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LINK

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

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LINK

CHRISTMAS Vol. 1 No. 17

Contents

Our Cover

A welcome visitor at all our Associations

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.

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

EDITORIAL

Our Christmas Number—and, so first of all, we send greetings to all our members, whether they will be celebrating the Festival round the fire or under the summer sun in the Southern Hemisphere. This issue includes articles which we hope you will find relevant to Christmas, including presents and leisure ideas. The Rev. Paul Barker, by sharing his personal experience with us, also contributes a reminder that however much the way the Feast is observed may have changed, it does celebrate the birth of a Baby who brought and can still bring "joy to the world".

It is good that ASBAH now has the help with equipment and appliances of Mrs. O. R. Nettles, whom many of you will feel you know already through the pages of *The Spina Bifida Baby*.

In the rush of preparations some of you will be reading—we hope re-reading—this issue at the end of December—in other words as the bells "ring out the old and ring in the New" and so we wish you a Happy New Year—one in which we hope that ASBAH and all its local Associations will unite ever more closely to meet together the known challenge which faces us. And we hold out in advance the hand of friendship and service to all the spina bifida and hydrocephalic babies who will be born in this New Year of 1971 and to their families.

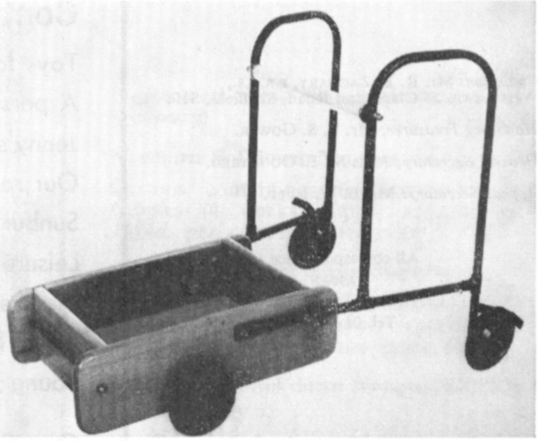
TOYS FOR CHRISTMAS

Toys for Christmas—always a topic for discussion, but sometimes there is no problem, as the children themselves make up their minds months before THE day, and cannot be sidetracked. Equally there are times when parents and relatives are at a loss to know what to get, and this may be especially so where Spina Bifida children are concerned.

First and foremost we must remember that toys are playthings and something that will give real and lasting pleasure to the recipients. In the case of our children, wise buying cannot only do this but can also help to encourage mobility, dexterity and awareness. Normal toddlers learn by experience—by crawling and walking around they find out for themselves the shapes, textures and feel of everyday objects about the house, so that any toys that are going to provide these experiences for the less mobile child are to be encouraged. Building blocks and construction kits, shape matching and colour matching toys all have their part to play, as do plasticine and other such materials. So too do dressing up kits—it is often a bore to children and time wasting to busy mothers to train the children to dress themselves in the morning hurly-burly, but much more fun to learn to dress by dressing up as a cowboy, nurse, spaceman or what have you.

Often the first Christmas is the most difficult to decide on suitable gifts, and of course a lot depends on how much your baby can do. As a general rule, gifts of such things as baby bouncers and baby walking pens will give your child a view of the world from an upright position, as well as encouraging any movement he may have in his legs. At this age too, a handy relative can make a mobile platform by using a piece of wood about 16 inches by 12 inches in size and fixing castors about two inches in from each corner. This is then lined with plastic foam and covered with some gay material. The baby can then either lie on this and propel himself with his hands, or, if sufficiently strong, sit on it and use his legs to push.

Coming on to slightly older children, Goodwood Toys (Lavant) Ltd., Nr. Chichester, make a Special Safety Baby Walker. Sister Webster, of Queen Mary's Hospital, Carshalton, has used this a lot and finds it most satisfactory. She also recommends the "Happytoys" baby walker—its rear wheels are extended backwards to prevent overbalancing (see picture). At this stage too, the Jury Potty Seat is a very stable potty which gives support and confidence to the child, and will encourage training in this direction, if this is possible.

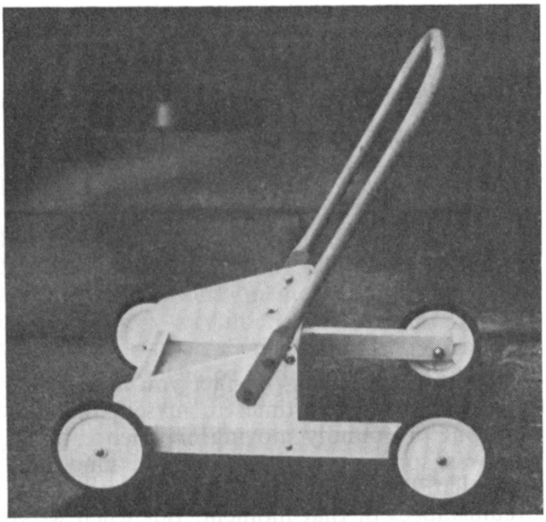


Special Safety Baby Walker

With regard to larger toys, which are often only worthwhile if there are, or are likely to be, a number of children in the family, the Spring mounted type of rocking horse can give endless pleasure. Some of these are in the region of £5. 0s. 0d. and have a seat in which a child can be safely strapped. Another communal toy is a small slide. Our Spina Bifida youngster can use this, not in the traditional way of climbing up the steps and sliding down, but by *pulling* up the slide itself and then sliding down. This is an excellent way of strengthening the shoulders in preparation for walking.

Marx Toys make a plastic Krazy Kar Junior, which is hand controlled by handles on the wheels and gives endless fun, and can be used indoors. The Whizz Bang has been previously described in *Link*, but has proved its worth and is still available in toy shops.

As the child gets older and is learning to stand and walk, there are plenty of toys to be used while standing. Blackboards—either on the wall or free-standing encourage a good balance. Sand trays, as opposed to sand pits, are good for our



The Happy Toy, Baby Walker

children as again, standing is encouraged. The Cumfifolda pram people have made a scaled-down model of one of their prams, and the result is a doll's pram, that is virtually untippable and so is an incentive to walking.

Another toy that has recently come to my notice is a Japanese one, but, unfortunately they are no longer imported. Some may still be available from stock in department stores. This is the "Small King" indoor Car. It consists of a simple platform with a seat and control pillar, which houses both the drive and the steering. The whole thing is neat and compact and retails at about £8.

Once your child has reached school age you will have a better idea of where his talents lie. Now is the time to try and encourage him in those pursuits which will not only hold his interest but also be within his capabilities and will not cause frustration because of his diminished mobility. Every child needs to excel at something, and this is especially true of children who are disabled in one way or another. A Starter Kit for coin or stamp collection, though elementary at this stage, could lead to an absorbing interest in the years to come, and provide a link with school work in Geography, History, etc. A musical instrument may disclose a talent in this direction—or one of the General Knowledge Quiz toys can help him to hold his own among his peers.

A little thought, and a certain amount of window shopping—not to mention guidance for well-meaning relatives—can all help to ensure pleasure rather than disappointment on Christmas Day.

STOP PRESS

Since writing this article, I have found that yet another toy—the Whizz-Bang—has gone out of production, but may still be available in the shops.

It seems very sad that whenever we find a toy on the open market that is suitable for our children, the manufacturers decide to stop production. I feel that an urgent job for an Appliance Officer is to badger the toy firms into considering children with disabilities and to persuade them to produce mobility toys that are suitable for them and their brothers and sisters. I hope to make a visit to the Toy Fair in January to this end, and hope that from this we may have a more optimistic picture to paint for Christmas, 1971. If anyone has working drawings or photographs of any such toys that I can show the manufacturers, I would be pleased to receive copies.

O. R. Nettles

Colin enjoying playing on his slide

A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

Paul Barber, Vicar of Camberley for the last 4½ years writes movingly about his own experience when his eight months old son Philip died in hospital.

Four years ago next month, our third child, Philip, died in hospital here in London after an emergency operation attempting to correct a very serious congenital heart defect. He was just eight months old. And though we had known for some time how seriously ill he was, his actual dying was no less of a shock for that.

He died early on a Sunday evening, and on the following Friday his body was cremated. Early the next week, just as I had resumed work in the Parish, I was called to another home where a child had died suddenly. And so, within less than a week of Philip's funeral I found myself back again at the same crematorium, this time to conduct the service for someone else's child.

I remember standing at the door of the crematorium chapel, waiting for the hearse to arrive, feeling intensely miserable and emotionally churned up, and chiding myself for being there at all. A colleague could so easily have taken this funeral for me. It was foolish to return there so soon, and selfish to allow my private grief, over our dead son, to intrude on someone else's.

And it was there and then that it happened. As I stood there waiting at the door I was suddenly aware that Philip was very close to me. I can only put it like that. It was as though he was saying to me: "I am all right. There is no need to be anxious." I saw nothing. I heard nothing. But I felt a great deal. An enormous sense of reassurance, calmness, peace of mind. And it changed me. All the grief and the sadness that had threatened to overwhelm me a few seconds earlier fell right away. I felt a new man.

Now you could say—in fact you must say—as I have said many times to myself, that this brief but profoundly moving experience that I had was some sort of self-induced emotional trick that I needed to have in the particular circumstances of that moment. But when we've said all that, when we've done our best to explain it all away, there remains with me the hope and the confidence which came to me four years ago with great power and clarity, and which four years, in passing, have by no means dimmed.

What happened to me that day served, as I say, to reinforce and encourage a belief I already had—the quite commonplace Christian belief that there is life after death. I say commonplace but I fancy we sometimes underestimate just how vital this belief—centred on the utter conviction the early Christians shared, that Jesus had risen from the dead— has been.

And, if I have it right, what really set them on fire was not so much the *outward* evidence of the empty tomb, the abandoned grave clothes and so on, but the *inner* awareness and certainty which took hold of them. Which made them know beyond any contradiction that those distinctive qualities of spirit, of truth and love and friendship of the very highest order, that they had known and loved in the person of Jesus were somehow, when the crunch came, indestructible. That even death itself could not blot these things out, nor is it the end for any of us but that our lives continue beyond it.

PAUL E. BARBER,
Vicar of Camberley.

JENNY'S BRONZE AWARD

I would like to tell you about my school life, and also how I gained my Bronze Award in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

I began the Scheme with the "Rangers" a year last September. We were mixed, as a unit, for the Service Section, attending a course of lectures and demonstrations on mothercraft and child-care. This was very interesting, in fact I think I enjoyed it best of all the group activities. The course was concluded with an oral and practical examination—which we all passed.

We then studied a course in floral decoration for "design for living", this was very enjoyable, although I doubt very much if I will ever be an expert in it!

For my "pursuits and interests", I did cookery. I completed the main part of the course at our usual venue on a Friday evening. With the help of a few other Rangers I made some Welsh Cakes, and then all the Rangers fried their own eggs and bacon. One day I also cooked a casserole for the family's dinner and I made a pineapple jelly-cream.

For my "adventure" I did a five mile walk with three other Rangers, we walked from Western Avenue, Cardiff to Llandaff Cathedral and back.

Now I am starting on my "Silver". I will study Classical Music for my "interests", and Junior Training for Sunday School, for "service". I have thoroughly enjoyed doing my "Bronze" as it has given me an opportunity of participating in different activities.

I will now tell you a bit about school. I am in the fourth form at Our Lady's Convent School, Cardiff. I took "O" Level Scripture this time and next year I will take my school certificate in English Language, French, Latin and English Literature. Sister Agatha, the Headmistress, has sent a specimen of my writing to the Oxford Examination Board. I have a little difficulty in writing legibly, and I have been a little concerned about my ability to write my paper legibly in the time allowed. However, the Headmistress seems to think that I shall be able to write my papers.

I had an interview with Miss Williams, a Youth Employment Officer, regarding future employment. I hope to be a Librarian, but she feels that I might find climbing and lifting of books a little difficult, however, she suggests that I see her again after taking my "O" Levels next summer.

JENNY HILL,
Cardiff Group SWASBAH

Photo: Western Mail & Echo Ltd.

A "P.S." added by her Mother

Jennifer has not mentioned that she falls easily and cannot get up on her own. She could not walk until she was nearly four years, and learnt to do so by having her doll's pram weighted with bricks. She has never been able to kneel as the weight of her head made balancing very difficult. At one time she was frequently knocking herself and toppling over, this would cause vomiting too. She managed to stand at six years.

If she goes out on her own (which she does to the Crusaders Class on Sunday) there is always a danger that she could fall, and would have to have help to get up again, but we feel it would be wrong to limit her—we just pray and let her go!

Jennifer's head circumference is 27½ inches, but as she is such a big girl (13½ stone), it is not very obvious; her hats are all made for her.

The photograph is taken on Roath Park lake, with the other Rangers giving some support from behind.

JOY HILL.

OUR READERS WRITE

A Subscriber writes:

I was born a Spina Bifida baby almost twenty years ago and I suppose I must be considered one of the doctors' successes after an operation in infancy and subsequent surgery. I have been able to lead a busy and I hope, useful life. I was able to continue at Grammar School to take G.C.E. advanced level subjects and then took up a civil service post, which I have held for almost a year. I have enjoyed my work and the independence it affords and I am able to live away from home and travel at weekends.

I hope that all this has not sounded like boasting, I had no intention of "blowing my own trumpet" but only of letting you know, what can and has been done. I must of course add, that without the love and encouragement of my family, marvellous teachers, the skill and dedication of doctors and nurses and kindness from everyone with whom I come into contact, my life would have been very different and my gratitude to them all can never be fully expressed.

I wish you every success in your work and hope that you will contact me if ever I can help your Association.

ANN ATHERTON,
Northumberland.

A Cheerful Letter from Mrs. Bright

I would like to become a member of the Association. I am a Spina Bifida myself. My husband is a paraplegic, we are both in wheelchairs. I went to Martindale School in Hounslow and they recently asked my help when they were helping children and their parents to learn how essential maximum independence is. They showed the film, "What Is Spina Bifida?" and I gave a talk and answered questions about my life and how I manage. This worked out very well and seemed to reassure mothers so much. I really did enjoy doing it and being able to help in a little way.

So many people seem to think that because you are in a wheelchair, life has ended for you! People need educating so badly everywhere about this, I know: we hope we can help in our own district.

MARILYN D. BRIGHT,
Stevenage.

A Transport Query

I'm sure that my problem is not unique. I would like to know how other parents dealt with it.

Our third child is due in December. Our first child, Joanne, who is four, is Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalic. My problem is transport. Joanne wears calipers up to her waist. I tried her on a pram seat but she is too heavy and unsteady. A twin pram would not be big enough. For long journeys I use the car but I do enjoy walking. Have *Link* readers any suggestions?

A. O'GORMAN (Mrs.)

Student Gratitude

I would publicly like to thank ASBAH for the help they have offered concerning my studies. As yet I am not a parent and cannot fully understand how parents feel when their child is born with Spina Bifida and/or Hydrocephalus, you see, I am a student teacher working at the present on a thesis on Spina Bifida and the Association have helped me tremendously by sending me booklets and literature on the subject.

I do feel that parents with such children would be well advised to write to ASBAH and buy the appropriate literature from them. At such a low cost, it is well worth the trouble to write. I am sure that parents will gain valuable experience from reading the literature and in turn feel far more confident about the welfare of their own children.

In fact, I have become so involved with Spina Bifida children in the last few months, owing to the Association's help, that it seems quite likely that I will end up by teaching children with physical handicaps.

D. R. TUCKETT (Mr.)

(*Enquiries from students undertaking a wide variety of courses pour into City Road. Answering them is one way of ensuring that understanding grows rapidly—EDITOR.*)

SUNBURY ROUND TABLE HELP LOCAL A.S.B.A.H.

Wendy Craig receiving flowers from Maureen Johnson *Photo: Studio Fen*

At one of the first meetings of Staines, Hounslow and District Association about two years ago, Mrs. Stark of Sunbury asked if there was anything she could do to help. At that early stage in its formation, the Association had nothing specific to suggest. However, they kept in touch by sending copies of the newsletters and *Link*. Mrs. Stark's husband was at that time a member of Sunbury Round Table and at one of their meetings he mentioned the Association. The Tablers became interested and wanted more information, so they invited the Chairman of the Association, Mr. Eric West and its Secretary, Mr. Tony Bassett, to speak to them.

When they went along to speak, Mr. West took his 8 mm colour film entitled, "Born At Risk", which he made about four years ago. The film includes parents and children of the local Association, the Medical Advisory Unit at Martindale Road School for Physically Handicapped Children and Queen Mary's Hospital, Carshalton. The film and talk were very warmly received and there were further meetings with members of the Round Table. The result of this was that the Association received two donations of £100 and £300 from the Round Table.

The Round Table then decided that the proceeds of their annual Donkey Derby, held on 6th June, 1970, would be donated to the local Association. The Derby was a great success and the Association was represented by John and Ciss Beauchamp, with the official display stand.

Instead of just sending a cheque through the post, it was suggested that it be presented at a function and thereby gain some publicity. A cheese and wine evening was arranged by the Table on 13th October at the Thames Court Hotel, Shepperton. Miss Wendy Craig received a cheque for £850 on behalf of the Association, from the Chairman of Sunbury Round Table, Mr. Malcolm Lewis. Mr. Eric West extends, through the pages of *Link*, the warmest thanks of the Association to the Sunbury Round Table and Ladies' Circle for their interest and continued support. A special word of thanks also to Miss Wendy Craig for giving up her time and so happily.

LEISURE

Most parents of a handicapped child give much time and thought to medical and educational care and also try to plan for the future. The letter from Jenny Hill on page 7 helps to focus attention on leisure time. The Scout and Guide movements both have for many years given excellent scope to handicapped members within a regular pack or company or in some cases there are companies specially geared to the less mobile. Jenny is not only enjoying belonging to the Ranger Company but is taking the Duke of Edinburgh's Award through it.

Some young people may not be attracted to Guides or Scouts but the Award Scheme is available to them through a Youth Club or to individuals working independently with the help of a Youth Officer (either of a local Education Authority or one of the Voluntary Organisations). The scheme, through which young people of 14 and over plan a programme to suit their own interests and capacities within a framework of the Award, has done a great deal to give a sense of achievement to many young physically handicapped. It is a great day when they receive their Gold Awards from Prince Philip at Buckingham Palace or Holyrood House, some having arrived at the Palace in their invacars. An eye witness writes this!

Another way for the over 14s to mix with their contemporaries in a free and challenging way is through club membership. Some may join a Youth Club near their home and find it just what they want. Others may feel that they need the companionship of a mixed group including other **P**hysically **H**andicapped and also **A**ble **B**odied too—in fact a Phab Club. Phab clubs, initiated and developed by the National Association of Youth Clubs, are springing up all the time, in all parts of the country. No one need feel out of it and there is great opportunity and a programme suitable for—in fact planned by—the members, including visits to theatres and places of interest in the locality, dancing—yes, wheelchairs included—and 101 fun things to do.

Some of the clubs arose spontaneously, some because members had been in a "fab" Phab Club holiday course. These are one week courses (or holidays with a purpose) again for a group of PH and AB young people. They are held in a dozen or more areas in the British Isles and have also been arranged on an international basis in France, Berlin and Denmark. Parties have also visited Majorca. Members join in groups studying music, photography, the countryside, art, drama, film making etc. and lots of people discover hidden talent which they can continue in their home district, when the course comes to an end. It's an exciting and exhilarating experience for all the young people who take part.

NAYC has just made a 20 minute colour-film, with Cliff Richard as commentator and joining in the dancing. So if you want to "get the feel" of Phab get your local association to arrange an evening to show the film (cost 10s. plus postage both ways—see address below) and perhaps have a speaker or Phab member (there are now Phab Groups for the "over 25s") to tell you about it.

Some local Associations may not be in touch with older members, but the time soon comes along. Meanwhile anyone who wants to know more can write to A.S.B.A.H. or to NAYC, 30 Devonshire Street, W1N 2AP for more details.

It is great fun to have a holiday without the family once in a while and Phab makes this possible—Happy Days!

MEDICAL TREATMENT OF HYDROCEPHALUS

There is constant enquiry about research and new methods of treatment. Equally, understandably, experts are naturally often cautious about giving details of new techniques, lest they raise hopes too soon. Readers will be interested in the following article.—Editor.

As all parents of those with hydrocephalus and Spina Bifida know, the introduction by Mr. Holter of his valve and the various modifications and designs made by others since, was a tremendous advance in the treatment of hydrocephalus.

A great deal of research is being carried out in many parts of the world about how best to use these shunts, including work on when it is best to carry out the operation, which babies with hydrocephalus need a shunt urgently and which may safely and profitably have the possibility of the operation delayed. There are many children with a milder degree of hydrocephalus associated with Spina Bifida where no shunt may be necessary at all. Research in Sheffield has shown that as many as half of the children with *moderate* hydrocephalus, associated with Spina Bifida never need a shunt. Naturally this is a great advantage, as it means that these children do not run the risk of complications such as blockage and infections, neither do they need to be admitted to hospital for revisions or other reasons.

Because there is so much concern to both parents and doctors on account of the complications of blockages, infections and others, research is being undertaken to find alternative methods for the treatment of hydrocephalus. This research is only in its infancy but it may not involve surgical therapy at all. Already at least two drugs are known which, given by mouth, can reduce the pressure in the head over many weeks.

The drugs only work in a minority of suitable cases, they also have serious side effects when given in large doses. They can only be given to children who are in hospital, as they must be administered under constant laboratory control.

The drugs are under intensive investigation in Seattle in the United States, as well as in two centres in this country. This may be the beginning of a new period and may lead to the introduction of other less toxic and more effective drugs, which may one day eliminate the need for surgical treatment in several or possibly all hydrocephalic children.

JOHN LORBER.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Barnet and Brent Association

Have done many things since last they contributed to *Link*, including taking part in the Finchley Carnival and other fund raising activities. They have given a lot of thought to their priorities, as a result of which £400 was sent to the Spina Bifida Trust and at the same time it was agreed to concentrate on making handicap more tolerable for children and relieving stress for parents in their own area.

Bromley and District Association

Held their Sports Day on 26th September and welcomed members from Sussex, Kent and Surrey to this event, which proved most successful. The Secretary writes:

"Often, during the time in which we as a Committee are arranging functions for branch members, a feeling of despair comes into discussions. You sit around, wondering if all things have been covered, wondering if your members will give you the support which you think you deserve. The thousands of 'ifs' and 'buts' keep coming to your mind. But if everyone is like us, all these uncertainties are answered in the smiles and laughter of the children, which we hope you will agree have been captured in the photograph.

"This was taken at our Branch's Sports Day held on 26th September. The weather was fine and we were supported by some 75 children together with their parents and friends. The most popular event proved to be the family races,

where Mum, Dad and handicapped child were teams in relay races. In all, a very satisfactory first time. To other Committees we say of course it's all worth while."

Hull and District Association

Have had help through a coffee morning, a sponsored walk by eight office girls of William Jackson & Sons Ltd., who raised over £22, with which the Association has purchased a slide projector. A wine and cheese party and a fashion show have also boosted funds by £112. Hull now has its own caravan at Skipsea—24 ft. long with seven berths, and they have built a porch and a ramp.

Mansfield, Worksop and Districts

Following the success of the shop last autumn, have run one again this year. They have benefitted from a darts marathon and a sponsored walk. Sheffield, being their treatment centre, has received £1,000 as a result of these successful efforts, as well as welfare for families and children and an annual outing to Belle Vue, Manchester. Mrs. Freeman adds "we have a lot of fun in all we do and this has proved to be a basis for our Association. Let's face it, no one likes doing things they do not enjoy."

North Hampshire, S. Berks. and West Surrey

Report that their second play group, in Hampshire this time, has now started and a local secondary school is making and adapting equipment for it and helping in other ways, too. The Association has had a number of social events and successful money-raising ventures, too—a Caribbean Dance and an ASBAH stall at Cranleigh Agricultural Show. The Association offers a baby sitting service and has successfully fulfilled all calls so far. A weekly swimming session is also arranged and volunteers for transport and "wet" duties are in great demand for this.

Nasbah (Surrey)

Held a wine and cheese party as a social evening to give members a chance to meet and relax and this was well attended. Their Donkey Derby raised £256 and was fun as well. Mr. Bowen—orthopaedic surgeon at Queen Mary's Hospital, Carshalton, addressed their October members' meeting with a special reference to appliances, on which he has done a wide survey recently.

The Wirral Association

Continues to meet monthly—one evening equipment was on view, on another they had a talk by a physiotherapist. On 10th September

Dr. Lorber visited and gave a very comprehensive talk which resulted in many questions and much interest.

A fashion show raised over £377 and the results of a flag day are still to come.

It was interesting to note some bulk buying resulted in savings and this may be a hint for other groups—also "The Smartie game"—any child may take part. Numbered tubes of smarties are given to children, who, having eaten the contents, collect 3d. pieces from Aunts, Uncles, etc. A full tube makes 10s.

NEWS FROM SCOTLAND

Scottish Spina Bifida Association's 1970 Garden Party

Mr. David Whitley, the organiser, writes:

"The Party's over, but what a party! The day was perfect in all respects and, when our charming Guest of Honour, Miss Mary Marquis, carried out the opening ceremony in bright sunshine, we knew we were in for a good day.

"There was something for everyone and never a dull moment for anyone.

"I am sure that you will be pleased to learn that the takings on the day amounted to more than £900. Thanks to the tremendous support in advance by our members to the balloon race we have reached our target of a profit of £1,000 and at the same time we have benefited by the publicity which the event created."

NEWS FROM NORTHERN IRELAND

"The four local Associations in Northern Ireland—Belfast, Ballymena, Mid-Ulster, and Lurgan and Portadown this year donated a total of £1,000 to the Northern Ireland Association, who then made a gift to the Northern Ireland Council for Orthopaedic Development (Inc.) of that amount for the purchase of additional equipment and Nappies for use by Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalic children.

In addition the four local Associations and the Northern Ireland Association each contributed £280 to make a total of £1,800, which amount was presented to Mr. S. A. Vincent, F.R.C.S., for the purchase of an Electronic machine and equipment to be used in connection with his research into the bowel, bladder and kidney complications with which Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus children are affected."

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

YOUNG LINK

Dear Girls and Boys,

I hope you enjoyed reading our page in the last issue of *Link* and that some of you have started stamp collecting. However, if stamps do not appeal to you, here are some ideas for making an interesting scrap-book.

A scrap-book can be on almost any subject, animals, sport, trains, motor-cars, etc., etc., but one good idea is to collect information about the district where you live. Once you have obtained your book ask your parents, relations and friends to look through their old photographs and picture postcards for scenes of the district, these will show you how the area used to look. Also watch your local paper for photographs and drawings of the present day and future developments, and I am sure Mum and Dad will let you buy one or two picture postcards from the shops. If you live in a country district, why not make a nature study book, show the shape of the leaves, berries and flowers from the many different trees and plants. I am sure many of you will have lots of other ideas, so please write and tell me about them and perhaps we can publish some of your letters.

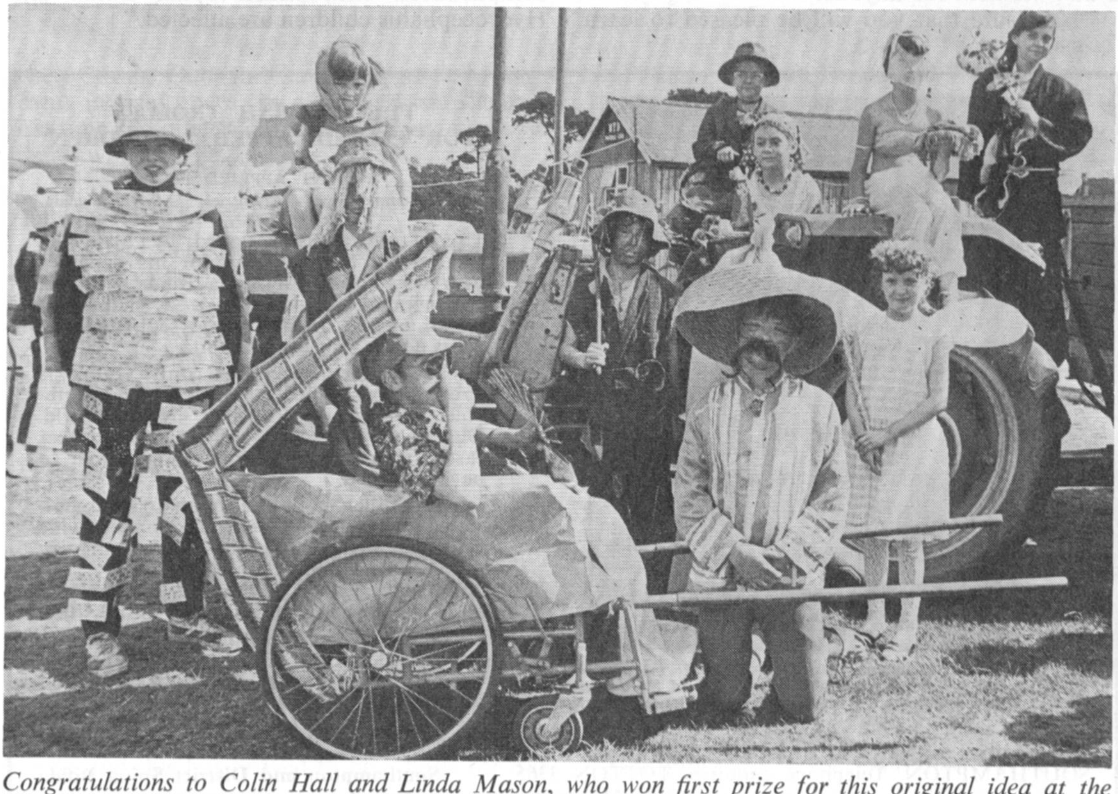
Competition Results

I was very pleased to receive a number of entries to the suitcase competition and I congratulate Richard Clark, aged 8, of Castle Farm, South Cowton, Northallerton, Yorkshire, who won the prize for the neatest correct entry and I have also sent consolation prizes to Glenys Heath, aged 6½, of Holbury, Hants, Paul O'Callaghan and David Heritage, both of Halifax in Yorkshire.

Now as it will soon be Christmas, I would like you to design and paint a Christmas card and send it to me with your name, address and age on the back. Prizes will be sent for the six best designs received by 24th December.

Cheerio for now,

William.



Congratulations to Colin Hall and Linda Mason, who won first prize for this original idea at the Calf Heath and Hatherton Annual Gymkhana and Fête

Photo: Cannock Advertiser & Courier

INTER-ASSOCIATION HOLIDAY OPPORTUNITIES

Selsey. Booking accepted from 1st January, 1971, for extremely 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 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.

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.
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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.

Book Review

THE CHALLENGE OF SPINA BIFIDA

ALLEN FIELD, LCP, MRIPHH
Heinemann Medical Books Ltd. 8/-

Mr. Field has entitled his book "The Challenge of Spina Bifida" and this is the way he sees it—in his ten years as Head Master of Coney Hill School he himself has been challenged by Spina Bifida and has encouraged his pupils to see their condition in his light.

His book which deals with many aspects, reflects his attitudes and experiences and has much in it to interest and stimulate parents, students and teachers or lay people in the community (their number is growing) who are themselves "challenged by Spina Bifida."

AN ENCOURAGING CONCESSION

Baby Relax Ltd. have kindly offered us their products at special rates. Further details from ASBAH, 112 City Road, London EC1V 2ND.

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