



Medical officers of workhouses in post-famine times often had difficulty in procuring staff to work in their institutions. Working unaided with heavy patients was difficult, especially when the carer was weak and undernourished. Added to this was the fear of contracting disease from working in the Fever Hospitals. So, in 1890, when the head nurse of the Fever Hospital in Manorhamilton resigned from her post, the task of replacing her was not an easy one. She was replaced eventually and her successor took up duty on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

However on May 22<sup>nd</sup> this person submitted her resignation, citing her parents' reluctance to allow her to work with fever patients as her reason. There were other abortive attempts to appoint a suitable candidate before Sr. Mary Teresa O' Beirne from Ballinamore was appointed to the post of Head Nurse in the Infirmary. As Canon Law required a minimum of three Sisters to form a religious community, two other Sisters – Sr. Aloysius Murphy and Sr. Magdalen Kelly – accompanied her. Sr. Magdalen had been successful in her application for the position of fever nurse.

In 1923 the bishop of Kilmore decided that premises more suitable as a convent and school should be purchased.

In 1931 the fever patients were transferred and what had been the fever hospital became a treatment centre for tuberculosis patients.

July 20<sup>th</sup> 1954 saw the official opening of a beautiful new hospital. Suitable accommodation was provided for the sisters and a chapel was built.



When much of the work was transferred to Sligo General Hospital in the 1980s, the building was reconstructed to serve as an Orthopaedic Rehabilitation Hospital for Co. Leitrim.

The Sisters are involved in a variety of ministries in the local community.