

LINK

21



Winter 1971

5p

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



Thoughts of Christmas . . .

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LINK

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



WINTER

Vol. 1 No. 21

*Chairman: Mr. R. B. ZACHARY, F.R.C.S.,
Honorary Treasurer: Mr. E. S. GOWER.*

General Secretary: Miss M. E. OUGHTRED.

Appeal Secretary: Mrs. K. M. WHITE.

Editor: Mr. M. N. CUTTS.

All correspondence to

ASBAH

112 City Road, London EC1V 2ND

Tel. 01-253 2735

EDITORIAL:

THE end of another year . . . The end of a lot of hard work, a breather over Christmas, and then it starts over again.

The fight against spina bifida, and the fight to help those suffering from it, is long and hard. From time to time most parents must feel exhausted and frustrated, but then fortunately most call on that latent strength which enables them to continue.

This is my first full year of editing *Link*. And one of the main things I have noticed is that each and every Association has a wonderful capacity for sustained effort; a will to explore every avenue to help their members and a desire to encourage, sympathise with and cheer-up others.

This has been reflected many times in the newsletters and articles sent in to "Link".

And what is probably the most satisfying thing of all is that when you COMBINE all the efforts of all the Associations—backed by the hard work of head office—one realises how well the work for spina bifida is progressing.

Many things have happened to further this progress in the last year. And as the Associa-

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Our Cover

"God bless us, everyone."

tion grows older it also becomes more experienced in the best ways in which to help its members. We also become better known.

This is very important because the more we are known, the more the public are aware of our needs and are willing to help. Again, the increasing amount of aid from the public is reflected in the newsletters and reports of the Associations.

It all adds up to an extremely encouraging picture.

From myself and the staff of the National office, we wish you all a very merry Christmas and happy New Year.

Encephalocele

Special report by
Dr. John Lorber

"ENCEPHALOCELE" is a variety of the spina bifida disorder. It has many features common with spina bifida and many others which are different. The basic genetic cause is the same and there are some families in which one child is affected with spina bifida and another with encephalocele. However, encephalocele is much more common in girls (7 to 3 boys).

In encephalocele the bony defect is not in the spinal bones but in the skull, usually in the midline at the back. As a result of this a swelling is found at the back of the head which may be at times almost as big as the head itself. In the minority of cases the swelling consists only of skin, meninges and cerebrospinal fluid. In such cases operation is simple, and apart from the risk of hydrocephalus, no complications or defects are expected. Hydrocephalus does occur in such children and can be treated in the usual way with every chance of normal development.

In the majority of cases of encephalocele the swelling also contains brain substance. In such instances the baby's head is usually small and his forehead is sloping backwards. Sometimes so much brain is outside the skull itself that survival is impossible. In others, part of the brain has to be removed to get rid of the swelling.

Serious Condition

This in itself does not matter, because those parts of the brain are not normal and do not have important function. Nevertheless, this type of encephalocele is a serious condition because the remaining brain itself is often abnormal and lacks essential parts.

Such children are often seriously retarded, they are frequently subject to convulsions, they tend to be spastic and perhaps the most serious defect is difficulty with vision or complete blindness, which occurs in about one-third of the survivors. Of course, not all have all these problems and a small proportion with encephalocele containing some brain tissue live without any defect.

Hydrocephalus is not quite as common with encephalocele as with spina bifida, but it is still a major problem. Children who had a large head due to hydrocephalus in infancy, often end up with a very small head after successful operation, because their brain is small and therefore the skull does not have to grow to accommodate it.

The problems of encephalocele patients are therefore in many ways more similar to those of spastics, except for the presence of hydrocephalus. They do not have incontinence or flaccid weakness of their legs and do not have kidney complications.

INTO THE CHARTS ON ASBAH 'LABEL'

ASBAH has brought out a long-playing record which we hope will zoom to the "top of the charts".

The record has been commissioned on our own "label"—Happiness Is . . . Giving, and features songs by Des O'Connor, Clodagh Rodgers, The Sweet, Frankie Vaughan and Lovelace Watkins.

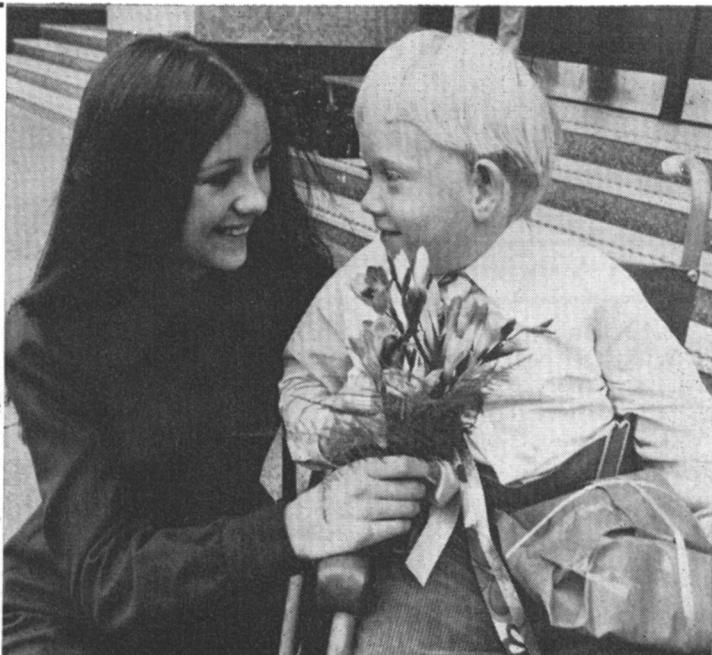
These five well known artistes and their associates have generously given permission to use their material and composers have waived royalties.

The record is being distributed by R.C.A. Records through their usual channels to record shops and ASBAH is running an experimental mail order campaign in several well-known publications.

The record is only 99p and may be ordered direct, or best of all, help your Local Association's funds by ordering through them—Good Listening!

"Smashing..."

Five-year-old Mark Tompson was given V.I.P. treatment when he went to see "The Tales of Beatrix Potter" recently. And it was all due to the star of the film 16-year-old Erin Geraghty. Erin heard that Mark had been refused entry into a South London cinema because they ruled "no wheelchairs". Erin arranged for him to see the film at another cinema and greeted Mark at the doors. And since then, the first cinema has even lifted its ban on wheelchairs. Mark gave Erin a bouquet of flowers. They are pictured together outside the cinema. And Mark's comment on the film: "It was smashing."



Picture: Daily Express.



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 manoeuvrable and easily propelled by the child. Due to the low centre of gravity and rear caster 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.

Standard Model for children one to five years old cost £7.50p plus postage 55p approx. **Large Model** for children five to ten years old cost £9.50p carriage 75p approx. in United Kingdom. Overseas prices on application.

Produced by the
**Southampton and District Spina Bifida
and Hydrocephalus Association**

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Sussex Association

In September, Miss S. M. Newham and Mrs. S. Wilkinson began work for the Sussex Association as part-time field social workers. The Committee feel they will be able to do a great deal for members and also help new parents in the early days of having their new spina bifida baby home.

The Newsletter says that up to September membership stood at 155. Regarding donations, it gives a special word of thanks to Mrs. B. Lucas, who raised £124.50 at her sale in May. Miss Saville and Miss Newham raised £104.84 at their tea afternoon and Mr. D. Brooks and Mr. R. Baker and friends raised £130 from a darts tournament.

The caravan had a very successful season despite the postal strike and members who require a holiday next year are requested to book early.

Leicester Association

The Association have, for the first time, published a yearbook. Members, of course, are asked to publicise the book as much as possible and show it to all their friends. The Newsletter records that so far £550 has been raised from the sponsored walk—but there are still a few cards unaccounted for so the result could well be more.

Hull and District Association

Secretary Mrs. G. D. Brown has sent in a photograph of 12-year-old Lesley Flower who was recently a bridesmaid for her aunt. Mrs. Brown also refers to the International Conference of the Society for Research into Hydrocephalus and Bifida—which was held in Hull this year—and points out that the next venue



Lesley Flower

for the conference is Rotterdam, Holland. (A special article on developments made at Hull Royal Infirmary in the field of spina bifida is being considered for a future issue of *Link*.—Editor's note).

South Hants Association

South Hants Treasurer, Sid Baker, tells of a novel way of raising money—an annual bowls tournament. The Priory Bowling Club organised the tournament and the Association presented a challenge trophy.

Mr. Baker says: "We raised £103—which was much more than I expected being the first year—and the way the local bowlers are talking, next year's should be even better."

"This year we had 144 bowlers taking part. They played 47 matches and rolled over 9,000 woods." And Mr. Baker adds: "We could even have a national competition, holding regional rounds before the finals—if we could get the right sponsors."

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Bristol Association

The September Newsletter reports that the Out-Patients Unit at Frenchay will be opening very shortly for doctors' clinics etc. The Association hopes to start a playgroup, two mornings a week, for pre-school spina bifida children only and they would like to hear from any parents interested in their child attending. Secretary Gordon Egan also states that a cheque for £410 was presented to Mr. and Mrs. R. Kinsman recently, as a result of a football match at the B.A.C. ground, Southmead, and other fund raising by the Rolls Royce apprentices.

Staines, Hounslow and District

Secretary Mr. A. C. Bassett says in the Newsletter that the theme of the Association this year is "Education". They have begun with a talk by Mrs. Sheila Davidson, Chairman of the Hounslow Pre-School Playgroups Association. Mr. Bassett also records that Mr. Eric West, who was a founder member of the Association, also the first chairman, and his wife Pat, have both been made honorary members.

Lanarkshire

Lanarkshire branch of the Scottish Association are working on a film showing the children from days-old to teens. The film is to show the children at the four centres which the branch run for physiotherapy/playtherapy in Lanarkshire and show them at such places as the Sports Club. The idea is to have a visual proof of how starting early achieves increased mobility and independence.

Kent Association

This year's major fund raising ball was due to be held at the Marlowe Rooms, Sidcup, with a dinner, dance and top line cabaret. Last year the event raised nearly £900.

The Autumn Newsletter notes a very fine achievement by Ann and Wendy Almond who

raised the magnificent sum of £80 for the Association by organising their own sale of work in their garden. Ann and Wendy top the list of donations to KASBAH since April. They are the cousins of one of the Kent Association's Members, Gail Sparkes.

The Newsletter also notes that about 15 KASBAH families attended the Meopham Scouts Rally at Hope Hill which ended with the usual parade of wheelchairs led by the band.

Special Report from Maidstone by Mrs. Eunice Doswell

"AT last things seem to be looking up in Maidstone as far as facilities for spina bifida children go.

This summer has seen the opening of a unit for physically handicapped children at Bellwood Infants' School, Park Wood. I spent a morning there, and was very impressed by all that I saw. The building is modern, and everywhere is gay with children's work. The headmistress is extremely enthusiastic; in fact, I know she has had to work very hard to get this project going.

There are four handicapped children attending the school, and at present all four are in the youngest class. Attached to the class is a small bathroom and toilet especially for these children. Two are spina bifida children, one has a muscular disorder and one a form of rheumatism. The teacher is experienced and there is also a welfare assistant. The children all seemed to mix well—and there was the usual game of the normal children playing with any walking sticks not being used! There are also facilities for the children to play outside with a few friends if they don't want to face the turmoil of the main playground.

This seems to me to be one very good solution to the problem of educating our children, as not *all* local schools will take them; and it brings them into school life more gently—with numbers being kept lower than normal.

We would like to hear from you, to know what type of schooling you would like for your child. As a parent with school age coming, I should be interested to hear of the problems to be faced, and how people have overcome them."

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS



Singer Frankie Vaughan chats to Paul Freeman (9), son of Mansfield Secretary, Mrs. E. Freeman. Frankie kicked-off a charity football match in Sheffield recently. He is also a member of the Sheffield Association and has helped to raise money for them.

Mansfield and Worksop Districts

In a brief summary of the year's events, secretary Mrs. E. Freeman notes that over £500 was raised by a men's sponsored fancy dress cycle rally over 20 miles. The event caused quite a stir as most of the men were dressed as women in bikinis and hot pants!

Harry Secombe opened the garden party which was jointly run with Park Hall School and which made over £750. The Association donated their share—which was made up to £500—to research at the Sheffield Children's Hospital.

Attendance Allowance

The National Office is getting reports from various areas and advising where requested. Mr. Zachary is in touch with the Department of Health and Social Security.

The need for care during the night including turning "a patient" plays a part in determining the degree of disability.

Unsuccessful applications may be reported so that discussion may be held with the Department of Health and Security in the New Year after the qualifying date, when a review is likely.

Do not be discouraged, a start has been made and there is goodwill at the Department even if their communications are rather formal.

Dougal Club solves problem of school 'hols'

WHEN school holidays come round most parents find they have their work well and truly cut out. For looking after the kiddies, plus everything else, really proves the saying "a woman's work is never done".

But there is at least one group who have the problem solved. That's in Wessex, where the Dorset Branch of the Red Cross are helping to give mums that much-needed break.

They have set up a "Dougal Club" in Dorchester and one day a week collect the children at 9.30 in the morning and take them home again at 5 p.m. in the evening.

This gives parents a clear day each week to deal with such things as the washing, shopping or go out for a hair-do.

Nora Branigan, Director of the Dorset branch of the Red Cross, told *Link*: "The loneliness of a disabled child during the school holidays can well be imagined. Not for him the games of football and cricket and the endless output of energy generated by a physically fit youngster. Imagine, too, how tied his mother must be, especially if she has other children to cope with."

"We had decided to take 10 children between the ages of five and 12 to start the Dougal Club. But it has ended up with 17 children, including 14 boys. The meetings held so far have been a riot with the youngsters completely overjoyed."

She added: "Heads of departments at County Hall, doctors, health visitors and child care officers visited the club after it opened and we were honoured by visits from the Lord Lieutenant and the Mayor and Mayoress.

"During the summer holidays we had two clubs running, and arrangements for a third, in the east of the county, are already under way. The children tend to play in ones and twos rather than teams and we feel that team games should not be forced upon them yet awhile. This means almost a helper to each child."



One happy member of the Dougal Club—eight-year-old Susy Turnbull of the Wessex Association.

Death of Dr. D. G. Cottom

PARENTS of children with spina bifida and hydrocephalus will have learned with deep regret the news of the sudden tragic death at the age of 47 of Dr. D. G. Cottom, paediatrician at Great Ormond Street and St. Thomas Hospital, as the result of an accident while on holiday in France. This is a terrible loss to all his young patients and their parents. He was an excellent doctor and a wonderful person. He always went to immense trouble to make everything as easy and pleasant for child and parents as possible.

I first met him when Sonya, my five-year-old daughter who was born with spina bifida and hydrocephalus, was about six-months-old. She has been in his care ever since, seeing him for the last time only just before he went on holiday. He had an amazing gift in dealing with children. Sonya was very fond of him and always responded to him.

Dr. Cottom will be greatly missed by us all!

Mrs. G. Folca, 2, Rue des Arquebusiers, 67-Strasbourg.

YOUNG LINK

Photo
Contest
results



FIRST—Gary Jeeves

Dear Boys and Girls,

Most important—a happy Christmas—but you may see *Link* earlier than Christmas Eve, so I'm going to ask you to think specially of all the other boys and girls who see *Link* just before you go to sleep on Christmas Eve—they live all over the world, so make your thoughts go like a jumbo jet. And that's a thing! You'll have to sleep extra tight that night to make sure that Father Christmas pays you a visit.

For this month's competition there will be a prize for the best story of not more than 150 words about Christmas or New Year, or it could be a poem. See what you can do.—Entries must be in to *Link*, 112, City Road, London EC1V 2ND, by 20th January, 1972.

Best wishes to you all.

WILLIAM.



SECOND—Jon Wilson

Here are the two winners of our photographic competition. I was hoping to choose a first, second and third but, well, I suppose you've guessed by now . . . the total entries did not reach a baker's dozen!

The response was a little on the poor side, but never mind perhaps we will have another bash next year.

The winning picture is of nine-year-old Gary Jeeves, of Blackpool, Lancs. He's all dressed up for his role as prince in the school play. Second is seven-year-old Jon Wilson, of Wishaw, Scotland, who, as you can see, is concentrating very hard at the helm of "Dub-Dub", a small dinghy. Both boys will receive ASBAH's new long-playing record "Happiness Is . . . Giving."

I am sure everyone will agree with me when I say that both pictures truly reflect the spirit of you all—to get up and have a go.

ANOTHER FIRST

The Royal Film Première of

M A C B E T H

is to be given in aid of the

Spina Bifida Trust

This production, by Roman Polanski, about which you will have heard, will be shown on

WEDNESDAY, 2nd FEBRUARY, 1972,

at the

PLAZA CINEMA, LONDON,

in the presence of a member of the Royal Family.

We are sure this will be a very memorable occasion and will bring increased publicity and support for our work.

To give every Association the possibility of being present the Appeals Committee is arranging a draw.

Prizes:

- 1st. Two £15 seats, accommodation at a London hotel and return fare.
- 2nd. Two £10 seats, overnight accommodation and a return fare.
- 3rd. Two £5 seats, accommodation and travel.

Tickets, 5p each, will be available from Local Association Secretaries, in books of 10, or direct from the National Office. All books must be returned by Wednesday, 12th January, to ASBAH, 112 City Road, London EC1V 2ND, for the draw at the Executive Committee.

Do support this and give yourself a chance of a very special prize.

Open Letter

An open letter to "Link", which Mrs. Deeke believes will be an encouragement to others.

Dear Editor,

My sister Ann Marchant died in Rochford Hospital on Saturday, September 18th.

Although she was born with Spina Bifida it was amazing the full life she led and the amount of friends she made.

When I recall her accomplishments over the years it is quite amazing. She played the piano and violin; was an apprenticed-served hairdresser until she had to give it up because of the standing involved; was a fine needlewoman and made gloves for Pinkhams, Chelmsford, for twelve years until they had to dispense with out-workers; she hand-painted and assembled toys for a local firm; but her greatest pleasure was to be called "Mr. Porter's Receptionist". Mr. Porter is a physiotherapist and if he needed someone on an odd occasion to accept calls when he was going out, he would arrange for the calls to be put through to Ann and she would arrange appointments for patients.

Besides Spina Bifida, Ann had had both her legs amputated just below the knee, yet she liked nothing better than dressing up in full evening dress and going to a dance. She used to drive a car before she lost her legs, then had to pass a test when she lost one, then another test on losing two. I remember after she passed her driving test the last time she thanked the examiner for "passing her", then asked him if he could give her any advice; to this he replied—"If everyone drove like you, the roads would be a lot safer". She liked that remark.

As a married woman she did all her own house-work and cooking until the last few years. Whenever she had a party all invited were delighted, as she was a good cook. One evening she had a party for Arthur English, a friend she made whilst he was entertaining at the Pier Head. Arthur always kept in touch with a letter and card at Christmas time.

My colleagues at the Department of Employment were always interested in her hobbies, some she met, others she knew of by name, and she regarded them all amongst her friends. They have sent a gift in her memory.

Yours sincerely,

Gladys Deeke (of Essex).

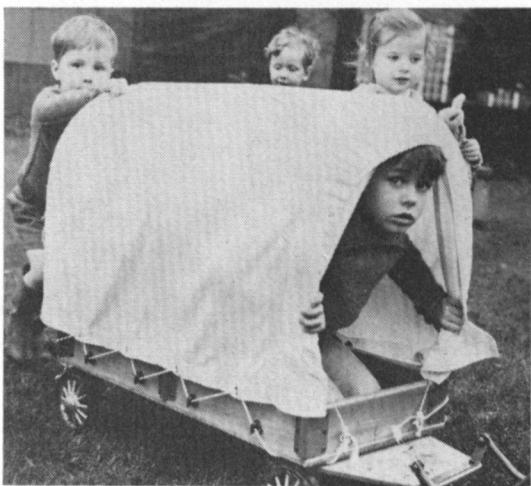
TOYS FOR CHRISTMAS

ONCE again the time has come round to think of toys that will give both help and pleasure to our children for Christmas.

I had hoped to be able to say that the "kit" for altering foot-operated tricycles and pedal cars to hand operation would be ready for sale by now, but unfortunately those who are developing this have met many snags that were not previously envisaged, and this has delayed production. However, the position is perhaps a little better than it was last year, and here are a few ideas that might help you in your choice. Unfortunately none of these toys is exactly cheap, but this is a sign of the times and follows the trend of the normal toy market.

The Doodlebug and Minibug

I have mentioned these before and many people have tried them out. They have received a mixed reception. Some children take to them immediately and enjoy using them, whereas others find them much more difficult, and still more do not like them and will not try them. Local associations may be able to help here, in that they may either have one of these or know of someone who has one, because one needs to try these before deciding. The retail price is about £15 for the Doodlebug, and £12.50 for the Minibug, but the makers allow a 10% discount to Association members. The address to apply to is: The Marketing Manager, Byrdair, Ltd., 9, Wicklands Road, Hunsdon, Hertfordshire.



The Thistle Tricycle

This is a hand-operated tricycle and is said to be adjustable for most children between 4 and 10 years of age. I have not given this tricycle trials myself but it has been well tried in various part of the country, and all who have it are very enthusiastic about it. The cost is, at the time of going to press, about £21, and it has very sturdy wide pneumatic tyres on all wheels. This is obtainable from Thistle Engineering, 19, James Watt Place, College Milton North, East Kilbride, Lanarkshire, Scotland, but I must warn readers that these are in great demand and there is delay in delivery, which is obviously worse at this time of year.

The Wason Covered Wagon

This is another item from the Toy & Furniture Workshop, Church Hill, Totland Bay, Isle of Wight. It is intended for normal children but would be ideal where there are a number of young children in the family, or for play groups (see illustration). It costs about £20.

The Hobcart

Much publicity has been given to this cart and we have given it extensive field tests, and the general opinion is that the gearing is too low. The maximum effort is needed for the minimum effect. In other words, the child has to work very hard in pushing the handle

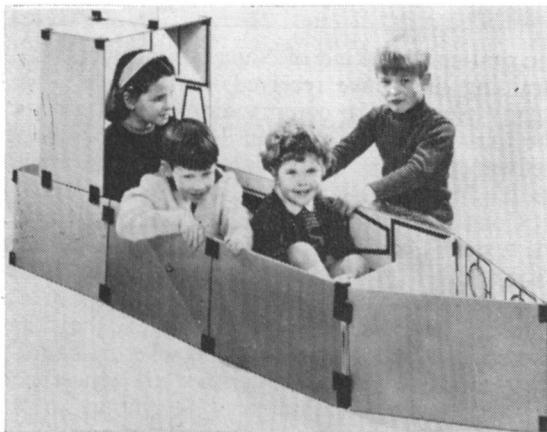
Appliances and equipment - 2

to and fro to get very little movement, and some of our more active children find it a bit frustrating. Some hospitals, especially those with children who are sub-normal, have found that their children like it a lot. Its price is, I am afraid, between £30 and £36, and it is being made through the Home Office, enquiries through me at the National Office.

The Eldon Car

This I have also mentioned before, but it has proven a great favourite with those few children who have already had one. It is available in normal toy shops with a foot control at a price around £25. The firm has been extremely good to us and let us have "second" quality cars at about half price. These can be easily adapted by a handyman, but we have arrangements to get them adapted for an extra cost of £1. This includes moving the control from a foot pedal to a bell switch on the steering wheel, and fitting it with a "bucket" seat for extra safety. Please apply to me if you are interested.

The Power Play Multirig



This is a cheaper item and can be seen in big department stores. It consists of sets of panels in top quality corrugated board, 18" x 12", which are clipped together by specially designed clips in the form of "H", "L" and

"T", and by these means the panels can be made into a variety of things such as cars, houses, ships, tunnels, etc., and could provide endless construction play and encourage activity on the floor. These are available at a reduced price through this office, and leaflets are available. Here again I must say that I have not tested this, but I have seen them being used and feel they may be worth investigating further. Like many construction toys, these come in various sized kits, in this case in three sizes, the first two of which are under £5. They also have accessory kits, some being under £1, to increase the use of the original purchase.



Inflatable Dolls' Furniture

The National Society for Mentally Handicapped Children holds stocks of dolls' bedroom furniture which needs to be blown up before use. These come in boxes containing bed, dressing table and stool in attractive plastic material. Apart from cheapness and

Continued over

Appliances and equipment - 3

ease of storage, it helps the use of lungs. Our children never really get out of breath through play and so need to exercise their lungs in other ways. These are obtainable from the Book Shop, National Society for Mentally Handicapped Children, 86 Newman Street, London, W.1, and the price is approximately 80p per box.

OTHER ITEMS

Two "Carry Chairs" have been brought to my notice. Both of these fit inside the seat of a wheelchair and are made in different sizes. This enables the person in the wheelchair to be picked up and carried to places where the wheelchair cannot go. They are intended for the heavier children and adults, and are ideal for carrying upstairs, in a cinema or theatre, or for camping and picnic expeditions.

(1) **THE LINVAR.** This is made by the Scottish National Institution for the War Blinded in co-operation with a physically handicapped school, and consists of a metal frame with a soft seat and back,

and metal handles for carrying. The physically handicapped school uses them for all their heavier children for many outdoor activities. I can supply details.

(2) **THE TRANS-SIT SEAT.** This is newly on the market and comes in two sizes. It is made of nylon canvas, and so can be folded away into a small parcel. The seat and back are slightly padded and reinforced for comfort, and the web handles are reinforced with a polythene grip. We have not tested this as it has only just come to hand, but we feel this might be the answer to the transport of some of our older and heavier children and adults.

Both these chairs are priced between £5 and £7, according to size.

Following the writing of this article, I have been in touch with the Toy & Furniture Workshop, and unfortunately the Covered Wagon, mentioned on p. 13 has a long waiting list and no more will be available before Christmas, but it could well be something to be kept in mind for play groups and toy libraries.

PLANNED DEPENDENCE

A short while ago I saw a girl of about 13 dive into a swimming pool with a tremendous splash. The interesting features of this very ordinary event were that the girl had spina bifida and that nobody—not even the saturated bystanders—could possibly have known this simply by looking at her.

When this girl reaches school-leaving age, will she find employment? If the appointment in which she is interested is "subject to a satisfactory medical report" she may find herself up against very frustrating difficulties. But almost everyone concerned with the care of spina bifida children knows someone, perhaps with a fairly severe handicap, who is in full-time employment and doing well. So perhaps our school leaver will find that things turn out well for her after all.

Nevertheless many children with spina bifida will find it very difficult to find employment,

A special article on
"After School" by D. H. LEE

no matter what kind of education or vocational training they have received, particularly as in many parts of the country employment cannot be found even for the non-handicapped school leaver. Can an acceptable alternative mode of life for those who cannot work be envisaged?

Consideration was given at a seminar held last year under the auspices of the Spastics Society to a proposal formulated by Dr. John Kershaw, Medical Officer of Health for Colchester. Dr. Kershaw had argued that, as dependence is inevitable for the severely handicapped, it would be better for all concerned to accept the situation as it is and to work towards what he called "planned dependence". Briefly the seminar interpreted this, for themselves, as meaning a need to extend existing after-school services such as work centres to embrace a wide range of other enterprises,

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 Deer Park 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.

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.

including social, leisure, artistic, musical and even political activities. There would need to be at least some hostel accommodation, and the whole concept would be that of a community centre for the handicapped rather than of a work centre.

Of course there are difficulties. In general terms we tend to look upon work as morally good. We also look to work to supply some satisfaction and social contacts. More important, without it we lose self-esteem. Could we persuade ourselves, teachers, other parents, the general public and above all, the handicapped themselves, to accept a way of life almost entirely divorced from work as we know it?

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.

Cards for Notice Boards 10p for 10.

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 1½in. 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 badges 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.

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Link, as many members know, is read all over the world. Recently we have been getting a number of overseas contributions and a selection of these will appear in future issues.

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