22

LINK

Spring 1972 **5p**

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

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SPRING Vol. 1 No. 22

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

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

EDITORIAL:

So far we have had a mild winter, so it is not unseasonable to issue our Spring *Link* in February.

The month opened on the 2nd most auspiciously for the Association with our first-ever Royal Film Premiere of Roman Polanski's " Macbeth ", shown in the gracious presence of H.R.H. The Princess Anne. Local Associations were represented by winners of the Draw.

First Prize: Mr. G. Ellis,
94, Cleveland Gardens, London, N.W.2.
(London Association,
Honorary Secretary, Barnet Branch)

Second Prize: Mrs. Smart,
78, Chalvington Road,
Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh, Hants.
(Bournemouth, Christchurch & District Assocation)

Third Prize: Mrs. Stewart,
43, Doxford Place,
Cramlington New Town, Northumberland.
(North-East Association)

Contents

Cover

John Hayes presents a bouquet to H.R.H. The Princess Anne.

Photo: "Pic" Photos.

Readers will congratulate the Appeal Committee and Secretary, Mrs. Kate White, on a splendid event.

The month also sees the arrival of the Association's first Liaison Officer, Mr. H. D. Macfarlane, whom Local Associations will soon know well as he travels to see them to help with many aspects of the work.

Before the next issue many members and interested people will have met at the University of Keele for the Conference on The Spina Bifida Teenager—*Link* will be there and report in the next edition for the unlucky ones who cannot be there in person.

Lindsay Hall, University of Keele.

Weekend Conference

7-9 April, 1972

"THE SPINA BIFIDA TEENAGER"

The University of Keele, Staffordshire

The National Association is organising this Conference, which is open to anyone interested, on a topic of great relevance at the present time when more young people with Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus are reaching the threshold of adult life.

The Conference will deal with all aspects including Medical, Further Education, Training, Employment and Leisure.

The Conference will not only offer an opportunity to hear speakers with first-hand knowledge and experience but meeting and talking with them. Thus teachers, parents, social workers and other will have personal contact with some of those who have the on-going care of "Spina Bifida Teenagers".

The inclusive cost is £8.50p and full details and registration form will be sent on request to the General Secretary, ASBAH, 112 City Road, London EC1V 2ND.

A stamped addressed envelope will be appreciated.

Management of the bowels in spina bifida

By Professor R. A. MacMahon

THE act of defaecation is a complex one, involving nerves, muscles, training and habit. The nerves concerned include those to the voluntary muscles of the sphincters and those to the involuntary muscle of the intestine. The muscular actions are co-ordinated reflexes with propulsive action of the intestine co-ordinating with relaxation of the sphincters to allow the passage of faeces.

Infants open their bowels automatically, but with growth and development they are subjected to social pressures and are conditioned to go to the toilet to pass faeces. The type of social pressure and the methods of training may be of the wrong type and may actually interfere with the development of a regular bowel pattern. Hence the problems of soiling, degrees of incontinence or constipation may be seen in so-called normal children, as well as in those with some obvious anatomical abnormality of muscles and nerves such as exists in spina bifida.

If motions are not passed at regular intervals, the absorption of water, which occurs in the large intestine, continues and the faeces tend to become hard and more difficult to pass.

The problem in spina bifida then, is basically the problem of deficient sensation and poor motility.

The faeces will reach the terminal intestine but their presence is not recognised, the motility of the intestine is poor, and the ability voluntarily to expel the faeces is often impaired. The infant may not develop automatic defaecation and as he passes into childhood he has not developed a pattern of regular defaecation. The danger under these circumstances is that if neglected, faeces accumulate in the rectum, the rectum becomes over-distended and because of this chronic distension and stretching the gut wall becomes even more impaired in its ability to expel faeces.

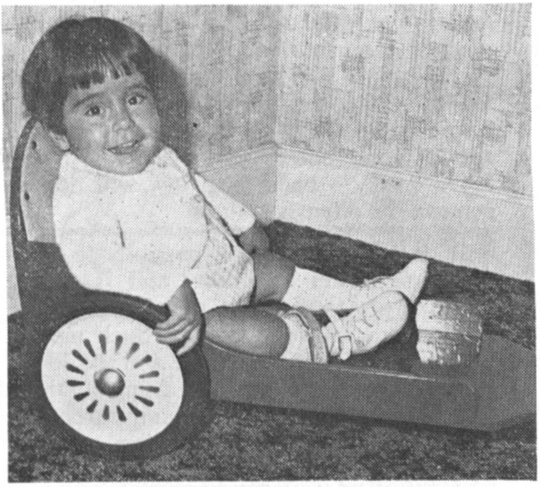
Under these circumstances there is often a build-up of loose fluid behind constipated masses and this faecal fluid is passed, giving the impression that defaecation is occurring. Under these circumstances the distension becomes progressively worse and these masses build up further and further in the colon and can at times lead to chronic intestinal symptoms. However, it must be realised that for many people a stool once every few days or once a week is quite normal so that the aim is not necessarily to make the child produce a stool once a day.

What then should be our approach to the problem of health of the bowels of children with spina bifida?

- The first thing is to realise that this is going to be a continuing chronic problem so that any regime that cannot be fitted into the general well being of child and family is obviously not a good one
- The second point to realise is that the regime that will suit one person will not necessarily suit another and the frequency of motion or the type of laxative used for the end result should not be gauged on what friends or others have done or are said to have done.
- Thirdly, it is obvious that the aim for the infant in napkins is not necessarily the same aim as that for the child attending school. Some soiling in between motions is of no consequence for the baby who is in napkins anyway but can be distressing to the child attending school.
- Fourthly, the co-operation of the patient will vary at different ages. There is no co-operation in the infant, but the young child becomes aware of learning new skills and if the production of a stool is made somewhat of a game then marked co-operation develops. Later in childhood they may lose this marked co-operation, particularly when they are busy with other interests or if they are in an environment in which all the other children have similar problems and some soiling may be accepted as normal for the group.

The use of laxatives for the spina bifida child must be on an individual basis. Some children never need them and for some they are essential. Others may need them only for short periods at different stages of development.

Continued on page 6



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 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 £10.50p carriage 75p approx. in United Kingdom. Overseas prices on application.

Produced by the
Southampton and District Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Association

Management of the bowels

Important

The number of laxatives on the market indicates the problem of controlling constipation. The type of laxative that suits one person will be found quite unsuitable for another, and too much laxative will produce soiling between bowel actions and sometimes colic—whereas too little will not produce an emptying of the rectum and colon. It is important to realise from the outset that the use of laxatives for children in need of them is essential to continued good health and that the old wives' tale about not becoming dependent on drugs does not apply and can be dangerous in this situation.

Once a course of laxatives has been decided upon then, once again, not only the type of laxative but the dose of laxative and the timing of the doses is a very personal thing and they will have to be tailored to the individual. The given dose of a laxative at any one time may not produce the desired effect so that the dose will have to be increased. With some laxatives there is no limit to the amount that can be given while others will often produce colic or overflow incontinence with large doses.

Programme

In the infant a dose that gives regular evacuation without too much soiling and without colic is the ideal. Sometimes in the infant manual expression, of the type used to express the bladder, will be sufficient to empty the rectum and a small dose of laxative may be necessary as well.

When the child is old enough for conscious co-operation, a programme of regular training in the evacuation of the rectum should be commenced. As the faeces are usually firm, and as the sphincters form little or no obstruction to the passage of faeces, straining by contraction of the abdominal muscles, with supra-pubic pressure with the hands, will often empty the bowel. This will need to be done on a regular basis 2–3 times per day. An occasional dose of laxative may still be necessary for such a child and even without laxative, occasional soiling is still a problem.

Technique

A larger dose of laxative at the weekend may give a regular emptying without interfering with the week's schooling. Alternatively, the parents may be taught the technique of removal of faeces via the anus, using a gloved finger, well lubricated. Occasionally, suppositories of various types can be inserted via the anus to achieve emptying.

The great problem for children attending school is the offensive odour of even minimal soiling or a small pellet of faeces that may escape from the rectum. Their classmates object strongly to this and this situation may interfere with their continuance at a normal school. For this reason vigorous efforts must be made to achieve the best possible bowel control, particularly for children who will be attending normal school and for those about to commence adult employment. But no matter what method of bowel movement is used, minimal soiling will often occur and various products, e.g. Nilodor, are now available, which, when used on pads or pants, will decrease or remove the offensive odour.

It is almost always possible to maintain adequate bowel emptying, and it should not be necessary to resort to more drastic measures such as enemas or washouts. Such means may be necessary if impaction and build-up has occurred but they are distressing to the child, take a good deal of time and rarely achieve more than the methods described above.

Professor MacMahon is Associate Professor of Paediatric Surgery, Agnes Nathan Children's Unit, Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital, Victoria, Australia.

His article is reprinted by kind permission of "Contact", the journal of the Spina Bifida Association of Victoria.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

South Wales Association

Mrs. P. J. Morgan reports that Coun. D. J. Williams, Mayor of Merthyr Tydfil (1970-1971), made Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus his Appeal and raised a record of £7,101. One of the big events of 1971 was a Boxing Tournament held at the Club Double Diamond, Caerphilly, and promoted by Mr. Eddie Thomas. It raised £1,000 which was presented to the Mayor by comedian Dave Allen.

Liverpool Association

Liverpool Association have had the great encouragement of having their Tudor House project included in the Government's Urban Aid programme. This means that, all being well, the plans for developing the Centre will be greatly accelerated. The Association, in its turn, has to raise its share and to this end they have appointed Mr. Richard Clitherow as Appeals Organiser. He took up his duties on 1st January and *Link* wishes him and the Liverpool Association every success with the venture.

Hertfordshire and S. Bedfordshire Association

Mr. A. S. Dale, who has now resigned as secretary, states that some substantial donations have been received recently. These included: £100 from Sawbridgeworth and District Round Table and £50 from the Cheshunt Carnival Committee. The Cambridgeshire Stakes Draw realised a profit of about £100 and the first prize was in fact won by a member of the Association. The Green Shield Stamp Campaign hit a setback when it was discovered that — owing to a mistake by Tesco's publicity agents—the chain store was only giving 25,000 stamps and not 250,000. This difference of 20 books instead of 200 was a great disappointment to everyone. The target is 2,000 books and so far about 800 have been collected towards furnishing the Association's permanent holiday bungalow.

Other fund-raising events: The Electrolux Cleaner Assembly Section, Luton, under the leadership of Mrs. Watkins raised £350 for the Association. The Phoenix Bowling Team staged a 24-hour sponsored bowling marathon which resulted in a donation of over £100. The 7th Hatfield Cub-Scouts raised £50 from a sponsored Charity Walk and Harpenden Slimming Club members are being sponsored to lose weight to raise money for the Association.

Wirral Association

The Association's shop, organised by Mrs. Rowlands during a week in November, raised £230. Chairman Mrs. M. Clarke received a four-track tape recorder from members of the Dockers' Club, Birkenhead, also £15.80p, the proceeds of a Ladies' Night held at the club. Christmas cards and goods sold by Mrs. Scales and friends, raised over £26. Other donations received included £27 (two coffee mornings) and £18.20 (Eagle Taxis raffle) and £20 (Egremont Ferry Hotel, Wallasey).

NASBAH Surrey Association

Secretary David Jameson reports that pre-Christmas events were very successful. The Wine and Cheese Party was well attended by members. The Bazaar returned £125. The Sponsored Swim has totalled over £400. The Children's Party was held in the Recreation Hall, Queen Mary's Hospital for Children, Carshalton.

Staines, Hounslow and District Association

Mr. A. C. Bassett makes an appeal to members to boost fund-raising activities. He also asks them to spread the word of the Association as much as possible. One way of doing this is to publicise as much as possible the film "A New Lease of Life" which can be shown to organisations like Round Tables, Ladies' Circles, Young Wives, etc.

Continued on page 14

ROYAL FILM PREMIERE

IT was twelve months ago that the idea of obtaining a film premiere in aid of ASBAH's funds was first mooted and the story of the canvassing and lobbying, the promises, the disappointments, the postponements and the final decision (entirely due to the great efforts made by Mr. Peter Rickett) to give the European Premiere of Roman Polanski's MACBETH in aid of our funds is now past history, as is the premiere itself.

Pic Photos taken specially for "Link"

Princess Anne chats with Baroness Masham and Mr. Peter Rickett.

On Wednesday, 2nd February, we all gathered at the Plaza Cinema in Lower Regent Street. In spite of the weather and in spite of the traffic jams caused by public demonstrations that afternoon we were all on time and gathered round to watch the celebrities. Batteries of cameras clicked as Roman Polanski, Francesca Annis, Jon Finch and Victor Lownes, the director, stars and sponsor of the film arrived.

Mr. R. B. Zachary being presented to Princess Anne.

Guests of screen and stage included Dame Sybil Thorndyke, Britt Ekland, Ringo Starr, Peter Wyngarde—too many to list them all; and nationally known figures like Paul Getty and the Earl of Lichfield. Then the great moment when Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne's car drew up and out stepped the Princess in pale green brocade.

Mr. Zachary, members of the Appeals Committee, representatives of the film companies and the stars of the film were then presented to her.

At the end of the presentation line was our own John Hayes, resplendent in smart long trousers, white silk shirt and red bow-tie, to present the Princess with her bouquet. John and his brother Simon had a long conversation with Her Royal Highness and some of you may have seen the picture in the "Daily Mirror" the next day.

The film itself was controversial and this created interest, as did the Bunny Girls who sold programmes for us. A copy of the programme has been sent to each local Association so readers who are interested to see it should ask their Secretary.

With the help of many good friends we were able to fill the cinema and as a result of the premiere we hope we have been able to make the Association better known to a wider public than was the case before. In addition there will be a very welcome contribution to our funds of a sum in the neighbourhood of £12,000. K. W.

THE ATTENDANCE ALLOWANCE

Procedure advice by Dr. J. Lorber

Parents of spina bifida children must by now be well aware of the tax-free allowance to which they may be entitled if their child requires a good deal of extra attention, especially at night. Many have applied and already got the allowance, but others have been disappointed. Enough experience is available now to guide and help parents with the problems which cropped up and so prevent disappointments.

There is no doubt that if the need is genuine, and if the forms are properly filled in by the doctor who knows the child well, then most deserving cases get the allowance, although there are some remarkable surprises and mistaken or unjust decisions.

To avoid disappointments and mistakes here are some tips which might help those who have not applied before or who were turned down.

(1) Do not apply just because your child has spina bifida or hydrocephalus. You will not get an allowance unless his handicap is so severe that he needs a lot of extra attention and attendance, especially at night. Such extra attention at night may be necessary if he requires bladder expression 2–3 times after he is put to bed, or if his ileal bag needs changing or his sheets may have to be changed if they are wet. He probably needs turning 2–3 times to prevent pressure sores. He may need attention if he has fits or is liable to have them. If he needs such attention, you should get the allowance.

(2) If you apply, make sure that *on the form you have to fill in* you put on Page 2 the name of the doctor who knows your child best and who is an expert on spina bifida. This will be usually a hospital consultant. Sometimes the authorities will try to persuade you to put your family doctor's name here instead and may give you the impression that they have the right to do this. This is not the case and you can insist on putting on the form the name of the doctor who is most familiar with your child's case. Occasionally this may well be your family doctor, but more often this is not so.

(3) You can apply even if your child is in a residential school or hospital: you will not get the full allowance, but a proportion, appropriate to the time he spends at home.

Appeals against a decision.

(4) If your application has been rejected you can appeal for a review, but get the advice of your doctor first, whether he thinks that you have a just cause for appeal. Again, make sure to name the doctor who knows your child best.

(5) It is also possible to ask your hospital consultant to write a supporting letter, if it was someone else who gave the medical report.

Re-application.

(6) You cannot appeal for a second time, but you can always make a fresh application after a suitable interval, if the circumstances have so altered that the case can be considered afresh. If, in your opinion a serious misjudgement has been made, then again it may be best to wait a while and put in a fresh application rather than try to appeal on a point of law.

Do remember that the authorities try to help you—so help them by being very clear and very accurate in filling in your form. Ask for help in filling it in from your local ASBAH secretary or your social worker if you are in difficulty. You can get the forms from your local Social Security Office. (Form DS 2C.)

AN EQUIPMENT OPPORTUNITY

THE Eldon Poweride Car has proved popular, but unfortunately is going out of production. The Firm has, however, offered us their remaining stock of "seconds" and we would like to pass on this opportunity to our members.

The National Association cannot buy up the stock to hold through lack of storage space, but Local Associations may well feel that they would be wise to have a number, either to add to their loan service or to offer to families for sale over the forthcoming months.

The price is £12.00 plus carriage. Individual families of young children may also decide to plan a little ahead as this is likely to be "a best buy" for this type of car for some time to come.

Readers will appreciate that this offer has a time limit and early application is advised.

YOUNG LINK

At the panto

Dear Boys and Girls,

I suppose by now nearly everyone will have been to see a pantomime. It's such good fun, isn't it, watching the escapades in "Mother Goose" and "Cinderella". Well, in Chester the boys and girls were given an extra treat. They actually joined in with the stars of "Babes in the Wood" to find the babes. I thought this was such a nice picture you would all like to see it.

Photo: Cheshire Observer

BELOW are the two winners of our Christmas story and poem competition. The first is a lovely story, "Christmas", by 11-year-old Deborah Forkin, a pupil of Valence School, Westerham, Kent, and a member of the Swindon and District Association.

Seven - year - old Beverley Jayne Brown, of Clifford Road, Kimberworth Park, Rotherham, Yorks, sent me a little poem "Christmas Eve" and a little story "My Story of Jesus".

Well done, both of you. I will be forwarding your prizes in the post.

Best wishes to you all,

William

Christmas

Christmas means to some people having a good time, decorations and a great big lunch of delicious turkey surrounded by garden fresh vegetables, Christmas pudding covered in hot thick custard.

The Christmas tree stands at the window in all its splendour. The star on the top glistens. The little balls with their funny faces stare all around. The lights and tinsel twinkle. As you go along the cold streets you can hear wine glasses clinking and crackers being pulled. The little squeals of delight, as children open their mysterious parcels to see what treasures they hide.

But the real meaning of Christmas is that a little baby, born in Bethlehem, whose name was Jesus, was sent to save the world from sin and sorrow. But although wars are still raging and people starve, we hope that people will not forget the real meaning of Christmas.

Deborah Forkin

Christmas Eve

Father Christmas comes late at night,
He carrys his toys in a sack
fastened tight,
He comes down the chimney as
quiet as a mouse and nobody knows he's in the
house
He brings lots of toys for all girls and boys
and goes on his way without any noise.

Beverley Brown

LETTERS

THE Central Council for the Disabled is very aware of the problems which face the handicapped in finding suitable accommodation, or making their present accommodation more suitable to their particular needs.

The Housing Information Service has been set up to advise on these problems, and is now in a position to supply information on all aspects of the provision of suitable accommodation and its design and adaptation for the disabled.

Information can be obtained from:

Housing Information Officer,
Central Council for the Disabled,
34, Eccleston Square,
London SW1V 1PE.

I would be grateful if your members could be made aware of this service.

G. E. WELCH (Capt.),
Housing/Holidays Information Officer.

THE AUTUMN ISSUE of *Link* dealt with "After school—what next?" One of the spina bifida children here has now left school and started work and I thought a brief outline of his early progress and his present achievements might be of interest for a further copy of *Link*. I therefore asked Denis Gray, date of birth 2.6.54, for a brief note, he is working so much overtime (!) that he didn't get round to this note himself, however his mother sent me the note below.

"Just a brief outline how Denis has progressed in spite of his disability, due to spina bifida. He never really actually crawled like most babies do. When his back became stronger, we bought a walk-easy chair for him and it wasn't long before he could manœuvre it around the house. He was about 12 months old at this stage. At 18 months he was fitted with surgical boots and calipers. Still unable to walk at the age of 3½ years our Orthopædic Surgeon decided to have a small set of crutches made. To begin with he hated them, and hid them out of sight, under the bed, just anywhere, as long as he wasn't persuaded to try them. However, after persevering with them, he became used to them, and found his feet for the first time.

We were advised not to send him to school until he became more used to crutches. He was actually 8½ years of age when he finally attended a school for the first time, having been on correspondence lessons at home for two years.

At 15½ years of age he commenced lessons at a Technical College and stayed on for 18 months. His one ambition was to be a mechanic. However, after hearing about a position being available in Electronics, Denis decided to give it a go, as it is more or less a sit-down job. He is constructing transformers for electric fences, and although he has some difficulty in walking, he can handle about 20 different constructional operations, including soldering various components."

Yours faithfully,
G. M. Gorick,
Charge Physiotherapist.
Waikato Hospital,
Hamilton, N.Z.

I WAS most interested to read the special report from Maidstone by Mrs. Eunice Doswell in your Winter 1971 edition of *Link*. At the moment, the Enfield Society for Education (which is affiliated to the Confederation of Associations for Advancement of State Education) has a special schools committee which is looking into the educational facilities available for children with physical handicaps in Enfield area.

We have visited the schools which serve our area, received talks from doctors, teachers and social workers who have an interest in this work. When our findings are complete we will be publishing a booklet with all the relevant information available. We hope this report will prove helpful to parents of physically handicapped children who have to decide on the most suitable schooling for their particular child.

Any parent living in the Enfield area who has problems in this direction or who would like a copy of the booklet when it appears, should get in touch with me.

Valerie Brookes,
Chairman, Special Schools Committee,
Enfield Association for Education.
(Home address: 38, Lakenheath,
Southgate, London, N.14)

by Olwen Nettles

Sir Barnes Wallis appointed President of Bath Institute

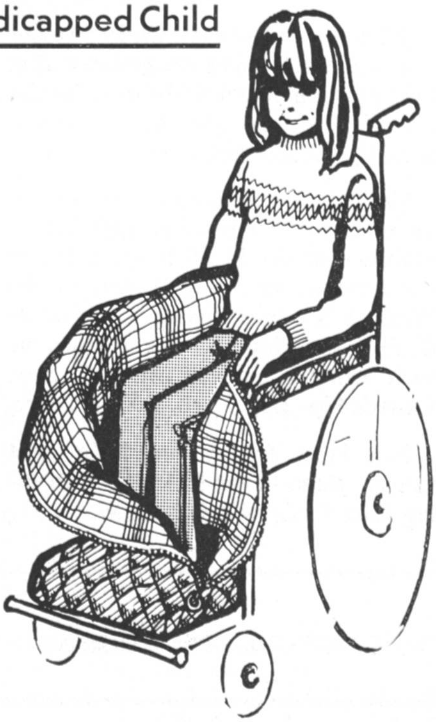
ALL our members will, I am sure, be interested to hear that Sir Barnes Wallis, the famous inventor of the R100 Airship, and of the "Dambusters" special bombs, has become President of the Bath Institute of Medical Engineering.

One of the first problems to which Sir Barnes is giving his attention is the weight of the present day caliper, and whether an equally efficient lighter one could not be devised.

Before starting on this project, Sir Barnes investigated a typical pair of calipers and the picture shows him with Lisa Parrett. Lisa's calipers are some of the lightest available in this country, but no doubt Sir Barnes Wallis will consider there is room for improvement even in these.

Appliances and equipment - 2

Clothing for the Handicapped Child



The Disabled Living Foundation have recently published a book carrying the above title. It is a comprehensive book of ideas and notions to help to make children independent in dressing. At £1.20 it is not cheap, but is recommended to Associations for their library. Sketches show the use of "Velcro" or press studs instead of buttonholes, and a warm wrap for use with a wheel chair. The book can be obtained from: The Disabled Living Foundation, 346, Kensington High Street, London, W.14.

Socks

We still have stocks of the wool/nylon "Knee-Hi" winter socks in boxes of one dozen — either all white or a selection of grey and oatmeal. These are "seconds" and at very reasonable prices. We also still have some "seconds" of the white cotton ankle socks. For further particulars please write to me.

Equipment and Aids to Mobility

The printed version of this is now available. It is in three parts together with a gussetted folder so that further booklets may be added. The price is 20p. Those of you who have already ordered Part 3 will have received them, or will get them shortly. They are available from the National Office.

"Made to Measure"

This is a book issued by the Architect's Department, Cheshire County Council, County Hall, Chester, price £1. It is a very well written book with illustrations and plans of adaptations made to houses in Cheshire to accommodate the needs of a disabled member of a family. It can be recommended as a reference book for all Local Association Secretaries.

Craig's dream comes true

When six-year-old Craig Taylor said on a television programme that his ambition was a flight in a Jumbo Jet he never thought that he would actually become airborne.

Craig, of Stonehouse. Lanarkshire, appeared on a television appeal programme for the Scottish Spina Bifida Association. Mr. Peter Fairlie of the West of Scotland Flying Club made Craig's ambition come true when he took him for a flight over Glasgow, Lanarkshire and Loch Lomondshire.

Not in a Jumbo but in a light Cessna plane—even so it was a thrilling time Craig will not forget.

Photo: Glasgow Evening Citizen.

FROM THE GROUPS—continued

Leicester Association

The New Year went off with a "bang" at Leicester. For the children's party was organised "Wild West" style. There were games and sideshows all with a Western flavour and mums and dads were invited to join in by dressing up as some of the old favourites of the West. There was also another treat in store for the children a little later in the month when they went to see Al Read and Rupert Bear in Robinson Crusoe.

Mrs. P. Cusack reports in the December newsletter that, with immediate effect, LASBAH is operating a new service for members. Since Local Authority play groups do not operate in most areas outside the city of Leicester, the Association has decided to pay the cost of two sessions per week for any Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalic children registered as members who are resident in County areas. This is because the Association are convinced of the value of pre-school play groups.

A SHORT COURSE—
26 to 28 JUNE, 1972

The Spina Bifida Child in School

This course is being arranged by the Spastics Society in association with ASBAH at their residential centre—Castle Priory, in Berkshire—a delightful house with gardens running down to the Thames. The programme aims to discuss the management and learning problems of spina bifida children and the various types of school, both day and residential, which they attend.

It is hoped that the group will be inter-disciplinary and applications from professional staff in any relevant field will be equally welcome.

Tuition fee £6.00 **Residence £6.00**

Further details from:
Castle Priory, Wallingford, Berks.

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.

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. 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.

A DAY CONFERENCE

Living with handicap

A conference concerned with the emotional, social and educational aspects of growing up with a physical handicap.

The University of Surrey,
Guildford,

Saturday, 11th March, 1972,
10.30 a.m. to 5.0 p.m.

Speakers: Dr. John Newsom
Mr. D. E. James
Miss D. Hodges

Admission by programme 25p. With lunch 75p.

Applications to Miss S. Knight,
Centre for Adult Education,
University of Surrey,
Guildford,

not later than 29th February, 1972.

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.*

"Equipment and Aids to Mobility" by O. R. Nettles, M.C.S.P., O.N.C., 3 booklets in a folder, 20p complete.

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.

**Special rates available to Local Associations.*

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 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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