

M. A. M. M.
20. James Street.
Stornoway.



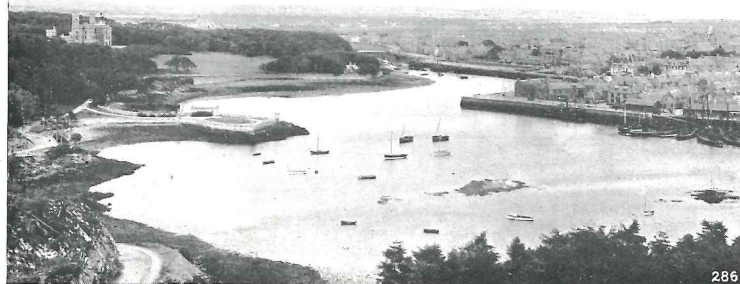
THE LEWIS HOSPITAL
STORNOWAY

Bleak, bare upland and sombre moorland,
Frowning cliffs by a grim cold sea,
Dark still lochs where the grey mists gather :
Island of sadness and mystery !

Bright green machair and purple heather,
Glad brown burns that sing to the sea,
Sands agleam in the brave, bright weather ;
Island of laughter and witchery !

Island of moods that are matched to our spirit,
Now brooding, now bright like the restless sea,
Near in thy sadness and dear in thy gladness,
Ever thy children are thrall to thee !





STORNOWAY HARBOUR.

INTRODUCTORY



FF the north west shores of Scotland, washed by the restless Atlantic, lies the Island of Lewis and Harris, forming, with its attendant Isles of North Uist, South Uist, Benbecula and Barra, and many a smaller islet, the Outer Hebrides.

The Island nurtures a population of 30,000 hardy crofter fisher folk who depend on their own skill and industry to wrest a living from the sea and soil.

At Stornoway, the only town in the group, and the sea-port gateway to the Islands, is situated the Lewis Hospital, which, for over forty years, has served the needs of this remote people. Its story in the pages that follow embodies the only general appeal for help the Hospital has ever made.



N the month of March, 1892, a public meeting was held in the town of Stornoway, at which it was resolved "to take action for providing a well-equipped Medical and Surgical Hospital for the Lews."...The inauguration of the scheme and the raising of the necessary funds were put in the hands of the following gentlemen, appointed as a Committee :—

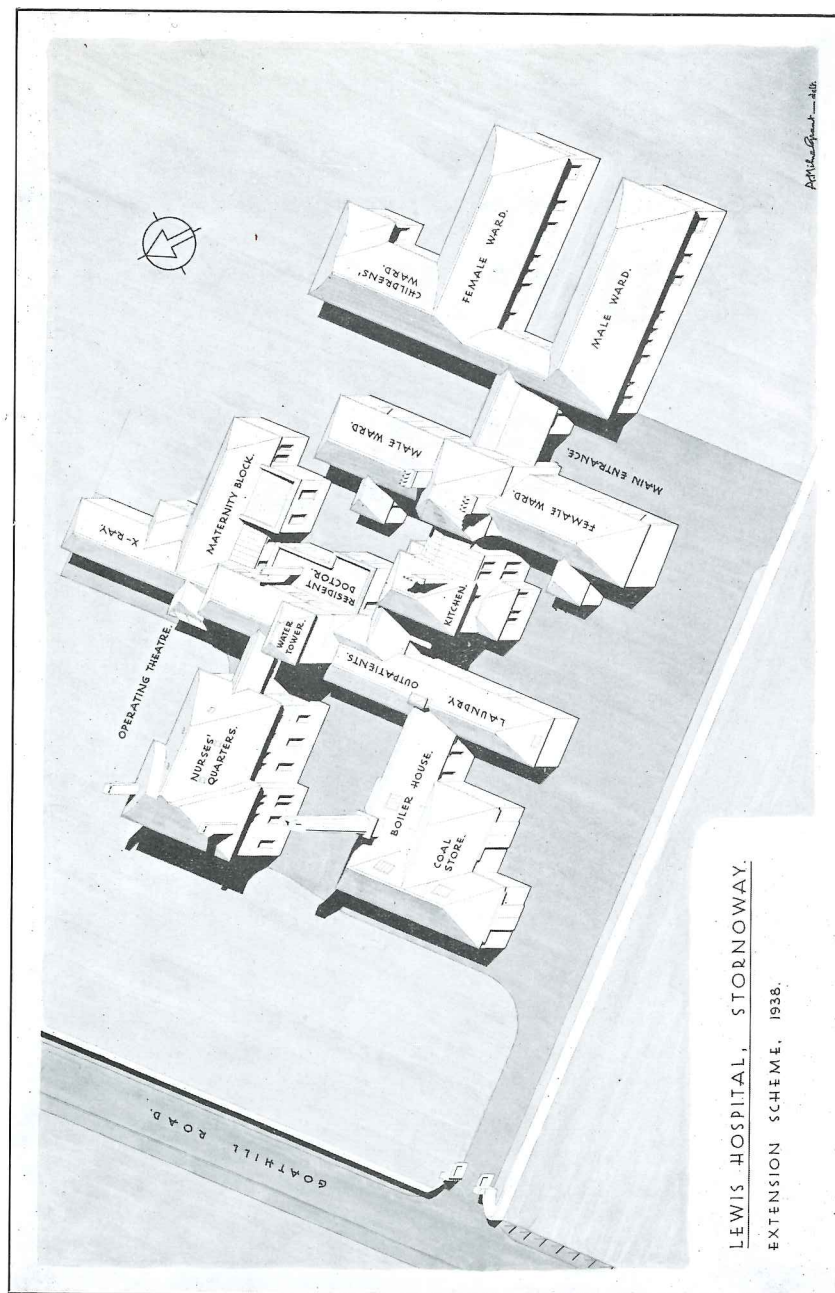
DR. MACRAE, DR. MACKENZIE, DR. MACDONALD, REV. D. J. MARTIN, REV. NEIL MORRISON, REV. G. S. H. HUNTER, with SHERIFF DAVIDSON as Convener.

They proved themselves an efficient and enthusiastic committee, for, on 14th February, 1894, plans were submitted for a building estimated to cost £2000, of which sum they had by then raised over £1600.

It must be remembered that money was a comparatively rare commodity in the Long Island in those days, more particularly in the country districts, but, in spite of this, and relying mainly on the generosity of the people of Stornoway and friends of Lewis and Harris in the South, the Committee launched their scheme. Their courage and industry were rewarded, when, on 1st February, 1896, the Lewis Hospital was opened **free of debt**.

The accommodation thus provided consisted of two wards of six beds each, a small operating room and quarters for the Staff.

At that time five or six doctors ministered to the needs of 30,000 men, women and children, many of whose homes were so difficult of access as to make adequate medical attention impossible. Crofter fishermen living in scattered villages were isolated from the town and neighbouring settlements by lack of roads. A journey to Stornoway, in a horse drawn vehicle, was an event in itself, an experience exhausting to the fit and strong, but for the sick, hazardous and well-nigh impossible. It is little wonder, therefore,



that illness was looked on as an affliction almost beyond human aid, and that faith-healing and lay remedies were relied on to a great extent. Surgery, as we understand it to-day, was unknown to the public, looked upon as a last hope, and, in most cases, resorted to only when too late to be of service. Few of the cases going to the Mainland for treatment survived the difficulties of operation, aggravated as these were by the hazards of the journey and the isolation from friends.

Under conditions such as these, the accommodation at the Hospital was, at first, more than adequate, but the farsighted Committee went on quietly laying the foundation of an Endowment Fund against the time when the public would realise the benefits to be derived from Hospital services. That they were justified is shown by the fact that increased accommodation had become necessary in 1915. In that year, Mrs C. E. Wellesley, an English lady, who had the interests of the Islanders at heart, gifted money, in memory of her late husband, to increase the existing ward accommodation from 12 beds to 20. The staff, which had hitherto consisted of one trained nurse was now increased to two whole time nurses, with one of the local doctors as Medical Superintendent.

THIG IAD AS GACH TREUBH'S FIN.

The Lewis Hospital is an outpost of healing. Trawlers working the distant fishing grounds steamers on the north Atlantic route, rush to Stornoway when there is an accident.

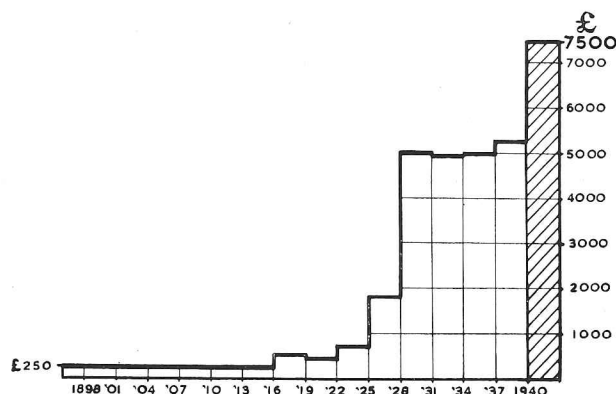
Not long ago a Russian stoker and a German trawl hand lay dangerously ill in adjacent beds. When they recovered, their guide as far as Leith was a St. Kildan.

They spoke four languages—English, Gaelic, Russian and German—but they could not exchange a word.

The social and economic changes resulting from the World War were nowhere more apparent or more rapidly effected than in the Long Island, and in this general transition from the old to the new the attitude of the public to their medical and surgical requirements was not unaffected. Stornoway, an important Naval base during the War, was a port at which many of the casualties from mined and torpedoed vessels were landed, and the Lewis Hospital played a very important part in the restoration of these men—many of them far from their homes—to strength and fitness.

DIAGRAM SHOWS RISE OF MAINTENANCE COST FROM 1896.

NOTE The steady figure of £5000 in recent years, showing that all beds have been continuously occupied; and also the steep rise of nearly 50% which is anticipated when the new wards are added.



THE COST OF MAINTENANCE IS HEAVY
BUT ON THE OPPOSITE PAGE IT IS EXPLAINED
HOW THE BURDEN IS CARRIED.

The post-War period saw the introduction of modern surgery to the Hospital, and at first the innovation was looked on as of very doubtful value. Consent to operation was in most cases obtainable only after prolonged persuasion on the part of the doctors. This prejudice was removed, however, by the success of the new methods, and, when the public realised the benefits to be derived from modern surgery, the accommodation at the Hospital again became over-taxed.

In 1924, the need for extension was so apparent that the Department of Health granted a sum of £12,000 for this purpose. A modern operating theatre, X-ray room, Out-patient department, laboratory, kitchen premises and laundry were added, and the system of heating and lighting throughout the building was modernised. To complete the scheme, the staff was increased, and an experienced whole time surgeon was appointed.

Through the magnificent generosity of Dr. T. B. Macaulay of Montreal, himself a son of Lewis by descent, a new wing, consisting of two maternity wards, was added, making possible the admission of difficult labour cases, for which hitherto no provision had been made.

The records of work done abundantly prove that the services given by this model institution are a boon to the isolated Island people and are fully appreciated by them. Seventeen doctors now attend to the needs of a population served by six when the Hospital was first opened, and a modern ambulance takes their patients in comfort to the Hospital from any part of the Island in a fraction of the time required by the primitive transport of the old days. And not

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM.

Every sample of herring sold in Stornoway Fish Mart is gifted to the Hospital.

Every fishing boat which enters the harbour pays a Hospital levy.

Every week, from Port-of-Ness to Rodil, local committees make Hospital collections.

Every pay day, fishworkers, weavers, dockers, shop assistants, roadmen, hand over part of their wages to the Hospital.

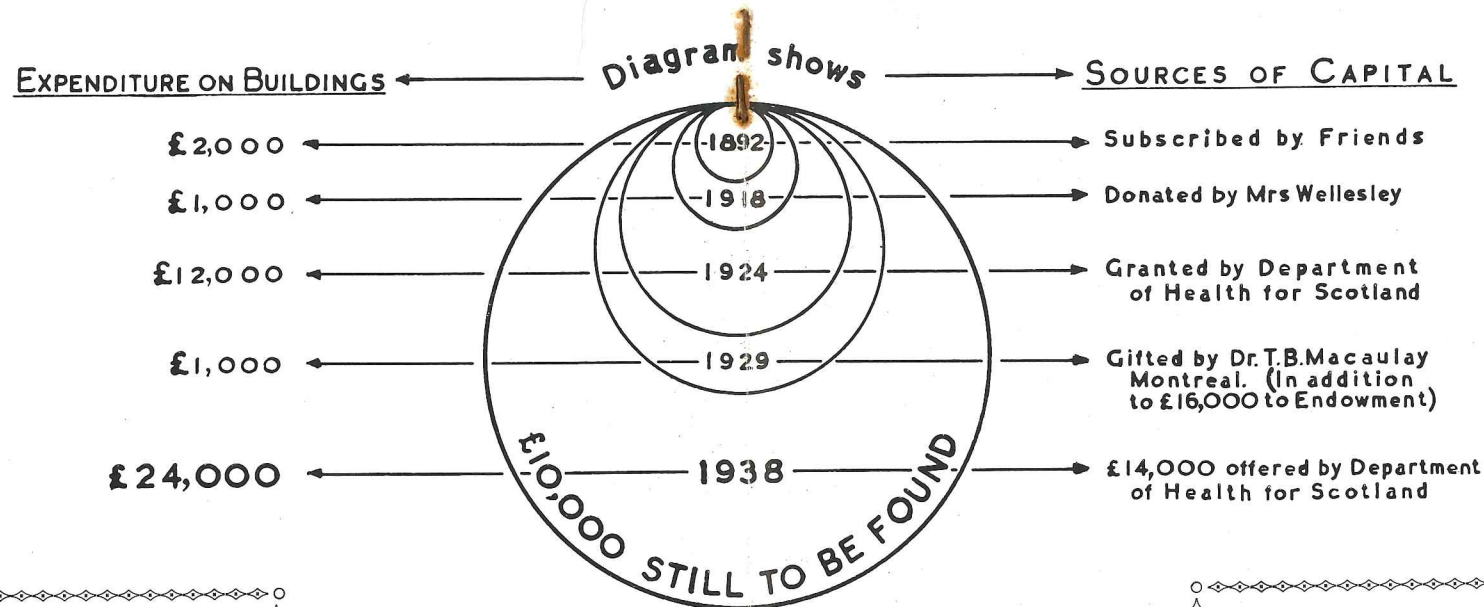
Every district holds its Hospital concerts.

Every church makes its Hospital collection

Every village makes its Hospital contribution of potatoes, eggs, fleeces of wool, and fowls once a year.

— HOW THE LEWIS HOSPITAL IS GROWING —

AN EVER WIDENING CIRCLE



INVESTMENT IN HEALTH

Look at the widening circles above and consider how, as the investment in stone and lime has been increased, the dividend paid in the way of medical service has also increased. The figures below show the average number per annum of in-patients (in the first column) out-patients (in second column) and X-ray examinations (in the third column) during each period of expansion.

1st circle 1892-1918	50	nil.	nil.
2nd circle 1918-1924	90	nil.	nil.
3rd circle 1924-1929	328	1015	220
4th circle 1929-1932	550	1240	748

The fifth circle shows how greatly the work of the Hospital will be increased when the extension is completed.

**From 1892 until now no appeal for funds
to meet Capital Expenditure
has been made to Islesfolk
at Home or Abroad**

OUR FRIENDS ABROAD.

While this is the first general appeal for help ever made by the Lewis Hospital, the Managers have in the past been greatly indebted to many friends furth of the Island who have remembered its needs and contributed voluntarily to the maintenance costs. Sons of the Island sailing the seven seas or employed at large works on the mainland of Scotland; societies and individuals in U.S.A. and the colonies, have all generously supported the hospital. They are now asked to contribute to the erection of the new wards which will be a permanent memorial to their generosity.

(see page 15).

to the Islanders only are the services of the Hospital given; seamen of all nationalities landed at the port of Stornoway ill or shattered by stress of weather, find healing within its walls. Six hundred major operations are performed each year. More than one thousand cases attend as out-patients, and over 1000 X-ray examinations are made. Yet, in contrast to this general expansion in the work done, the ward accommodation—nominally 20 beds, but more often now used for 26—remains the same as in 1915, and the list of cases awaiting admission is steadily rising.



LAYING OF THE EXTENSION FOUNDATION STONE
BY DR T. B. MACAULAY, MONTREAL.

Surgical cases generally require more urgent treatment than those of medical illness and the Hospital has perforce become almost entirely a surgical unit, as sufficient beds are not now available for both medical and surgical cases. The necessity for medical wards is as great now as in 1892. From the point of view of the patient who cannot be admitted to Hospital, and there are many such, facilities for treatment are just as lacking to-day as if there was no Hospital in the Island.

Realising this urgent need for medical beds for a population of 30,000 people, the managers of the Hospital have appealed to the Department of Health for financial assistance to increase the present accommodation. Two more wards of ten beds each are needed, a children's ward, and accommodation for the necessary extra staff, which will include a resident doctor. The Department has generously responded by granting £14,000 for this purpose. The Managers are thus left with the task of finding a further £10,000 in order that the Hospital may be equipped with the sorely needed medical wards, and yet start off as did the original Hospital in 1896, free of debt.

It must be remembered that, contrary to the practice obtaining in most countries, the Lewis Hospital has always followed the British tradition of free Hospital service. No charge is made either for treatment or for operations and for its revenue the Hospital is for the most part dependent on voluntary contribution.

The annual cost of maintaining the present Hospital is £5000, a tremendous sum to be found each year by a small Island population; yet, by means of donations, house to house collections, bazaars, concerts, and church offerings, this sum is being found, and the efficiency of the Hospital is being maintained and enhanced. Sons of the

IN ONE WEEK.

In a single week last year, a carnival held in Lewis realised £1145, for the Extension Appeal Fund, in addition to the usual maintenance contributions which continue all the year round.

This is equal on a population basis, to—

£50,000

in

Glasgow, Montreal or Sydney,

or

£350,000

in

London or New York.

**KEEP UP THIS GENEROUS RECORD
OF THE ISLES.**



A LITTLE PATIENT IN KINDLY HANDS.

Island from all the far-flung colonies, and from the ships sailing the seven seas, help loyally in this annual task of maintaining the service, their names almost serving as a register of Island exiles. When the proposed extensions to the Hospital are completed, the annual cost of maintenance will rise from £5000 to £7500, but the Managers can face this undismayed, relying on the steady regular givings of the friends of the Hospital. Not only do they feel confident of finding the annual maintenance, the Islanders at home, realising perhaps more acutely than their

friends overseas the need for Hospital extension, have set themselves to find **their** share of the cost of building also. For this purpose, in the past two years, carnivals have been held in Stornoway and throughout Lewis, and a sum of £1,800 has been collected. A

cinematograph film of last year's carnival, together with scenes from the life of the people in Lewis and Harris, has been prepared and will be shown in the cities in the South. Later it will go on a wider mission, to reach exiles abroad and will recall to them scenes of their early days on the croft, at the airidh, and at the fishing. All of the £10,000 for new capital expenditure, together

BY LAND, SEA AND AIR.

Patients have been brought to Lewis Hospital by land, sea and air.

Urgent cases have been rushed from the Southern Isles by aeroplane.

A mother gave birth to a child in her home in the Island of Scarp. She was brought by boat and car 48 miles to Stornoway, where her second child was born two days later.

The twins were born in different Islands, in different Counties, in different weeks.

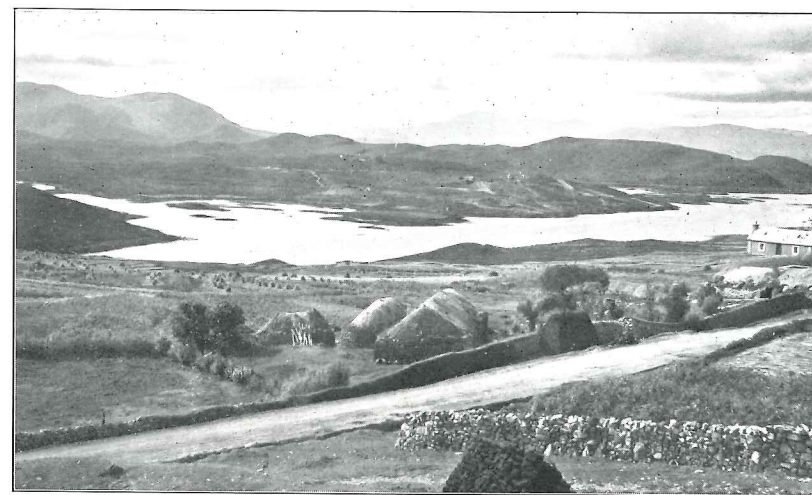
They survived, thanks to the Lewis Hospital.

with the annual maintenance, cannot be raised without the further liberal help of friends at home and abroad, and so this special appeal has been launched. This sum will provide an extension which, with the existing buildings, will be a tribute and a monument to the co-operative efforts of the Island's sons and daughters, and their friends all over the world.

The Hospital has grown and expanded beyond the most ambitious dreams of the most far-sighted member of the first Committee.

Its growth from small beginnings to its present state of efficiency is a romantic story of the enterprise and generosity of a people for whom life has always been a struggle. Once more it has reached a milestone in its history and this appeal is made to every friend of Lewis and Harris in the South and across the seas, for the cause which all must have at heart. The Hospital freely serves the entire Island community, irrespective of class or creed, and in its great work of healing it needs the help of every friend of the Long Island and its people.

It is the confident belief of the Committee that nobody whom this appeal reaches will miss taking part in the efforts to make the Hospital once again what the original founders meant it to be, **"a well equipped medical and surgical Hospital for the Lews."**



A RURAL SCENE IN THE ISLES.

(By kind permission of Messrs Valentine

THE CONTRAST

It was a far cry from the King's Palace to Ian Mor's croft in Lewis, and yet Ian Beag, being born to greatness, in that he was the seventh son of his father, boasted a once royal privilege—although for Royalty it had died with the Stuart Kings—he had the “touch.” The origin of this Royal laying on of hands mattered little to Ian, if indeed he had ever heard of it, but, young as he was, was he not an important person? Did not people come from far distant Uig and Ness to sit by his mother's fireside while he washed his hands and touched the flesh tainted with King's Evil?

So thought Ian, as he herded his father's cows, thinking too of how gifted they were as a family. Only last week he had watched his grandmother raise a blister on Murchadh Allan's knee, when she put the “ballan” on it, with her old cow horn, and now the pain had almost gone.

The vainglorious musings of Ian are not entirely of the “stuff of dreams,” and not many years ago might well have been true. Even to-day, in one or two remote parts, the belief in the old faith cures may still persist, but the modern medical and surgical services which the Hospital has brought to the people of the Island, have almost entirely robbed such as Ian of their erstwhile power. The tubercular gland is not now left to the questionable remedy of washing by the seventh son of a family, but receives the scientific treatment that it needs. No longer is the inflamed joint subjected to the crude ministrations of old Sine and her horn, and not even the most credulous would to-day resort to the swallowing of lead pellets as a cure for appendicitis.

Gone are the legendary cures of the old days, and the success attendant on modern skill and science leaves little room for regret at their passing.

ROLL OF HONOUR.

The story of the widow's mite is often overlooked by those who organise appeals for charity. Hospitals are named after the wealthy who give of their abundance, but the names of the poor who stint themselves to give are forgotten.

Our wish is that the names of all benefactors, whether the gift is a penny or a thousand pounds, should be recorded. A Roll of Honour will therefore be compiled, containing the names and addresses of all friends of Lewis and Harris who contribute to this fund. This record will be bound in permanent form and kept within the Lewis Hospital, where it may be inspected at any time

Any individual, community, or society which contributes £250 or over to the Fund will be commemorated by having a bed named after it, while a sum of £100 will name a cot in the children's ward. The names of all individuals contributing in this manner will be recorded in the Roll of Honour.

It is hoped that the names of all Islesfolk at home and abroad will be enshrined in this unique volume, and to make the record of their generosity as complete as possible, you are asked to get all the friends of Lewis and Harris and people of Island extraction who are known to you to enter their names and contributions overleaf.

Please return this list, with your own and any other donations as early as possible to any member of the Appeal Committee.

Chairman—

Hon. Sheriff Substitute NORMAN MACIVER, “BARVAS LODGE,” STORNOWAY.

Joint Secretaries

A. MACLEOD, ESQ., J.P., TOWN CLERK, MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, STORNOWAY.

J. S. GRANT, ESQ., M.A., J.P., “STORNOWAY GAZETTE” OFFICE, 18 KENNETH STREET, STORNOWAY.

Members—

Dr. PETER J. MACLEOD, J.P., 24 SCOTLAND STREET, STORNOWAY.
JOHN MACSWEEN, ESQ., M.A., THE SCHOOLHOUSE, AIRD, POINT.

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J. S. GRANT, ESQ., "STORNOWAY GAZETTE" OFFICE, 18 KENNETH STREET, STORNOWAY.

LACH 'RIABHACH A' CHUAIN A SIAR
LE H-ALACH

