LINK

19

Summer 1971 5p

The Journal of **The Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus (A.S.B.A.H.)**

SOLVING THAT BIG PROBLEM OF THE NAPPY

Lewis Woolf Griptight Limited are pleased to announce that the special reductions to A.S.B.A.H. members of their Sof'down nappies and Tie Pants are to be continued.

ORDER FORM

Name ....

Address ....

....

Please send me:— (Fill in and delete as necessary)

Newborn Sof'down Nappies

......Cartons containing 10 packets of 20 nappies (4 weeks' supply approx.) *at £1.87 per carton* (usual price £2.20).

Standard Size Sof'down Nappies

......Cartons containing 10 packets of 20 nappies (4 weeks' supply approx.) *at £1.95 per carton* (usual price £2.30).

Standard Size Sof'down Nappies EXTRA Absorbency

(Recommended for night-time use)
.....Cartons containing 10 packets of 14 nappies *at £1.95 per carton* (usual price £2.30).

Tie-pants

......Packets each containing 5 pairs of Tie-pants at *10p per packet* (usual price 14½p).

When nappies and Tie Pants are ordered together there is no charge for postage. If Tie Pants alone are required postage of 2½p for the first packet and 1p per packet thereafter is required. Nappies alone are postage free.

PLEASE NOTE: We regret orders cannot be accepted *without payment in advance.*

Delivery: Approximately 14 days from receipt of order.

Please return this order form to:—

DIRECT SALES DEPARTMENT (A.S.B.A.H.),
Lewis Woolf Griptight Limited,
144 Oakfield Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham 29.

LINK

SUMMER Vol. 1 No. 19

The Journal of **The Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus (A.S.B.A.H.)**

Chairman: Mr. R. B. Zachary, F.R.C.S.,
West Lawn, 54 Clarendon Road, Sheffield, S10.
Honorary Treasurer: Mr. E. S. Gower.
General Secretary: Miss M. E. Oughtred.
Appeal Secretary: Mr. B. W. Relf.
Editor: Mr. M. N. Coutts.

All correspondence to
ASBAH
112 City Road, London EC1V 2ND
Tel. 01-253 2735

Contents

Our Cover

Playtherapy room—run in conjunction with physiotherapy room at SB centre, Motherwell. Picture by Richard Jones, Motherwell.

EDITORIAL:

Capture the occasion

NOW IS the time to get out those cameras and capture an action picture of the kiddie. Young Link is running a competition for the best action pictures (details on page 12) and I'm looking forward to seeing those snaps pouring in.

You do not have to be a David Bailey or a Tony Armstrong-Jones (although I agree it helps) to take a good snap. It's just a case of getting that camera out and waiting for the right moment.

And, if you need a little incentive, there will be some very nice prizes for the winners. So come on, get snapping.

I HAVE just received the latest edition of "Contact", the magazine of the Spina Bifida Association of Victoria, Australia, and I must say it's rather a nice publication. In February this year they were publishing "Contact" in newsletter form and no less than two months later they have succeeded in producing a 40-page booklet!

There are also some articles in the magazine which may interest Link readers and which I hope we will be able to use in the future. I would also like to offer Link's congratulations to everyone concerned in producing "Contact" —you are doing a good job "down under".

ON the subject of articles, I regret to say that Link seems to have filled up rather quickly this time and of course we never have room for everything we would like to put in.

This is rather sad because I have been sent a very moving prayer composed by Jennifer Hill, a regular contributor to the South Wales Association News. Well, Jennifer, although it has not been possible to publish it this time I shall make every endeavour to do so in one of the future editions.

Education: WILL THE CHILDREN BENEFIT UNDER THE NEW ARRANGEMENT?

by Simon Haskell

At long last the education of almost all children is the responsibility of the education authorities. The Education (Handicapped Children) Act 1970 which received the Royal Assent on July 23, 1970, removed the implication that "severely subnormal" (SSN) children had such a disability of mind that they were unsuitable for education at school. The repeal of Section 57 of the 1944 Education Act is the culmination of a long struggle to secure the benefits of *appropriate* education for SSN children. From April 1, 1971, the needs of SSN children will be considered alongside those of normal and Educationally Subnormal children.

Between the announcement in November 1968 and April 1971, a great many consultations and discussions had been held with a very large number of experts, professional associations and local authorities to ensure the most satisfactory arrangements for transfer from health to education. Among the many complex organisational issues discussed prior to the assumption of the new responsibility by the education authorities were the following:—

(1) The training, status, and salaries of existing staff of training centres.
(2) The transfer of material resources from one body to another.
(3) Detailed and careful consultations between the Secretary of State for Education and the Department of Health and Social Security, the teacher training bodies including the Universities and appropriate professional organisations concerned with the education of SSN children.

But will the children benefit?

There is no doubt in most people's minds that April, 1971 was an important event in educational planning for the handicapped child.

However a great many nagging doubts and anxieties remain as to whether SSN children will benefit by these administrative changes. It would, for instance, be most unfortunate were the former differentials in provision of resources, teaching personnel and specialist help to be continued in the reorganised structure. Positive disadvantages could also easily follow from hasty curriculum planning.

Staff

One of the most important factors in ensuring that SSN children respond to appropriate educational treatment, is to increase the number of advisory and consultant staff (remedial teachers, educational psychologists and physiotherapists, speech therapists, social workers, etc.) to help the special school teacher, *but* the work already going on in many training centres should not be underestimated, when considering the benefit to the children which can be gained from the specialised attention of *one* experienced person who may have gained a depth of knowledge denied those with experience in wider fields.

Curriculum

It is necessary to define in clear and specific terms the aims of special education for such children. *Three* dangers need to be avoided.

(1) "Playing at school" with efforts to teach the rudiments of the three R's and to develop a formal classroom atmosphere. This would be entirely inappropriate to the needs of SSN children.
(2) Treating the children as "rhesus monkeys", that is as subjects purely for research workers.
(3) Letting the children "vegetate" without any clear objectives, or any end results from the years spent at school.

Continued opposite

The aim should be social education, that is educating the child so that he can achieve the highest level of independence of which he is capable, at home, in a work setting and in leisure activities.

How does this affect the child with spina bifida who is also SSN?

Teaching:
With carefully planned programmes appropriately applied and trained, efficient teachers, your child should develop his full intellectual and social capacity.

Medical Care:
It is highly important that the best medical treatment is maintained under the new arrangements.

Simon H. Haskell, M.A., P.L.D.,
Lecturer in
Physically Handicapped Children,
Institute of Education,
London University.

Picture by courtesy of The News, Portsmouth

Jane's wish came true — the day she was a bridesmaid

NINE-YEAR-OLD Jane Baker's wish came true the day she became a bridesmaid. She had dreamed of the day since she was four, but because of a series of nine operations and being confined to a wheelchair it never seemed possible.

But Jane, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. R. Baker, of Velder Avenue, Milton, Portsmouth, saw her ambition come true when her friend Pamela Hunt kept a five-year promise. Pam (on the right of picture) had known of Jane's wish since she was 15 and told her at the time: " One day you will be my bridesmaid ".

And Jane stole the limelight at the wedding recently when she wore a full-length white dress with a pink sash. She is now learning to walk with calipers and getting stronger every day. Mr. Baker commented: "Jane has had this wish since she was four years old and we were watching a wedding at St. Mary's Church."

Beverlea Crosby—story of a brave little crusader

by Michael Coutts

MEET a brave little girl . . . bright eyed Beverlea Crosby. Beverlea at 13 has gained a reputation in Darlington and district for always having a smile on her face—and that takes a lot of doing when you've been in hospital 44 times!

Beverlea, daughter of Darlington and District Association secretary Mr. A. Crosby, was born with spina bifida but shortly after her sixth birthday complications set in when she developed arthritis and it affected her heart.

But even that didn't daunt this plucky little girl. As her mother Mrs. P. Crosby put it—"When she was six-and-a-half, the specialists didn't hold out much hope. But since then she's got better and better. And if you ask her how she is, she always answers 'all right'."

Beverlea's fighting happy spirit was recently praised in the latest issue of "Focus" the magazine of Eastbourne, Darlington, Methodist Church, by the Minister, the Rev. Malcolm Carter. She has recently joined the Girl Guides and the Church Youth Club and when she's not in hospital goes to Salter Lane Open Air School where her favourite subjects are cookery, woodwork, needlework and maths.

Much of her treatment has been at the Sanderson Orthopaedic Hospital, Newcastle, where the patients receive regular school lessons. Beverlea is also a helpful fund-raiser for the recently-formed Darlington Association. As you can see from our picture taken when she received a cheque at a steelworks.

Yet I think the best illustration of her cheerful attitude is this extract from a letter written by Beverlea while in hospital. . . .

❛After being in hospital so many times, 44 to be exact, you would think that I would be used to being woken up at 5.30 a.m.; but if I was admitted 144 times I should still hate it, more so on a dark, cold frosty morning.

We have lessons all day; today I did a psychedelic picture which the teacher hung on the wall and, looking at it from my bed, it looks rather like a puppy that has been having a chew through the rag bag!

Brenda in the bed on the other side is on a contraption that looks a bit like an aeroplane built by the Wright brothers, and she has accidentally got caught up in it by the leg. The days pass quite quickly but I still look forward to going home until the next hospital stay, the 45th.❜

How's that for cheerfulness in the face of suffering?

● *Picture shows Beverlea trying her hand at a typewriter when she visited a North-East steelworks to be presented with a cheque for spina bifida.*

HOTEL FOR HANDICAPPED IS OPENED AT SKEGNESS

"SEA BREEZES", a hotel specially designed to provide holidays for the physically handicapped from all over Britain, was opened at Skegness, Lincs, in April. Mr. Duncan Guthrie, Director of the Central Council for the Disabled and the National Fund for Research into Crippling Diseases, named the new hotel and performed the opening ceremony.

"Sea Breezes" consists of 20 bedrooms, comfortably furnished as single, twin and treble rooms all with hot and cold water. There are specially adapted toilets and bathrooms, two lounges and a dining room. Access is often a major problem for the disabled but at "Sea Breezes" there are no steps at the entrance and there is a lift. Nursing and medical attention is available for visitors.

The cost for a week's stay for an adult in a single room is £16 and for each adult sharing a double room £15, children each being charged per week £10 (12-16 years); £8 (under 12 years); and £5 (sharing parents' room).

The hotel is owned by the Holidays for the Handicapped Trust and it will be kept open all the year round. The manageress, Miss D. Sidebotham, tells me that she would be extremely pleased to see anyone who is visiting Skegness and who would like to take a guest out with them.

Further information on the hotel and its facilities can be obtained from Miss Sidebotham, "Sea Breezes", 41, Scarborough Avenue, Skegness, Lincs; telephone, Skegness 4168. Ed.

We should like to acknowledge the help of Tatchbury Mount Hospital, and voluntary work of the members of Southampton and District Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Association to make this Trolley.

All enquiries to:—Mrs. K. Charrett, 2 Marchwood Road, SOUTHAMPTON. Telephone enquiries TOTTON 3365 (Mr. Mortimer)

THE SHASBAH TROLLEY FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

PATENT APPLIED FOR IN
U.K., Commonwealth Countries, U.S.A., Canada.

This Trolley was designed by Mr. Ken Charrett of Southampton for his daughter who was born with Spina Bifida. It was soon found that here was a chair that would enable a child paralysed from the waist down, to become mobile.

The Trolley weighing only 14lb. is strongly constructed completely manoeuvreable and easily propelled by the child. Due to the low centre of gravity and rear castor action it is virtually impossible to be overturned.

The Trolley is finished with foam upholstered durable vinyl and comes in a wide range of attractive colours, this is to give the child the impression it has a toy. The child soon learns to use the Trolley, and adds much happiness to the child's life.

Standard Model for children one to five years old cost £7.50p plus postage 55p approx. **Large Model** for children five to ten years old cost £9.50p carriage 75p approx. in United Kingdom. Overseas prices on application.

Produced by the
Southampton and District Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Association

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Mansfield, Worksop and District Association

Newsletter No. 7 reports that a men's sponsored fancy dress cycle rally was due to be arranged for the middle of May leaving Mansfield and visiting Woodhouse, Shirebrook and villages through to Worksop. Latest donations have included one from the pupils of Ashfield School, Kirby-in-Ashfield (£35). Well over £100 is expected to have been raised as a result of selling Christmas cards.

Wirral Association

Mrs. M. Clarke gave a talk about spina bifida to the Ladybirds Club, Wallasey, and was presented with a cheque for £65. Members spent an enjoyable evening at the Royal Court Theatre where they went to watch the Ken Dodd Show. At the annual meeting the following were re-elected to the committee: Mrs. M. Clarke, chairman; Mrs. Rowlands, Mrs. C. Smith, Mrs. J. McIver. Mrs. J. Jordan, secretary, and Mr. L. Dean, treasurer, continue in office, and Mrs. M. Houghton and Mrs. L. Kenrick, were elected to fill vacancies on the committee.

Their newsletter also reports: "For some time, the Chester area has presented a problem to us because of the difficulty of distance. There are many spina bifida families in and around Chester, Connah's Quay, etc. who find Birkenhead too far away."

It continues to say that Miss Charles, medical social worker at Chester Royal Infirmary, has for some time been trying to get an association started in Chester for the people in that area and Mrs. Jordan and Mrs. Clarke were due to go to Chester Hospital to talk to as many parents as they can muster about starting an association.

South Wales Association

Are hoping to run a series of articles called "Hobbies for handicapped children" in the SWASBAH News. The idea is to stimulate interest in both parents and children concerning the various subjects. The newsletter also mentions Mr. John Garrett, headmaster, of Ysgol Erw'r Delyn, Penarth, who was named in the New Year's Honours List. He is known to parents in many counties, as children attend his school for the physically handicapped not only from Glamorgan but from other areas as well.

Hull and District Association

Held a Spring Fair in March and opened the charity shop for two weeks from April 13. Two guest speakers at recent meetings were Miss Busby, deputy headmistress of the Frederick Holmes School for Handicapped Children, who gave an informal talk with slides, and Miss M. E. Oughtred, General Secretary of the National Association.

The secretary, Mrs. G. D. Brown, points out in the latest newsletter that the Association is still collecting Green Shield and Pink trading stamps.

North Hampshire, S. Berkshire and West Surrey Association

Reports that the Guildford Lions Club raised sufficient money to purchase six "doodlebugs". Certain modifications were necessary to make them entirely suitable for spina bifida children and two fathers had agreed to report their findings after their children had acted as "guinea pigs".

Picture by courtesy of Morning Telegraph

Pupils at Mossbrook Spina Bifida School, Sheffield, had a visit from some VIP guests in March. The New Zealand High Commissioner, Sir Denis Blundell, and Lady Blundell, seen here talking with some of the children, were on a two-day visit to the city.

Sheffield Association

Sheffield members are now able to make use of the Hydrotherapy Pool at Ryegate Annexe of the Children's Hospital each Sunday afternoon. A new venture is the "Tuesday Club"—mainly directed at female members and friends, this is proving a popular and interesting venue on an evening once a month. Members are able to discuss their problems at these meetings and help each other.

The annual general meeting was held at Thornbury, Mr. Zachary taking the chair. The children were looked after by members of the British Red Cross cadets. It is hoped to appoint a social welfare worker during the next few weeks. A film is being made about the Sheffield Association and the local children.

Hertfordshire and South Beds. Association

Report that the committee are arranging for the purchase of a new bungalow at Exmouth, South Devon, which will be a permanent holiday home for the use of members.

Completion date is scheduled for August this year, which, unfortunately, is a little late for the main season this year. As soon as bookings can be accepted, members will be told.

The cost of the bungalow is about £5,000, about half of which has already been raised, the balance being loaned by the Spina Bifida Trust. There will also be the cost of furnishing—£300 has already been raised towards this by the Granta Ladies' Circle, Cambridge. Several other organisations have either supported or promised help for the project.

Members are again reminded that Green Shield stamps are extremely useful to the Association. Enquiries are being made to see if fittings for the new bungalow can be obtained with them.

NEW SOCIAL WORK PLAN IS SUCCESS IN LEEDS & YORK

In 1969 an idea by the members of the York and District and Leeds and District Associations to employ a full-time social worker to deal exclusively with spina bifida-hydrocephalic patients in the area began to take shape.

The person appointed was Mrs. Betty Wilson, mother of a 17-year-old-girl. She now works through the Department of Child Health, University of Leeds, for the Leeds and York Associations and has been in office for six months.

In this special article written by Miss F. Seward, secretary of the York and District Association, she looks back on the decision and the reasons it was taken. . . .

DURING the Spring of 1969, an idea which had been in the minds of the members of the York and District and Leeds and District Associations, began to take shape when members of each committee met to discuss the possibility of employing a full-time social worker to deal only with spina bifida and hydrocephalic patients in the area.

Whilst appreciating the work done by the statutory services, the members felt that the specialised knowledge of this condition and help, aids, etc. available could best be covered by someone trained in this field—a fully trained worker who would be available when help was required.

A questionnaire was sent to all parents in the associations asking if they had all the help they needed. The response was great. Many parents had few visits and found that whilst the visitors were helpful, many were not equipped to deal with the problems specifically concerned with spina bifida. Too often help had to be obtained from the committee of the local association and many parents were never aware of services until they heard of them from ASBAH meetings.

The meeting was the first of many. Three committee members from each Association met regularly for over a year before the appointment was made. Negotiations began with the Department of Child Health and Paediatrics at the University of Leeds as it was thought that the professional person appointed should be employed by a professional body where she would be in contact with a professional environment and be accepted by and in contact with professional colleagues, although the project would be financed by the two Associations. The Professor of Child Health at the University, Professor Smithells, being particularly interested in Spina Bifida, gave invaluable help in the project, often giving up his spare time to help in arrangements.

Post advertised

Every point in the employment contract had to be thrashed out and the help of experts was called. The committee realised just how much money over and above the salary was required. It was decided that the appointment should be for two years initially with an option of a third.

In July 1970, the post was advertised nationally and the response most encouraging. From a good selection of candidates four were chosen and interviewed by a committee consisting of Professor Smithells, representatives of the local authorities in which the visitor would work, representatives of the hospital treatment centre and committee members from York and District and Leeds and District ASBAH's.

Mrs. Wilson was appointed and took up duties from November 1, 1970. Her qualifications for the post were high and her interest in spina bifida and hydrocephalus deep. After an initial period visiting the Leeds and Sheffield spina bifida units she began her field work.

continued opposite

Meeting People

As several news items this issue feature Sheffield, it seems a good time to "Meet" the Honorary Secretary.—Officers of other Local Associations will feature in forthcoming numbers.—Ed.

MR. LESLIE CLARK, 32 year-old secretary of the Sheffield Association has built up a reputation in the area for being one of the most ardent supporters of the Association. His work in helping members and supporting fund raising efforts in the local area has taken up most of his spare time since he began in the position nearly five years ago.

The father of a seven-year-old boy Martin, he finds his work both interesting and rewarding. He said: "I feel that big strides both medically and socially have been made in helping the children over the past few years".

"No one person can take credit for all the progress that has been made. However, I do feel that publicity through "Link" and the press has gone a long way to help our battle!"

Mr. Clark, a salesman/merchandiser, added: "One thing I have found is that it is only possible to give your best to the Association if your wife works with you as a team. I certainly feel very lucky in this respect."

● Mr. Clark with son Martin and a bat, signed by the England cricket team, that was auctioned to raise funds.

The cost to the Associations involved will be considerable though the promise of a generous grant by the Spina Bifida Trust has made the project possible for three years.

The benefits are a competent worker who, during her six months of office has given devoted and skilled service and provided the parents and those with spina bifida and hydrocephalus with invaluable support of both the practical and moral kind and made the project well worth while.

This is believed to be the first project of its kind in the country and the York and District and Leeds and District Associations feel justifiably proud of their achievement. It took a great deal of time and will call for a great deal of hard-earned money, but we feel that the benefits will amply reward us for the effort made.

Mr. Heath and the 'Trike'

RACING driver Graham Hill demonstrated to the Prime Minister recently the disadvantages of the three-wheel "trike" now supplied to disabled drivers by the Department of Health and Social Security.

Mr. Heath was visiting his constituency when he met Graham Hill, a deputation from the Haemophilia Society and the Disabled Drivers' Motor Club.

The Prime Minister was urged to ask the Department to give incentives to disabled drivers to buy their own cars instead of the trikes now supplied and to support the case submitted by the Haemophilia Society for issuing small cars to severe haemophiliacs.

And Mr. Hill's verdict of the "trike"—"It's a relic. . . ."

YOUNG LINK

Time for some snappy action with a camera

Dear Girls and Boys,

I am sure that many of you will be very familiar with this picture of John Hayes from Leicester. He has helped the Association by allowing his photograph to be used on the posters and leaflets which are sent out from the National Office.

Now that summer has arrived I have decided to run a competition for the best action photographs. Ask one of your parents to take your photograph while you are enjoying one of your hobbies or perhaps playing your favourite game. Prizes will be given for the best six photographs received which will be selected by a panel of judges and the winners will be asked to allow their entries to be used for future publicity.

Entries should be ¼ plate black and white prints and should have your name, address and age in pencil on the back. They should be sent to ASBAH, 112 City Road, London EC1V 2ND, and marked photographic competition. The closing date for entries is August 31, 1971, so ask Mum and Dad to get snapping as soon as you can. Now, how are you getting on with the scrap books and stamp collecting; please write and tell me as I would like to publish your letters in the next issue of *Link,* many of your ideas will be of great interest to others. I hope that some of you have written to Lisa Coultas in Texas and, who knows, perhaps one day it will be possible to arrange an exchange visit.

Don't forget to keep sending green shield stamps, remember our target is one book of stamps from every reader.

Best wishes,
William.

Just a small P.S. . . .

Anyone ever heard of a "sit still". I have just received a letter from a little girl in Nottinghamshire. She and her friends raised £1.46 for the Association by saving old coppers and changing it to new pence and by organising a sponsored sit still which raised 52½p.

She says: "Then we voted for the money to go to all sorts of things, but it was a draw between cancer research, the blind and your Spina Bifida. Then we voted again . . . and we sent the money to you."

PLAYTHINGS FOR THE HANDICAPPED CHILD

AS reported in the last edition of "Link", the exhibition of "Playthings for the Handicapped Child", took place at The Royal College of Art during the week before Easter. It was a most interesting exhibition with a small commercial section.

The main part was taken up with the work of students from art and technical colleges from all over the country. This to me was the most encouraging thing about the whole display—that it is obvious that both students and their tutors have the needs of the disabled child in their minds. If students learn about these needs during their college days it augurs well for the future. When they go out into the world they will be so very conscious that there is a disabled minority whose needs are just as important as those of the normal majority.

There were toys for dexterity, to help those with weak arm movements to strengthen them; toys to aid concentration; to help walking and balancing; and toys purely for fun, and these are just as important as any other equipment.

Encourage mobility

The inflatable mattresses were very popular with the children there—and these were in all shapes and sizes made of strong plastic material. They encourage mobility with safety, and the child is able to give vent to his adventurous instincts, and they give an apportunity for a game of rough and tumble without much—if any—danger from falling.

There was a carpet that made various sounds as it was stepped on. This might have great possibilities in play-groups or in physiotherapy departments. It would be great fun to find where the points were that produce the different sounds, the only drawback, as I see it, is whether the adults there could endure the noise! Otherwise it would be a great incentive to walking.

Many of the toys were geared to the mentally retarded, or to spastic children, or those who are deaf or blind, whose need for special toys is sometimes greater than ours.

It is impossible to mention all the toys there, but there was a TRAMMOCK which was made out of netting and looked similar to one of the "Lobster Pot" playpens that are available in nursery shops. This was connected to the spring of a baby bouncer for suspension, and in it was placed a large inflated inner tube. This seemed very safe, and would give a disabled child education in spacial perception.

The ELASTIBOUNCE consisted of a frame of angle iron (rectangular) and across the top bars was stretched a length of strong rubber. As well as providing opportunities for climbing and swinging, sitting astride the rubber band would encourage walking. The CIRCULAR SAUCER was a mobility aid similar to the Minibug.

In the commercial section, the Minibug and the Doodlebug were in much demand and were well used by the children attending, although many of these children had no handicap. See page 14 for more about these. The Toy and Furniture Workshops have a good selection of big and strong toys, some of which could be very useful for our children. They would probably be too expensive for normal households, but anyone with a playgroup or toy library might well find some of them an asset.

Further information will be sent on request.

Olwen Nettles

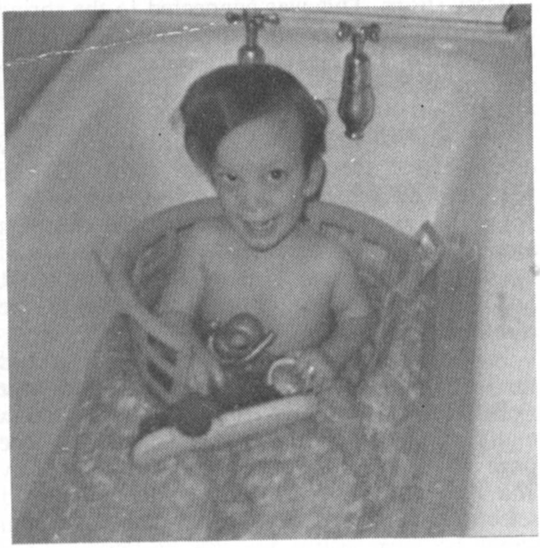
HOLIDAY EXCHANGE

German family living near Dortmund have 13-year-old daughter with Spina Bifida and would like to arrange a holiday exchange with family also with disabled daughter, 10-15 years of age. The house should be suitable for wheel chair. The German girl is independent for dressing and toilet. Will any interested family please contact Miss E. Hobson, of Lower House Cottage, High Flatts, Nr. Huddersfield.

Appliances and equipment

THE DOODLEBUG AND MINIBUG

These have been seen recently on television, and we have good relations with the firm. Those of you who came to the General Meeting in February may have seen them. We now have a number on test to see whether they are suitable for our children, and if they are we can get discount on them. I will report further in the next issue.



BATH SEAT

Mrs. Levitt, of Barnsley, Yorkshire, has sent me details of a bath seat she and her husband made for their son. This consists of a plastic laundry basket such as is used to carry washing to the line. The front is cut out, and the seat padded with plastic foam. When placed in the bath it gives a sense of security to Paul, the water can circulate, and there is plenty of room for Mrs. Levitt to wash him..

PARALLEL BARS

The Firm of Toy and Furniture Workshop, of Church Hill, Totland Bay, Isle of Wight, is a firm I have known for many years. They have a number of toys suitable for groups and their parallel bars are well worth considering if any member or group is interested. They are dual purpose, as the floor converts into a table for play. A catalogue may be obtained from the above address, mentioning *Link*.

SHOE-GUARD PLASTIC

I expect very many of you have trouble because your child scuffs his shoes as he crawls, or if he walks badly. The Spastics Society have tested this material over six months and are very satisfied with the results. It is a do-it-yourself preparation which protects the leather and so prolongs the life of the shoes. For further information apply to:—N.H.P. Shoe-Guard Plastic, North Hill Plastics Limited, 49, Grayling Road, London, N160BP.

The Association has a loose-leaf booklet on "Equipment and Aids to Mobility", part one and two, for sale at eight new pence. Part three is due to follow shortly, and will be on do-it-yourself equipment.

If any reader has any problem he or she may wish to air or suggest any helpful ideas write to me, Olwen Nettles, ASBAH, 112 City Road.

Letter

The spring issue of *Link* carries a photograph of a push-chair which had been adapted for use by a child in a 'frog" plaster. Many parents in Leicestershire have found this push-chair to be very useful at this awkward time. Leicester Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus have produced instructions and drawings which will enable a handyman to produce a similar push-chair at a very small cost. The instructions will be of particular interest to local groups which run an equipment hire service and are available on request to the Leicester Association.

Mrs. P. Cusack,
Hon. Secretary,
Leicester Association for Spina Bifida
and Hydrocephalus.

INTER-ASSOCIATION HOLIDAY OPPORTUNITIES

Selsey. Well-appointed, self-contained 16ft. × 22ft. 6-berth caravan for families with spina bifida members. Sited at Selsey, Sussex. For full details please send s.a.e. to Miss G. M. Clarke, Badgers Copse, Rudgwick, Nr. Horsham, Sussex.

Hornsea. Well-appointed 7-berth caravan sited at Hornsea on the East Yorkshire coast, Further details from Mrs. Thornton, 87 Leeds Road, Liversedge, Yorkshire.

Mablethorpe. Self-contained 6-berth Chalet situated at Golden Sands Estates, Mablethorpe, Lincolnshire. Further details from Mr. Ken Hall, 17, Walhouse Street, Cannock, Staffs.

Mablethorpe. 25ft. self-contained 6-berth caravan. Situated at Golden Sands Holiday Estates, Mablethorpe, Lincolnshire. Details from Mr. J. Cannon, 28 Deerpark Crescent, Wingerworth, Chesterfield, Derbyshire. Tel. Chesterfield 78952.

Cleethorpes. Three-bedroom Bungalow to accommodate 6/8 persons situated at Humberston, Fitties, Nr. Cleethorpes, Lincolnshire. Further information from Mrs. W. Steele, 59 Louth Road, Holton-le-Clay, Grimsby.

Looe. Bungalow, two bedrooms, spacious accommodation, situated in Millendreath Holiday Village, Nr. Looe, Cornwall. Bookings for **1972** (allotted January) Mr. Keith Jackson, 202 Exeter St., Plymouth.

Rhyl. Open Plan 6-berth caravan, partitionable into three, situated at the Robin Hood Holiday Camp, Coast Road, Rhyl, N. Wales. Bookings available 1st May-30th September to Liverpool Association, 46 Manchester Street, Liverpool 1.

Wheelchair survey

The Bath Institute of Medical Engineering is a charitable research body which, among its other activities, designs and tests prototypes of special aids for the chronic sick and disabled.

Currently they are studying the design of wheelchairs and in particular are relating this to the individual needs of wheelchair users. So that they can obtain a wide cross-section of opinion they would be grateful if all wheelchair users willing to answer a postal questionnaire would get in touch with them.

Information supplied individually will remain confidential to the Institute, though it is hoped to publish the overall results of the survey in due course. Replies to:

A. R. C. Rowe,
Executive Director,
St. Martin's Hospital,
Wellsway,
Bath, BA2 5RP.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLICITY MATERIAL

"Your child with Spina Bifida" by J. Lorber, M.D., F.R.C.P., 15p post paid.*
"Your child with Hydrocephalus" by J. Lorber, M.D., F.R.C.P., 15p post paid.*
"The Spina Bifida Baby" (published by the Scottish Association) by Olwen Nettles, M.C.S.P., O.N.C., 10p each.*
"The Spina Bifida Child in School" by D. H. Lee, 10p each.*
**Special rates available to Local Associations.*
General Information Leaflets: £1 per 100.
Leaflet for Young People: £1 per 100.
Posters:
"Wendy Craig" 10p each.
"Caliper" 10p each.
"Future Bright" (Plain) 20p for 10.
"Future Bright" (Words) 20p for 10.
"Wendy Craig" Handbills 2p per 10.
Flag Day Emblems 50p per 1,000.

LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS OFFER:—

SB Badges.—Silver and green enamel with pin fastening. Replica of the Spina Bifida emblem: 20p plus postage. (Single badges, please enclose s.a.e.). Enquiries from groups welcomed for quantities.

Apply: Mr. K. McKenzie, Badges Secretary, Salisbury and District A.S.B.A.H., Ballard Down, Gomeldon Road, East Gomeldon, Nr. Salisbury, Wilts.

Badges for Children.—Good quality 1¼in. diameter incorporating the SB symbol and the words Spina Bifida Children in black on a green background as under in the following quantities: 25 badges for 65p, 100 bades for £2.25 including p. and p. Cheques or Postal Orders should be crossed and made payable to "S.A.S.B.A.H." and sent with order to Mrs. I. Olditch, 3 Stone Cross Road, Wadhurst, Sussex.

Car Stickers.—"Support the Spina Bifida Campaign". Transparent stickers 5p each plus postage from Staines, Hounslow and Districts Association, c/o Mr. E. G. West, 13 Princes Road, Ashford, Middlesex. (Minimum order 50.)

Ties.—N. Hampshire, S. Berkshire and W. Surrey Association has ties for sale—the *SB* symbol on dark blue or dark green. The ties are washable terylene of a heavy weave and cost £1 each. Cash with order to Mr. Bernard High, 10 Woodruff Avenue, Burpham, Guildford, Surrey. Please state colour required.

Teesside Association has purchased an Andana printing machine. They offer to print notepaper, tickets etc., for Local Associations at reasonable cost. Enquiries to Mr. J. Heselhurst, 4, Ross Street, Middlesbrough.

PAIGNTON—DEVON
Families with spina bifida children very welcome at . . .

Wynncroft Guest House,
2, Elmsleigh Park,
PAIGNTON, South Devon.
(Proprietors Mr. and Mrs. E. Dunk)
(Telephone Paignton 56701.)
Close beaches and town centre. A warm welcome and happy holiday assured.
Terms: Dinner, bed and breakfast: £9.50 to £12.00.
Brochure on request.

DIRECTORY

AFFILIATED ASSOCIATIONS alphabetically arranged

BRISTOL
Mr. R. W. Mabbutt,
20 Bramble Drive,
Stoke Bishop,
Bristol, Gloucs.

BROMLEY & DISTRICT
Mrs. Grayson,
38 Kilvington Drive,
St. Pauls Cray,
Orpington, Kent

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
Miss J. McDonnell,
Wyvern House,
Askett, Princes Risborough.

DARLINGTON AND DISTRICT
Mr. A. Crosby,
20 Dinsdale Crescent,
Darlington,
Co. Durham

DEVON AND CORNWALL
Mr. J. Carter,
5 Culme Road,
Mannamead,
Plymouth

DON AND DEARNE
Mr. T. J. Murphy,
43 Cutts-Avenue,
Wath-On-Dearne,
Nr. Rotherham

HALIFAX AND DISTRICT
Mrs. J. Wills,
7 Sturton Grove,
Illingworth, Halifax

HAMPSHIRE, NORTH/ W. SURREY, S. BERKS.
Mr. K. Moorhouse,
11 Westbury Close,
Fleet, Aldershot,
Hants.

HAMPSHIRE-SOUTH
Mr. J. A. Rae,
16 Clifton Road,
Lee-on-Solent,
Hants.

HERTS AND SOUTH BEDS.
Mr. A. S. Dale,
15 Hawthorne Close,
Harpenden, Herts.

HUDDERSFIELD
Mr. T. R. Brook,
11 Standforth Road,
Dalton,
Huddersfield

HULL & DISTRICT
Mrs. G. D. Brown,
233 Cranbrook Avenue,
Hull, HU6 7TX

KENT
Mr. G. Claris,
70 Northdown Hill,
Broadstairs, Kent

LEEDS AND DISTRICT
Mr. G. Weston,
35 Westbush Lane,
Otley. Yorks

LEICESTERSHIRE
Mrs.P. Cusack,
39, Kings Walk L.F.E.
Leicester.

LINCOLNSHIRE
Mrs. Clucas,
6 The Cloisters,
Humberston,
Nr. Grimsby

LIVERPOOL
Mr. P. A. Glennon,
1st Floor,
46 Manchester Street,
Liverpool, 1

LONDON SOUTH
Mr. D. A. Hansen,
35 Oakhill Road,
Putney, S.W.15

MANCHESTER AND DISTRICT
Mrs. E. Taplin,
11 Malton Avenue,
Whitefield, Manchester,
M25 6PG

Branches:
Bury
Bolton
Cheadlehulme
Cheshire SE
Chorley
Denton & District
Leigh
Oldham
Salford

MANSFIELD. WORKSOP AND DISTRICTS
Mrs. E. Freeman,
23 Melbourne Street,
Mansfield Woodhouse, Notts.

NEW (Surrey) ASSOCIATION
Mr. R. G. Nicholson,
19 Edghill Road,
Mitcham, Surrey

NORTH BEDS. & NORTHANTS
Mrs. A. Merry,
9 Greenacres,
Putnoe, Beds.

NORTH EAST (Northumberland)
Mrs. E. Grant,
27 Redwell Road, Prudhoe,
Northumberland

NOTTINGHAM & DISTRICT
Mrs. S. E. Plant,
305 Foxhill Road,
Carlton, Nottingham

PRESTON
Mrs. J. Hodgson,
231 Garstang Road,
Fulwood, Preston.

SALISBURY AND DISTRICT
Mr. C. A. Laidlaw,
Lammermuir,
Bulford Road,
Shipton Bellinger,
Tidworth, Hants.

SHEFFIELD
Mr. L. Clark,
10 Wardlow Road,
Frecheville,
Sheffield S12 4SQ

SOUTHAMPTON & DISTRICT
Mr. M. Cook,
9 Firgrove Close,
North Baddesey,
Hants.

STAFFORDSHIRE
Mrs. J. Davies,
8 Oakhill Avenue,
Oakhill,
Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 5JN

STAINES, HOUNSLOW AND DISTRICT
Mr. A. C. Bassett,
14 Princes Road,
Ashford, Middx.

STRETFORD, URMSTON & DISTRICT
Mrs. J. Black,
Westfield,
35 Woodsend Road South
Flixton, Lancs.

SUSSEX
Mrs. T. A. Rodaway,
5 Sunte Close,
Haywards Heath, Sussex

SWINDON ANDDISTRICT
Mrs. J. Trembling,
13 Tennyson Street,
Swindon, Wilts.

WARWICKSHIRE
Mr. R. F. Lewis,
Tall Chimneys,
419 Ansty Rd.
Wyken, Coventry

WESSEX
Mr. W. J. White,
26 Maiden Castle Road,
Dorchester, Dorset

WIRRAL
Mrs. J. Jordan,
164 Raeburn Avenue,
Eastham, Wirral

WORCESTERSHIRE
Mr. W. J. Webster,
36 Fairfield Lane,
Wolverley,
Nr. Kidderminster

YORK
Miss F. M. Seward,
45 The Paddock,
York, Y02 6AW

NORTHERN IRELAND
BELFAST & DISTRICT
Mr. J. H. Blackwell,
132 Orangefield Cres.,
Belfast BT6 9GT

SCOTLAND
SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION
Mr. J. King,
7 South East Circus Place,
Edinburgh, EH3 6TJ

WALES
MID WALES & BORDER COUNTIES
Mrs. J. Carter.
1 Meadow Road,
Craven Arms,
Salop.

NORTH WALES
Mr. R. A. Bailey,
92 Cambrian Drive,
Rhos-On-Sea,
Denbs.

SOUTH WALES
Mrs. D. Cox,
60 Aust Crescent,
Bulwark,
Chepstow.

OTHER LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

Blackpool & Fylde
Mrs. P. M. Jackson,
11 Martin Avenue,
St. Annes-on-Sea

Chesterfield
Mrs. K. M. Tomlinson,
4 Westmoor Road,
Brimington Common,
Chesterfield

Consett & District
Mrs. M. Holmes,
9 Lilac Place,
Leadgate,
Co. Durham.

Derby
Miss L. Wignall,
3 Ferrers Way,
Darley Abbey, DE3 2AA.

East Anglian
Mr. D. Maxted,
101 Tavistock Road,
Cambridge, Cambs.

Essex
Mr. J. T. Saunders,
Kinfauns,
Upper London Road,
Braintree, Essex CM7 8QG

Gloucester North
Mrs. B. Symonds,
9 Collum End Rise
Leckhampton,
Cheltenham, Glos.

Ipswich
Mrs. J. Frost,
Brohedyn,
Bucklesham Road,
Kirton, Ipswich.

Isle of Wight
Mrs. P. Levack,
2 Uplands Road,
Northwood, Cowes

Lichfield
Mr. G. J. Dermott,
34 Scotch Orchard,
Lichfield.

Lincoln
Mr. R. D. Trout,
75 Hartsholm Drive, Lincoln

London Environs

Barnet
Mr. R. G. Ellis,
94 Cleveland Gardens
Hendon Way, N.W.2

Ealing
Mr. L. R. Mower,
59 Betham Road,
Greenford, Middx.
Mr. P. Finch,

Walthamstow
Mr. P. Finch,
4 St. Matthews House,
49 Capworth Street,
Leyton, E.10.

Oxford
Mrs. M. Woodley,
2 Rectory Cres.,
Middle Barton,
Oxford.

Spenborough (Yorks.)
Mr H. Lodge,
38 George Street,
Cleckheaton, Yorks.

Teesside
Mr. J. Heselhurst,
4 Ross Street,
Middlesbrough, Teesside

NORTHERN IRELAND

Ballymena
Mrs. E. Kenny,
The Bungalow,
Teesham, Ballymena.

Lurgan & Portadown
Mr. P. A. Smyth,
Marymount,
North Circular Road,
Lurgan, Co. Armagh.

Mid-Ulster
Mr. J. R. Stafford,
26 Killymerron Park,
Dungammon, Co. Tyrone.

EIRE

Dublin
Mrs. M. Kinsella,
55 Bayside Walk,
Sutton, Co. Dublin.

Cork
Mrs. M. Linehan,
Roskelton,
Wilton Road,
Cork.

CHANNEL ISLANDS
Mrs. U. Emmanuel,
Mont a l'Abbe,
Manor Farm,
St. Helier, Jersey, C.I.

OVERSEAS subscribers to "Link" are in many parts of the world and are growing in number.

Twentieth Century Press (1912) Ltd., T.U., 8-13 New Inn St., E.C2A 3HE—10989