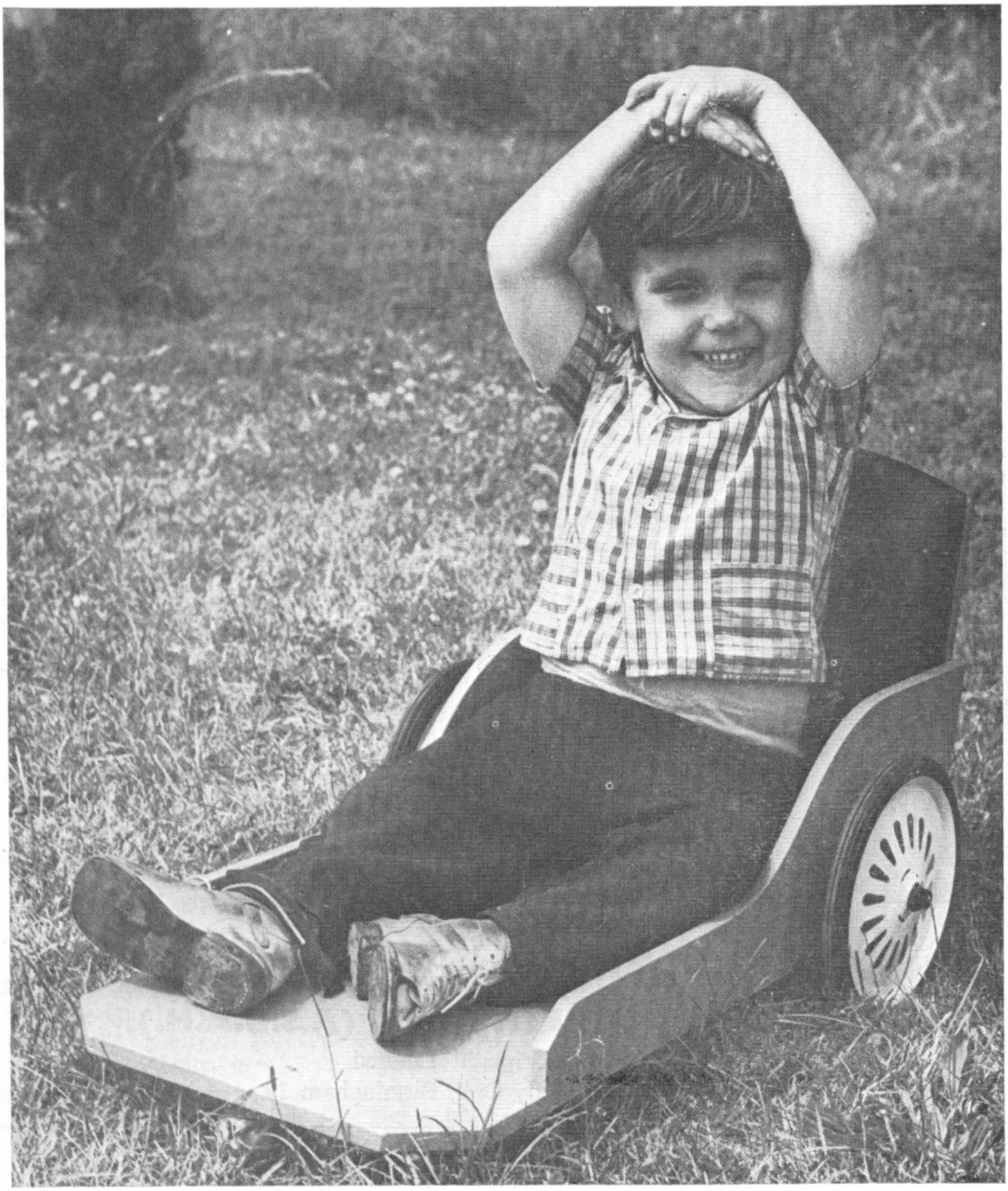
16

LINK

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

Autumn 1970

One Shilling



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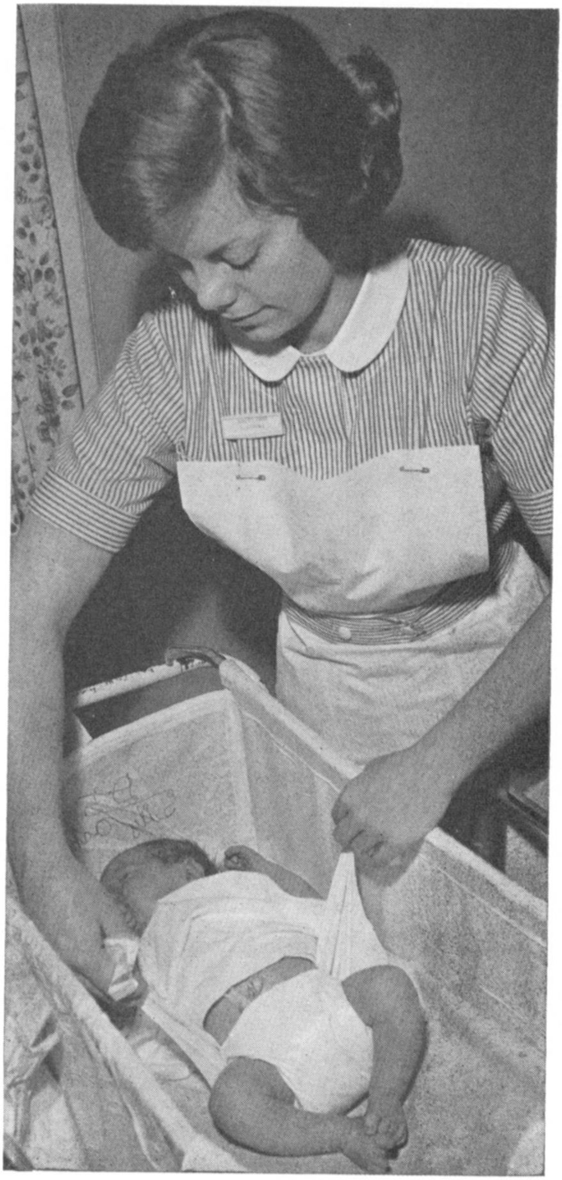


LINK

AUTUMN Vol. 1 No. 16

All correspondence to
ASBAH Ltd.
112 City Road, London E.C.1
Tel. 01-253 2735

Contents

Our Cover

Edward Hardy in cheerful mood.

EDITORIAL

Readers who have over the years followed the fortunes of the Three Musketeers, whether on film, television or through Dumas' immortal pages, will remember the invincible quartet had as their motto "All for one and one for all"—not a bad slogan for A.S.B.A.H. It's another way of saying "United we stand, divided we fall."

Readers will be sorry to learn that Mr. Parsons resigned after he had "put the last issue to bed". Many of you had corresponded with him personally in the last year. The Editor of this number is a sort of regal "we" and he hopes you like *Link 16*. He is planning our future issues. The next is due by 1st December at the latest, so copy by the third week in October please—or your suggestions even earlier.

The last three months are noteworthy for the passing of the "Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act, 1970" and the publication of "Living with Handicap", the report of the study on handicapped children by the National Bureau for Co-operation in Child Care. These are milestones, not only for what they set out but because they focus attention on some of "our" problems and help to create a climate of caring in the Community.

RESEARCH

All parents of children with spina bifida and hydrocephalus must be anxious to know how much and what kind of medical research is being carried out to further our knowledge and to improve the chances for our children. In fact, a lot of research is going on, and some of the results were presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Research into Hydrocephalus and Spina Bifida which was held in June of this year in Freiburg, Germany.

The meeting took three days and over 30 scientific papers were presented. The majority came from Great Britain, and the others from various European countries and from the United States of America.

Many aspects of these disorders were the subject of the presentations. For example, it was shown that a couple who had an infant with hydrocephalus without spina bifida had a slightly greater chance that future babies may be born with spina bifida.

Two lectures dealt with some difficulties in the delivery of babies with spina bifida or hydrocephalus. It was shown that breach deliveries are more common than with healthy babies and that babies with large heads often have to be delivered by Caesarean Section.

Several speakers dealt with kidney and bladder problems. These included an interesting experimental account from Hungary about electrical therapy for the bladder in an attempt to train for better control. Another considered the treatment of bladder infection in children who had ileal loop and another discussed the use of radioactive isotope studies of kidney function. The importance of high blood pressure in some older children with spina bifida was described together with its causes and their management.

Other papers dealt with new methods of shunt treatment of hydrocephalus, and also with the various complications which may arise from treatment with different types of shunts and new ways of diagnosing obstructions.

Orthopaedic aspects were discussed in several papers. One dealt with the reasons for frequent fractures of the legs in children with spina bifida. Another analysed how muscle imbalance causes the bony lump on the back which develops in many children with spina bifida. Another paper that was read dealt with the assessment of muscle activity by electrical techniques.

There was a long paper about the results of treatment in children born with spina bifida of different degrees of severity, and analysis was presented on how it may be possible to foretell on the first day of life the likely outcome and the degree of handicap when the child is older. This subject was then discussed for the rest of an afternoon session.

The most important part of the meeting was the Casey Holter memorial lecture which was delivered by Mr. Ellison Nash on the Impact of Total Care in Children with Spina Bifida. Mr. Nash treated children with spina bifida long before most other doctors did and he gave a cautiously optimistic and encouraging survey of the whole situation.

Mr. Holter and Dr. Pudenz, the inventors of the famous valves, both attended the Conference where the hospitality of our German hosts was truly magnificent.

JOHN LORBER.

This article features the Freiburg Conference. We are promised a follow-up article, giving further information on research work in progress. [Editor]

"SPARKLE"

"Sparkle", being the first sailing boat specially designed for wheelchair bound people, created much interest amongst the public in general, as well as with handicapped visitors, visiting the International Boat Show at Earl's Court in January this year. Overseas visitors also expressed great interest, and many physically handicapped manning the exhibition stand must have starred in Overseas television programmes and press.

"Sparkle" is the result of much hard work, enthusiasm and vision of S.P.A.R.K.S., who raised the money to create her.

S.P.A.R.K.S., or more fully, Sportsmen Pledged to Aid Research into Crippling, is a voluntary body formed by men and women from every field of sport.

"Sparkle" is a 45-foot Catamaran designed by the well known yacht designer Angus Primrose.

"Sparkle" will be able to offer a completely new medium in participation, in sailing and messing about in boats to the disabled. In addition to her sails, she is powered by a Perkins 4-107 Diesel engine. She is capable of carrying eight to ten wheelchairs on board on the large deck space. A full-time, fully qualified skipper will be in charge, and the boat is so designed that he can take control of any manœuvre from his central position at the wheel. However, wheelchair bound and other disabled passengers will be encouraged to help crew the boat as much as their interests and physical abilities allow. Instruction in the rudiments of seamanship, navigation and chart reading will be possible. A live bait-well and a supply of fishing rods, plus a large area of foredeck for sunbathing on rubber mattresses, widens the scope for individual enjoyment.

Even under full sail and with a stiff breeze, "Sparkle" is designed to keep an even keel and for her decks to remain level. Every precaution will be made to ensure the complete safety of all those aboard. For those who feel the need

for extra stability, retaining hooks to attach chairs are placed at intervals around the bulwarks.

Ten chairs plus other ambulant people can be accommodated in the central cabin. There is a small galley accessible to a chairbound person, and from the cabin is an especially large toilet, fully negotiable for a wheelchair.

Who Can Use "Sparkle"?

"Sparkle" will be moored on the Thames at Surbiton, Surrey. Parking is freely available in side roads near to the river.

She will be available for DAY or ½ DAY trips by any Voluntary or Statutory organisation for groups of up to ten wheelchair bound, plus able-bodied escorts.

Ambulant disabled are also welcome but the total group should not exceed 15, including three-five helpers. Applications from individuals will be accepted whenever possible. Children should be over the age of nine.

Cost

"Sparkle" is available free of charge.

If Associations or individuals wish to show their gratitude for the use of the boat, any donations to S.P.A.R.K.S. will be appreciated, and go towards "Sparkle's" maintenance.

This article first appeared in "Contact", the magazine of the Central Council for the Disabled and we are most grateful to them for allowing us to reproduce it for the benefit of those of our members who may be interested.

If there are groups who would like to take advantage of these facilities, A.S.B.A.H. *will be happy to co-ordinate the arrangements.*

THE 40th BLACKPOOL BROWNIE PACK

We were very pleased to be able to start this pack and are very grateful to all the interested people who have helped to make this possible.

There are now seven Brownies and two recruits and they are all taking an active part in the life of the Pack. Three Brownies have gained the Footpath Badge, and as a joint effort have made a Pack Carpet.

We have been very lucky to have two enthusiastic and sympathetic Brownie Guiders, and as a result of this the children have been able to take a full part in Brownie life in the Blackpool Division. This means that they have attended the following Division events: the Carol Service, the joint Brownie and Guide Service of Thanksgiving for Jubilee Year, the Brownie Jubilee Celebration—a visit to the Tower Circus, and we extend our most grateful thanks to the staff of the Tower for keeping suitable seats and helping to position the Brownie who has a wheel chair.

The Brownies are now preparing their entry for the Division Brownie Competition, and it is a very inspiring thought to know that these Brownies are also working happily alongside another Pack.

We are very delighted that our County Commissioner for North-West Lancashire writes:

"It has been a great pleasure for me to learn of the very fine work being done in the 40th Blackpool Pack and to know that these young people have been able to take such an active part in the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of their Division. I personally am keenly interested in all that is being done in this section of Guiding as I feel that it is here one finds Guiding in its truest and deepest sense."

GILLIAN ANN HUGHES

Born 30th May, 1968

Like all parents of spina bifida and hydrocephalic children it came as a great shock when our baby daughter was born like this, especially as we already had three very healthy sons of 11, 8½ and 7½. I had Gillian at home, so the doctor immediately sent for an ambulance and away went Gillian. My husband went too in case permission to operate was needed. This was at 9.30 a.m. By 3.30 p.m. my husband arrived home by ambulance with our baby daughter. She had been examined by surgeons who said the spina bifida was so wide that there was nothing they could do. They gave my husband the option of leaving Gillian in hospital or bringing her home. In any event she was not expected to live three months. My husband had decided to bring her home for her to have the love of a home for as long as she could, although he knew it would mean a lot of heartache and work.

The midwife came and showed me how to put the dressing on her back. I must admit that this really terrified me at first, but I got used to it, although as Gillian grew, so did the lump on her back. At 4½ months she had an operation to insert the valve and she came through it very well and returned home a week later. As her head started to drain so did her back and a month later we took her for a check-up. The surgeon was so pleased that he said he would undertake an operation on her back. On 4th December this was carried out. Gillian was very poorly for the first week, but the second week a blood transfusion did her a world of good. On Christmas Eve, when we went to visit her, the sister said we could take her home. It was the best Christmas present we could have had, even our three sons said the same. They have been marvellous with Gillian when she has been in hospital, wanting to know about her each night.

We have to take Gillian for a check-up on her valve every six months, and the next time we go we hope to hear that it is no longer needed. If not it will mean her having another one put in.

At 16 months Gillian saw an orthopaedic surgeon who arranged weekly physiotherapy and I was taught exercises for her to do three times a day. I have always massaged her legs and her back with olive oil. She also saw the urologist who arranged an I.V.P. kidney X-ray which showed that her bladder did not empty completely so I always have to express her. Her right kidney is not as good as her left one and later tests have indicated that she will need a diversion operation before she is four. The orthopaedic surgeon was pleased with the suppleness of Gillian's legs and on our next visit in August we think she will be ready for callipers. At a year she was able to sit surrounded by cushions to stop her leaning forward, but slowly she has got stronger and by 17 months was able to sit without support.

Gillian in her "baby-walker"

After her back operation she was able to have her first real bath in the baby bath and she loved it. Eventually she started going in the big bath and through this she discovered that if she pushed her hands on the bottom she moved backwards. This helped a lot as she found she could do the same thing on the polished tiles in the kitchen. The next move was pushing forward and she gets everywhere like this now, and quite quickly.

She enjoys the baby-walker and, though she cannot walk in it, it is the right height for her to see out of the window and watch the other children playing and in good weather she can be out in it. She also has her trolley which she manipulates very well. I keep it mainly for her to play outside. Little girls from across the road often ask if she is going to play and off she goes. They let her chase them and so she is learning to play with other children. Her brothers are very good with her and have never shown any resentment towards her disability. They treat her normally and will not always let her have everything she wants.

Gillian talks quite well now and can count the five beads on her walker. She has a will of her own and knows what she wants, but gets her hands smacked if she is doing something wrong.

One other point I will mention, in case other mothers worry as I did, Gillian did not cut her first tooth until she was 17 months and I was beginning to wonder if there was something else wrong, but now she has six front teeth and is cutting her fourth double one. She has not had many urine infections and after the first small sore on her bottom, present from birth and which cleared up by the fourth month, she has had no more. I always use marathon nappies next to her and the ordinary one on the top and I am sure this has helped.

I hope that what I have written will be of help to some other parents in the way we have found letters published in *Link* a help to us. We know we have a lot ahead but we would not be without our darling daughter for anything. She is a happy and contented little soul.

BARBARA HUGHES.

RICHARD*

The Richard Fund in Sheffield has been in existence to support research into spina bifida and hydrocephalus for seven years.

The spina bifida team in Sheffield has already contributed substantially to the knowledge in all aspects. The work is continually expanding and needs funds to support it.

One way in which the Fund collects money is by the sale of used postage stamps. Many of the readers of *Link* have sent postage stamps in the past, for which the Fund is most grateful, and would like readers to know that several hundred pounds have been raised in this way.

Also, running the stamp appeal through the lay press in many parts of the British Isles brings contact with many spina bifida families who have not heard of A.S.B.A.H., and who as a result are put in touch with A.S.B.A.H. locally and nationally.

Please continue to send any postage stamps, British or overseas, to Mrs. J. Lorber, 305 Ecclesall Road South, Sheffield, S11 9PW.

**Research into Congenital Hydrocephalus and other Radical Disorders.*

THE FILM WINS ACCLAIM

This film, made for the Association, of which so many local associations now have copies, has won spurs during the last few months. It was entered by the Producers in the 1969 Film Competition of the British Medical Association and was given one of the Bronze Awards. The range of films submitted was very wide and it was encouraging that spina bifida was included.

More recently the film has been awarded the Certificate of Commendation of the British Life Assurance Trust for health education with the British Medical Association. This may well mean that the film finds its way into the various health education departments up and down the country, so making spina bifida and hydrocephalus more widely known. This knowledge will lead to greater understanding of the problems and so help those growing up and needing just a helping hand to live in the Community.

There has also been an award of the Certificate of Merit of the British Association (for the Advancement of Science).

Readers will be glad to know about this and will feel they can commend the film to groups, colleges and others interested with confidence. Copies may be hired from Concord Films Council, Nacton, Ipswich, Suffolk. (15/- plus postage.) A non-profit organisation for promoting peace and human welfare.

A NEW CHARTER FOR THE DISABLED

The Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970

One of the few Bills to receive the Royal Assent after the announcement of the date of the dissolution of the last Parliament was this very important one, as far as the Association is concerned. This was possible because it received the support of all parties.

Much could be written about how the Act came about—briefly, Mr. Alfred Morris, the member for Manchester, Wythenshaw, came first in the Ballot for private members' Bills in the Autumn Session, 1969. Having had experience of disablement he decided, despite pressure from many about other possibilities, to promote a Bill to improve the lot of the chronically sick and disabled. This was a difficult task because of the very many government departments involved. Because there was such goodwill and he had stalwart support both within the House and outside it, the Act has reached the Statute Book. Dr. John Dunwoody, on behalf of the then Government said . . . "it represents a significant step forward. It is a compassionate and civilised charter for the chronic sick and disabled in our community . . . I think this Parliament has done its best and we have in this legislation a base on which a great deal more can be built in the future." The Act contains 29 clauses, not all directly relevant to those with spina bifida, naturally. Below is a summary of the clauses most relating to this problem. It must be emphasised that the Act must itself be studied or advice sought if precise information is needed. Also some clauses will take time to implement.

Clause 1. All local authorities having functions under section 29 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, must find out the number of disabled people in their area. They must publish the services available to the disabled and ensure that those who need the services are given the necessary information. The Secretary of State will appoint a date for this section to come into force.

Clause 2. Local authorities must make arrangements for the following services for the disabled where they are needed: (a) practical assistance in his home; (b) assistance with library and television and similar recreational facilities; (c) leisure time or educational facilities outside the home; (d) assistance with travel in order to use these facilities; (e) assistance with adaptations to the home; (f) facilitate the taking of holidays; (g) provision of meals at home or elsewhere; (h) assistance in obtaining a telephone. Section comes into force 29th August, 1970.

Clause 3 refers to the duties of Housing Authorities and requires them to distinguish homes specially designed for the disabled in submitting new housing to the Minister.

Clauses 4, 5, 6 and 7 deal with access to buildings used by the public and to public lavatories and requires that there be notices to indicate where provision is made. These sections come into force on 29th November, 1970.

Clause 8 requires that wherever possible educational buildings, i.e. schools and colleges, must be accessible (both to enter and within) and have suitable parking and lavatory provision for disabled people. (From 29th November, 1970.)

Clause 16. The Council advising the Secretary of State on the employment of disabled people is to advise on the training of placement officers and the training of the disabled for employment. (From 29th August, 1970.)

Clause 17 and 18. Wherever possible chronically sick people under the age of 65 are not to be cared for in hospitals normally used for the aged over 65 years.

Clause 20. Invalid carriages may be used on footpaths and roads. The requirements to be complied with will be issued by the Minister. (From 29th August, 1970.)

Clause 21. Local authorities are to issue badges for use on cars owned by disabled drivers and disabled passengers, i.e. disabled people who would qualify for a Ministry vehicle but are too disabled to drive themselves. This badge will facilitate parking, both within and outside the area in which it is issued. (This section comes into force on a date to be appointed by the Minister.)

Clause 22. The Secretary of State is to lay before Parliament each year the progress on research into equipment which will increase the range of activities and independence or well-being of disabled people. (From 29th August, 1970.)

This is a summary of the most relevant clauses only, in what is hoped is a readable form. Questions of interpretation still need to be cleared, but it is believed that this short article will be of interest to many readers of *Link*—not least because it is an indication of the improved climate of opinion about handicap, which will obviously spread within the community at large as the days go by.

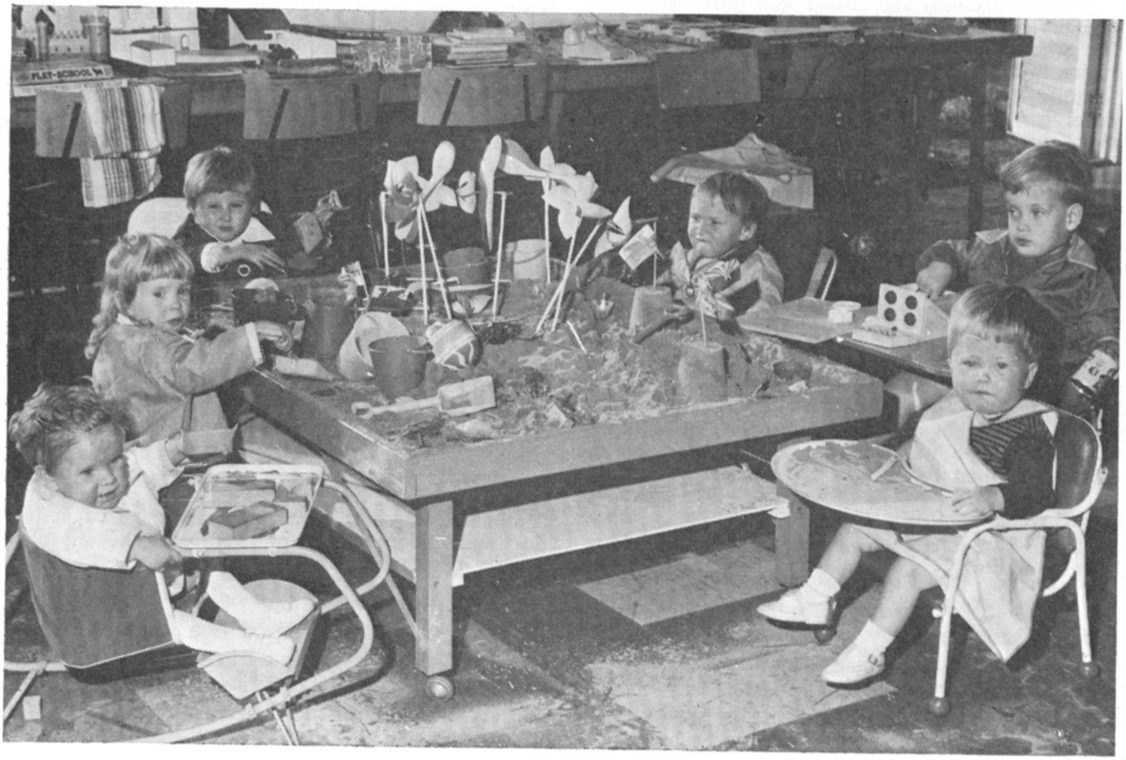
BLACKPOOL AND FYLDE ASSOCIATION PLAY GROUP

At one of our monthly meetings last year, forming a pre-school play group was discussed. Parents were asked to indicate whether they would be interested in sending their children, in the two- to five-year-old age group. Due to the response, several events, coffee mornings, etc., were held to raise money for equipment, etc., and it was decided to rent a large room that was available where we hold our meetings and that transport to fetch and return the children was essential. Then began the long process of registering the room helpers, etc., which took rather longer than thought, as it was the first physically handicapped play group to be formed in the Fylde area. The Health Authorities, although helpful, were rather reserved in their attitude. Transport proved an even bigger problem and eventually we had to hire a private ambulance at £4 for the two journeys; and with £2 for the rent of the room, this was £6 for the afternoon.

After a trial run, in July, to see that transport, equipment and everything ran smoothly, we opened the play group in September last year with seven children.

In October we had an "Open Day", when people were invited to visit us from the Health Department, Welfare Department, Children's Department, etc. We were most gratified at the response, particularly from Trainee Health Visitors, and we had a big write-up in the press plus photographs.

Just before Christmas we moved to new premises, as a lack of storage space had caused problems and we are now paying 30s. rent for a lovely room with good storage facilities in a church hall. We also obtained the loan of a mini-bus from another organisation, donated by the local "Lions", and at first this just cost us £1 plus the cost of petrol, but the bus is now free to us and we pay the cost of petrol. The husband of one of our members who is a taxi-driver drives the bus for us and a member of the W.V.S. is loaned to us each week to take care of the children on the journey to and from the play group.



We now have nine children meeting every Wednesday afternoon, 2 p.m.-4 p.m. The play group is staffed by myself, a former Princess Christian Nurse, my assistant, who is Red Cross trained, and the W.V.S. helper, all voluntary; plus some of the mothers, as registered helpers. The Health Authorities gave us a four children to one helper ratio, but I find that this is too high and we need one helper to two children.

The play group is open to other handicapped children (we have one now who is not S.B.) providing that a doctor, who is our Medical Advisor and on call during play group hours, agrees that he or she will fit into our group and the Committee approves and the parents join the Association.

No charge is made for the children to attend, or for transport, but 6d. for tea and biscuits is charged to the mothers if they wish to stay for a chat.

We are very fortunate in having a wood and metal work teacher in a local school to help, and he and his boys at school have made most of the equipment for us. The boys have become so interested in the group that we have been to the school twice for the boys to make a film of the play group for a project and they have presented it to us to show, to raise funds.

We find that the children have benefited so much from playing together. We have had no tears, and they all thoroughly enjoy themselves. Knowing their love of being mobile, we have several carts and some cars that are propelled by hand control instead of the feet and these are very popular amongst the children, along with a large sand tray, water play, swings, rocking horses and easels that can be converted into tables with sliding tops, and bricks and jigsaws inside.

It's marvellous to see the children looking so happy and thoroughly enjoying themselves. It has been well worth the work involved.

MRS. D. SHARPLES.

Stop Press

"The Challenge of Spina Bifida"

by Mr. Allen Field

(Headmaster, Coney Hill School 1959-70)

will be published by

Heinemann Medical Books Ltd.

on 24th September, 1970

Price 8/-

We hope to review in the next issue of *Link*

Elaine Steele, who lives near Halifax, has both spina bifida and hydrocephalus but plays a very full part in the life of her family. She helps her little brother a great deal—but not unnaturally the best "shots" of this usually escape the camera's eye. Link *sends greetings to Elaine, her parents and her brothers.*

YOUNG LINK

125 Robert Street,
Manselton,
Swansea,
4th March, 1970

Dear Friends,

My name is Karen Davies, and I am eight years old. I would like to say how much I enjoy reading *Link,* but you don't have much for children in it, so please can you have a children's page, with our letters about hobbies and things. My hobbies are reading, talking, T.V. and typing. My home teacher said I should put talking first as she always has to tell me to get on with my lessons.

Love to all,
Karen.

Dear Girls and Boys,

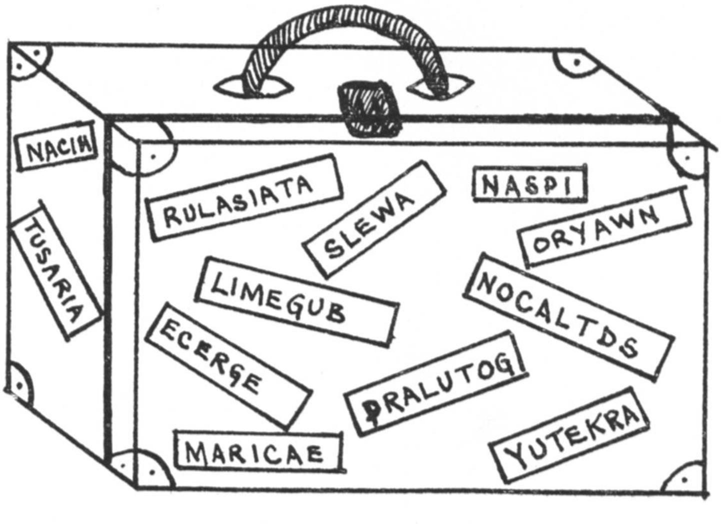
Karen's request is just one of a number which have been received, so here at last is our very own page, where we can exchange ideas, pass on helpful information about hobbies, etc., or even find a pen friend. If you have an interesting hobby, please write and tell me, just address your letter to William, Young Link, A.S.B.A.H., 112 City Road, London, E.C.1.

I expect that some of you are keen stamp collectors and so here are some helpful hints which have been sent in by one of our readers.

Something that everyone can do, is Stamp Collecting. All you need to start with is a packet of stamp hinges or mounts and an exercise book. Then ask your mum, dad and relatives to save their stamps for you. There will be a few foreign ones amongst them, but you will get a large number of British stamps, some of which will be pictorial stamps like those issued recently for the Commonwealth Games held in Edinburgh and the Charles Dickens and William Wordsworth stamps issued on the 3rd June. Also watch for the regional stamps from the Isle of Man, Wales and Scotland. You will make the collection even more interesting by adding a few notes under the stamps, giving the date of issue, name of the designer and why the stamp was issued. Once you have started perhaps mum or dad will give you an album for your birthday. One hint on removing stamps from the envelope, never try and pull them off, just soak them in tepid water and the stamp will float off.

Talking of collecting, perhaps you collect those labels which people stick on their luggage when they go on holiday. The suitcase in our drawing has twelve labels but unfortunately the printer muddled up the spelling. I want you to sort them out and send me the result on a postcard. Please write as neatly as possible and don't forget to add your name, address and age. A prize will be awarded to the neatest correct entry.

Good Luck!
William.



NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Staffordshire Association

Mrs. Davies writes that the group have purchased a Holiday Chalet in Mablethorpe, Lincolnshire, primarily for the use of families with spina bifida children in Staffordshire. The Chalet has six berths, flush toilet, shower, electric cooker, fridge and all "mod cons." It is situated at the Golden Sands Estate. The Association owes a debt of gratitude to Mr. Alex Henshaw, site owner and Managing Director, who kindly furnished the Chalet for us as his contribution.

Sussex Association

Quotes from the Sussex Newsletter: "A number of money-raising events have been organised by individual members recently and we have been enabled to send a further £150 to the Spina Bifida Trust and we are grateful to all those who have worked so hard on our behalf.

"We are looking forward to joining with members of other Associations at the Garden Party and Sports Afternoon being organised by the Bromley and Beckenham Association on Saturday, 26th September, to be held at the Muirhead Sports Ground, Shirley, starting at 2 p.m. There is a hall available if the weather is inclement. This should prove to be a most worthwhile gathering as it is not often that we have the chance to meet members of other Associations and exchange ideas and thoughts."

Spenborough and District Association

Mr. Lodge writes: It is not very often you hear from our branch but we all look forward to the *Link* Magazine, and not only supply it to our members but also free of charge to the four Medical Officers in our area, also to district nurses and welfare organisations.

You will be pleased to hear that our branch is progressing very well, and in the year and a half that we have been formed we have steadily increased our membership, our fund-raising efforts have been very successful and we have managed to help members and families in lots of ways.

Our most recent efforts have made it possible for us to purchase a lovely Caravan situated on the promenade site at Hornsea, on the East Yorks coast. We would like to make this available to anyone who has a spina bifida child in any Branch. The van is seven-berth and has hot and cold running water, electric light, private flush toilet, also—a very important thing—bathroom and shower. Television can be rented as an extra for one pound.

Anyone who wishes to hire our van should write direct to our Mrs. Thornton, 87 Leeds Road, Liversedge, Yorkshire, who will be happy to quote reasonable terms. We have plenty of vacancies for this year so don't hesitate if you have not yet decided where to go.

Lurgan and Portadown Association write:

"We are pleased to report that our first Annual General Meeting was so well supported that the Watson Memorial Hall in Portadown was barely big enough to accommodate everyone. The outgoing Chairman, Mr. Noel McGrann, paid warm tribute to his team of helpers who have done so much to make spina bifida household words in the area, and he also thanked the members of the Lurgan and Portadown Press for the magnificent press coverage which they had afforded. Mr. R. L. Leury was elected Chairman for the coming year. Various fund-raising events have been organised, including a direct mail appeal to local industrial, business and professional people. A flag day is being arranged in September which we hope will be well supported."

Essex Association

Two very successful events have occurred in recent months. First there was the stand at the famous Essex County Show on 19th and 20th June. The stand featured publicity material and also there were crafts for sale. The weather was at its best and much public interest was aroused. This and a sum of £132 for association funds made it a very worthwhile exercise.

Sunday, 26th July, was a red-letter day as the Lord Lieutenant of Essex, Sir John Ruggles-Brize, opened the gardens of his home, Spains Hall, in aid of spina bifida and hydrocephalus.

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.

Is suitable for children from one to five years old. Cost £6 10s. plus postage approx. 9/- in United Kingdom, prices on application overseas.

Produced by the

Southampton and District Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Association

Although it was one of this summer's few wet days over 400 people attended. Donations and entry fees together came to a further £130 for the local Association and more important was all the goodwill which the event evoked, which really means more than money.

Sir John Ruggles-Brize took a personal interest, as he does in the Association and, at the end of the day, the helpers had the privilege of seeing over the Hall. This they very much appreciated and will always remember.

Devon and Cornwall Association

Millendreath Holiday Village, near Looe, is the setting for the chalet bought by the Plymouth-based Devon and Cornwall Association for spina bifida and hypdrocephalus. Association members and friends were able to inspect it at an Open Day.

The chalet is in the Millendreath Valley and ideally suited for handicapped children and those in wheelchairs, as it is completely flat; there is even a ramp down to the beach.

The site owners built a ramp up to the front door of the chalet so that even the nine-inch step there would be no obstacle.

Parents and children suffering from the effects of spina bifida and hydrocephalus will be able to have a low-price holiday—often their first. Those who have stayed at the chalet have had an enjoyable time.

INTER-ASSOCIATION HOLIDAY OPPORTUNITIES

Selsey. Extremely well-appointed, self-contained 16ft. x 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. Vacancies for this year.

Mablethorpe. Self-contained 6-berth Chalet situated at Golden Sands Estates, Mablethorpe, Lincolnshire. Further details from Mrs. June Davies, 8 Oakhill Avenue, Oakhill, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, ST4 5JN.

Cleethorpes. Three-bedroom Bungalow to accommodate 6/8 persons situated at Humberston, Fitties, Nr. Cleethorpes, Lincolnshire. Further information from Mr. J. Wright, 17 Pilgrim Avenue, Immingham, Nr. Grimsby, Lincolnshire.

Looe. Bungalow, two bedrooms, spacious accommodation, situated in Millendreath Holiday Village, Nr. Looe, Cornwall. Further information from Mr. J. Carter, 5 Culme Road, Mannamead, 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.

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLICITY MATERIAL

"Your child with Spina Bifida" by J. Lorber, M.D., F.R.C.P. 2s. 6d. each.*
"Your child with Hydrocephalus" by J. Lorber, M.D., F.R.C.P. 2s. 6d. each.*
"The Spina Bifida Baby" (published by the Scottish Association) by Olwen Nettles, M.C.S.P., O.N.C. 2s. each.
"The Spina Bifida Child in School" by D. H. Lee. 2s. each.*
"Animals in School and Home" by Tom Ravensdale. 8s. 6d. each.*
"All about Buckingham Palace". 10s. 6d. each.*
** Special rates available to members.*
General Information Leaflets: £1 per 100.
Future Bright posters with blank space for local use, 3s. 6d. per doz.
Future Bright posters, 3s. 6d. per doz.
Wendy Craig posters, double crown: 2s. 6d. each.
"Caliper" posters, double crown: 2s. 6d. each.
Wendy Craig hand-bills: 6d. per doz.
Flag Day emblems: 10s. per 1,000.

LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS OFFER:—

SB Badges.—Silver and green enamel with pin fastening. Replica of the Spina Bifida emblem, 3s. 6d. each 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, Wiltshire.

Badges for Children.—Good quality, 1¼in. diameter, incorporating the SB symbol and the words Spina Bifida Children in black on green background. Available as under in the following quantities only: 25 badges—13s.; 50 badges—£1 5s. 6d.; 100 badges—£2 5s. Price includes p. and p. Cheques or Postal Orders should be crossed and made payable to "SASBAH", and sent with the order to Mrs. I. Olditch, 3 Stone Cross Road, Wadhurst, Sussex.

Car Stickers.—"Support the Spina Bifida Campaign". Transparent stickers 1s. each plus postage from Staines, Hounslow and Districts Association, c/o Mr. E. G. West, 13 Princes Road, Ashford, Middlesex.

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