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Link

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1977 5p

Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus (ASBAH)

Self respect goes a long way towards helping people.

Being able to move more freely and to do more for yourself is half the battle. This is where our home care products can help.

The Home Care Bed helps the aged, infirm or handicapped to sit up, lie down and get in and out of bed unaided. The design uses their own body weight to do the work, at the touch of a handgrip at left or right.

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Position ______

Address ______

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Link No. 52

Association for Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus (ASBAH)

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HRH The
Duchess of Gloucester

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Prof. R. B. Zachary, FRCS
Hon. Treasurer:
Mr. R. M. Nichols

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Mrs. Kate White

Liaison Officer:
Mr. H. D. Macfarlane

Link Editor:
Mrs. Susan Gearing

Contents

Opinion

In 1965, two Surrey housewives wrote to the *Guardian* advocating a coalition of all groups helping the disabled to work for the provision of Pensions for the Disabled. Such a pension would be based on degree of disability and of sufficient amount for the disabled to 'live in a reasonable degree of independence and dignity in their own homes'. The coalition did not come about, but the response from individuals was so overwhelming that the Disablement Income Group, commonly known as DIG was formed.

It is not another organisation existing merely to alleviate the problems caused by the inadequacies of the Social Security system; it has the express purpose of changing the attitudes of Government and society and of pressing for the provision of proper, adequate financial support for *all* disabled people. DIG sees lack of finance as the major contributory cause of many of the problems of disabled people. Its main aim is the introduction of a comprehensive National Disability Income, which is divided into two parts:

- an amount to replace earnings lost due to disability; and
- an amount to meet the heavy additional costs of living created by disability.

Since its creation, DIG has achieved minor successes; for example, the Attendance Allowance and the Non-Contributory Invalidity Pension. But such successes help only a minority of the disabled population and bear no relation to real financial needs.

The Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act was, for many disabled people, a statement of intent by the Government, on behalf of society, of how it should be caring for the disabled. Good intentions were all they turned out to be. Local Authorities were asked to provide services where the need was recognised. Many chose not to recognise the need. Those who did provide support have found it easy, as in the present time of financial crisis, to withdraw or heavily curtail services.

Recent research in a London Borough, which has a better record than most, has shown that severe disability can increase an individual's cost of living by as much as 25%. DIG's continuing exposure of the real costs of disability to the individual, to their family, to their caring relatives, highlights the increasing inadequacy of the present Social Security system.

Minor benefits for special diets, extra heating, mobility, bear no relation to real costs. Replacement of one benefit by another, or changing the name of a benefit, may delude the public into thinking there have been vast improvements in

Continued on page 4

FRONT COVER
An industrious young student at Charlton Park School, Greenwich. Photo: Norman Brand.

News from all around

Group visits Lourdes

It took some doing—but we did it. For the fourth time the South Yorkshire ASBAH took a party of handicapped on an eight-day pilgrimage to Lourdes. Each year our number increases, and this year 13 handicapped made the journey, along with a parent or attendant for each child.

Flying from Manchester was no problem, with the wonderful facilities for the handicapped at this airport. The joy and amazement on the faces of the children when they got their first glimpse of the plane was rewarding enough for all.

Lourdes has a wonderful relaxing atmosphere for both the children and parents. Many cures have taken place, but apart from this Lourdes gives the sick and the handicapped a lot of love, peace and happiness. With the thousands of handicapped there it also gives them a sense of togetherness.

Melanie Beldan, 5, one of the youngsters who visited Lourdes.

There's fun too—the children trying out their French on the waitresses; the day spent on the lakes (you should see how those who cannot use their legs propel the pedalloes with their hands). Even a game of football can be achieved. On our day's outing to the ski-slopes, mothers and children who were brave enough went pony riding, the first time for some. (Oh' the agony later on!) Our only regret was that we could not stay in such beautiful countryside longer.

Our stay at the hotel will never be forgotten, and all our thanks goes to the kind people who sponsored the pilgrimage hard work for them but fun for us.

We will go again . . . we hope.

OLGA MURPHY

A Royal Meeting

Members of Cannock and Walsall ASBAH had the opportunity of meeting HRH Princess Anne earlier this year when she was Guest of Honour at a Buffet Dance at Trentham Garden organised by North Staffs Physically Handicapped. Two children and one other representative of the Local Association were presented to the Princess.

Opinion

Continued from page 3

benefits for the disabled. The disabled themselves know different as they find themselves gripped tighter and tighte[illegible] in the poverty gap.

Integration of the disabled into society has been the principle behind DIG's fight. But integration is of precious little use to someone who lacks the money to eat properly, to be clothed properly, to keep warm without running into debt and who is trapped within the four walls of their home through lack of mobility.

Placing a realistic sum of money in the hands of the disabled themselves places the responsibility on them to spend it wisely and efficiently. They can only make a better job of it than is being made on their behalf. They resent the inefficiency and waste being perpetrated by others in their name.

JOHN BECKINGHAM
Branches Chairman, DIG

ASBAH launches youth section

ASBAH is to set up a new section run for and by young people with spina bifida and/or hydrocephalus. £5,000 has been allocated from the development fund to launch it.

The section will be run on the basis of regional groups with some administration from National Office. The emphasis will be on self-help and developing a wide range of activities to allow members to broaden their experience of life in preparation for leaving school and beyond. This might take the form of discussion groups, talks by visiting speakers, visits, hobbies and crafts, involvement in local community service, and joint ventures with other local groups.

One of the first projects will be to run a residential week at Five Oaks, encouraging personal independence in all aspects of life.

If you are interested in joining such a group in your own area, or in being a regional organiser please write to Barbara Newman, Education, Training and Employment Officer at National Office. Members will be welcome from age 13 and there is no upper age limit. We would especially welcome older members who could take part in the regional organisation.

THE SHASBAH TROLLEY
FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN
(Now fitted with rubber caster on the front)
Patent applied for in
UK, Commonwealth Countries, USA, Canada

Standard model for children one to five years old costs £13.00 plus carriage.

Large model for children five to ten years old costs £16.50 plus carriage. Overseas prices on application.

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

All enquiries to: Mrs. K. Charrett, 46 Tillbrook Road, Regents Park, Southampton.

Bayston thesis

Roger Bayston has published his thesis on Bacterial Colonisation of Cerebrospinal Fluid Shunting Devices for the Control and Treatment of Hydrocephalus and a copy can be studied in the library at National Office.

This thesis is the result of work carried out in the departments of Paediatric Surgery and Medical Microbiology at the Children's Hospital, Sheffield, and financed by an ASBAH Research Fellowship.

Information Officer

The staff at ASBAH National Office have been joined by Miss Beverley-Ann Holland who took up her appointment as Information Officer on August 15.

This is a new position and one of the Information Officer's first tasks will be to set up a library at National Office, as well as being concerned with various aspects of press and public relations. Miss Holland who has spina bifida is a member of Teesside Association and a former Chairman.

ASBAH HAS MOVED

ASBAH has moved to a new address at

Tavistock House North
Tavistock Square
London WC1H 9HJ

Tel: 01-388 1382/5

The new offices should be even more accessible for wheelchair visitors than at Devonshire Street.

Tavistock Square is within walking distance of Russell Square, Euston Square, Warren Street and Euston Stations.

Prenatal diagnosis and screening for spina bifida and anencephaly

by K. M. LAURENCE;
MA, DSc, MBChB, MRCP, FRCPath.
Professor Paediatric Research and Clinical Geneticist, Department of Child Health, Welsh National School of Medicine, Heath Park, Cardiff.

It now seems to be the policy of the Department of Health and Social Security, that early prenatal diagnosis for neural tube malformations (anencephaly and spina bifida) followed by therapeutic abortion if necessary, should be available for all pregnant women who are known to be at high risk of having an offspring with one of these malformations. This concerns most of the members of the Association.

Diagnosis in early pregnancy depends on a protein known as AFP and produced by the developing baby — leaking through the "open" spina bifida or anencephaly into the amniotic fluid surrounding the baby. A sample of this is obtained by inserting a needle through the skin of the lower abdomen into the cavity of the womb (amniocentesis). This is a quick, painless, quite safe outpatients procedure carried out at about 16 weeks. Generally an ultrasound scan is carried out first to measure the size of the baby, to locate the position of the placenta and to exclude twins.

There is at least one centre, usually the teaching hospital, and sometimes more, in most regional Health Authority areas, which is equipped and staffed with skilled people to carry out amniocentesis and most regional laboratories are capable of estimating AFP in amniotic fluid, which is relatively simple.

By this means it is possible to diagnose the common serious open spina bifida and anencephaly. Closed abnormalities, such as the innocuous true meningocele or the small mild myelocele will not fortunately be spotted. However, encephaloceles, which are usually serious, and the large skin covered myelocele which are fortunately uncommon, will also not be diagnosed for they do not usually "leak". Examples of high risk situations are, pregnancies in women who have previously had a child with a neural tube malformation, where a brother or a sister of the parents was born with a neural tube malformation and possibly where a nephew or niece was born with one. Also at high risk are pregnancies where one of the parents themselves has spina bifida. More distantly related cases do not usually qualify unless there are special circumstances.

Screening of all pregnancies, including those where there is nothing to suggest that there might be a risk, using AFP in the mother's blood during the fifth month of the pregnancy is being considered by the Department of Health. A report just published in *The Lancet,* has shown conclusively that screening, using AFP, is perfectly feasible at least when conducted in the main teaching centres. It seems that nearly all cases of anencephaly and more than two thirds of those with open spina bifida can be spotted, but the laboratory test for AFP in blood is much more difficult as only minute quantities of AFP are present. Although a study by one of the Departments own economists suggested that such screening can be highly cost effective, how it should be organised and introduced is being worked out with the help of a large population study being conducted in South Wales.

The risk for brothers and sisters

Following the article in *Link* Jan/Feb on Genetic Counselling by Dr Harris, we had a number of readers asking about the risk of spina bifida in children born to brothers or sisters of those with spina bifida.

The risk is very slight, reports Dr Harris, and according to Professor Cedric Carter's figures this amounts to about ½% or 1 in 200 babies. This compares with a risk of 3-5% for parents who have already had a spina bifida child or for someone with spina bifida who will have a child.

The risk is therefore, relatively small but it is hoped that these people could have serum tests for alpha-feto protein and minimise the risk of even such a small chance.

Aids and equipment

Ironing Board for Disabled

A new ironing board, especially for disabled people, is now available. It consists of a braced steel frame, secured to the wall by 10 screws. The board folds up against the wall when not in use, and can be erected and folded away using only one hand. The board is adjustable in height, so that it can be used by those in a wheelchair, and by others.

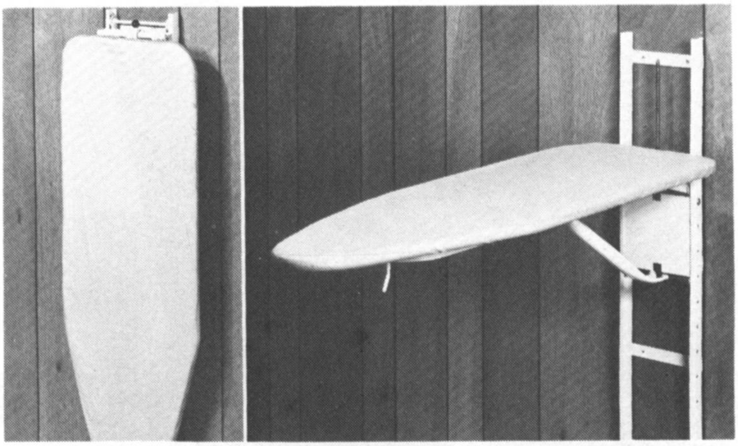
The cost is £19.44, which includes VAT and carriage.

The board is available from: John R. Edwards & Company, PO Box 13, Marlow, Bucks. (Tel: 06284 3104.)

There's the rub and the answer

Mrs Frances Coleman, who is researching into the problems of clothing for handicapped children, has found a material called Stayflex, which can be ironed onto the inside of clothes to prevent caliper wear. We have tested the material and the results have been very good. The material is not available to the general public, so ASBAH has purchased a roll, so that we can send out smaller pieces to individual parents, or to local Associations.

If you would like to try a strip (15cm × 100cm) of the material, send a large stamped, self-addressed envelope, marked "STAYFLEX" to National office, plus one extra 7p stamp to cover the cost of each strip ordered.

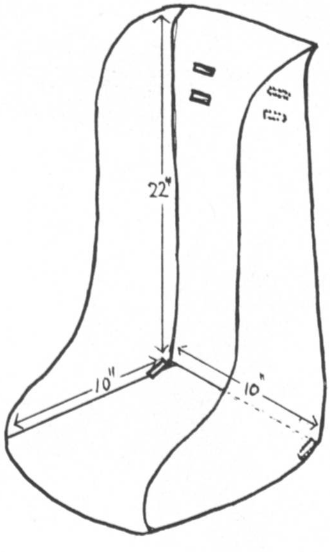


Advice on rubber crutch tips

We have recently received a number of complaints that rubber crutch tips wear through very quickly, and must be replaced frequently.

DHSS inform us that their suppliers should follow British Standard specifications, and issue rubber tips with a metal insert, which fits into the hollow metal tubing of the crutch, and prevents excessive wear of the rubber.

If you are having problems with crutch tips which are *not* fitted with metal inserts, bring this to the attention of the suppliers.



The seat for bigger children

A large car seat (see illustration) for children up to 10 years old (approximately), is now available.

It is a basic shell made out of fibre glass which requires padding (with foam), and covering (with pvc). It should be used with a harness (eg Mothercare car harness), and fittings to anchor it to the car.

It costs £8.00 (cheques should be made out to Mr D. Halkier). In addition another £1.50 is required for transport and packing (cheques to The Spastics Society). Both cheques should be sent to The Administrative Assistant—Aids and Equipment, The Spastics Society, Family Services and Assessment Centre, 16 Fitzroy Square, London W1.

JILL VERNON

DOING IT FOR T

**Twelve youngsters from the Su
week at Felbury House, Holmb
more independant. With the he
occupational therapist, and two
managed several "firsts".**

CHRIS — "I have learnt to put m
And learnt to play snooker!"

SIMON — "I've learnt to comb m
And I've just made six cups of cof

**Breakfast in bed started the d
hours hard work with the exper
between 8 and 14, to do for the
mum normally does for them. A
marvellously and thoroughly en
achievement in doing things fo**

The rest of the day was packe

JAMES — "I liked hold[illegible] the pi
pigs made was just like [illegible]corde

RICHARD — "Today I'm going
done that before".

JAMES — "I hit the target at ar
arrow out. I liked modelling with

SIMON — "I've made many frie
Clive, Colin, and Tim (three of the
lovely time, thoroughly enjoyed m
again.

**Friendship, help and pushing
eight young teenage boys and g
children would be able to do so**

**Children, helpers and experts
week. The Sussex Association's
training was a success, thanks t**

THEMSELVES

Sussex Association spent a
bury St Mary, learning to be
elp of a physiotherapist,
vo experts from Downs, they

my bag on and to dress myself.

my hair and put my trousers on.
offee.''
day, followed by two or three
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All the children co-operated
enjoyed the sense of
or themselves.
ked with new experiences.
pig at the farm—the noise the
le taking off!''
g horse riding and I've never

archery and knocked someone's
n the clay.''
iends, some new ones, including
he teenage helpers). I've had a
myself and would love to come

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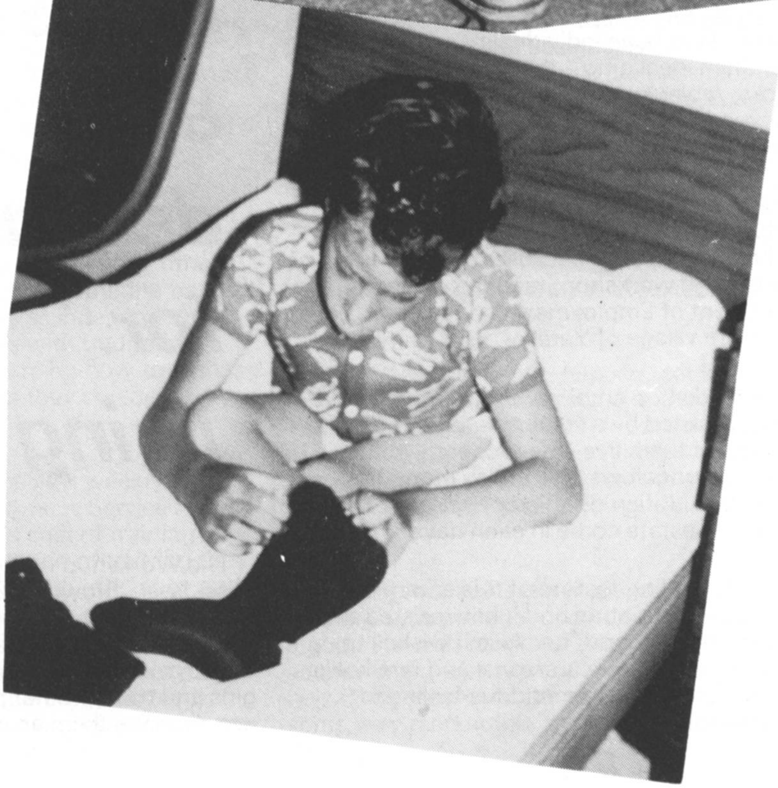
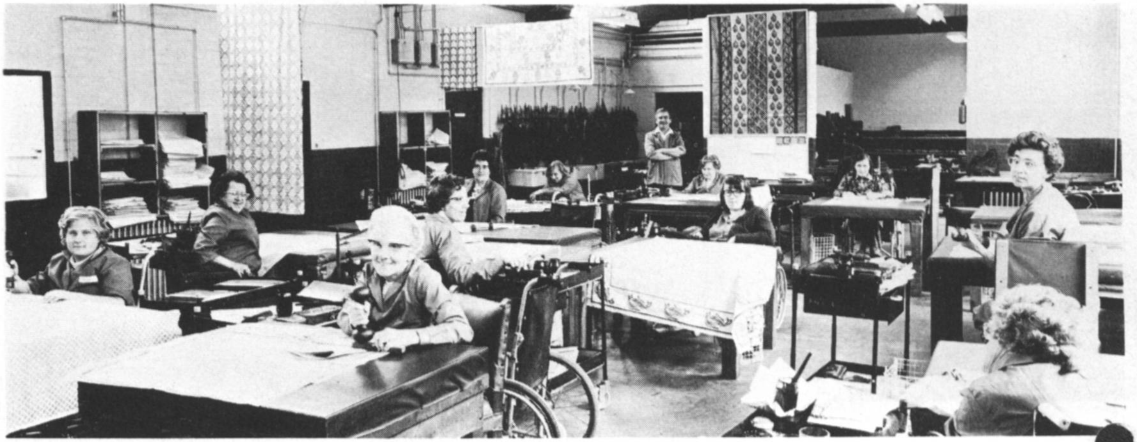
d girls—''I didn't realise the
so much for themselves''.
rts all learnt a lot from the
on's venture in independence
ks to the many helpers!





A general view of the workshop

Yateley Industries—a design for living

The unique, hand-printed textile goods produced by Yateley Industries sell well all over the country—in about 80 craft shops and boutiques as well as at special country shows and markets.

The articles have individuality and flare which make them ideal gifts—they include aprons, smocks, tablecloths, towels, scarves, bedspreads, children's wear and increasingly, fashion wear for adults, too.

The people responsible for these exciting goods are disabled—all except for a few able-bodied helpers—because Yateley Industries is a sheltered workshop, recognised by the Department of Employment, and situated in the Hampshire village of Yateley, near Camberley.

The Workshop employs about 60 disabled people, assisted by a small able-bodied staff, and most of them live independently in the attractive bungalows on Yateley Industries' small estate. A few disabled people who live outside the estate come in each day for work.

An outstanding feature of this enterprise is its independent nature and it has resisted the temptation to expand, because it wishes to remain a manageable, personal and family-like concern. There is a tremendous feeling of fellowship and activity.

The Workshop was founded in 1935 by Miss Jessie Brown, MBE, a trained orthopaedist and an artist who collected designs from all over the world. She wanted to provide training, employment and accommodation for crippled girls and thought that printing on fabrics would not only give them an interesting and worthwhile craft, but could find a market that would enable the undertaking to be self-supporting.

The idea caught on and the project continued to grow, except for a temporary lull during the war. The Workshop, however, is not self-supporting. It is assisted by the Department of Employment and the Local Authorities sponsoring the workers, and it is also a registered charity, with many friends both locally and nationally.

Two years ago it was decided to open the doors to men, and now twelve are employed. They are particularly adept in tackling some of the heavier and large-scale printing jobs.

Admission for training is open to anyone over school-leaving age who is disabled, has good eyesight and still retains the use of one arm and is able to be independent. Trainees should be of average intelligence and able to read and write but otherwise no particular qualifications or artistic skills are needed. It is, surprising the hidden artistic depths that are found in so many workers.

Once accepted the trainee moves into the hostel. Experience has shown that it is too much to expect someone to learn a skill and at the same time cope with looking after themselves completely. That comes later.

It takes two years (the first three months on probation) to train someone in the art of hand block printing and sewing and in many other facets of the trade. During this time the trainee is taught to cook and to be as independent as possible—learning to cope with budgeting, shopping, and generally learning how to manage their own bungalow which they can do on completion of training.

During training they receive a weekly allowance from the Employment Service Agency which also assists with the cost of training and hostel catering. On completion of training they receive a wage which rises with efficiency and more responsibility.

In one of the bungalow kitchens

The Workshop is a unique undertaking specialising in the production of hand block printed textile goods. Hand blockprinting is the oldest and, generally considered to be, the most artistic of all methods of printing textiles. It has a special quality which cannot be produced by any other technique of fabric printing. Although it is a comparatively slow technique it is this quality and the fact that the method is so suitable for disabled people that makes the work so distinctive and worthwhile. The majority of the printing is done on cotton, muslin, towelling, linen, hessian and corded velvets using original designs, patterns and colourings. while some girls are printing others are carrying out design block cutting, machine stitching, dye mixing, pattern cutting, steaming and dye fixing, washing drying, final making up, as well as office, show work and selling duties.

It is an undertaking which gives each of the workers a chance to be creative in his own different way and to work in a relaxed and yet stimulating atmosphere.

The Workshop is not, happilly, set in the back of beyond, but right slap bang in the heart of Yateley village and the workers are a real part of village life. It has its own Women's Institute branch, known as Yateley Venture and there are opportunities for swimming, riding and driving.

Yateley Industries is a fine example of a residential sheltered workshop which provides a good life with residents living as independently as they wish, with the advantage of immediate help if necessary. At the same time it produces some very marketable and attractive articles.

Health matters

The occult form of spina bifida

by

L. P. LASSMAN, FRCS

Spina bifida is the term generally used to describe the undisguised swelling which is seen at birth on a baby's back. This is the open type of spina bifida which has created a great deal of interest. In addition to this there is spina bifida occulta which can be divided into two kinds. One, which is the commonest, is usually discovered accidentally on x-ray. This is reported as occurring in as many as one in four people and is unimportant and there is certainly no need to worry if it is discovered accidentally. The other form of spina bifida occulta occurs much less frequently and is the condition which I am going to describe.

In some of the cases of spina bifida occulta the tissues surrounding the spinal cord and nerve roots at the lower end of the cord, which is called the cauda equina, may be involved and function may be interfered with. This interference may result in progressive muscular imbalance and abnormal nervous function leading to foot deformity, paralysis and in some cases ulceration, especially of the foot and toes, and malfunction of the bladder. In these cases treatment at the correct time may either prevent damage to the spinal cord and its nerve roots or give rise to improvement or even cure in many of the cases.

The patients' condition tends to show itself in the following four ways and spina bifida occulta is present in every case.

1. External manifestations on the back in the form of abnormalities of the skin and blood vessels.
2. Orthopaedic problems—e.g. progressive club foot of one variety or another and this is usually unilateral.
3. An increasing interference with nervous function in one or both lower limbs with or without ulceration of the toes or foot.
4. Malfunction of the bladder.

The lesions of the skin and blood vessels on the back are frequently, but not by any means always, present in these cases and there may be as follows:

a) Abnormal hair on the back, in some cases resembling a horse's tail.
b) A superficial skin naevus (birthmark).
c) A dimple or dimples over the sacrum or near the mid-line higher up, amounting in some cases to a sinus (the dermal sinus). These dimples are occasionally surrounded by an area of darkly pigmented skin.
d) A fatty swelling (lipoma) in the subcutaneous tissues of the lumbosacral region which is commonly dome-shaped.

Visible skin manifestations are not present in every case but when they do occur they may be helpful in diagnosis. The dermal sinus is important since there may be a deep connection connecting with the space around the spinal cord and in these cases bacteria may gain access to the cerebrospinal fluid and cause recurrent attacks of meningitis.

These cases do require thorough investigation including a special x-ray examination which is called myelography. The treatment consists of exposure and exploration of the spinal cord and nerve roots of the cauda equina. The lesions preventing or likely to prevent movement of the spinal cord or causing pressure are removed.

New from

SQUIBB SURGICARE LIMITED

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incorporating
the ***New*** Colostomy Pouch Mk.1
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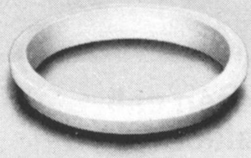

+ Special Sealing Ring

The Squibb Surgicare Colostomy Pack:
a new, easy-to-use system of colostomy management
ensuring freedom from skin problems with extra
security comfort and convenience

From the inventors of Stomahesive™

Further information is available on request from
SQUIBB SURGICARE LIMITED
Regal House Twickenham TW1 3QT

Stomahesive is the registered trade mark of E. R. Squibb and Sons Limited

Appeals and publicity

Stocking up for Christmas

We have been running down stocks of fundraising equipment in order to avoid having ball points, balloons, matches etc. with the wrong address on after we move. Also we wanted to avoid having to carry more chattels to our new address than we had to. To those of you who we have had to disappoint through being unable to meet your orders, we do apologise. We are now stocking up again and will be ready to supply goods for Christmas bazaars.

If you have ideas on what you would find useful do let me know.

... and here's a bargain

I know that most Associations use the Webb Ivory Christmas card and gift catalogue, but we do have some bargain packs of cards from previous years which we are selling at half price — 20p for twelve cards and twelve envelopes. We also enclose a leaflet showing this year's designs.

... and an offer of help

By the time you read this no doubt you will be busy with preparations for Christmas bazaars and Christmas parties. Don't forget we are here to help in any way we can.

Children call at Palace

This happy picture shows the Painting Competition prize winners at Buckingham Palace just before they went in to deliver their greeting cards.

We were disappointed that comparatively few children with spina bifida or hydrocephalus joined this competition which was one in which they could compete on equal terms with able bodied children. A suggestion has been made that we run a competition for members only next year. What do you think of this idea?

Jubilee boats bring £10,000

The Great Jubilee Boat Ra[illegible] was a great success, producing over £10,000 for our funds, and we are very grateful to all the people who so generously sponsored boats. Some of the boats have travelled as far as Normandy and we're still getting letters and cards reporting their discovery and wanting to join with us in greeting the Queen on her Jubilee.

KATE WHITE

ASBAH booklets . . . leaflets . . . posters

Your Child with Spina Bifida, by J. Lorber, MD, FRCP	20p
Your Child with Hydrocephalus, by J. Lorber, MD, FRCP	15p
The Nursery Years, by S. Haskell, MA, Ph.D, and M. E. Paull, Dip.Ph.H	15p
Children with Spina Bifida at School. Ed. P. Henderson, CB, MD, DPH	30p
The Care of an Ileal Conduit and Urinary Appliances, by E. Durham Smith, MD, MS, FRACS, FACS, and others	15p
Clothing for the Spina Bifida Child, by Barbara Webster, SRN, RSCN	15p
Aids and Equipment	60p
Information leaflets	100 for £1.30

All available from ASBAH, 30 Devonshire Street, London W1N 2EB. (Special rates available to Local Associations.) Please note that postage is extra. Allow a minimum of 9p per booklet.

Scottish Spina Bifida Association booklets.

Growing Up with Spina Bifida, by O. R. Nettles, MCSP, ONC	20p

Available from: The Scottish Spina Bifida Association, 190 Queensferry Road, Edinburgh EH4 2BW (at special rates for bulk orders).

FUND RAISING AND PUBLICITY MATERIAL

Posters

Best Foot Forward 20 × 30in. — 10p each.

Best Foot Forward 15 × 10in. — 10 for 40p.

For local publicity 15 × 10in. — 10 for 40p.

Car Stickers — 5p each.

Cards for Notice Boards — 10 for 10p.

Plastic Lapel Badges — £2.10 for 100.

All available from Appeals Dept. — postage extra. Full list on request.

Flag Day equipment from Angal, 48a Holmbush Road, London SW15 3LE. (01-788 5464).

Spina bifida badges. 25p each, postage extra (for one badge enclose SAE). Bulk orders particularly welcome. Available from: Mr K. McKenzie, Salisbury & District ASBAH, 111 East Gomeldon Road, Gomeldon, Salisbury SP4 6LZ.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

New-look *LINK* will carry small 'ads'

A new-style *LINK* is to be launched in 1978, starting with the Jan/Feb issue (more details next time).

As part of the new look we will be bringing in an entirely new arrangement for classified advertising.

In the past *LINK* has carried, free of charge, advertisements for holiday accommodation for Local Associations. It is no longer realistic to continue doing this, and so we are dropping the old-style holiday 'ads' and introducing in their place a general Classified Advertising section at a reasonable rate.

This will take in 'ads' not only for accommodation, but also for articles For Sale or Wanted, For Hire, etc. etc. Let us know what you want to advertise and we will let you know if you can!

The rate will be a minimum of £1 for up to 25 words, £2 for 25-40 words, £3 for 40-60 words. Please send remittance with your advert. Adverts for Jan/Feb issue must be in by Dec 1; ads for March/April by Feb 1, and ads for May/June by April 1, etc. The address is: LINK Advertising, ASBAH, Tavistock House North, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9HJ.

'Job creation' brings opportunity for us

North Wales Association has appointed two full-time employees to build up a team to provide regular contact and support for the members and others with spina bifida and/or hydrocephalus. This is a Job Creation Scheme project and is the result of a joint application, pioneered by Arthur Bee, past Chairman of North Wales ASBAH, with the full support of the Social Services Department of Gwynedd County Council.

Jacqui Döhl, the newly-appointed Project Organizer, and Joy Harker, Field Officer, will be assessing the needs of those with spina bifida and/or hydrocephalus and their families and trying to meet these needs with the development of local community resources and self-help schemes. An important part of this will be to tackle the problems of communication and support which affect the Association due to the geographical location of members.

It is hoped they will soon be joined by a Research/Information Officer and later by another Field Officer. The project will run until June, 1978, that is, for 12 months.

Funds from the Job Creation Scheme cover salaries for the team members and a contribution towards running expenses. The North Wales Association will meet the balance of the running expenses.

Job Creation Scheme projects can take many forms, as long as they provide useful short-term jobs of social value. Examples of schemes already in existence are:

- Library outreach to pre-school children and parents
- Riding centre for the disabled
- Adventure playgrounds for the handicapped
- Access surveys for the wheelchair-bound
- Training workshops for school leavers.

If you have any ideas for projects which would benefit your own local community and would provide support or employment for those with spina bifida and/or hydrocephalus and you would like further information or assistance, please contact me at national headquarters.

Applications for new schemes must be in by **31 December 1977**, and the Job Creation Programme will end on **31 December 1978.**

Note: The North Wales team are at present in temporary accommodation, as soon as a permanent office is found we will publish the address and telephone number.

BARBARA NEWMAN
Education, Training & Employment Officer

LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

There are over 80 local Associations all over Britain. If you would like the address of your nearest Association please refer to the last issue of *Link* (back page) or contact National Office.

Changes since last issue:

BURY AND BOLTON
Mrs . G. H. Thompson,
162 Carr Bank,
Walmersley Old Road,
Bury BL9 6SA.

BROMLEY & DISTRICT
Mrs. J. Moore,
389 Westhome Avenue,
Lee, London SE12 9AB.

A full list will appear in the next *LINK*.