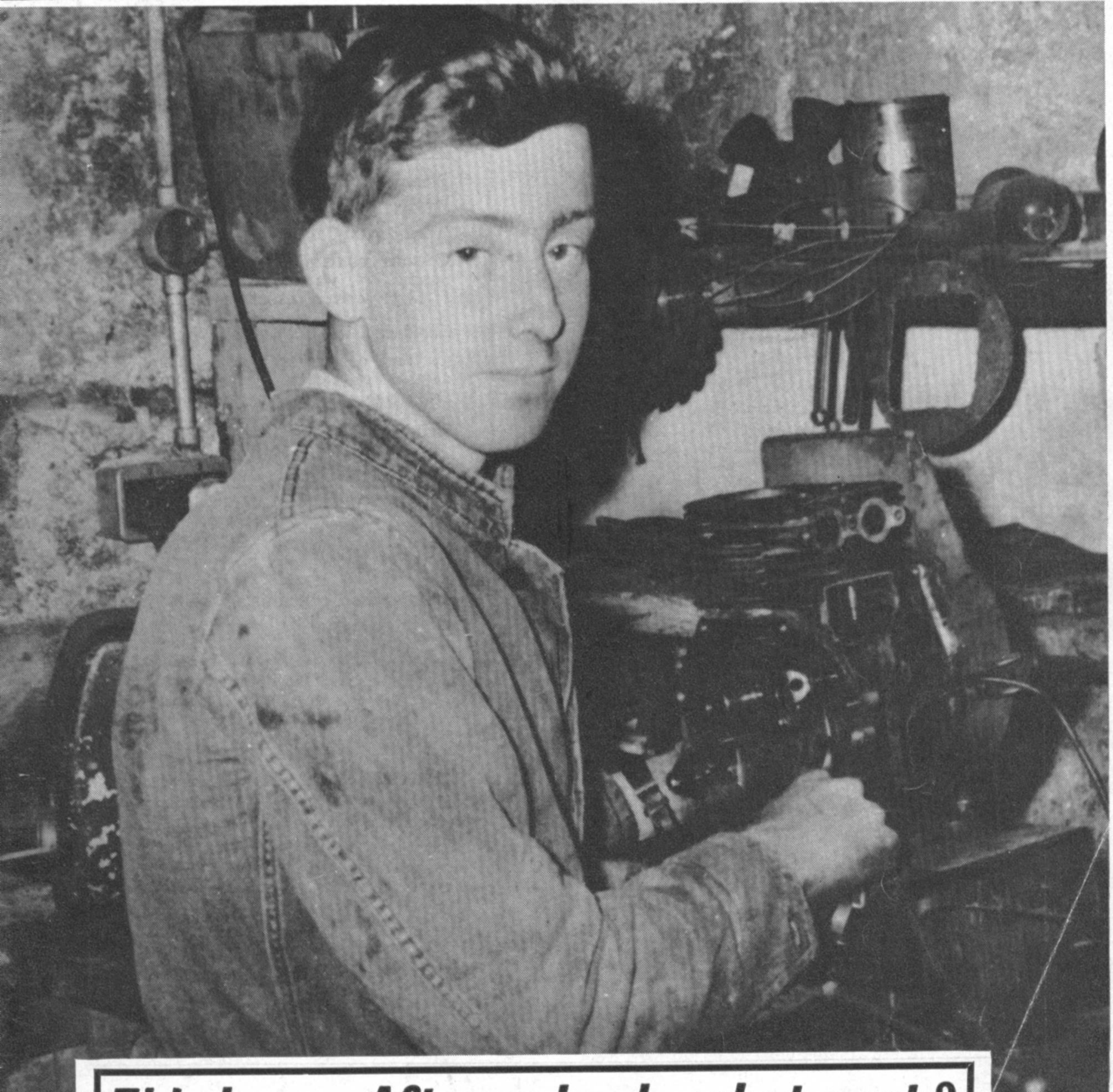
LINK

20

SB

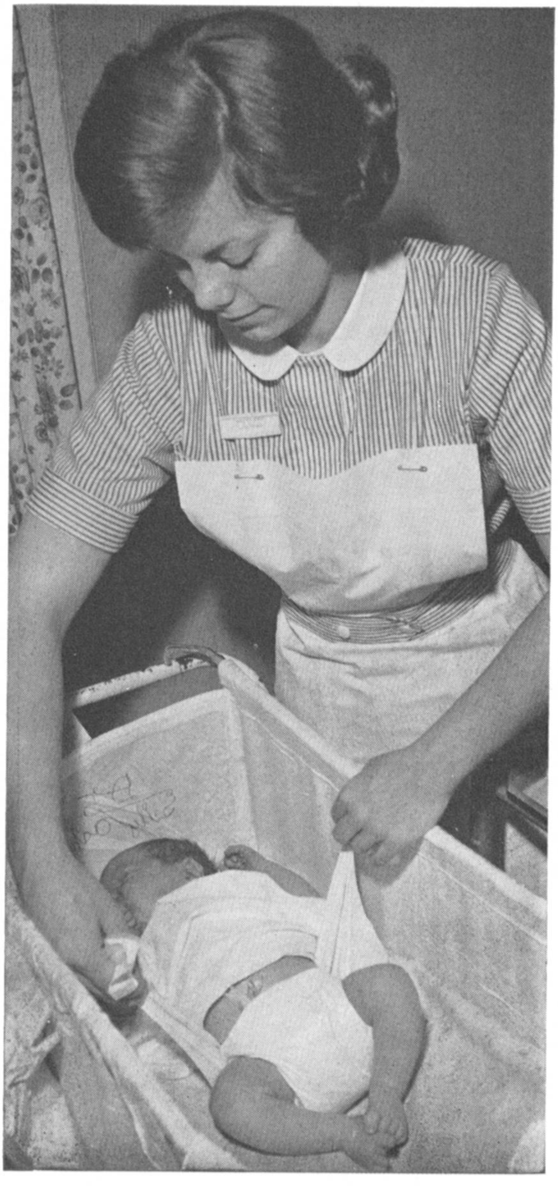
Autumn 1971 5p

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



This issue: After school—what next?

SOLVING THAT BIG PROBLEM OF THE NAPPY



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

ORDER FORM

Name ....

Address ....

....

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

Newborn Sof'down Nappies

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

Standard Size Sof'down Nappies

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

Standard Size Sof'down Nappies EXTRA Absorbency

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

Tie-pants

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

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

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

Delivery: Approximately 14 days from receipt of order.

Please return this order form to:—

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

LINK

AUTUMN Vol. 1 No. 20

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

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

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

Contents

Our Cover

David Picot, of the Jersey Association, has a job in light engineering.

Photo: Jersey Evening Post.

EDITORIAL:

Changing a grim future

AFTER school—what next? The path from the classroom is difficult enough for any child to tread but more so for the spina bifida child and clearly everyone involved should appreciate the extra concern felt by parents.

This edition spotlights the problems of these school-leavers and one of the many points which emerge is the necessity for the right type of further education.

The 1970 report "Living With Handicap" states that many handicapped adolescents accelerate in maturation *AFTER* the age of 16, which is at present their school leaving age. Bearing this in mind, it is easy to see the importance of residential colleges like the National Star Centre for Disabled Youth, Ullenwood Manor, which must give children a better opportunity in life.

On the other hand a residential college may not suit or may not be necessary for every child—a child's future opportunities vary with the degree of handicap. But whatever the individual circumstances may be, clearly every case must be treated with a high degree of understanding from everyone concerned, but parents must still sometimes take an objective approach in order to prevent their child becoming too dependent.

Education authorities must make a close study of the development of spina bifida children through those early schooldays in order to engineer a child's future in the most constructive direction later on. Obviously a lot depends on the facilities available in a particular area. If they are lacking (and sadly in many areas they are) after school becomes a long hard road for child—and parent.

The next step?

What will my child do on leaving school? This is a problem which concerns all parents, especially those of spina bifida children. Employment for normal school leavers (and now even graduates from university) is becoming increasingly difficult so obviously more and more concern is being expressed on the future of the spina bifida child. In the following articles two people discuss the situation.

'Be ambitious—but please be realistic...'

by Stephen Hinchliffe

FOR the spina bifida child, leaving school presents certain main difficulties:

Firstly, for many school-leavers, there will be the problem of lack of mobility. Job seekers who are chairbound will have a reduced choice of occupation. Firms with adequate facilities—ramps, lifts, special toilets, etc., are few and far between. We cannot expect the small number of firms which are adequately equipped to want to take more than their share of handicapped persons, unless, of course, they can see a definite benefit.

Then there is the possibility of more than normal absence rate—due to the need for regular medical treatment—and possibly hospitalisation, which may sometimes be lengthy.

While some employers may want to help those who have difficulty finding employment, most will shy away from anyone who may appear to be an employment risk. There will need to be some definite incentive for firms in cases where special difficulties arise. This could be in the form of local authority employment grants and ASBAH will be making enquiries at the highest level, to see whether something can be established along these lines.

Finally, a surprising handicap for some children will be their parents. As parents, who have put the greater part of our lives into caring for our "special" child, we tend to be over-protective. Our normal routine of care often causes us to do too much for our child. We don't make him look after himself as much as he could. We reduce his ability to develop independence. We are possessive, don't want him to go away from us. This happens with parents of normal children, and is exaggerated with parents of handicapped children.

Some parents do not want their children to go to residential schools, and may even be cautious about eventual training, where this may involve living away from home. This is something which all parents must prepare themselves for. Surely the ultimate ambition for our children must be that they will achieve full independence, which means that they will leave us, and we must help them towards this.

What kinds of employment?

I would advise any young person to seek the kind of employment which will interest him. For most this will be just about the most important decision of their lives. Time spent at work is by far the largest single part of our lives and it is vitally important that it gives satisfaction.

Very few children at school-leaving age really know what they want to do. How should they choose? I would advise everyone to seek skilled guidance. All school leavers have the opportunity to see the careers officer attached to the youth employment office.

Several local authorities have specialist officers who have received additional training to help them to guide the handicapped.

A good officer will take into account reports from school and the interests of the young person concerned and seek medical opinion on possible future handicap. Additional help can be gained by a series of tests, designed to give indications of intelligence and aptitudes. A young person can often get a good idea of jobs available and receive stimulation of interest by attending careers conventions, which are held in many areas.

Whilst I would encourage everyone to be ambitious and seek an interesting, worthwhile occupation, this of course must be tempered with realism.

What are the possibilities?

For the more severely handicapped child, some kind of non-competitive work in a sheltered workshop may be necessary. These will almost certainly have to be provided in greater numbers by local authorities.

Opportunities will, of course, increase as the degree of handicap decreases. There are also several centres offering training in skills which will satisfy the needs of a particular firm.

Many of those able to obtain competitive employment will get jobs in the normal way. Most firms employing school leavers operate training schemes under the supervision of one of the industrial training boards. Some of those capable of entering competitive employment, who do not get jobs immediately on leaving school, would benefit from a special course at a college of further education. Such a course has been pioneered in the north of England. Students can further their general education whilst having a look at some of the specialist subjects covered by the college, e.g. domestic science, catering, pottery, typing and commercial subjects, and mechanical engineering. This can be a useful introduction to normal adult environment, and could be better than staying on at school.

Continued over

What can ASBAH do?

Local associations should be ensuring that each one of their members approaching school-leaving age receives suitable guidance, concentrating especially on giving help to parents who may seem to lack the necessary initiative. Local Associations should contact their local youth employment offices to see whether specialist officers are available to guide handicapped school leavers. Pressure should be put on any local authority not yet giving this help.

Where additional guidance is required, the services of the psychologist working on spina bifida at Sheffield University could be sought. Local groups could possibly pay travelling expenses, to make this additional assessment possible.

Nationally, ASBAH must campaign on several fronts. It must increase efforts to secure normal employment for as many as possible and must press for the employment of specialists officers at all careers guidance sections run by local authorities.

It must encourage local authorities to provide grants for firms who may wish to modify entrances, toilets, equipment, etc., to make it more possible to employ handicapped persons.

It must encourage the Central Training Council, through legislation, if necessary, to make it possible for individual training boards to give additional grants to firms wishing to provide training for handicapped persons.

Summing up therefore, I would say be ambitious. Let us encourage our children to seek a worthwhile, satisfying career, but be realistic. Start early, seek guidance, obtain the best assessment possible. Finally, it would help if those of our members with spina bifida, who are already in employment, would send us some information about themselves and their jobs.

Nationally and locally encouragement must be given to the Local Authorities, to increase the provision of sheltered workshops/training facilities for those unable to obtain competitive employment. Indications so far are that this could be as many as half the total numbers. These centres must aim to provide the maximum in independence training, as well as education and general training, which may eventually equip a person to obtain open employment.

Ullenwood may hold the key

by ALLAN FIELD

Students enjoy a recreation period at Ullenwood Manor.

" MANY who work with handicapped adolescents are convinced that they experience an acceleration in maturation after the age of sixteen, which is, at present, their statutory school-leaving age. In the later years of adolescence, many severely handicapped young people make progress at an increased rate, provided these years are passed in an appropriate educational setting. There are, therefore, strong reasons for advocating the extension of education for some handicapped young people well beyond the age of sixteen." This is what the National Bureau for Co-operation in Child Care's working party reports in their book "Living With Handicap", published in 1970.

After taking expert advice, and much research into the problem, one of the report's important recommendations is as follows:—"We think that extra years of education for severely handicapped children are extremely important, provided that some form of practical, social and maturing opportunities are planned in order to fit the boys and girls for the life they will lead as adults."

The National Star Centre for Disabled Youth was founded four years ago to cater for just such a need. The centre, which is a specialised college of further education, is situated at Ullenwood Manor in the Cotswolds, three miles out of Cheltenham. It is the only one of its kind, at the moment, in this country and its "graduates" have more than justified the faith of the college founders.

Qualifications

Students come from all parts of the country and the Commonwealth. Entry qualifications are:

(1) A physical handicap, either congenital or acquired.
(2) An age of between 16 and 21 years.
(3) An educational potential—education not being interpreted in a narrow context.
(4) Sufficient emotional maturity to mix as a member of a group and to take part in, or to accept, a measure of student government.
(5) A financial sponsor, e.g. local authority, a trust, or an individual.

Most students have their fees paid by their local authority, and the latest Act of Parliament in this field—the Chronically Sick and Disabled Act—has made many more councils aware of the needs of the handicapped in their areas.

The Centre's facilities include a students' common room and coffee bar, an activities room, T.V. rooms—including one for colour, fully equipped stage, playing fields, sports pavilion, a large 9-hole golf course, horse riding, outdoor swimming pool, and a lake stocked with fish. The Centre's own transport, which is always on call, links the students with educational and leisure facilities in the Cheltenham and Gloucester area. Educational provision includes rooms for tutorials and group discussions, independence training, domestic science, art and craft, physical education, and actual work experience is arranged in carefully graded and progressive open employment.

The professional staff are all fully qualified. The Principal's team includes a director of studies, a youth tutor, a remedial specialist, an occupational therapist, a physiotherapist, a speech therapist, tutors for liberal studies and part-time tutors for commerce, craft and domestic science. Additional facilities are also available in co-operation with a nearby college of technology. The centre has its own appointed medical officer and two qualified nursing sisters.

Most physically handicapped children can find places in school these days but, as the 1970 Report showed, many are concerned at the awful "drop out" and "fall back" of large numbers of physically handicapped adolescents. A spell of further education at a specialised college like the National Star Centre may well be the bridge into responsible adult life that is needed.

NEW COLLEGE OPENS

COVENTRY Education Committee have just opened a new residential college for the further education of physically handicapped young people.

Hereward College, has been established with support from the Department of Education and Science and local education authorities to fill a gap in provision for physically handicapped school leavers.

The new college provides courses similar to those provided in technical colleges generally to prepare students for employment or for entry to more advanced courses.

The college considers applicants of either sex within a wide range of physical handicap, including those permanently and substantially disabled from, for instance spina bifida. Minimum age of entry is 16.

Further details and a prospectus from The Principal, Mr. A. G. Allister, Hereward College of Further Education, Bramston Crescent, Tile Hill Lane, Coventry.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Sussex Association

Susssex reports that Miss S. M. Newham, a member of the Worthing branch, and Mrs. S. M. Wilkinson, from Wadhurst, have been appointed as part-time Field Social Workers.

Mrs. Rodaway also reports that a fund-raising sub-committee has been formed, and a progress report will be given in each newsletter. Appeal letters are to be sent to organisations and firms all over Sussex.

The " Summer Evening Get-together " is to take place on Friday, September 3. The event is being organised by the Chichester/Bognor Regis Group and is to take the form of a gathering at a restaurant in Arundel.

Southampton Association

Report in their newsletter that the Southampton Ladies' Circle presented a washing machine to the Association for use at the holiday bungalow at Millendreath. Chairman Mr. F. Mortimer received the machine from Lady Lucas of Chilworth.

The newsletter goes on to say that Bonhomie Bus No. 5 has earned the Association a special mention in the Bonhomie Newsletter which states: "After over 100,000 miles, Bonhomie buses five and six were replaced and handed over to two Southampton voluntary organisations which serve disabled children. One of these groups, Spina Bifida, overhauled and re-painted the vehicle themselves and wherever transport is needed to assist at the many events organised for these children, Bonhomie bus No. 5 can be seen.

" It will also be used to take families to the spina bifida holiday chalet in Cornwall. Congratulations to the voluntary workers of this group who never sit back waiting for ' someone else ' to carry out this vital social work."

Cheadlehulme Association

The secretary, Mr. S. Jones, reports a rather interesting incident with regard to one of the seven SHASBAH trollies purchased from Southampton Association. He says: "As a result of locally advertising our branch, we were contacted by the friend of an Icelandic family who have a spina bifida child. The end result was we re-sold one of the trollies to the family in Iceland. Our last report was everyone including the child was delighted."

He also records that two other trollies are on loan to members of the branch, the other four being given to two local hospitals.

On fund-raising, Mr. Jones says: "Our first effort of renting an empty shop which we used for two days 10 a.m.-5 p.m. as a "Good as New" venture raised £100. May we thank via these pages our local National Westminster Bank for the use of their empty premises. It may interest Groups to know that our window display at the shop for which we used our " Display Board " created a lot of interest and custom. Our board has also been used recently at a " Local Life " two-day exhibition, again this gave us good publicity.

" Together with the board we displayed copies of *Link* and used National posters thus emphasising National's existence and our own locally. The next fund-raising venture will be a " Football Shy " at a local donkey derby. Here's hoping for a plus-up on our last £100.

Bristol Association

Last month parents and friends of the Association had an opportunity to visit the new Out-Patients Unit at Frenchay Hospital, which has been built by the Bristol Association and given to the hospital together with the first year's running expenses. Committee members were present to answer any questions and have a general chat with parents.

It is expected that the unit—believed to be the first of its type in the country—will be in use by the Autumn.

THE YOUNG HELP THE YOUNG: Manchester and District Association were presented with a mini coach by the Manchester Battalion of the Boys' Brigade. The presentation marked the opening of the Brigade's field day at Mellings Playing Fields, Gorton on Saturday, July 10.

The coach has been specially built to the Association's requirements and includes a ramp as well as steps. The Association were delighted with the gift and very grateful to members of the battalion for organising the sponsored walk which raised £1,569.

The children from various branches in Manchester have already had several outings and we have taken first prize at the Leigh Carnival in it.

Kent Association

A talk was given to the Committee and members by Miss M. E. Oughtred, ASBAH General Secretary, on the National Association's work and aims. She was also asked to outline the scheme for Social Workers being appointed nationally to work in areas which ask for this service. Kent members were interested to give this further thought.

Ealing Association

Arrangements have been made to provide children and parents with an outing to Littlehampton on Sunday, September 5. On the fund-raising side, the newsletter reports great activity. One event the Association hopes to organise is a charity football match between the Disc Jockey Football Club and either Hayes or Southall Football Clubs, to be held early in the 1971/72 season.

Nottingham Association

Secretary Mrs. Sheila Plant thanks all those who worked to make the Enterprise Stand such a success. She says: " The publicity should have done the Association a power of good, not forgetting the £60.40 in the collecting tins! "

DETAILED RESEARCH INTO 36 CASE HISTORIES

What are the chances for the second generation?

Report by
Dr. John Lorber

It is well known that in England the risk to any couple of having a baby with Spina Bifida is about two in one thousand. In Wales and Ireland this risk is about double. The risk is much greater for those couples who already have a baby with Spina Bifida. For such couples the risk of having another child either with Spina Bifida or Anencephalus is altogether about fifty to eighty in a thousand. Anencephalus is a closely allied and even more severe condition but such infants are stillborn. The risk to parents to have a second Spina Bifida baby is about forty in one thousand or to put it another way, about one in twenty-five. The odds are less favourable if a couple have already had two infants with Spina Bifida or Anencephalus.

But what are the chances of a person with Spina Bifida being able to have children and if they do, what will these children be like? This point is of great importance to Spina Bifida subjects and to their parents who wonder what may happen. Thanks to notices in *Link*, to many colleagues, to newspaper stories, but especially to Miss Faith Seward, who put me in contact with many adult members of ASBAH, I was able to collect a substantial amount of information.

So far I have obtained detailed evidence from thirty-six Spina Bifida adults who are married and have children. Twenty-nine of the parents are women who had, between them, seventy-one pregnancies, and seven men whose wives had fifteen pregnancies. None of the parents had Hydrocephalus but several had quite severe problems related to their legs and bladder. It is particularly interesting that among the fathers there were four with no proper bladder control, but who were nevertheless able to have several children. It is obvious, however, that these thirty-six parents are far less severely handicapped than many of the children now growing up to become adults. Only two need a wheelchair and four have an ileal loop (all women). The mothers were between eighteen and thirty-seven years of age when they had their children and the fathers between twenty-four and forty-one.

Seventy-one of the eighty-six pregnancies resulted in perfectly normal children of whom two-thirds were boys. Eleven pregnancies ended with a miscarriage. This is not a particularly high rate and is similar to the general incidence of miscarriages. One child was born with a club foot. This condition may be allied to Spina Bifida. Finally, three infants were born with Spina Bifida, approximately 4% or forty in one thousand. This is a very similar risk and incidence to the risk to normal couples who have already had one child with Spina Bfida.

The parents of the three Spina Bifida children are not severely affected. One mother had a low spinal lesion and she only complains of backache; another mother also had a low lesion and has only a slight weakness of her feet and bladder. The father who has a Spina Bifida baby has no residual disability. The father of the child with a club foot is much more handicapped by paralysis and bladder problems. Yet, three of the most seriously affected fathers have six normal boys, one normal girl and the boy with the club foot.

All three Spina Bifida babies are alive; one boy has weak feet only, another boy has a skin covered lesion with little trouble except that he has Hydrocephalus. The most severely affected is a little girl who is paralysed, is incontinent and has Hydrocephalus.

No infant was born with Anencephalus. This is undoubtedly a chance, and if I had a larger series to study I would probably come across some examples.

Continued opposite

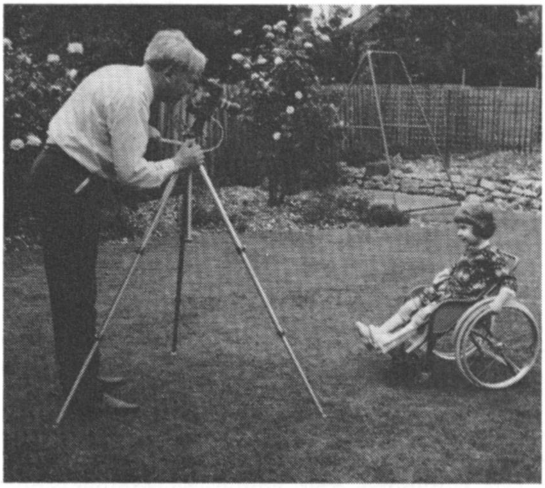
In conclusion, persons with Spina Bifida of either sex can have children though their opportunities are no doubt limited. If they do have children the chances are high that the child will be normal, but the risk of their having an abnormal baby is higher than in the average population. This risk is about the same as the risk of another Spina Bifida child for those parents who already have one child with Spina Bifida.

Footnote: Dr. Lorber is anxious to hear from many more parents about their experience and their own disability. He would also like to hear from married Spina Bfida subjects who do not have children for any reason. Please write to him at The Department of Child Health, University of Sheffield.

ARTHUR LOWE'S BROADCAST

Many of our readers in the British Isles will have heard the Broadcast Appeal on 29th August. The Association is most grateful to Mr. Lowe for making it for us and to the B.B.C. for arranging it. It gave good publicity to the work and has resulted in donations totalling over £1,000 at the time of going to Press.

Action – take one!



" On location "

The producer, Mr. D. J. K. Calloway, with his daughter.

Readers and Committee members of Local Associations will like to know of the new film which has been produced and made by Mr. D. J. K. Callaway of the Salisbury and District Association. It is called "A New Lease of Life", is 8mm sound and in colour. The National Association is buying two copies which will be available for hire from Concord Films Council, Nacton, Ipswich, Suffolk.

The film presents various aspects of Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus in a clear and moving way and includes sequences of children of various ages.

Mr. Callaway says "the film was made for use among organisations and groups so that Spina Bifida may be more widely known and understood".

Mr. Callaway is prepared to receive orders for the copies of the film in either Standard 8 or Super 8 with either sound track or sound on tape for use with a silent projector.

Link hardly needs to point out the great advantage 8mm has over 16mm when it comes to lifting projectors!

Applications to hire to:— Concord Films Council, Nacton, Ipswich, Suffolk, from October 1st.

Orders to purchase or for technical advice to:—Mr. D. J. K. Callaway, 17, Ridgeway Road, Salisbury, Wilts.

YOUNG LINK

It's no good just waiting for inspiration !

"Hold it, Ethel, I'll just get a snap before the legendary Loch Ness monster gobbles you up!"

Well, supposing there was a Loch Ness monster, and supposing you did get a snap before it gobbled poor old Mummy up, there's every likelihood you would be famous—not just for winning *Link's* photographic contest (which you undoubtedly would) but because every national newspaper and television station in the country would be chasing you for an interview.

This, of course, is very unlikely to happen and, although we are grateful to our cartoonist for his imaginative approach to the subject, we have to content ourselves with more down to earth ideas.

And time's getting on. I was hoping that by this time we would have had scores of entries for our photographic contest, but alas no, so far we have only the grand total of FOUR.

So I have extended the closing date by one month to September 30th. Remember the snap can be taken by you or your parents and there are worthwhile prizes to be won.

Colin's ambition—to swim the Channel

IF 13-year-old Colin Hall's ambition comes true, he will probably be the first boy with spina bifida to swim the Channel. . . .

Colin, of Walhouse Street, Cannock, Staffs, recently went along to the local baths determined to swim half-a-mile.

But instead he swam a mile.

And that beat his previous best performance of three-quarters of a mile.

Colin, who is in calipers and uses a wheelchair and walking aids, started learning to swim in August last year. He was accompanied in his latest attempt by his brother, Alan, aged 12.

His mother, Mrs. Margaret Hall, commented: "He was absolutely delighted and so were we.

"Colin's ambition is to swim the Channel and he is really determined to do this one day."

Best wishes,

William.

£2,000 presentation

Brother A. E. Beesley, The Grand Primo of the Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes, presented a cheque for £2,000 to Mr. R. B. Zachary at a recent meeting of the Spina Bifida Trust at City Road. Our thanks are due to the Grand Lodge of the Buffaloes for their most generous support.

Meeting People

John Garrett,
Headmaster
Ysol Erwr Delyn

MR. JOHN GARRETT, O.B.E., M.Ed., who is a member of the ASBAH Education Committee, is headmaster of the Glamorgan Residential School for Physically Handicapped Children. He is known to parents in many other counties as children attend his school not only from Glamorgan but a good many other areas.

Mr. Garrett, 48, who was awarded the O.B.E. in the last New Year's Honours List, has been headmaster of the school since 1958. At present out of the 140 children at the school, 55 are spina bifida children. Out of the 140, 119 are resident and 21 are day pupils.

He began his career in this field in 1946 as a teacher in a school for physically handicapped children in Leeds. In 1956 he became deputy head of a similar school in Birmingham.

He serves on the National Union of Teachers Advisory Committee for Special Education. He is also Assistant General Secretary of the Association for Special Education; Chairman of the House Committee of South Wales Holiday Home for Physically Handicapped Children and is actively concerned with many other agencies working for the handicapped.

Attendance Allowance

MOST readers of *Link* will now know of the new Attendance Allowance payable, where applicable, from the 6th December, 1971.

The conditions as set out are that:—

To qualify for an allowance, a person will have to satisfy one of the following requirements for at least six months. He must be

either

so severely disabled physically or mentally that he requires from another person, in connection with his bodily functions, frequent attention throughout the day and prolonged or repeated attention during the night;

or

so severely disabled physically or mentally that he requires continual supervision from another person in order to avoid substantial danger to himself or others.

In the case of children there is the further condition that the child must require attention and supervision substantially in excess of that normally required by a child of the same age and sex.

Claim forms and detailed leaflets can be obtained from your local Social Security Office.

Those living at home with moderate or severe Spina Bifida and/or Hydrocephalus, or, in the case of children, their parents will be wise to make a claim though it is too early yet to say just how generously the conditions will be interpreted. The fullest information should be concisely given, together with the name of the consultant having overall care of the patient.

If there are ways in which the National Association or your local ASBAH can be of help, please do not hesitate to ask.

Appliances and equipment

by Olwen Nettles

RAMPS

There are many more portable ramps coming on the market at this time, and in particular I have seen one that is cheap, light, easily adjustable, and very portable. This may not be suitable as a permanent ramp in the person's own home, it is meant to go in a car so that when visiting other houses easy access is readily available.

This is the BANSTEAD Ramp. It consists of two channels attached together by pieces of metal which can be altered to adjust the distance between the channels so that it will fit all sizes of wheelchairs. The width of the channels themselves are sufficient to take the largest pneumatic tyres. The manufacturers state that the ramp has a rise of up to nine inches. The cost is £15, and the weight of each part is nine pounds.

I will be pleased to supply further information.

HOISTS

There are again, many more hoists, lifts, and chair-stair lifts coming on the market, some of which are on sale, and some for hire. A number of the lifts are by no means the traditional types—they do not require a lot of alteration to the house, as they do not need specially built shafts. In fact there are some which only need a square cut out of a downstairs room ceiling, and with very little alteration to the room itself the disabled person can sit in a chair or wheelchair and be carried up to the room above.

I hope in the Autumn to produce a comprehensive list of all such aids, but in the meantime if anyone is interested do please write to me for details. It may be possible to obtain help with the cost from your local Social Services Department.

Continued opposite

INTER-ASSOCIATION HOLIDAY OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE DOODLEBUG & MINIBUG

We have given these toys a lot of trials, and whereas some spina bifida children take to them easily and manage them well, we have not had such good reports from others. We cannot say they are an unqualified success. I am in touch with the firm to see whether it would be possible to make minor alterations to eradicate the teething troubles, but at the moment it might be better for them to be bought by groups so that individual parents may try before they buy.

RESEARCH STUDY

As part of a research study, Dr. C. O. Carter is trying to get in touch with all those treated for spina bifida before 1953 at The Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London, W.C.1.

Any person who has not heard from him, please write NOW giving full name, date of birth, present address and past address if it was different at the time of treatment. Replies to:

Dr. C. O. Carter (E), Clinical Genetics Unit,
Institute of Child Health, 30, Guildford Street,
London WC1N 1EH.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLICITY MATERIAL

"Your child with Spina Bifida" by J. Lorber, M.D., F.R.C.P., 15p post paid.*

"Your child with Hydrocephalus" by J. Lorber, M.D., F.R.C.P., 15p post paid.*

"The Spina Bifida Baby" (published by the Scottish Association) by Olwen Nettles, M.C.S.P., O.N.C., 10p each.*

"The Spina Bifida Child in School" by D. H. Lee, 10p each.*

**Special rates available to Local Associations.*

General Information Leaflets: £1 per 100.
Leaflet for Young People: £1 per 100.
Posters:
Double Crown 5p each.
"Future Bright" (Plain) 20p for 10.
"Future Bright" (Words) 20p for 10.
"Wendy Craig" Handbills 2p per 10.
Flag Day Emblems 50p per 1,000.

LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS OFFER:—

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

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

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

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

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

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

NEW FOREST

Extremely well-equipped Chalet, sleeping six people, situated in the New Forest. The chalet is available for weekends from October to March, 6 p.m. Friday to 9 a.m. Monday. Further details from Mrs. A. Rae, 16, Clifton Road, Lee-on-Solent, Hants.

DIRECTORY

AFFILIATED ASSOCIATIONS alphabetically

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

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

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

DARLINGTON AND DISTRICT
Mrs. D. Marshall,
38 Salters Avenue,
Haughton,
Darlington.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LEEDS AND DISTRICT
Mr. G. Weston,
32 Westbusk Lane,
Otley, Yorks

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

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

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

LONDON SOUTH
Mrs. C. Byrne,
Flat 1,
10 Wexford Road,
Balham, S.W.12.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SURREY (NASBAH) ASSOCIATION
Mr. D. W. Jameson,
Shaw Way,
Roundshaw,
Wallington.

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

SWINDON AND DISTRICT
Mrs. J. Trembling,
13 Tennyson Street,
Swindon, Wilts.

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

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

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

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

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

NORTHERN IRELAND

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

SCOTLAND

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

WALES

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

NORTH WALES
Mr. P. H. Galloway,
The Flat,
The Plassey,
Marchwiel,
Wrexham.

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

OTHER LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

Bournemouth, Christchurch & District
Mrs. V. J. Spiers,
4 St. Merrins Close,
East Howe,
Bournemouth.

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

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

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

Derby
Mrs. P. E. Burrows,
44 Gisborne Crescent,
Allestree, Derby.

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

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

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

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

Isle of Wight
Mr. D. J. S. Sprake,
Springfield,
Town Lane,
Chale Green, Ventnor.

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

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

London Environs

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

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

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

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

Spenborough (Yorks.)
Mr. B. Nicholson,
15 Blakehall Drive,
Mirfield, Yorks.

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

NORTHERN IRELAND

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

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

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

EIRE

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

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

CHANNEL ISLANDS

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

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

Twentieth Century Press (1912) Ltd., T.U., 8-13 New Inn St., London EC2A 3HE—11355