

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU VERY MUCH INDEED FOR INVITING ME HERE THIS EVENING TO EXPLAIN TO YOU MORE ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE RICHARD FUND. THERE WILL BE MANY LADIES HERE THIS EVENING WHO I AM SURE HAVE NEVER HEARD OF THE RICHARD FUND AND FIRSTLY I WOULD LIKE TO EXPLAIN WHAT THE RICHARD FUND STANDS FOR- "R" IS FOR RESEARCH "I" FOR INTO "C" FOR CONGENITAL "H" HYDROCEPHALUS "A" FOR AND "R" RADICAL "D" FOR DEFORMITIES. THE RADICAL DEFORMITIES BEING SPINA-BIFIDA THIS ACTUALLY SPELLS THE WORD RICHARD. I HAVE EXPLAINED THIS IN THIS WAY AS MANY PEOPLE THINK THAT THE WORD RICHARD IS A CHILD'S NAME, AS YOU WILL NOW SEE THIS IS NOT SO. I WOULD NOW LIKE TO EXPLAIN TO YOU MORE ABOUT BOTH OF THESE ABNORMALITIES.

WE WILL TAKE HYDROCEPHALUS FIRST HYDRO MEANING WATER, CEPHALUS BRAIN. THESE CHILDREN HAVE A RATHER ENLARGED HEAD DUE TO THIS CONDITION UP TO TWELVE AND FOURTEEN YEARS AGO THESE CHILDREN COULD HAVE VERY LITTLE DONE FOR THEM BUT WITH THE PROGRESSION OF MEDICAL SCIENCE AND RESEARCH THEY ARE NOW LEADING A FAIRLY NORMAL AND FULL LIFE TO THE EXTENT THAT I WOULD SAY QUIET A LARGE MAJORITY OF THESE CHILDREN ARE ABLE TO ATTEND NORMAL SCHOOL HYDROCEPHALUS IS A BLOCKAGE OF THE SPINAL FLUID, WHICH IN A BABY CONGEALS IN THE HEAD EVENTUALLY ENLARGING THE SKULL. AS SOON AS THIS IS NOTICED THESE CHILDREN ARE OPERATED ON AND THE VALVE CALLED A SPITZ-HALTER VALVE IS INSERTED THIS ENABLING THE FLUID TO DRAIN AWAY FROM THEN ON THE BABY SHOULD DEVELOPE QUIET NORMALLY, THE HEAD SHOULD NOT ENLARGE ANY MORE EXCEPT FOR NORMAL GROWTH, SO BY THE TIME THE CHILD IS A CERTAIN AGE THE HEAD SHOULD BE IN PROPORTION WITH THE BODY HYDROCEPHALUS CAN BE CONGENITAL OR IF A CHILD IS DAMAGED THROUGH BIRTH THIS CAN ALSO CAUSE THIS COMPLAINT AND A BABY HAVING MENINGITIS AFTER BIRTH HYDROCEPHALUS CAN ALSO DEVELOPE. I FEEL I HAVE EXPLAINED TO YOU AS MUCH AS I POSSIBLY CAN REGARDING HYDROCEPHALUS.

NOW I WILL TRY TO INFORM YOU ON THE PROBLEMS CONFRONTING CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM SPINA-BIFIDA, MAJORITY OF THESE CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM THIS COMPLAINT ARE HYDROCEPHALIC ALSO, ^{80%} BUT A CHILD CAN HAVE JUST SPINA-BIFIDA OR JUST HYDROCEPHALUS. SPINA-BIFIDA IS NOTICABLE AT BIRTH AS THERE IS AN OPENING AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SPINE WHERE THE TISSUES HAVE NOT FORMED DURING PREGNANCY. IT IS MEDICAL LAW NOW THAT THESE

CHILDREN ARE OPERATED ON TO CLOSE UP THIS OPENING WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BIRTH. THIS HAS BEEN PROVED THE EARLIER THIS OPERATION IS DONE THE MORE CHANCE THE CHILD HAS OF MOVEMENT IN THE LIMBS THIS DEPENDING ON HOW MANY NERVES WERE SEVERED BEFORE THE OPERATION ONCE THE WOUND HAS BEEN CLOSED THE SPECIALISTS ARE AWARE THE HYDROCEPHALUS COULD BE PRESENT AND IMMEDIATELY THIS IS FOUND THE SPLITZ-HALTER VALVE IS INSERTED. A SPINA-BIFIDA CHILD AS A RULE HAS TO HAVE MANY AUTHOPEDIC TYPES OF OPERATIONS SUCH AS HIPS, TRANSPLATITION OF MUSCLES AND SO ON, EVENTUALLY WE HOPE THESE CHILDREN WILL BE WALKING BY THE AID OF CALLAPERS. WITH SPINA-BIFIDA THE CHILD IS QUIET OFTEN INCONTINENT AND ALSO SUFFERS BOWEL PROBLEMS. ALTHOUGH MEDICAL SCIENCE HAS PROGRESSES GREATLY IN THE WAY OF TREATING THESE CHILDREN NOT ONLY TO LEAD A FULLY AND MORE NORMAL LIFE BUT TO FIT IN WITH THE REST OF THE COMMUNITY. HOWEVER THERE ARE GREAT PROBLEMS CONFRONTING THE SURGEONS SUCH AS (1) HYDROCEPHALUS - THE BLOCKAGE OF THE VALVE AND INFECTION GETTING IN THE VALVE. (2) SPINA -BIFIDA- INFECTION OF URINE ALSO BACK PRESSURE ON THE KIDNEYS.

THIS IS WHERE LADIES I WOULD LIKE TO SAY WHAT WE THE RICHARD FUND ARE DOING TO HELP THE DOCTERS AND SURGEONS BY OBTAINING FUNDS ENABLING THEM TO GET THE EQUIPMENT WHICH IS NEEDED, FOR THESE CHILDREN ~~WHICH CANNOT BE ACQUIRED UNDER THE NATIONAL HEALTH.~~

THE RICHARD FUND WAS STARTED ¹⁹⁶⁴ 4½ YRS AGO BY MY HUSBAND AND I AND SEVERAL DOCTORS & SURGEONS IN SHEFFIELD, SHEFFIELD BEING THE MAIN CENTRE IN THIS COUNTRY FOR TREATING THESE CHILDREN. IN THE VERY EARLY DAYS OF THE RICHARD FUND STARTING IT WAS AN UPHILL CLIMB.

AS I HAVE ALREADY INFORMED YOU THAT THE VALVE OPERATION WAS THEN A VERY RECENT THING AND NOT KNOWN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC. ABOUT 6 MONTHS AFTER THE RICHARD FUND HAD STARTED A NATIONAL PARENTS SOCIATION WAS FORMED OF WHICH I AM A FOUNDED MEMBER. WE WERE VERY FORTUNATE THAT THROUGH THE SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITY SIR ISSAC WOLFSON FOUNDATION DONATED £50,000 FOR THE BUILDING OF THE RESERCH UNIT, WHICH IS SITUATED AT THORNBURY ANNEXE PART OF THE CHILDREN HOSPITAL SHEFFIELD.

IT IS THE AIM OF THE RICHARD FUND TO EQUIP THIS BUILDING WITH THE EQUIPEMENT NEEDED FOR THESE CHILDREN. WE HAVE ALREADY OBTAINED AN ULTRA-SONIC ECHO GRAPH MACHINE WHICH IS NOW BEING USED AND SAVES MUCH SUFFERING AS THIS IS TO TEST EXACTLY WHERE THE FLUID SURROUNDING THE BRAIN IS LAYING ON A HYDROCEPHALIC CHILD, ALSO ANOTHER INSTRUMENT WAS OBTAINED TO HELP IN THE STUDY OF FINE NERVES LEADING TO THE BLADDER WE IN LEICESTER RAISE ON A AVERAGE OF £500 PER YEAR BY VARIOUS FUNCTIONS SUCH AS RUBBAGE SALE, ANNUAL TOMBOLLAR & DANCE, A ANNUAL GOLF COMPETITION, A BRING & BUY SUMMER FUNCTION & THE ANNUAL END OF YEAR SALE OF WORK WHICH IS BEING HELD THIS YEAR ON NOVEMBER 7th AT MY HOME ADDRESS. IF ANY LADIES WOULD LIKE TO COME TO THIS FUNCTION WE WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO SEE YOU ON THAT OCCASSION I SHALL LEAVE A FEW CARDS WITH MRS. CORDERY WHICH HAVE FULL DETAILS REGARDING THIS FUNCTION. I FEEL I HAVE KEPT YOU QUIET LONG ENOUGH BUT HOPE YOU HAVE GAINED SOME KNOWLEDGE FROM MY TALK ON SPINA-BIFIDA & HYDROCEPHALUS.

- (1) Medical research assistant working with Dr. Lorbet.
- (2) a part time nurse
- (3) a junior Laboratory Technician working on Spinal cords
- (4) an electronics Technician assisting in research work on the recording of nerve & muscle activity
- (5) Two part time secretaries working for medical team (not on fund work)

Born throughout

2 in every 1,000 200 cases in Sheffield
treated

meningitis 20%

12 born in Leicester
each year

sure for help to
unit

Mrs. Ireland

37 Valley R^d

X Distack

Sci. Leicester

Mrs. Oates

60 Grove R^d

Leic

Mrs. Draper

36 Grosvenor R^d

Barton Seagrave

Kettering

Mrs Pounder

203 Leicester R^d

Narborough

Mrs. Burniston

15 Castleton R^d

Wigston Fields

22^o

Down Bros.

- Wholesalers.

Mayer & Phelps. Micham in Surrey.

Ladies
Sciⁿ. 17 Club.

Mrs. M. Smith

14, Alfriston Close

Burbage

Henchley.

Lennett

bag on the end
of penes

Mrs. Pate Thursday 29/13