools.

Mr. Tennant's amendment was as follows: It shall be the duty of every local education authority to make arrangements in accordance with a scheme to be made by the board of education, for attending to the health and physical condition of the children educated in public elementary schools.

The sequel was a surprise. It would seem as if every man had already been persuaded in his heart of the value of, and necessity for this reform, but every man was not sure of his neighbor's opinion either in the house or out of it, but that every day in the afternoon, when the debate came on it was evident that the proposal had the support of both political parties, and practically of the whole house. It was supported by Mr. Balfour, Sir W. Collins, Sir. H. Craik, Sir W. Anson, Sir Gilbert Parker and Mr. Masterman, and Dr. MacNamara said that if medical inspection were made compulsory that would be worth all the other provisions of the bill put together. At seven o'clock Mr. Birrell agreed to insert for the report stage of the bill the following sub-clause:

It shall be the duty of every local authority to provide for medical inspection of every child on its application for admission to a public elementary school, and on such other occasion as the board of education may direct, or the local education authority may think fit.

This step marks progress. It is the opinion of the medical profession, repeated by this association, that there should be a board of education medical department, that medical inspection of elementary school children should be compulsory, and that this inspection should be made on admission, recorded, and repeated during the child's school career.

Whatever be the final fate of this education bill of 1906, now before the house of lords, there can be no doubt that either in this bill or in its immediate successor, medical insection of school children will become law.

As a result of enquiries by parliamentary commissions appointed by various cities in Europe, it has been ascertained that morbidity among schools was found to be twenty-nine per cent. in boys, and forty-two per cent. in girls; anaemia, neuralgia, headache and indigestion seeming to be the chief causes.

Compulsory education many times means compulsory infection, because the child on the one hand, under the existing law of compulsory education, is compelled to atend school, and on the other, should there be an unrecognized case of any contagious disease such as diphtheria or scarlet fever he is necessarily exposed to infection. And further, it is possible from that one unrecognized case of either of the above diseases to have the same carried into the homes of thirty or more children in that one day. This being a fact, it is of importance for those citizens, who feel that medical inspection is unnecessary because they are quite capable of having their children inspected medicailly and kept in a healthy condition, to note that their child or children may leave home in the morning in perfect health, and on account of being compelled to come in contact with one or more scholars who are in the possession of an unrecognized virulent case of contagion, he may return home bearing with him the germs of a disease, which may mean a serious illness, and in some instances, his death.

The medical inspector should look after:

First—The school building, that is: Condition, ventilation, lighting, heating, seating, etc.

Second—Inspection of candidates for teacher's professional certificates—in the principles of preventative medicine and school hygiene, diffusion of knowledge among the general public and popular lectures.

Third—Physical and mental condition of the child.

(a.) The simple measurements, height, weight, chest measurement, question of development as affected by up-bringing, under feeding, malnutrition, housing and environment.

(b.) Eyes, ears, and teeth. If necessary provide notification to the parent, with advice to consult the family physician.

(c.) Signs of over pressure or fatigue, mental condition, studies, school hours, sleep.

(d.) Infectious and other diseases.

Seating is important. The difference in the heights of children of the same age may vary from 6 in. to 11 in., and the seats should be adjustable to the bodies, not the bodies to the seats. The hygienic Swiss desks may be adjusted easily for height and slope. These desks and seats are regarded by good authorities as comfortable, constructed on correct principles, and generally satisfactory.

Next to the question of body measurement comes the examination of the eyes, ears and teeth of the child, because there is nothing that foils the best efforts of pupil and teacher so completely as imperfect sight and hearing, and nothing that more frequently causes physical degeneration than defective teeth.

In connection with some statistics given by Helen MacMurchy, M. D., Toronto, on this subject, I quote the following:

EYESIGHT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

"First of all it was necessary to make a rapid examination of a large number of children in order to convince educational authorities of the large percentage of school children who cannot learn because they do not see well, and to force the public into doing something by drawing attention to the crying need. Accordingly, we have now reports in the literature of the subject of perhaps 1,000,000 children. A few examples may be given:

London: 600,000 children examined by eight physicians, 10 per cent. found to have less than one-third of normal vision.

Standard I, 54 per cent.; Standard VIII, 80 per cent. have normal vision.

Cohn has collected the statistics published by German observers:

Lower classes, 22 per cent. near sighted.

Upper classes, 58 per cent. near sighted.

New York, 1904: 7,166 children examined—17 per cent. suffering from defective eyesight.

Philadelphia: In one school it was found that two out of every three children had something wrong with their eyes.

Dr. Timberman reports in the Ohio Sanitary Bulletin that he examined 1,200 pupils in the high schools, and found that 40 per cent. had defective eyesight.

DEFECTIVE HEARING.

In London Dr. Cheatle examined 1,000 of the Hanwell District School with the following results:

Normal hearing	432
Middle ear disease	518
Adenoids	434
Enlarged tonsils	231

In Stuttgart, Germany, 5,000 were examined and 30 per cent. had defective hearing.

In Glasgow, Scotland, 600 were examined and 28 per cent. had defective hearing.

In Chicago about one-sixth of the school children are so defective in hearing as to interfere with school work.

When we remember that some of the causes of deafness are removable, especially in childhood, and that, as in the case of adenoid growths, other great evils, such as mouth breathing, may at the same time be removed, it will be seen that we have here more good work for the school medical officer to direct.

THE TEETH.

The condition of the teeth is closely connected with the question of physical degeneracy. Dr. Osler in present the prizes to successful students at the Royal Dental Hospital of London last October, told them he thought there should be a dental surgeon attached to every public elementary school.

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Finally, there is the question of transmissible diseases. No argument is needed here. There is no quicker and surer way to spread disease and death than to let light, incipient, or unrecognized cases of diphtheria, measles or scarlet fever attend school. House epidemics of children's diseases are usually traced to a child who has been infected at school, and fatalities under three years of age are often the result of infection from an older child going to school.

From another table of statistics representing 806 children examined, only 218 were without defect of any kind. The remaining 675 had one or other morbid conditions.

The principal causes were as follows:

	Cases.
Rickets	110
Affections of the skin	119
Gland enlargement	165
Eye disease or refractive error	361
Affections of the nose and throat	426
Spinal curvature	61
Lung diseases apart from consumption	47
Ear diseases or deafness	91

In Berlin of 32,902 children examined on their first entry into school 3,056 were put back, that is, not allowed to come to school for a certain period of time. The causes were anaemia and general debility, scrofula, rickets, nervous trouble and defective intelligence. Of the children admitted, 7,335 required continuous supervision because of their eyes or ears or general weakness or slight tuberculous trouble.

ADVANTAGES OF MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Investigations conducted by well trained experts have demonstrated again and again that many children attend school suffering from contagious dieases. In the first month of medical school inspection in Boston 437 sick children were found at school, 37 being ill with diphtheria and 104 with scarlet fever. Such children are capable of infecting the things with which they come in contact as if they were suffering from severe attacks. Medical inspection would at once exclude these from the school and have the rooms disinfected.

Investigations regarding the eyesight and hearing of the children show that there are many in the schools who are handicapped in their progress by defective sight, or hearing, or both. The mild forms and early stages of these ills often escape the unskilled observation of the teacher—a thing not to be wondered at when it requires special skill on the part of the physician to discover the defect. In the majority of cases of defective hearing neither parent, teacher, nor child, is aware of the defect. When it is understood that defective eyesight, imperfect hearing, and growths in the vault of the naso—pharynx are all too often the causes of abnormal stupidity and go hand in hand with poor talents, surely parents and school boards will see to it that these causes of imperfect work, wasted effort and failure to have adequate returns for the legitimate expenditure, to say nothing of the effect upon the further progress of the country, will as far as possible be removed.

The following table shows that these defects are not imaginary:

Table of Physical Record of Children in New York City from March 27th to December 23rd, 1905.

Number of children examined	55,332
Number of cases of bad nutrition	3,283
Number of cases of diseased anterior cervical glands	14,214
Number of cases of diseased posterior cervical glands	3,047
Number of cases of chorea	738
Number of cases of cardiac disease	895
Number of cases of pulmonary disease	600
Number of cases of skin disease	989
Number of cases of deformity of spine	485
Number of cases of deformity of chest	401
Number of cases of deformity of extremities	498
Number of cases of defective vision	16,394
Number of cases of defective hearing	1,296
Number of cases of defective nasal breathing	6,182
Number of cases of defective teeth	18,182
Number of cases of defective palate	689
Number of cases of hypertrophied tonsils	8,347
Number of cases of posterior nasal growths	5,119
Number of cases of defective mentality	1,210
Number of cases where treatment was necessary	33,551

Children are frequently troublesome and inattentive owing to overpressure and overfatigue. They are restless owing to the approach of some nervous trouble, as hysteria, St. Vitus' dance, or epilepsy. Needless to say that many teachers have neither the knowledge nor experience to enable them to deal wisely with such cases. They are intent upon the intellectual progress of the child, and view him from that standpoint alone. It often requires the wise counsel of a quiet, tactful, medical expert, who views schools and school work from an entirely different outlook, to keep the teacher from doing much permanent injury to such pupils. A thorough medical inspection dealing with the physical nature of the child will greatly improve the pathological conditions of childhood. It wil tend to arrest and remove the evils of excessive brain work and long confinement, with deficient rest and sleep, together with a dietary improperly selected, poorly prepared, and inadequate to the nutrition of the growing child. It may be added that where medical inspection has been introduced, the well-to-do parents not only welcome it and act on the suggestions of the health inspector, but show their gratitude by writing letters of thanks as well.

THE METHODS OF EXAMINATION.

The child undergoes a physical examination when making application for a permit to first enter school. Then visitation is made on the part of the medical inspector at regular intervals and especially when called upon by the teacher.

The inspector sometimes gives a series of lectures to the teachers on signs and symptoms of the more frequently occurring diseases among school children and in this way keep a closer watch of pathological conditions existing among the children.

It is the duty of the medical inspector on finding a child in possession of some disease or condition requiring treatment to notify the parents and have the family physician look into the same, in this way preventing any professional friction.

If this system has proved of so much service in other cities, would it not be practicable to have the same adopted by the City of Saint John. We certainly ought to appreciate the fact that the generation of children entering school today should be a strong, hardy and well educated one, and if you would pardon me I would make bold to offer a suggestion as to how this matter might be carried out in our city. There are many cities throughout Canada and the United States who have what is known as a city physician. The exact duties of such an official I am not particularly familiar with, but I should imagine that one of such duties might be the medical inspection of public schools. Then could be added a number of others such as coroner's physician, police and jail surgeon, sanitary inspector of school buildings and other properties which are in the possession of the city, and no doubt such an official could attend to some of the city's poor, thus relieving the regular practitioners of some of the charity work which they are of necessity called upon to do.

The salary of such an official should be a generous one, thus warranting the selection of the best man procurable. I sincerely believe it would be money most wisely invested on the part of our city and municipality.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED.

The following resolutions touching the subject discussed in Dr. Roberts' paper were unanimously adopted by the Medical Society at its annual meeting, held on Wednesday evening last.

Whereas the question of "Medical Inspection of Public Schools" has been receiving the attention of the cities and towns of almost every country in Europe, and in many of the states of the American Union, the Argentine Republic and now in quite a number of the cities throughout Canada.

And Whereas the object of all school education is to develop the best type of the individual citizen—the best mentally, the best morally and the best physically.

And Whereas the medical inspection such a type of citizen without the strongest physical basis, namely; a strong, healthy body.

And Whereas statistics prove positively that of the multitude of children applying for permits for admission to public schools each year, there are between fifty and seveny-five per cent, of same who have certain abnormal or disease conditions, which if neglected cripple the child for the successful prosecution of his school work to say nothing of the impairment of his future career and in many instances result in premature death.

And Whereas had a careful medical inspection of such children been made the greater percentage of them might have been rescued from such conditions and developed into strong, robust and hearty children, the better capable of gaining for themselves an education, and for the country or nation, a stronger and hardier race.

And Whereas the medical inspection attend school when physically they are not in condition to obey without permanent injury to themselves, and in many cases endangering the lives of others we feel that it is not only illogical, but almost unjust to have in operation the law of compulsory education without medical inspection of public schools being carried out.

And Whereas the merical inspection of schools is one of the methods by which the prevention of disease can be successfully carried out, and the health of the community promoted.

Therefore, Be It Resolved that we, the St. John Medical Society in view of the above facts feel it our duty as guardians of the public health of the city to state that it would be in the best interests of the citizens of Saint John to have compulsory medical inspection of schools.

And Be It Further resolved that we petition the board of education of the province to appoint a commission to look into this matter, weigh the facts carefully, and if found to be as above represented, take the proper steps to have the same law in the city of Saint John.

On behalf of the Saint John Medical Society.

O. J. McCULLY
J. H. GRAY,
WILLIAM F. ROBERTS,
Committee.

SCHOOL TRUSTEES MUST PAY COSTS

The case of Mason R. Benn v. the school trustees of district No. 6, in the parish of Newcastle, was heard yesterday in chambers. A writ was served in June, 1906. The defendant not having appeared, the plaintiff signed interlocutory judgment on the 18th of April and obtained an order from Judge McLeod to have plaintiff's damages assessed at the judge's chambers on the 30th of May (Thursday).

The defendant obtained a summons calling upon the plaintiff to show cause why judgment should not be set aside and staying all proceedings in the meantime. The summons was returnable at three o'clock yesterday afternoon, Hanington, Teed and Hanington appearing for Tweedie and Haviland for the defendant, while H. W. Robertson with L. A. Currey, K. C., represented the plaintiff.

The judge made an order setting aside the interlocutory judgment upon the defendant undertaking to pay all costs incurred since the filing of the declaration, and taking all steps necessary to have the cause tried at the next circuit court in Northumberland Co. It is understood that the bill of costs will be large. The school trustees will probably be called upon to pay not less than $100 for these proceedings.

When Harry McClaskey Comes

The concert to be given by the Artillery Band in the Opera House on Tuesday, June 11th, promises to be the best musical event of the season. The band now numbers thirty-nine men and as they have been practicing steadily all winter they will surprise even their friends. Too much credit cannot be given to Sergt. T. W. Horsman, the musical director and Bandmaster F. W. McNichol for the faithful attendance to all the details of their respective positions.

In bringing Harry McClaskey here the band feel that the public will appreciate their efforts to furnish only the highest class of entertainment.

Big Crowds at the Nickel

This will be a banner day for the Nickel. Saturdays are always big days at this popular playhouse, particularly because of the large number of children who attend in the afternoon, but after so many cold unspringlike Saturdays this genial weather should bring out hundreds of extra patrons. The pictures this week are excellent. They depict the tracking of a murderer by bloodhounds; a chase of burglars by policemen; scenes in Burmah; football games and a very funny picture entitled "When Friends Meet." The illustrated song is "We Never Seemed So Far Apart Before," a catchy new air. Same programme tonight until 10.30.

City Cornet Band Fair

One of the largest crowds yet attended the City Cornet Band's fair last night. The prizes and their winners were as follows: Barrel of flour, 2349; silver set, 2192, Mrs. W. J. Sullivan, 565 St. Patrick street; fruit basket, 2152, Miss Coughlin, Clifton street, Carleton; manicure set, 2132, Miss O. Monahan, Elliott row; fancy vase, 525; ladies' bean toss, 1st, Miss O'Donnel; 2nd, Miss Murphy; gentlemen's bean toss, 1st, J. L. Connolly; 2nd, M. McNeally.

The Carleton Cornet Band played an excellent programme of music and vocal solos were sung by G. R. Kean, J. Hogan, and Miss Alcorn. This evening the City Cornet Band will play, and the door prizes will be valuable.

J. F. Gleason, of 95 Hazen street, won a barrel of flour on the 29th of May.

VARNISHED FURNITURE.

If the varnished surface of a piece of furniture has become cracked and faded by exposure to sun or other heat rub it once a week with boiled linseed oil, using a woolen cloth and rubbing the oil in well. After a few treatments the surface will be smooth and of a good color. Ordinary stains on varnished surfaces will yield to a brisk rubbing with a little kerosene. Spots caused by heat from a dish can be removed by the application of powdered rotten stone and oil, or a still simpler method is to spread a paste of salad oil and salt over the spot.

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200 1 lb. packages of Superfine Vellum, small size. regular price 25c. Sale price 10c.
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332 1 lb. packages of "Silurian Blue," a very choice paper. Octave Size. Regular 25c. Sale price 12c.
120 1 lb. packages of Cream Laid Antique Note. Good value at 25c. package. Sale price 12 1-2c.
180 1 lb. packages of Canadian Club Note Paper, great value at 25c. Sale price 15c.
120 5 Quire packages of The Abbotsford Note Paper. RULED. A choice Note Paper bought to sell at 25c. Sale price 15c.
60 5 Quire packages Superfine White Wove Note. Ruled. Commercial size. Selling at 15c.
120 5 Quire packages Crown Linen Note. Ruled. Very good business paper. Worth 35c. Selling at 18c.
196 packages of "Egyptian" Commercial Note. Unruled. Regular 35c. Selling at 18c.
96 packages Standard Parchment Note Paper, 5 quire package. Great bargain 25c.
"Runnymede Charta"—High grade Note Paper. Azure wove. Worth 50c. Selling at 25c.
"The Original Melton Mill Vellum." Extra thick. A very choice paper of the purest fibre. Worth 50c. Selling at 25c.
"Wonderland" White Wove Note Paper. Regular 35c. 5 quire Box selling at 25c.
"Reliance Parchment." Very choice parchment paper in 5 quire Boxes. Regular 50c. A great bargain—Selling to clear at 25c.
"Royal Scotch Vellum." A very high grade Note Paper in 5 quire Boxes. Bought to sell at 75c. boz. Will clear out at 25c.
"Standard Linen." 5 quire packages unruled. Very good quality. Just the paper for foreign correspondence. Regular 35c. Selling at 25c.
PURITAN FLAX note paper unruled, in two sizes—in 5 quire boxes, Regular price 50c., selling at 25c.
BERLIN LANDSDOWNE LINEN, a pure linen paper with silk finish. Court size, azure tint in 5 quire boxes. Worth 75c. Selling at 35c.
IVORY VELLUM WOVE. society note paper, very choice in boxes of 100 sheets. Regular 75c. Sale price 35c.

Great Bargains in Toilet Soaps.

By a special opportunity we are able to offer a very choice lot of high grade, pure toilet soaps at less than manufacturer's price.
CARNATION—Violette de Parme, French toilet soap. We offer 500 boxes 3 cakes in a box for 7 cts, per box.
GLYCERATED OATMEAL, mild and strictly pure soap, Regular price 15 cts 3 cakes. Sale price 10c. box.
GREY OATMEAL, complexion soap, Agreat favorite, pure soap, A box of 3 cakes 12 cts. a box.
CLEMATIS TOILET SOAP, delicately perfumed, pure soap. In boxes of 3 cakes, 15 cts a box.
VERONA VIOLETS, BEAUTY ROSE toilet soaps, French Milled, very choice. Sale price 15cts.
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VALLEY VIOLET, exquisite toilet soap, delicately perfumed of violet. A high grade soap. 25 cts.
INFANT'S DELIGHT, toilet soap, made from the purest and best material. 3 cakes for 25 cts.

MT. ALLISON'S NEW PROFESSOR

Dr. R. K. McClung, who is to occupy the chair in physics in Mount Allison, was born at Elmira, Ont., and is the son of Rev. John McClung, who is at present in charge of the Presbyterian church at Poland, Ont. Dr. McClung entered McGill University in the autumn of 1895 and pursued a course in honor mathematics and natural philosophy, winning the Macdonald prize at the end of his third year and the Anne Molson prize at the end of his fourth year. Upon his graduation in arts as first class honor man, he was granted the Anne Molson gold medal in mathematics and science. During the two succeeding years he held the position of demonstrator in physics and began his original research work under the direction of Prof. Rutherford. Two years later he took his M. A. degree and was elected to an exhibition science research scholarship, whereupon he proceeded to Cambridge University, England, where under Prof. J. J. Thomson he carried on his research work in the inspiring atmosphere of a laboratory where some of the most advanced physical research in the world is being carried on. At the end of the second year he won his Cambridge degree and the commissioner renewed the research scholarship and he was able to remain at Cambridge for another year. Since then he has held the position of senior demonstrator in physics at McGill University, which has given him in acknowledgment of his valuable research work a doctorate in science. The following are the titles of some of his published researches: Energy of Roentgen and Becquerel Rays and Energy Required to Produce an Ion in Gases—Two papers, Radiation of Energy from Becquerel Rays, Efficiency of Fluorescent Screens, Distance Apart of Ions in a Molecule, Heating Effect of Roentgen Rays, Absorption of Alpha Rays, Effects of Temperature on the Ionization of Gases by Roentgen Rays, Relation Between Rate of Recombination of Ions in Aair and the Temperature of the Air, Absorption of Roentgen Rays by Aqueous Solutions, Rate of Recombination of Ions in Gases Under Different Pressures and Ionization Produced in Gases by Roentgen Rays of Different Types. Dr. McClung has been active in the Y. M. C. A. work of McGill University and comes to Mt. Allison with the highest recommendations as to his character as a scholar and a man.

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M. Capel, an alchemist of Pomet, in France, who has long been trying to manufacture gold, met with an unfortunate accident just when he believed that he had solved the golden riddle. He called his wife and three children into his laboratory and showed them what appeared to be a nugget of gold. He was explaining to them the process he had used when he inadvertently pushed a basin containing some gunpowder too near a lamp. A terrific explosion followed, blowing up the entire laboratory and leaving it a heap of ruins. Neighbors recovered the shattered bodies of the alchemist, his wife and three children. The wife was able to speak, but died on her way to the hospital.

TOO LATE.

Politician—Before you send in your report on this interview I want to see it.

Reporter—Impossible! I sent it in half an hour before I interviewed you. —New York Life.

AT THE MUSICAL.

"What a marvelous strain that is!" said the musical genius.

"Yes," said the unappreciative, "I, too, feel it."—Harvard Lampoon.

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1st CABIN—$65.00 and upwards according to steamer.
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TWO TRIPS

Commencing Tuesday, April 9th, steamers leave St. John on Tuesdays and Fridays at 6.30 p. m. (Atlantic Standard,) for Lubec, Eastport, Portland and Boston.

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No. 6.—Mixed train to Moncton..6.30
No. 2.—Express for Halifax, Campbellton, Point du Chene, Pictou, and the Sydneys.... .. ..7.00
No. 26.—Express for Pt. du Chene, Halifax and Pictou.... .. .. ..12.25
No. 4.—Mixed for Moncton 13.10
No. 8.—Express for Sussex.. .. .. 17.10
No. 134.—Express for Quebec and Montreal, also Pt. du Chene....19.00
No. 10.—Express for Moncton, the Sydneys and Halifax.... .. ....23.25

TRAINS ARRIVE AT ST. JOHN.

No. 9.—From Halifax, Pictou, and the Sydneys 6.20
No. 7.—Express from Sussex.... ..9.00
No. 133.—Express from Montreal Quebec and Pt. du Chene.... ..13.45
No. 5.—Express from Moncton....16.30
No. 25.—Express from Halifax, Pictou, Pt. du Chene and Campbellton.. .. ..27.40
No. 3.—Mixed from Moncton.. .. 19.30
No. 1.—Express from Moncton .. 21.20
No. 11.—Mixed from Moncton (daily.) 4.00

TENDERS

Tenders for all the general dry goods, stock and shop fixtures of Ernest W. Patterson, No. 29 City Road to be sold en bloc.

Inventory of stock and shop fixtures can be inspected at the office of H. J. Smith, assignee, Canada Life Building. Goods can be inspected in store after May 29th on application of above assignee.

Sealed tenders addressed to the said assignee will be received not later than Friday, June 7th, 1907. The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted

Dated May 22nd, 1907.

H. J. SMITH
J. D. P. LEWIN
Assignees.

Tilley & McInerney, Solicitors.
23-5-12