

After what seemed an interminable period of waiting, the Spina Bifida Campaign was finally launched in March 1968. For the first time the problems of spina bifida and hydrocephalus were brought to the general public in the form of a major appeal for funds. The Committee was very grateful to Mr. Harry Secombe for his chairmanship of the Press Conference and also for his willingness to pose with several of the children for numerous press photographs on that day. The impact of this original launching was not as great as had been hoped for, but for the first time the problems we face were given wide coverage in the national and local press. It was merely our misfortune that many other matters chanced to claim greater press coverage at the same time.

One direct result of this event was the preparation and showing of the World in Action film "Below the Belt" which again brought the subject to the mass TV audience in April. Here again thanks are due to many who worked on and took part in this film, especially to those of St. Mary Hill School and Queen Mary's Hospital, Carshalton, and to Mrs. Raymond and Sqn.Ldr. Davies for their forceful parts in this very effective film.

Since these two events, public interest in and awareness of the problems presented by ASBAH have grown greatly, and it can no longer be said, now we have been "on the telly", that we are totally unheard of. The greatly increased number of local press cuttings received throughout the early summer testified to the success of efforts to achieve publicity. These efforts have been well supported locally by

the country, who have also continued to provide great support and comfort to affected families in their areas. More than one of these Branches is now able to support its own office and part-time staff and all of them show greatly increased membership and support during the year.

The formation of the Spina Bifida Trust in the early part of the year further extended the firm base on which the Spina Bifid Campaign is now being expanded, and through this medium we have been able to enlist the active help of a number of influential persons in the supervision of our affairs.

Following on much frank discussion and a great deal of vocal support at the Annual General Meeting in Manchester, the Committee immediately commenced its search for a full-time General Secretary in order to build on this support, to supervise the growing Head Office activities and to liaise more closely with Branches and supporters throughout the country and Mrs. E.C. Skellon took office on August 1st.

Open discussion.

Statement what done & plans.

Chairman's Report.
Secretary Report.
Annual Report.
Open Discussion

Election Officers

Exec. Committee up there

21 days before meeting
Prep. Committee.

Rep. Members. Unoff. Informal

Finance
