

Link

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May/June 1974 5p

Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus (ASBAH)



HOUSE and HOME

Report on ASBAH's Spring Conference

Pages 8, 9, 10, 11, 12



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Link No. 32

**Association for Spina Bifida
& Hydrocephalus (ASBAH)**

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**Front Cover: Five-year-old
Amanda Webb in the playroom
of the specially adapted house
which her parents designed and
built partly themselves at
Bexley, Kent. At ASBAH's
Spring Conference, Mr. Webb of
Bromley Association described
how he and his wife designed the
house so that Amanda who is
paralysed from the waist down,
could have freedom and as much
independence as possible.**

Editorial

The warm April sunshine and daffodils flowering in York helped to get ASBAH's third Spring Conference off to a good start. Over 140 people attended the three-day conference, held at York's impressive modern university. The Association was pleased to see not only its own members from all over the country but also teachers, occupational and physiotherapists, representatives from the Department of the Environment, Department of Health and Social Security and from Local Authorities.

It was an extremely stimulating and enjoyable week-end, and it is a pleasure to carry a report in this issue of Link. In this way those who were unable to attend can feel identified with it as fully as possible. "House and Home" is a subject which concerns us all. (Conference Report on pages 8/9/10/11/12.)

A champion

The political scene has not been without drama in recent weeks. As was forecast, our new Government has appointed a Minister for the Disabled, to work as one of the team at the Department of Health and Social Security. As a theory there are pros and cons regarding there being such a Minister, but now is not the time to discuss these. We rejoice that the new Minister is Alf Morris, who is so well known to us all for his fight to secure an ever-improving charter for those with disability—a champion indeed. We welcome his appointment and know that during his period of office the needs of the disabled will be well recognised. His Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act is likely to be more actively implemented and new and improved facilities introduced as far as means allow.

The Report by Baroness Sharp on Mobility of Physically Disabled People, published as this issue goes to press—will be something we shall study carefully. The Report, commissioned by Sir Keith Joseph, who did so much for the disabled while Secretary of State, focuses attention on this vital area of handicap.

DIG for victory

It is a very important moment in time for all physically handicapped people in this country. Thanks to the sterling efforts of the Disablement Income Group, it seems that a realistic Income for the Disabled is coming a little nearer. All three major political parties are committed to the introduction of a National Disability Income, and now all eyes are turned towards Barbara Castle and Alf Morris. A massive Rally is being held in Trafalgar Square on June 9 to publicise the importance of an income for the disabled. Ministers do not appear to need convincing of its need any more, but it is doubtful whether as yet the public at large fully appreciate its significance.



News from the groups

Eight-year-old Paul Shepherd goes upstairs the easy way in his own personal lift. It was installed by Sunderland Social Services Department for about £400 in the Shepherd's home in Darlington, because Paul who has spina bifida had to be carried up and down stairs which was obviously a problem for both Paul and his parents.

The electric lift was made by Project and Design of Redcar, and this together with a wheelchair on both floors means that Paul now has the complete run of the house.

Paul's father is Chairman of Sunderland Local Association.

Photo: Northern Echo.

Up! Up! and Away



Bouquet for Barnet, Brent

Barnet and Brent: This group pays tribute in its newsletter to special services provided by two local councils to make life easier for the physically handicapped and their families. The London Borough of Camden have a scheme of Peripatetic Care Officers. This has been helpful already to one of the families where the mother had been in hospital and on her return was unable to lift her child. Camden provided a very helpful Care Officer who moved in and helped to look after the family. The children were able to stay in their usual environment and the mother was not worried about their welfare. Barnet Council provides disposable nappies and incontinence pads and waterproof mattress covers for families who require them. This service is a great boon for a busy mother having to cope with the everyday problems of caring for her handicapped child.

Taxi drivers give a lead

Leeds: Some new friends are helping Shipley and Baildon Branch of Leeds Association. Taxi drivers of Black and Gold Taxis, Shipley, under the leadership of "Chalky" White, have organised themselves to raise money, and to get others to raise money to buy special equipment for the children. Several different events have taken place or are being organised, including a pop concert, discotheque, a concert, Old Time dance and dinner. Many pubs and hotels in the area have been visited by the drivers and as a result are raising money for the Association in many different ways.

Work starts on £184,000 centre

Work began this Spring on a unique £184,000 holiday and field study centre for the handicapped in Cornwall, and it should be ready by the Summer of 1975.

The centre will be for all handicapped people and will take 24 students from all over the British Isles. It will provide short courses for several

hundred students every year and also hobby orientated holidays for many more.

It is being built by the Spastics Society at Lanlivery, near Lostwithiel. Students will be able to study natural sciences as well as taking courses in climbing, pony trekking, camping and canoeing.



News from the groups

Useful tips — from 12-year-old Keith

He writes: "Here are some ideas for children wearing calipers up to the thigh and waist.

If metal pops through the waistband, Mummy and I have found that if you wrap zinc oxide plaster round a few times it will hold for quite a long time.

Another tip: three-eighths of an inch on the inside of the thigh-band, place a piece of folded rag. We find it soaks up the sweat and avoids some of the sores.

Then to save wear on trousers caused by metal on the thigh-band, with a round-ended knife push tape under metal and place a piece of foam on top of metal and secure with the tape. This needs three to four pieces of tape.

If anything is not quite clear please contact Mummy at 01-949 2771.

Yours sincerely,

Keith Merrick

1 Hoppingwood Ave.,
New Malden, Surrey.

Jean earns award

Sussex: Congratulations to Mrs. Jean Hammersley Membership and Records Secretary for Sussex Association, who recently received an award for community service from Crawley Rotary Club. Mrs. Hammersley was one of two people to receive an award and it was the first time these awards were made. Mrs. Hammersley, apart from her valuable work for Sussex ASBAH, is Group Secretary for the Hospital Savings Association and does a lot of voluntary work for the over 60's.

Thistle tricycles

No Thistle tricycles have been able to be made for the last few months and ASBAH appreciates the disappointment this has caused.

Thanks to the help of Mr. F. E. Smith, a member of the Management Committee, the special co-operation of firms producing components has been achieved, and it is hoped that tricycles will start coming through again within about two months. There is a long waiting list but it is hoped that this announcement will be helpful.

A colourful evening

Members of Lincolnshire Association admire some of the flower arrangements at a special floral display evening organised by the fund-raising committee in Cleethorpes. (Left to right) Mrs. M. Forder; Mrs. L. Simms; Mrs. A. Hutson, demonstrator; Mrs. P. Yarmouth, who gave a talk on cake icing; and Mrs. M. Brown.

Photo: Grimsby Telegraph





Eye problems

Parents and teachers of children with hydrocephalus are only too well aware of the physical and emotional problems these children have, but not all are acquainted with the eye problems that may be present or may arise. At the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, we have been looking carefully into these problems, with support from ASBAH.

For convenience I will divide eye problems into three categories

(1) Problems with eye movements:

An undue proportion of children with hydrocephalus will develop a squint—a turn to the eye, often inwards—and sometimes this starts when the child has problems with raised pressure. Once established the squint will not disappear but may vary from time to time and often forces the child to hold his head in an uncomfortable position. For example, if a child is in a push chair and needs to tilt his head backwards to see more clearly it only adds to his difficulties. A squint may also compromise the useful field of vision. In addition, the child may look cross-eyed. Squints usually require treatment by an eye surgeon.

Some of the children show a tendency for their eyes to “sunset”—they turn their eyes downwards and the white shows above. This is essentially a feature seen in infancy and is often present before effective treatment of the hydrocephalus. A sudden appearance of sunsetting when it has been absent for some time may mean that the pressure needs checking.

(2) Problems with vision:

Problems may arise from the effects of pressure on the pathways from eye to brain but the exact mechanism is not yet fully understood although we already know a good deal about this. The visual problems vary from a subtle mild visual deterioration to, very rarely, a marked loss of vision. *I must stress that this is a rare happening.* It appears that in most cases pressure is responsible and the signs are that early detection is important. The problem is how do we detect it early on? We all go to great lengths to stop our children being introspective or over-dependent, and frequently make light of minor complaints. The more intelligent the child, the less he may complain. Headaches arise from other causes than pressure, and bumping into furniture, and may be part of the child's balance problems.

However, if your child says he can't see well, if he is keen to sit closer to the television than usual, or holds his books or toys closer, if he is bumping into furniture when he didn't before—have him checked at the

Mr. I. M. RABINOWICZ (M.A., M.B., F.R.C.S., D.O.) explains some problems which may be linked with hydrocephalus

hospital. He may just be short-sighted, but it is hard for you to know that. If in doubt talk to your Consultant.

(3) Perceptual defects:

Some hydrocephalic children have perceptual problems. These represent an island of difficulty which is not always easy to detect. The child may have difficulty with recognising and copying shapes which is out of keeping with his other abilities. Some have problems in picking objects out of a background. Parents say, “He sees what he wants to see” or “He can see a smartie on the carpet but won't recognise me in a crowd”. The importance of recognising perceptual defects such as these is that they may make certain activities unduly difficult. To some, reading gives special problems, to others writing, or sorting things.

If we suspect a perceptual problem, then we can test the child and find out his particular area of difficulty. Once we are aware of this we can form guidelines of education and advise about areas of frustration.

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HOUSE and HOME: ASBAH

What is home? Conference Hostess, Lady Jean Mackenzie, in her opening address to the Conference, described it as a place where one could relax and build up a feeling of co-operation and love and where there were minimal frustrations for all members.

She said that a physically handicapped person should not be allowed to become a dominant member of a home. Neither should he or she be over-protected, but must learn to take part in family life just like everyone else, and be encouraged to be independent.

"A home is where one makes it" she said. "Whether in a house, flat, caravan or special home".

The Conference gave great opportunity for discussion and exchange of ideas, both informally and more formally, between parents and professional workers, and proved a relaxing and enjoyable occasion.

ASBAH is grateful to one of its distinguished guests, Mr. Huws Jones, Consultant to the Joseph Rowntree Trust, who chaired the opening and closing sessions, and whose experience and knowledge, and not least his wit, contributed so much to the success of the week-end.

The Conference was well supported, and ASBAH is glad that the response has been so good.

"Design for Living for Spina Bifida Families", by Dr. G. G. Browning, FRCP, DPH, Regional Consultant in Physical Medicine, Glasgow. Extracts from his speech

"I shall begin with a family into which a child suffering from spina bifida is born . . . from that moment in time the curtain rises on that particular stage. . . . We all have to play our part. It is a constantly moving stage . . . the actors come and go. The stage moves on but never back. . . . Can we alter the future script? We can but try. We must try. But how? I shall try to map out a plan which may alter or affect the future script and may be it will suggest a design for living."

Ascertainment

At the time of birth or shortly afterwards the medical condition of the child is ascertained, and associated with this is the problem of communicating the news to parents and others in the family. "In fact, the method of communication may set the whole stage and have far reaching implications." Each member very often needed a different kind of support. "Always there is a reaction in and between the different members of the family. This reaction may be constructive or destructive."

Assessment

Even at this early stage the process of assessment begins. A



was important not only of the child—both physically and mentally—but also of the mother and father and any brothers and sisters. Dr. Browning said it was necessary to gauge their reactions and feelings, and their capacity to play the roles required. There must be regular re-assessments.

Action

A programme of action could only be effective if it were positive, based on consideration of all factors, and devoid of destructive emotional overtones. It must be a combined effort. "In the early days there is the medical, social and educational programme and later . . . the question of work comes more and more into the picture. The programme could only be effective if set against a stable and healthy background, both physical and psychological. Adequate housing and financial stability were very important, as were supportive services within

BAH's Spring Conference



Gillian, one of the residents at 9 Princess Crescent, Finsbury Park, London, in her streamlined, easy-to-run kitchen specially designed for wheelchair users. The height of work surfaces and sink allows room for the arms of the average wheelchair. The window is Teleflex operated and the Shavrin Leva taps operated from under the front of the sink are easy to reach. Switches for the boiling rings, fans and fridge are all together and again at a sensible height. The kitchen also has plenty of accessible storage space, is well ventilated and has a non-slip floor covering. In

short, an ideal dream kitchen. One of the kitchens in this block of 13 flats is fitted with Swedish Fokus units which can be adjusted in height to suit the tenant's requirements.

This block of flats with warden service has been built by John Grooms Association for the Disabled for young physically handicapped people, who though restricted in their mobility are keen to work and be independent. For many it is the first time they have had homes of their own.

An excellent film "No Steps to Conquer" about the flat developments was shown at the

Spring Conference by the Secretary of John Grooms, Mr. Charles O'Connor.

The flats not only provide accommodation for young single disabled people, but also for young married couples, too. One of the residents is Heather who has spina bifida and is a telephonist in London.

For information about the film or for a copy of a booklet about the flats "Wheelchair Living" (which also carries useful details about the planning and design) write to Mr. C. O'Connor, John Grooms, 10 Gloucester Drive, Finsbury Park, N.4. (25p plus s.a.e.)

the community, but Dr. Browning emphasised that in many ways the psychological considerations were more important. A well-balanced, integrated, family could cope without certain material resources, but the reverse was not the case.

He said that the strain on other members of the family should not be overlooked.

Dr. Browning considered it useful to have a goal. "It may be that such a goal is to consider the situation at the school-leaving period when it is hoped that employment or further training of some kind will be tackled." This was a time for major assessment, and for seeing how able the young person was from the physical, mental, emotional, social and educational viewpoints.

He felt that the school-leaving age was often a good time for the young person who had

remained at home to go away for a period . . . in the same way as able-bodied youngsters left home to go away to college or to take a flat. This normal procedure should be available to the disabled, and should not be seen as failure by the family, but as a natural way of helping towards independence and integration.

Dr. Browning also looked at the problem of a family with a disabled member when the parents grew older. He could be introduced to a future Home on a holiday basis, for a change of scene and companionship. This would also help the parents to give up their role without feelings of guilt.

If a spina bifida marries—and this was becoming much more generally accepted—this could also present physical and psychological problems which would need the support of both families concerned and all the resources of the community.

Acceptance

"It is the firm basis upon which sound action can be taken." If any programme for the full development of a child is to take place, parents must accept that certain problems exist, e.g. that their child is mentally as well as physically handicapped, or perhaps that the home cannot provide a certain service, or that they had not the capacity to cope with all the emotional and physical problems. It should not be seen as failure on their part to seek help.

"In general, society and its various groupings must accept understandingly the problems of the disabled and the desirability of their meaningful integration with their community. The disabled person must accept that if he is to become an integrated member of the domestic, work, recreation and other communities he must play his part."

HOUSE and HOME

"The Role of the Local Authority" by Mr. Harry Thacker, former Director of Social Services for the City of Leicester.

"The aim of the personal social services with regard to the disabled is to help them overcome the effects of a severe and permanent disability by any and every possible way both in the home and outside." These services operated through trained social workers and occupational therapists who made an objective social assessment of the family and its needs, and this ought to be followed up with appropriate kinds of help including counselling.

Mr. Thacker explained some of the reasons why there was often so much delay in the provision of services by the Local Authorities—"a situation which I am sure must fill you with frustration, as it does me".

He explained that the 1970 Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act—which he welcomed as providing a much improved service—resulted in a massive increase in applications for help to the Social Services Departments at a time when they were struggling to re-form themselves after the Seeborn Report.

"The Act told Social Service Departments to get on with the job and everyone expected overnight that there would be a change just like that. . . . When I tell you that in Leicester City in 3½ years the caseloads of referrals doubled from 4,000 to 8,000, and our staff increased by only 30% you may have some

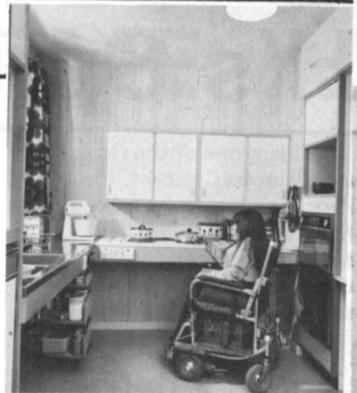
slight sympathy. . . . In Leicester we have knocked on every door and listed all disabled people and analysed their needs—as the Act told us to and 'published abroad' what we were doing. The immediate effect was that the tide came in twice as fast."

He urged people to go on pressing for services and facilities even if they have been refused before: "I do hope you will not judge the future by the past. Local Authorities do, in my experience, want to develop their services to the full and to carry out their responsibilities; this is only possible within the limits of finance and staffing which the public makes available." He said that as a result of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act, a gradually awakening public was beginning to realise the needs of the disabled and as a result more was being achieved in the provision of aids and services, although he felt, not nearly enough.

Matter of judgement

The Local Authority could provide every possible type of gadget and appliance to enable the disabled to overcome the effects of the disability, and so live at home as independently as possible. Mr. Thacker pointed out, however, that local authorities made different value judgements. One Authority might consider telephones a priority and install many of these, while another preferred to provide hoists, or stairlifts.

He referred to Cheshire County Council which employs an Architect to work full-time with the Social Services



Department. "An excellent booklet—'Made to Measure'*—has been produced by Jack Whittle, the County Architect, describing, with diagrams, exactly what adaptations have been made to houses in the county and the problems faced."

"You should start to try and influence your Council. The partnership of voluntary bodies and Local Authorities is very important. Local Authorities are much more likely to put money into a system where they see everyone is working together by voluntary action. You can help them to decide what action to take. If you can show there is a need, you are far more likely to get the answer you want."

"I have always worked with Local Authorities where they provided aids free. I have felt that this was important because no-one causes disability and if as a nation we accept it as a basic fact that we should do something to remedy it, I see it as a public service."

On the subject of housing, Mr. Thacker said that Local Councils—at either Metropolitan or Non-Metropolitan District level—had a duty to provide dwellings for their communities. These must include provision for a family with a disabled or

HOUSE and HOME

chronically sick member. Councils had recently been asked to review their programmes and to see what further accommodation was needed for the disabled and chronically sick. Houses could be provided in a group environment or scattered widely among ordinary dwellings.

Mr. Thacker asked: "Are we to have villages for the disabled and group them together so they are stronger, or are they to be distributed very widely? Should we group them in residential centres where they see only other handicapped people? These are big issues to settle." He felt sure that there should be more group dwellings with a warden and saw this as an area wide open for voluntary action.

When it came to providing care for the disabled, Mr. Thacker said that the cost wasn't the only limitation. "There is also a lack of people willing to look after the severely handicapped. This is something which needs an educational exercise on the part of the community."

"Home means more than somewhere to eat and sleep. It has other qualities we must not forget—friends, cultural and spiritual activities, security—even somewhere where you can swear at each other and still remain friends. Can you do that in a residential home?"

Mr. Thacker concluded by saying he hoped there could be a greater acceptance by the community of the Social Service Departments. "Many people still see us as the men who come and take you away, or who do something to you or at you.

People are still a long way from accepting the social services as part of the community in action, and part of *us* trying to help the disabled and others in the community."

* * * * *

In answer to a question, Mr. Thacker said it was important for local groups to keep pressing Local Authorities fully to implement the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act: "Constant dripping wears the stone. It is possible to change the system."

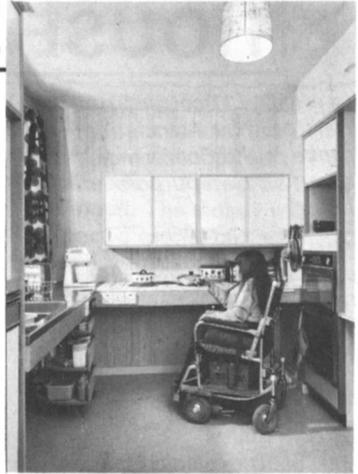
** "Made to Measure", from the Architects Dept., Cheshire County Council, County Hall, Chester. Price £1.*

"Break" Holidays

Mr. Davison of the Davison Morley Trust who has developed "Break" holiday schemes, spoke about the provision for children at Hunstanton, Norfolk. Holidays are arranged for those who are in boarding schools and have no home to go to in the holidays, and for others, throughout the year.

A new centre, over which ASBAH is actively co-operating, at Sheringham, Norfolk, will open this Summer.

• A film on *Het Dorp—the purpose-built village for the disabled in Holland* was shown at the Conference, and so was an interesting film about the residential centre for young physically handicapped people run by the Red Cross at Largs, in Scotland.



Voluntary Housing Associations by Mr. Malcolm Doney, Director of Inskip St. Giles Association.

The work of a rapidly growing voluntary housing association striving to de-institutionalise the disabled and give them a chance to lead independent lives, was brought to the attention of those at the Spring Conference.

Mr. Malcolm Doney, Director of Inskip St. Giles Housing Association, described some of the housing developments which they had purpose built or converted. They are mainly small groupings of flats with warden service in the midst of ordinary communities. He showed slides and gave particular attention to Friendship House at Poole, Dorset, a flat development for disabled of all ages. Other developments are planned for various parts of the country.

Part of Mr. Doney's paper to the conference about the voluntary housing movement and his Association in particular will appear in the next Link.

HOUSE and HOME

Mr. D. L. Scott, of Hertfordshire Association, spoke to the Conference about his own purpose-built house.

The Scotts, who have a 10-year-old chairbound spina bifida daughter, Helen, found that it became impractical to continue living in an isolated farmhouse, so they decided to buy a piece of land and design their own house.

Mr. Scott explained that he was involved in the building industry—he is Managing Director of William Old Resiform Ltd.—and he appreciated that a lot of the experience and facilities available to him would not be on hand for other parents, but he thought that the knowledge gained in having the house built could be of value to others.

Luxury house

Because of local regulations he was unable to build a bungalow, but eventually a plan for a two-storey timber frame house was worked out and received planning consent.

It is a luxury five-bedroom house, and a special feature on the first floor is Helen's mini-suite with a bath/changing room opening directly off her bedroom. The changing room has a padded changing area at a comfortable working height for Helen's mother. A "Trio" sit-in shower bath was fitted which is ideal for her. There are extra beams in the ceiling in this room so that as Helen becomes too heavy to be lifted, a rope ladder can be suspended so she can take her own weight and get from

chair to bath, to changing mat, etc. In this room as everywhere there is plenty of wheelchair space.

No help was given by Hertfordshire County Council towards the cost of the room (£320) so it was added to the mortgage, but the Council advanced £900 towards the cost of a lift on a legal charge basis—it has been loaned interest free until such time as the lift is no longer needed. The lift—a Barron and Shepherd "Senior" Home Lift cost £811 plus £300 for fitting.

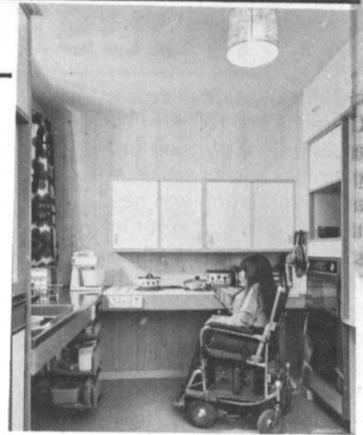
The Scotts were also given a £70 grant towards the cost of ramps and wider doors, etc., which in fact cost £150.

The basics of designing for the disabled are set down in great detail by Selwyn Goldsmith in "Designing for the Disabled" (RIBA, 1967)* and Mr. Scott said he followed or amended much of the design criteria.

Mr. Scott said that any family with a disabled member thinking of buying a new house, could have many necessary adaptations incorporated for very little extra cost, as long as they were done at the construction stage.

When looking for a new house choose one with good circulation area, and go to your Local Authority to find out what grants you are entitled to, and go armed with quotes from the builder showing the cost of the work.

"Do not be afraid to make your case very strongly and stick out for what can be justified as being reasonable and necessary for your particular case.



Investigate what type of lift/appliance/baths/lifting aids etc. are available and specify them. However, do not hesitate to seek advice from ASBAH or the Disabled Living Foundation if you are confused technically."

Add-on bathrooms

"A further area which may be of interest is that of factory made 'Add-on' bathrooms which my Company manufacture. These are fully fitted in the factory including wash basin, shower or bath, toilet, hot and cold services, space heaters and completely decorated. They are put on to a lorry and delivered to the house. A large crane is standing by and lifts the complete bathroom into place on to a previously prepared concrete base at the rear of the property, thus cutting down the amount of builders' work. Two of these units were specially constructed for the London Borough of Hillingdon for disabled people. They were most successful and were installed for £880 each."

* This book is in the process of being revised.



Appeals and publicity

The pupils of Walford School, Northolt, Middlesex have a great tradition of charitable giving—each year they “adopt” a particular charity and all manner of fruitful schemes are thought up to raise money. This year ASBAH was given the benefit of their enterprise and as a result of

Good Samaritan School

a mammoth sponsored walk, choral and dramatic entertainments, sales of work and home-made cakes, coffee mornings etc., enthusiastically

supported by staff, pupils and parents, the splendid sum of £1,500 was handed over. This represents an average of £1.25 per pupil. The money will finance a special project in which the School will take continuing interest.

One original way in which they raised money does I think deserve special mention, and other schools might like to copy it—Mufti Day, when on payment of 5p the boy or girl can wear for that one day any kind of clothing they like instead of school uniform. Some weird and wonderful apparitions emerged! But streakers were barred!

Foresters help

Many of you will have heard already the wonderful news that the Independent Order of Foresters has “adopted” ASBAH as its charity for four years.

The Order’s courts representing 240,000 members have pledged themselves to raise £20,000 for our current appeal for the provision of short term care. You will know how great the need is for this and how much this generous offer of help means to ASBAH.

Already very sizeable sums of money have been raised and passed on to us.

We have also had the honour of being invited to a special ceremony at the European Headquarters in London on June 25. The ceremony will commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the foundation of the Order and Baroness Masham, Countess of Swinton, one of ASBAH’s Vice-Presidents has kindly consented to unveil a commemorative plaque.

We really are extremely grateful to the Foresters for their interest and support.

Friends of ASBAH

The North Hampshire, West Surrey and South Berkshire Association are developing for their local purposes a scheme which we at ASBAH have been running for a couple of years—Friends of ASBAH. A special leaflet is being printed, incorporating a bankers order form, and members of the public interested in the work are asked to enrol as a Friend on a minimum annual subscription of £1. They hope in this way to get a guaranteed annual income sufficient to cover running expenses. If any other Local Association would like to run such a scheme I would be very pleased indeed to help with producing an appropriate leaflet.

People to “people”

Once again we are indebted to the generous readers of *The People*, who subscribed most generously to the Christmas Appeal. ASBAH was given £1,500, £250 of which was sent to Park Hall School, Mansfield Woodhouse for mobility equipment and £1,250 to Liverpool ASBAH to help to complete their short stay care accommodation.

Who says

I can’t?

We are working hard on plans for this campaign, probably to be held in the autumn of 1974. The image we want to put over is that the child with spina bifida and/or hydrocephalus is cheerful, courageous and looking forward to a full and happy life, given the necessary support. We are working on ideas for a poster with the caption, “Who says I can’t? I could if you’d give me a hand”. If anyone has a photograph they would allow to be used for publicity purposes which would illustrate this caption I would be so grateful if they would send it for the Publicity Committee’s consideration.

Mrs Kate White
Appeals Secretary

Know your way around

People in Wheelchairs—Hints for Helpers contains valuable advice to escorts and people who

find themselves behind a wheelchair. Price 13p (plus 4p postage) from British Red Cross

Cont from page 6

What advice then can we offer parents and teachers?

(1) Every child with hydrocephalus should have his eyes looked at regularly, say every six months.

(2) The appearance or reappearance of sunseting, the sudden development of a turn to the eye, or a worsening of a squint, should be reported. They may be unimportant, or may arise with problems such as urinary infections, but they too might need treatment. Long-standing squints usually need surgery.

(3) If a child seems not to see as well as before report it to your Consultant. It may be trivial but let him decide.

(4) Perceptual defects can add to the child's frustrations both at school and later on. They can be assessed and useful advice and help given.

Many of the problems occurring in the eyes of hydrocephalic children represent the effects of pressure both past and present. The eyes sometimes give an early warning of problems. If in doubt don't ever be afraid to ask advice.

Society, Stores and Supplies Dept., 4 Grosvenor Crescent, London SW1X 7EQ.

New publications available from the Central Council for the Disabled, 34 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1PE.

Access in Paris contains details about travel, accommodation and the tourist attractions from the point of view of a handicapped traveller. Price 55p (including postage).

Wisbech for the Disabled. Free (postage 3p). Donations towards printing costs may be sent to Mrs. S. Whitteridge, Hallcroft, Leverington, Wisbech, Cambs.

Portsmouth and Southsea Guide for the Disabled. Price 10p plus 3p postage.

At. Albans—A Guide for Disabled People. Price 27p (including postage).



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,
46 Tillbrook Road, Regents Park, Southampton.
Telephone enquiries: Totton 3365
(Mr. Mortimer)

THE SHASBAH TROLLEY FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

Patent applied for in
UK, Commonwealth Countries, USA, 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 manoeuvrable 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, which adds much happiness to the child's life.

Standard model for children one to five years old costs £8.25 plus carriage.

Large model for children five to ten years old costs £11.50 plus carriage.

These prices include VAT which has now to be paid on these aids in the UK. Overseas prices on application.

Produced by Southampton and District
Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Association

ASBAH publications and publicity

<i>Your Child with Spina Bifida</i> by Dr. J. Lorber, MD, FRCP	20p*
<i>Your Child with Hydrocephalus</i> by Dr. J. Lorber, MD, FRCP	15p*
<i>Equipment & Aids to Mobility</i> by O. R. Nettles, MCSP, ONC. A folder of four booklets	complete set 25p*
<i>Clothing for the Spina Bifida Child</i> by Barbara Webster, SRN, RSCN	15p*
General information leaflets	100 for £1
Leaflet for young people	100 for £1

Scottish Spina Bifida Association booklets

<i>The Spina Bifida Baby</i> by O. R. Nettles, MCSP, ONC	10p
<i>Growing Up with Spina Bifida</i> by O. R. Nettles, MCSP, ONC	20p

All available from: ASBAH, Devonshire Street House, 30 Devonshire Street, London W1N 2EB. (*Special rates available to Local Associations.) Bulk orders of Scottish Association booklets to: The Scottish Spina Bifida Assn., 7 South East Circus Place, Edinburgh EH3 6TJ (at special rates).

Films

The first four films may be hired from Concord Films Council, Nacton, Ipswich, Suffolk. Enquiries about purchasing these four to ASBAH.

What is Spina Bifida? Black/white, 16 mm, 25 minutes. Shows the early treatment of a baby born with spina bifida and hydrocephalus, and the involvement of parents. **Hire: £2.**

A New Lease of Life. Colour, 8 mm, 25 minutes. This film, made by a parent, shows by a series of animated drawings the nature of the spinal lesions and refers to treatment. **Hire: £2.**

Like Ordinary Children. Colour, 16 mm, 30 minutes. Two teenage girls describe their disability and their feelings about integration into society. The attitude of girls from a local school to those with handicaps is also shown. **Hire: £4.**

Growing Together. Colour, 16 mm, sound, 40 minutes. This film is about education and the choices of day school available to spina bifida children. Discussion topics to accompany this film are being prepared. **Hire: £4.**

What Shall We Do Tomorrow? Colour, 16 mm, 22 minutes. It deals with the problems and achievements of spina bifida youngsters, with comments from parents and teachers. It shows, too, some local money-raising events. The film was made for Mansfield & Worksop Local Association. Enquiries to: The Secretary, Mrs. E. Freeman, 23 Melbourne Street, Mansfield Woodhouse, Notts. Tel.: Mansfield 26860. **Hire: £3 plus carriage and compensation.**

Posters. Double Crown, 5p each, "Future Bright", 10 for 20p.
Flag Day emblems. 1,000 for 50p.
Cards for notice boards. 10 for 10p.
Car stickers. 5p each. Postage extra.
Fund-raising items. Price list/details on request.

Local Association offers

Badges. Silver and green enamel with pin fastening. Replica of the Spina Bifida emblem. Bulk orders are welcomed particularly. Price: 22p per badge. Postage extra. (For a single badge please enclose s.a.e.) Apply to: Mr. K. McKenzie, Badges Secretary, Salisbury & District ASBAH, 111 East Gomeldon Road, Gomeldon, Salisbury SB4 6LZ.

Badges for children. Good quality 1¼ in diam. SB symbol and the words, "Spina Bifida Children" in black on green background. Price: 25 badges for 75p; 50 for £1.40; 100 for £2.65, including postage. Cheques and postal orders crossed and payable to "SASBAH". Send with order to: Mrs. I. Olditch, High Lea, Turners Green Lane, Wadhurst, Sx.

Ties. Heavy weave washable terylene with SB symbol on dark blue or dark green. Sold by N. Hants, S. Berks and W. Surrey ASBAH. Price £1.10p plus postage, while stocks last. Reductions for bulk orders. Cash with order to: Mr. B. High, 10 Woodruff Ave., Burpham, Guildford, Surrey. Please state colour.

Inter-association holiday opportunities

Camber Sands, nr. Rye, Sussex. New, well-equipped chalet, in pleasant situation near the sea available for families with spina bifida members. Sleeps six. Please apply to Mr. S. Evans, 1 Coniston Gardens, Wembley, Middx. 01-904 7840.

Cleethorpes. Three-bedroom bungalow to accommodate 6-8 persons at Humberston Fitties, nr. Cleethorpes, Lincs. Further information from Mrs. W. Steele, 59 Louth Road, Holton-le-Clay, Grimsby.

Great Yarmouth. Self-contained 6-berth caravan at Caister Beach Caravan Camp, nr. Gt. Yarmouth. Details from Mrs. E. N. Barefoot, 23 Marlborough Road, Southall, Middx. Tel. 01-574 5067.

Looe. Bungalow, two bedrooms, spacious accommodation at Millendreath Holiday Village, nr. Looe, Cornwall. Mr. Keith Jackson, 202 Exeter Street, Plymouth.

Looe. Holiday bungalow at Millendreath Holiday Village. Sleeps six. Fully furnished. Further details Mrs. Cook, 19 Winslade Road, Harestock, Winchester. Dates still available April, May, Sept., Oct.

Mablethorpe. Self-contained 6-berth chalet situated at Golden Sands Estates, Mablethorpe, Lincs. Apply to Mr. Ken Hall, 17 Walhouse Street, Cannock, Staffs.

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

New Forest. Well-equipped chalet, sleeping six people. Within easy reach of Bournemouth, Beaulieu, etc. Swimming pool, paddling pool, restaurant and playground on site. Details from Mrs. A. Rae, 16 Clifton Road, Lee-on-Solent, Hants. Tel. Lee-on-Solent 550242.

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.

Selsey. New well-appointed, self-contained 16ft. x 30ft. 6-berth mobile home for families with spina bifida members. Situated at Selsey, Sussex. For full details please send s.a.e. to Miss G. M. Clarke, Badgers Copse, Rudgwick, Horsham, Sx.

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