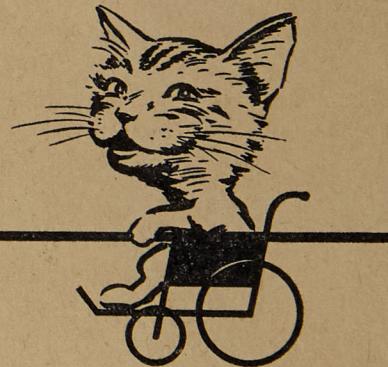


The Cheshire Smile



VOLUME 3

NUMBER 4

DECEMBER, 1957

THE CHESHIRE FOUNDATION HOMES

Headquarters—

7 MARKET MEWS,
LONDON, W.1.
(Tel. Grosvenor 2665)

Secretary : Miss M. S. Mason

“ THE CHESHIRE SMILE ”

Editorial Office—

LE COURT,
LISS, HANTS.
(Tel. Blackmoor 229)

Contributions to “The Cheshire Smile” are invited from all readers, and should reach the Editor by the first of the month preceding that of publication. Opinions put forward in individual articles do not necessarily represent the official view of the Cheshire Foundation Trust, but it is our aim to encourage free expression of ideas.

This magazine is managed and produced mainly by patients in the Cheshire Homes. The stencils are cut by Ellams Duplicator Co. Ltd., Portsmouth and the covers supplied by C. Mills & Co. of Alton. The cover was designed by J. L. Spath of Rodney Creative Ltd., London.

THE CHESHIRE SMILE

The Quarterly Magazine of the Cheshire Foundation Homes
(Founded by Group Capt. G. L. Cheshire, V.C.)

Vol. 3 No. 4

December 1957

Foreword, Outward Bound.....	2
Liverpool Blazes a Trail.....	3
Hovenden House Give them hope for life, not despair. Impression of Opening Day at Hovenden, by C. W. Hampshire.....	4
The Cocktail, a poem by Miss O. Trewick.....	5
Staunton Harold Fete.....	6
Education in the Art of Living with Disability by Dr. F. S. Cooksey.....	7
Stumbling-block or stepping-stone? by Violet Ginever.....	10
Holidays for the Disabled, Gorleston Holiday Camp by Louis Battye.....	12
Building the Home at Singapore by Kathleen Hickley.....	13
Official News of the Homes.....	14
Home Gossip.....	21

Owing to delays, it has not been possible to publish this issue until after Christmas. With the March number, however, "The Cheshire Smile" will appear in print, and so the rate of production will be speeded up a great deal.

FOREWORD

OUTWARD BOUND

Why does Group Captain Cheshire spend so much of his time outside England? Many of us have asked this question since he went to India for the first time in 1955; and considering that he seems to bring new Homes into existence at the rate of one a month when he does come home, it is a legitimate question.

The best way to answer it is by telling a little story. I remember being introduced by the Group Captain, in May 1956, to the late Mr. Ravenshear, who helped the Foundation so much, at St. Bridget's, then Staunton Harold (it was largely through his generosity that the latter house was secured for us!), and afterwards became a Trustee. On first meeting G.C. he had come straight to the point, like the good business man he was, and asked the question -

"Why have you left your English Homes to themselves while you disappear into distant lands?"

The answer was equally direct. G.C. simply said that, as he understood it, England's contribution to the progress of the world had always been to pass on to other nations the ideas which had taken shape for the first time in our own island - parliamentary democracy, industrialisation, the independence of the Judiciary from the Executive in Government. The list is surprisingly long and includes tennis, golf and association football.

He had acted on this policy in his own mission, and the fruits of it were beginning to come to England in the shape of ideas and of people. This summer there have been several visitors to the English Homes from India and Malaya. Next year there will be more. Soon there will be an International Headquarters. Inevitably Africa will, sooner or later, have its Cheshire Homes. This kind of bond between East and West is stronger than any of the others woven by business men or politicians. It hardly needs to be pointed out that the biggest problem of the second half of the 20th century will be the relationship between the East and the West.

In the East red is the colour of joy and happiness. Singapore first thought of the red feather, so much more effective than any paper flag. Now the red feather has come to England; Market Mews, the new Headquarters of the Foundation, is so full of red feathers that Margot Mason the Secretary can hardly find a place for her bed. You see, ideas and people interchanged, leading to friendship and understanding.

This article is being written on a French ship crossing the Atlantic. I am amazed at how many people on board know about the Cheshire Homes. By the time this appears in the *Cheshire Smile*, two members of the family, Mia ffrench-Mullen and Diana Collins, will have left England for Canada. They, too, are outward bound.

Before me is a letter from the Founder written in September on an aircraft flying between Delhi and Calcutta. The last words are :-

"The world needs a bit of determined action if it is to keep on an even keel, and this is a real contribution that we can all make in this direction. There's no doubt that we have worked out, through the Grace of God, the formula and all that is required now is to apply and spread it. But it needs a good deal of determination to overcome that initial inertia."

A home in every county in Great Britain need not be incompatible with Homes in every country of the world.

W.W.R.

LIVERPOOL BLAZES A TRAIL

Students "Panto" for the Cheshire Homes

The Cheshire Homes in general have very good reason for rejoicing in the practice which the students of Liverpool University have of holding an annual "Panto", i.e. a collection on behalf of a specific charity organised in the streets of the city on a day in January. This year the charity selected by the promoters, without any dissentient voice, was the Cheshire Homes.

The result of their efforts was produced on October 10th, when the "Panto" committee entertained Professor and Mrs. Cheshire to dinner, and afterwards, in the presence of the press, handed them a cheque for £4,625.

Quite apart from the magnitude of the sum, the extreme value of the gift, which reflects infinite planning and administrative work, is that it is made to the trustees of the Foundation, to be used for the benefit of the Homes generally. It is not sufficiently appreciated, even by many of our friends, that the governing body of the entire Foundation, with its Headquarters in London, is perennially short of money. You see, it is a remote and seemingly impersonal body: it doesn't attract any local patriotism, or excite anything like the same enthusiasm that the individual Homes do in their respective areas.

Yet it fulfils a vital function. Acting as the co-ordinating mind of the whole, it relieves the various management committees of much irksome work. But quite as important, it is naturally expected to make grants or loans to the various Homes that are in need of financial assistance, especially, of course, those in the early stages of development. These calls on the purse are, at the moment, causing something of a headache at London headquarters.

With the magnificent gesture from Liverpool perhaps things will change. It is certainly a gesture for which we feel profoundly and humbly grateful. Thank you very much, Liverpool! We must all hope that others will follow the trail you have so effectively blazed. "What Lancashire thinks today....."

SEE THAT BIT IN THE PAPER?

If you did notice in your local paper an article, or even a short note, with some news of the Cheshire Homes, perhaps you would be so kind as to cut it out and send it to the Editor. We are anxious to receive press cuttings from all quarters.

THE COPPER'S DOWNFALL

In the Swordfish Inn, Newlyn, Cornwall, a pile of pennies was started on the bar counter last Christmas. By August, it had grown into a tower that reached to the ceiling. Then one day, a ginger-haired man wearing an outsize red suit with a green waistcoat and an enormous pair of boots, came in and with a flourish knocked the whole pile down. It was Coco, the famous clown from Bertram Mills' Circus, which was visiting Penzance. He had been invited to bring the money-raising effort to its downfall. Some £24 was divided between St. Teresa's and the Plymouth Home for Spastic Children.

GIVE THEM HOPE FOR LIFE - NOT DESPAIR

(Parts of the following are reprinted by permission from the "Boston Guardian")

Let them know that the desire and intention of the staff of Hovenden House, Fleet, near Spalding, Lincolnshire, which opened in July 1957 and became the first Cheshire Home in Lincolnshire, is to serve the patients - to let them realise they are wanted in the world. There are now six patients in residence and the house is fast becoming a home - a real home and the patients are part of it.

At the present time the staffing is nearly adequate - there is a Matron, Mrs D. Hampshire, a part-time nursing assistant and a nursing orderly, with a part-time cook and two part-time cleaners. Naturally when the full complement of 30 patients is reached this staff will have to be increased, but that will not come until a lift has been installed: this is of paramount importance as until then the two upper floors are virtually useless.

Whilst the installation of the lift will of course involve certain structural alterations, numerous others are also necessary and can only be appreciated by those who are physically handicapped themselves - What fit man would think of re-hanging doors so that they swing to the wall, or remove door knobs that cannot be gripped by a person suffering from multiple sclerosis? or have light switches lowered in order that they may be operated by those in a wheel chair?.... or widen doorways so that a wheel chair may easily pass through. It is also necessary to move baths from the wall and convert them into "island" baths where nurses may handle heavy patients with ease. Toilets have to be altered, guide rails fitted about the house, and above all an electrical signal system installed so that patients may use it if they are in distress.

The selection of patients is made by the Honorary Physician, Dr. J. C. A. Hunter and the Matron. Provided patients are passed as suitable by these two, priority will always be given to those from Lincolnshire. Selection is not governed by circumstance, denomination or war service, in fact, by nothing except the one stipulation - that the patient must be permanently disabled and cannot benefit by hospitalisation, and for one reason or another is not catered for elsewhere.

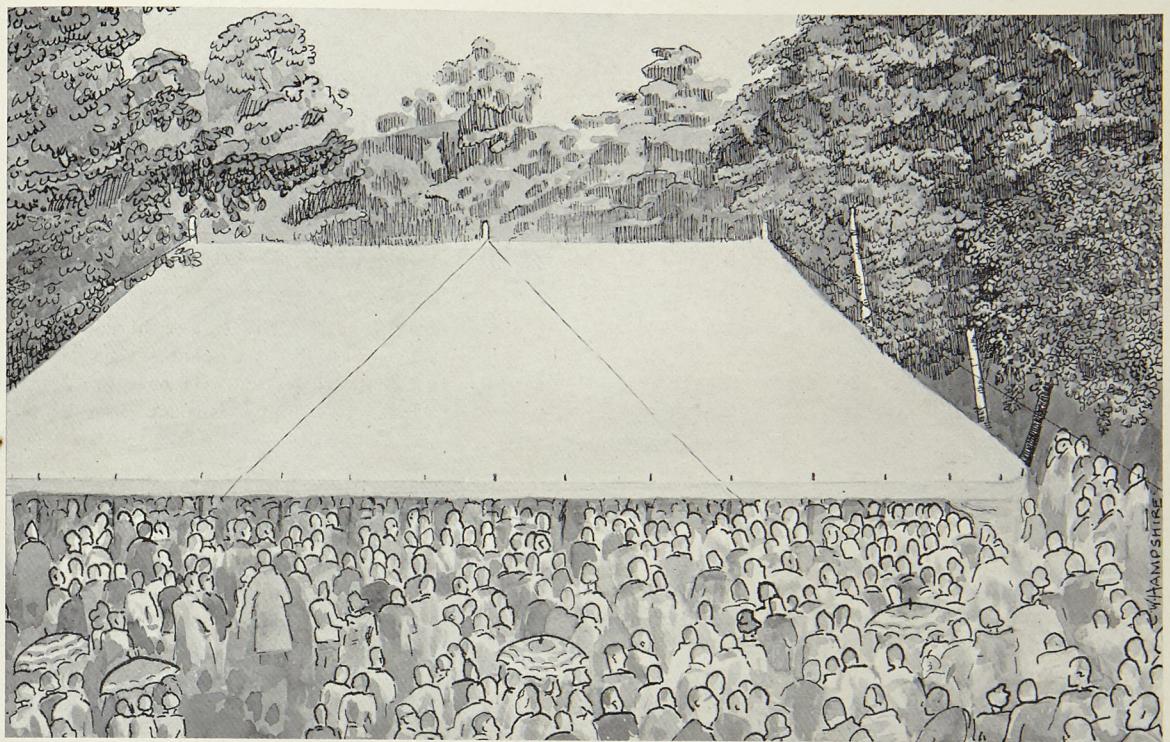
The first patients at Hovenden were of varying ages, temperaments and backgrounds, but they all mix happily together. To instance a few:

CECIL is comparatively young; for him Hovenden has brought new life and freedom. Previously he had been in bed most of the time now he gaily speeds around the large gardens in his self-propelled wheel chair. Gone is the stuffy morbid atmosphere - now he is free to do as he pleases, and go where he wishes.

ARTHUR is not so fortunate his chair has to be pushed, but again the space, the presence of nature and the happy home sense have improved him. He looks better and is gaining weight, (he is teased about his double chin). He is a radio and television fan, and extremely keen on all sport.

JOAN is a young woman who likes to help around the house so far as she is able. She, too, gets enjoyment from life at Hovenden Yes, Joan has found security here.

HELEN, a single woman at the end of the middle-age group, has had a stroke, but she lives happily at Hovenden where she is more able to cope than with the outside world. Good music and painting are her hobbies. Her water colour studies



An impression of the Opening by the Rt. Hon. Lord Denning, P.C. of Hovenden House, Fleet, Lincolnshire, as a Cheshire Foundation Home, July 13th 1957.

of the garden have to be seen to be believed it is difficult to realise that such good work is done left-handed - her right is seriously affected.

MARGARET "and the BEST OF LUCK" this is her favourite expression, and she means it too. She looks forward to the day when she can help in the house; at present she makes a fine show of walking by pushing around her own empty wheel chair. With the courage she shows we can only say ..."And the VERY BEST OF LUCK, Margaret". On Saturday, October 12th, it was Margaret's birthday so we all "went to town".... Matron decided Margaret should have a birthday party ... the whole staff entered into the spirit of the affair, supporters of the Home were present and of course Margaret's relatives and friends, representatives of the press, complete with photographer (nearly 40 people all told). Yes, it was a grand party.

We must not forget Mr. Hampshire, the husband of the Matron - he walks with a stick - the result of an argument with a 'doodle-bug'. As he was associated with Fleet Street for many years, the Management Committee have appointed him honorary Press Officer. Incidentally, he drew the impression of the crowd at the opening ceremony which you see on the inset.

A COCKTAIL

There's a strangely tempting cocktail,
The headiest I know;
Yet, my friend, it is the cheapest
As this recipe will show.
First you need the sense of peace
Found in a mother's eyes -
Or in the gaze of two young loves,
Standing under sunset skies.
To this calm add the gentle whisper
Of the lightest twilight breeze
As it murmurs of approaching night,
Hardly stirs the dark'ning trees.
For the spices add the yearnings
And dreams within your soul -
Now toss this velvet mixture
In the Night's cool, cyrstal bowl.
Top with a twinkling of stars -
A young moon's sweet content:
Drink deep, my friend, you'll find this draught
Has a bouquet Heaven - sent.

Miss O. Trewick

STAUNTON HAROLD FETE

All organisers of Fêtes hope that their's will be a Fête with a difference. Staunton certainly tries to make it so, and each year our Fête becomes an ever-bigger combined operation. The 1957 show was the biggest so far; and perhaps the most important, being arranged for Group Captain Cheshire's birthday, Saturday 7th September. The newspapers in all the neighbouring towns gave it fair coverage.

Attendance approached the 6,500 mark (the highest yet) and the gross takings amounted to £3,100 (another record). The net profits (the third year) were £2,200, much to the relief of the treasurer. Even the weather played its part - after a dull and rainy morning.

Lord Kilmuir, the Lord Chancellor, had promised to open the Fête, but he was instructed at the last moment to go to an important Far East conference, and Lady Barnett, the well-known T.V. star, performed the ceremony. She was introduced by the Marquis of Lothian of nearby Melbourne Hall. A telegram from Group Captain Cheshire was read, "I am with you in spirit."

"Why is this Fête always a success?" asked the Illustrated Leicester Chronicle. "A glance at this year's programme supplies the answer - which is, that the Fête always has Personality and Originality". We had a rare blend of attractions to offer.

Visitors saw a mannequin display of some new lingerie fashions that had not yet reached the shops. Contact had been made with a firm of underwear fashion stylists, who have permission to show numbers from its autumn and winter ranges. Of course, it was something of a gamble, but it attracted considerable attention and proved most successful with both sexes!

There were also displays by 42 Ukrainian singers and dancers in national costume, and an exhibition by a ju-jitsu team. The foreign communities in the country are thus helping to bring new life to English Fêtes.

The ancient craft of roasting a whole ox on a spit was demonstrated by Mr. G. F. Tyler of Stratford-on-Avon. Our letter addressed to "The Champion Ox-Roaster of All-England, Stratford-on-Avon" reached him without delay. The ox, by the way, was presented by an anonymous donor. And the first slice, which was put on a 100 year old plate, was auctioned for £50.

There were white elephant stalls for mothers; rides and balloon races for children; and a licenced bar for fathers. And to finish with a fireworks display by the lake.

But the week of money-raising activities had started off with a grand ball under the patronage of the Dowager Countess Ferrers. The guests, as they danced until 3 a.m., experienced something of what it was like to attend a prewar ball in one of the stately homes of England.

*"Death comes only to the immature:
The mature go to their death."*

EDUCATION IN THE ART OF LIVING WITH DISABILITY

by F. S. Cocksey, O.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P.

Director, Department of Physical Medicine, King's College Hosp. London

The art of living with disability has to be learnt not only by disabled people; but, also, by everyone associated with them.....

In Nature the instinct is to discard or destroy disabled creatures when they become a burden to the herd. This applied, also, to the primitive human races; but with civilisation there came charity for the disabled in the form of alms and institutions to shelter them from the hardships of life in the community.....

The present generation is evolving a fundamental change in the attitude of the community to its disabled members. It is now recognised that the cardinal need of disabled people is to be helped to become independent members of the community rather than to be given alms and sheltered from it. Thus the modern concept of charity is to help the disabled to help themselves rather than to relieve them of the necessity of doing so.....

The first need of disabled people is to be given an explanation of the nature of their disabilities and the means of overcoming or minimising the effects. This explanation should come from the doctors responsible for the treatment of disabling illness. Unfortunately, too often, a timely explanation is not forthcoming and there are various reasons for it.

Permanent disability cannot always be foreseen early in illness. In many potential disabling disorders, there may be reasons to hope for a favourable response to treatment. Even when doctors know the outlook is poor they tend to withhold the fact from patients and relatives until a period of observation and treatment has convinced them of the correctness of their views.....

It is not uncommon to find that patients with unstable disorders, such as rheumatoid arthritis, or progressive diseases, like disseminated sclerosis, have been given no explanation of the nature of their disabilities and expect full recovery if they persevere with the treatment of various specialists, all of whom have assumed that others have put the patients wise to their problems. Other patients gradually learn of the unfavourable outlook from public literature and such information as they can extract from para-medical personnel; but they seldom obtain a realistic appreciation of the position in this way.

Intelligent patients are usually relieved to be acquainted with the true facts and will then willingly accept advice on how to live with their disabilities. However, the power of adjustment varies in different individuals. The disorder may affect the brain and impair the ability to accept and overcome disability. Again, patients of unstable personality may be unable to surmount major handicaps. Nevertheless, nothing is lost by trying to get patients to understand and overcome their difficulties. In general, the sooner this is attempted the better it is for morale and the prospects of success.

The instinct of families is to protect and wait upon disabled members. This is beneficial in acute illness; but, as soon as they are convalescent, patients and their relatives should be taught the importance of overcoming disability even though it may not prove to be permanent. Subject to being fit to make the effort, the sooner patients try to regain independence the easier it is to do so.

(Extracts from a paper read at the Seventh World Congress, International Society for the Welfare of Cripples, London, July 1957, and reproduced by kind permission of the Congress Committee. The full volume of Proceedings of the Congress will be ready shortly and may be ordered, price 1 guinea, from the Congress office, 34 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.)

It is, of course, usually easier and quicker for relatives to help disabled people with the personal activities of daily living such as toilet, feeding and moving about than to help them to help themselves. Nevertheless the longer they help, the more dependent the disabled become upon them and the harder it is when relatives tire of the burden. Therefore, it is much kinder in the long run to train relatives to encourage independence as early as possible. Unfortunately they will not always accept advice. Too often over-protective relatives condemn weak-willed disabled people to unnecessary and permanent dependence upon them.

What has been said about the importance of encouraging early independence in the homes applies even more in the hospital wards where the treatment of the more seriously disabled illnesses usually commences. It is of great importance that doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, and social workers should recognise the opportune moment when they should cease to do things for patients and encourage them to help themselves. However, training in self-help is time consuming for both staff and patients. When the pressure of work is heavy, as it usually is, there is a constant temptation to postpone initiating the first step in rehabilitation.

In recent years it has been clearly demonstrated that by means of simple appliances and mainly inexpensive adaptations in the home and factory, together with motorised invalid carriages, most disabled patients can regain their independence. Even the most severely handicapped can make substantial improvement. This is not only of the greatest benefit to the disabled but it also reduces the burden on their attendants in the hospitals, institutions for the chronically sick, or their homes. Yet there is still widespread ignorance amongst doctors, para-medical personnel and the public about what can be done in this respect. Looking back on the evolution of the services for the rehabilitation of the disabled, it is paradoxical that so much attention has been given to the final stage of resettlement in work and so little to the first step, namely, the restoration of independence in the personal activities of daily living.

Most employers are sympathetic towards disabled people and especially towards those who have been in their own employ. Nevertheless, in the main, they seem to prefer to contribute towards disability pensions and institutions for the disabled rather than to try to find a place for them in their own businesses. This attitude probably stems from the fact that experienced industrialists know that it is false economy to patch up defective machinery and that, in the long run, it pays to replace it in good time. It is not unreasonable that employers should apply the same principle to disabled employees, believing that it is more efficient to discharge them and contribute, often generously, to their support rather than to try retain them in business.

There is a good deal of trade union and public support for this attitude, firstly, from misguided sympathy and desire to support the disabled, and, secondly, from the fear that the efficiency of the able bodied may be impaired if disabled people are included in production teams. However, the essence of the modern approach to rehabilitation is that the disabled should be given the opportunity of continuing to work in industry so long as they are capable of doing so and even though their contribution falls as low as 40% of full efficiency. However, if this policy is to be adopted it must be widely accepted, so that the burden is spread evenly throughout industry. When it is put to them most employers appreciate that it is more humane to try to retain the disabled in industry, even though it may seem more efficient to pension them off, and they will collaborate if their competitors do likewise.

It is one thing to employ people with stable disabilities and quite another to try to accommodate those suffering with unstable and progressive disorders. Most of the pioneer work in the employment of the disabled has been in connection with those permanently disabled by injuries

received in industry or warfare. The current and numerically much larger problem is the employment of those with unstable disabilities. It seems clear that if the modern concept of helping all the disabled to be self-supporting within the community for as long as possible is to be fulfilled two things are essential.

Firstly, all employers must accept the principle that it is more humane to find work for the disabled at some cost and inconvenience than to contribute to charity. Secondly, the community at large must recognise that there is a limit to which competitive industry can go and that the state must provide subsidised workshops for those who are too disabled for employment in open industry.

It is a matter of satisfaction that, in general, the public at large have learnt to accept disabled people in their midst. No longer are they objects for exclamation, aversion or blatant sympathy. Even so, there is much public ignorance of the nature of disability and what can be done to overcome it..... The public has an inherent interest in all matters appertaining to health and sickness. In recent years the press, radio, television and cinema have contributed to public interest and understanding of the needs of disabled people. These are probably the most efficient means of spreading information providing that there is some central co-ordination to ensure that all important aspects are covered.

(Editor: We publish the above as part of our policy to put the Cheshire Homes in the context of the wider problem of the care of the disabled. Their welfare, like that of other less privileged members of society, old people, the poor, etc should be primarily directed to improving the conditions that are the root cause of their disablement and lack of privilege. Thus we echo the plea in the above article that the world take its disabled members under its wing and care for them as a good mother cares for her sick children. For that will help the world to become a better place to live in. Let the handicapped be, as far as possible, enabled to live in the world rather than in sheltered institutions. Yes, but sheltered institutions, like the Cheshire Homes, are a necessary expedient in the present social set up - and for many, many years to come. More about this in future issues.)

"If a man will begin with certainties, he shall end in doubts:
but if he will be content to begin with doubts, he shall end in
certainties."

FRANCIS BACON

STUMBLING-BLOCK OR STEPPING-STONE
By Violet Ginever

(Reprinted by permission from "For Health and Healing" the magazine of the Guild of Health)

The worst of going to hospitals was not knowing how long one would be kept there. Mrs. Conway had been in three weeks and seemed no nearer to getting home to all the things waiting to be done for her husband and the children. Not that she was much use for any of it just now, paralysed from the waist down. She stared gloomily at the screens round her bed. She had been examined again that afternoon and was utterly exhausted. Sister had let her keep the screens; no need to talk to people then. Her own doctor was coming presently. Perhaps he could tell her what was wrong with her and when she was likely to be well again.

"They never tell you anything in hospital," she complained when he came and they talked a little while. "Why not? Any reasonable person wants to know the truth. I know I do." The doctor thought before he answered. "The truth as we see it may not be the whole truth, in which case telling you serves no good purpose." "I know all that," replied Mrs. Conway, "but its nice to know what chance there is of recovery."

The doctor lifted his hands in a helpless gesture. "Mrs. Conway, he said gravely, "I would give all I have to be able to make you walk again." He paused and looked out of the window. "I think I must add this. A blow like this can be taken in two ways. It can be the end, or a new beginning - a stumbling-block or a stepping-stone I know you fairly well and I believe yours will be the latter."

So that was the truth there was no cure for her; she would never walk again.

She didn't notice when the doctor left her she was so completely gripped by the shock. She had asked for the truth, she must not cry or revel, but it was unexpected. She had never imagined her condition to be incurable. It changed everything. What point was there now in going home? A useless burden on her family! Everything seemed to lose its lustre and became drab, colourless, trivial. There was an increase of symptoms as though the disease was now intent on marching forward to its inevitable conclusion.

"What is the use of fighting against it anymore?" she said to one of the nurses. "What good shall I ever be with no power in my legs and back. Never to be able to stand up."

"There are lots of things left to you," the nurse replied. "Your hands and your brain, your eyes and ears."

"How is the stepping-stone?" asked the doctor on his next visit. His patient had not really thought about it. "We must make plans for your future," he went on. "They won't be able to keep you here much longer. There are two alternatives - an institution of some kind, or your own home. I believe you could do that with a cook-housekeeper."

A cook-housekeeper! one might as well ask for the moon. How could they ever afford such a luxury!

"We shall see don't worry."

Mrs. Conway did not worry, but she found herself doing some serious thinking in the next few days. She went over in her mind the bit about the stepping-stone and what the nurse said about having a lot of things still left to her. Then one day a snatch of conversation came to her across

the ward.... "Yes, we must be thankful for small mercies." It all fitted somehow. Instead of blaming God for letting this disability fall on her she should be praising Him that it was no worse, and that so much had been left to her. That was what the doctor perhaps meant about the stepping stone. Not to let it weigh you down but to rise above it.

So Mrs. Conway began to take stock of her assets and to praise God for them. There was plenty she could do with her hands, especially if she could sit in a wheel chair; handicrafts, the mending and knitting for the family, writing, typing - renumerative things, too, which would pay for the housekeeper. Her mind was clear, too, thank God, so perhaps she could compose again. She could see and hear too - all good gifts which she would prize to the full from now on.

This new outlook did not come all at once, but little by little, until one day there was a moment when she recognized that all she still had she owed to God, her gratitude could best be expressed by giving it all back to be used in His service, however He directed.

"Take my hands and use them," she said, "and my mind and my eyes and ears. Do with them as you will. I am yours."

She was at peace then. The disease threatened to spread, but now she had made the complete surrender it held no terrors. There came a joy to her she had not known before.

And then one day she found herself moving one foot in bed. Quietly, without fuss, she assessed her discovery. The healing had begun - unbelievably, unlooked-for. She realised that since that surrender a new power was surging through her. It came upon her like waves and she was left exhilarated and strengthened. Soon there was no doubt that the feeling and movement were coming back to her little by little.

When the doctor called she startled him by saying, "I want to go home as soon as possible."

"Of course we must get you used to sitting out in a chair first."

"I shan't need a chair for long - look," and Mrs. Conway drew up her knees under the bed clothes, a movement she had been incapable of making until the last few days.

The doctor was startled more than ever.

"I can't believe it!" he exclaimed. "What have they been doing to you?

"Nothing!" Mrs. Conway told him the simple and astounding facts.

His reply to that was cautious. Obviously he did not expect the improvement to last.... Actually it did last, and within three months Mrs. Conway was at home and living a normal life.

"I distempered the kitchen last week" she said when she went to her doctor for a check-up.

"Marvellous. Don't overdo it." The doctor made a careful examination. "You've made a perfect recovery," he said afterwards. "I can't tell you what it means to see disease wiped out of a human body by the direct power of God. I've always believed it possible, but it's never come my way to see it until now."

Mrs. Conway explained as well as she was able about the power surging through her when she had given up all her personal wishes and given thanks for the benefits still remaining to her.

"That would seem then to be the first essential, unconditional abandonment to the working of the Holy Spirit. It doesn't sound difficult."

"After the first effort it isn't. You see, a stepping-stone is always easier to deal with than a stumbling-block."

The doctor smiled. "I had forgotten that conversation."

"I haven't. It contained a great deal of truth. I shall always remember it."

HOLIDAYS FOR THE DISABLED
— Gorleston Holiday Camp —
by Louis Battye (a patient at White Windows)

One of the problems which beset handicapped people is that of holidays. For many the ordinary small hotel or boarding house is impracticable because of steps and other difficulties, so that they are condemned to spend their lives, year in, year out, without any possibility of a change or a breath of fresh sea air. An attempt to deal with this problem is being made by the Norfolk Association for the Care of the Handicapped who run an annual camp for the disabled at Gorleston-on-Sea, near Great Yarmouth. Last September I spent a week at this camp, and a few words about it may be of interest to readers.

For the rest of the season the Gorleston Super Holiday Camp is an ordinary commercial venture, but for a fortnight in September it is taken over by the N.A.C.H. especially for the benefit of handicapped people. It lies about a quarter of a mile from the sea in extensive grounds with lawns and gardens, tennis courts, bowling greens, etc. Accommodation is in chalets for two or more people, and in the main camp building there is a large dining room, ballroom and many other facilities. Besides the normal camp staff, there are also nurses, Red Cross workers, the St. John Ambulance Brigade and other kindly and efficient volunteers in attendance.

Every effort is made to provide a happy holiday for all, and a full programme of entertainment, including concerts, coach rides, games and visits to shows, is laid on by Mr. A. K. Golosworthy - the irrepressible "Goldie" - who also acts as licensed jester. In the camp shop light refreshments, sweets, cigarettes and gifts can be bought. There is also the Elmhurst Club in the grounds, of which all campers automatically become members, where liquid refreshment of a stronger nature may be enjoyed amid pleasant and sociable surroundings.

Holidays are for a week only, so that two lots can be accommodated, and in 1957 the charge was £5. 10. 0 per adult. Campers can either book privately, as I did, or go in parties - there was a party there from Le Court. A medical certificate must be obtained and submitted before anyone is accepted for the camp. Helplessness is no bar to acceptance, but with such cases it is strongly advised that they be accompanied by relatives or friends. Wheelchairs are not provided, but certain other articles are. All requirements should be stated on the final application forms.

The Camp Committee began work in January, so anyone who wishes to take this splendid opportunity should apply as early in the year as possible, for accommodation at the camp is limited. In 1957 preliminary application forms had to be in by 1st. March, and final forms and medical certificates by 15th. June. Full details may be obtained by writing to: The Hon. Camp Secretary, Norfolk Association for the Care of the Handicapped, 29 Thorpe Road, Norwich.

Of course this scheme only scratches at the surface of the problem; the camp can only accommodate a tiny fraction of the full number of disabled people in the country who would benefit from such a holiday. But the N.A.C.H. and the owners of the Gorleston Super Holiday Camp have given a lead; what is wanted now is for other similar organisations and Holiday Camps to take up the idea, so that in time there will be a great chain of these camps all round the coast. Dr. Ivy Green, the chairman of the N.A.C.H., told me that she considers there is not enough co-operation between the various regional and other organisations for helping the disabled, with which I entirely agree. These camps have now been held for five years, yet how many disabled people throughout the country have heard of them? Not many, I know.

That is why I have written this article, to spread the news of a splendid idea. The N.A.C.H. and their annual camp deserve all the publicity they can get.

BUILDING THE HOME AT SINGAPORE

by Kathleen Hickley

(Reprinted from *The Sunday Times (Singapore)* of 8th September 1957)

Remember the fairy godmother who waved a magic wand and turned an old pumpkin into a golden coach in the twinkling of an eye? I was reminded of this story the other day, when I saw the amazing work that has been accomplished on the Cheshire Homes site at Tanah Merah, Singapore.

I few weeks ago, a party of airmen from Seletar began work on a couple of dilapidated, old gun emplacements which were almost covered by secondary jungle. Today, three trim buildings stand in the place of these gaunt derelicts, buildings which will soon be ready for the first patients.

These patients will be old and sick Malayans who have been living a weary, hand to mouth existence for many years; lonely people who have often wondered why they should keep on struggling against such great odds. In these houses they will find a real home, where they will receive nourishing food and loving care. They will find happiness and companionship again, and a purpose in living.

This has been made possible by people of all races in Singapore, many of whom have given up their spare time to go and dig in the tropical sun during the weekends. The Apex Club of Katong has done splendid work up there every Sunday, and airmen from Changi are now joining the Seletar boys in this hard manual task.

Then there was Johnny, the American sailor who arrived here on his ship, the *Steel Dictator* one Sunday morning. Like most sailors, one of his first questions was: "What is there to see around this place? I've only got a day here." The conversation came round to the Cheshire Homes site and the work that was being done there. When Johnny heard about this, he decided he'd skip the sightseeing this trip and take a turn with the rest. Well, Johnny may not have seen much of the island, but he left a very warm feeling behind when he returned to his ship that night. "I'll be seeing you next time we visit," he promised. "Hope you get everything you want."

One great want is a matron to take charge of the patients. Mrs. Joyce Jervis, the joint honorary secretary, explained to me that there is very little money to spare at the moment; therefore they cannot afford a high salary, but she believes someone will come along to fill the need, for this has happened so many times since the project was first begun.

This did not surprise me a bit; in fact, it is in the best traditions of the Cheshire Homes all over the world. Group Captain Cheshire found the same thing when he began helping people in England. Sometimes it seemed that things were really desperate. No money in the bank and no prospects of any. Somehow, the money always turned up, and offers of help arrived very often at the last moment.

"People have been wonderful," said Mrs. Jervis. "The original plan was to take in ten patients, but we have now extended this to forty."

"Love and scandal are the best sweeteners of tea."

HENRY FIELDING

OFFICIAL NEWS

Latest reports about the Cheshire Homes

ST. TERESA'S, LONG ROCK, PENZANCE

St. Teresa's, like everyone else, is suffering from the continual spiral in the cost of living. So, incredible as it may seem, all the money-raising efforts of the year will have the effect of only reducing our capital debt by a very small proportion. The rest of the cash has gone in maintenance. Hopes earlier this year that we would be able to bring our bank overdraft down to a negligible sum have been considerably reduced, if not entirely shattered.

The annual appeal throughout Cornwall, which is known locally as "Cheshire Week", was held at the end of August. The target was set at £4,000. It is estimated that when all donations have been received the total will reach £3,000 - probably, not a bad all round effort.

John King, Chairman of the Rural District Council of Truro, who organised the collections in his district, wrote to the "West Briton" - "As on previous occasions I rely on the generosity of the residents of the 24 parishes (in the Truro area) to respond to this appeal to the best of their ability so that we may all thereby mark our appreciation of the wonderful work initiated by G. C. Cheshire."

On Saturday 31st August, a Miss Cornwall competition was staged at Redruth (by Mr. R. J. Vincent) for the county's most beautiful girls. St. Teresa's benefitted from the proceeds.

A donation also came from the Falmouth Operatic Society, our share in the profits of their production of "Love from Judy."

The Penzance Rotary Club has informed us that Rotarians intend to provide a new combined concert and occupational therapy building, lock, stock and stage.

We held a Christmas Bazaar on 29th November.

WHITE WINDOWS, SOWERBY BRIDGE, YORKSHIRE

Both Mr. R. H. Blackburn and Sister Leonie Krumina are leaving soon. The year of office that they undertook to start White Windows has come to an end. Mr. Blackburn is receiving many calls for assistance from the new Homes that are springing up, so he hopes to be able to use his valuable year's experience here to help those new Homes. Sister Leonie is taking up a nursing post with one of the shipping lines, but first of all will be taking an advanced course in chest diseases at Midhurst Sanatorium.

The total number of patients is now 20 (women 7; men 13).

There was a magnificent result from the Flag Days held in the various surrounding districts. The grand total amounted to £1,340. We realise the hard work that has to be put into these efforts and although it is impossible for the Management Committee to thank all organisers and helpers personally, we are extremely grateful to all concerned.

Huddersfield District Friends of White Windows held their inaugural meeting at the Town Hall on 24th September. We understand the Mayor is launching a public appeal for the Home.

Bradford "Friends" organised a "Treasure Hunt" on 7th September. The outing was a social and financial success. The Bradford Committee always shows a flair for organisation. In Bradford also, at the Southgate Hall, Southgate, Miss Celia Cotton is presenting "Show Business" in December with the entire proceeds coming to White Windows.

There were Christmas Bring and Buy Sales in November at Hebden Bridge and Queensbury.

We have received a gift of £100 from a gentleman in the Hebden Bridge district.

A new Committee of "Friends" has been formed at Brighouse, which embraces the former Light-cliffe Committee.

Representatives of the Ladies' Committee of Bradford, Halifax, Sowerby Bridge, Ripponden and Brighouse held a successful "get together" at White Windows recently. They gave a Christmas party to the patients on 21st December.

LE COURT, GREATHAM, LISS, HANTS

The completion of five additional bedrooms for male staff in what was the "roof space", has enabled us to turn over two more rooms on the first floor for resident patients, thus increasing our complement to 39.

We have been able to reopen a "holiday bed" once again; and in this, and other beds temporarily vacated by those on leave, we have had 15 holiday visitors during the past three months.

Our Secretary for the last two years, Mia ffrench-Mullen, left us for Canada in October. Her successor is Miss Eleanor Stopford.

Work began in October on the covering in of the bridge from the Pavilion (workshop) to the main building. It is an improvement much needed by both patients and staff.

Alf Pawsey has resigned to take up another appointment after eight years service as a male orderly at Le Court. Patrick Cantwell has returned in his place.

Yvette Laune has come from France to augment the nursing staff, and Janet Wilson has joined forces with Mrs. Grey in the dining room.

The final nett receipts from our Fete in July amounted to £1,417. 0. 9d.

In August, the travelling exhibition of gadgets run by the Central Council for the Care of Cripples, visited Le Court.

The annual charity football match at Petersfield in aid of Le Court was held on 2nd September. A cheque for £15 was received by the Patients' Welfare Fund.

At the Alton Art Show this year our sales amounted to £10. 14. 0. On top of this we had about a dozen orders.

The Ropley over-60s Club offered, and we accepted, a stall at their Sale of Work in October.

ST. CECILIA'S, SUNDRIDGE AVENUE, BROMLEY, KENT

The builders began work on the new building as well as on the alterations to the old house, and were instructed to complete the whole scheme as soon as possible. We hope that the scheme will be finished by the end of March, and that very soon thereafter we shall be able to fill our eleven extra beds and have a full house of 32 patients.

If this schedule is kept to, we plan to have the official opening early in May. Maybe we can persuade a very well-known public figure to perform the ceremony.

Many firms have given us materials towards the erection of the buildings, which all helps to keep down the total cost. Some firms have offered to furnish a room, or part of a room. We would like to be able to say that certain rooms were furnished by various groups of our friends in this town or that town. It would not be too difficult a task if a few in each district decided, with the help of their local shops, to make that their particular effort. If rooms are furnished in this way we propose to make this known publicly by having an appropriate inscription placed on a wall of each room concerned.

Reader, in other Cheshire Homes will be interested to know that in the new four-bedded rooms we hope to curtail off each bed.

The "Friends of St. Cecilia's" are steadily growing, but not as fast as we had hoped.

Our "Autumn Fayre" was held at Bromley Library on 19th October. The mayor kindly consented to open it.

ALNE HALL, ALNE, YORK

The number of resident patients is now 20 (women 7; men 13).

We have six empty beds which it is hoped to fill when the lift is installed.

For a few weeks we had Sister Macdonald with us, unfortunately only temporarily, but she has been much appreciated, and we can understand why the folk at Staunton think so very much of her.

During September we had a Garden Fete in aid of our Lift Fund, and cleared approximately £134.

ST. BRIDGET'S, EAST PRESTON, W. SUSSEX

By kind permission of Mr. Ken Cundy the Angmering and East Preston Horse Show and Gymkhana held in aid of St. Bridget's took place at Avenals Farm, Angmering, on 15th August. It was only the second time the Show had been held, but there were 208 horses competing, many of which with their riders rode at Harringay in October last, Mr. George Bunn on Sandy Point winning the Daily Telegraph Challenge Cup.

The Chesnire Challenge Cup presented by Phyllis Lady Cahn for the champion pony picked from the winners in the best child's pony classes, was won by Valerie Sharp of Iford Manor, Lewes.

The Show was a great success and some £300 was raised, nearly £100 more than was hoped for. Some brilliant jumping and horse management were seen, and the later gymkhana events provided great fun for the large crowd of spectators and much enthusiasm was shown by the younger riders and their horses.

We were all delighted when Mrs. Judkins, the matron, returned from her long overdue holiday after 15 months at St. Bridget's, and we were most appreciative for the wonderful and kind way in which Mrs. Hood had carried on during her absence.

AMPTHILL PARK HOUSE, BEDFORDSHIRE

Amphill were pleased to welcome, for the second time this year, a team of students representing I.V.S.P. The August team was ten strong with an equal division of the sexes. The Home became quite cosmopolitan with Italy, France, Germany, Switzerland, Sweden and Israel all represented. Their work was mainly that of redecoration and the main task was to convert the Chapel to a new ward. They left their mark on the Home!!!

The first member of our recently formed Friends League was the Hon. Romola Russell, who lived in the Home till 1941. Lord Luke, who gave the Home to the G.C. on behalf of Bovril Ltd., has become the second member of the League and already many have followed their example.

We hope to publish next quarter a feature on Ampthill Cheshire Home, as well as a profile of John Comer, one of the patients. Both articles will be illustrated.

HOVENDEN HOUSE, FLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE

The latest official news of Hovenden will be found in an article at the front of this number.

Large photographs of the house, together with interior pictures, all taken by the "Lincolnshire Free Press" have been sent to India at the request of G.C. The photographs were required for exhibition in India.

Thirty-six members of the Spalding Townswomens' Guild visited the house in October bringing a gift of £5. 7. 0d. raised by a sale of produce.

A film on the Cheshire Homes was shown at the Holbeach Hurn Harvest Festival in the Village Hall. Offers to do mending and the like were made by representatives of W.I. from several surrounding villages.

"SEVEN RIVERS", GREAT BROMLEY, COLCHESTER, ESSEX

The first patients accepted from the many applications will probably be taken in early in the New Year. Modifications have still to be made to the structure of the house before these first residents can be accommodated. The home will have 27 bedrooms and 6 bathrooms.

At the moment, the nucleus of administrative staff is extremely busy getting out the first big appeal for funds.

An Open Day for local volunteers and well-wishers was held in October. Mr. R. L. Harding the secretary of the Management Committee, said there might well be a series of virtually autonomous groups in Essex and Suffolk, calling themselves friends of Seven Rivers, who could devise their own means of raising money.

There were quite a number of local protests when it was thought that we were going to change the name of Great Bromley Hall. However, these fears died down when it became known that the name of the Hall would remain unchanged, but that the Cheshire Foundation had, for its own convenience, given it the extra name of "Seven Rivers". Some change of name was necessary on account of the confusion which is likely to arise, which has already arisen, between this embryo Cheshire Home and the well-established one at Bromley in Kent.

A Matron has been appointed - Miss Thomas from Alne Hall, and Miss Constance Stott has come from Hovenden House to tackle the secretarial work here, temporarily.

"HONRESFELD" LITTLEBOROUGH, ROCHDALE, LANCS.

The Royton and Chadderton (Lancashire) Round Table were so impressed with what they heard of the work at White Windows that they are sponsoring a scheme for starting a Cheshire Home in South-East Lancashire. A large house, standing in its own grounds, at Littleborough, Rochdale, has already been presented to the Cheshire Foundation, through the generosity of the Boro Rubber Co. of Littleborough.

The house was built in 1870 by Mr. Alfred Law, uncle of Sir Alfred Law, who lived there for many years. It was chosen because of its suitability for the purpose - its pleasant situation and amenities. The house is famous in art circles as the former home of the Honresfeld library, which contained valuable original Bronte and Scott manuscripts.

It is stated that this home could accommodate 24 patients without further extension.

"MIRAFLORIS", 154 Worple Road, Wimbledon, S.W.19
(Rehabilitation of Ex-Mental Patients)

There was a house-warming on 8th October.

Miss Peace, the Matron, has established herself in the house, and the first residents have been taken in. They all have jobs in the area.

THE WEST MIDLAND CHESHIRE HOME

There is a very enthusiastic committee working in the Wolverhampton area, and it probably won't be very long before all this activity bears fruit. A site has been given for a new Home to be built, and various firms have come forward with almost unbelievable generosity and offered to build and equip it free of charge.

We hear that all this has sprung from the interest aroused when Miss Mason, G.C.'s secretary, was invited to talk about the Cheshire Homes to the management and employees of the local building firm, John McLean's.

GREAT HOUSE, KINGTON LANGLEY, CHIPPEHAM

This beautiful Tudor house has been offered to the Cheshire Foundation by Mr C.W. Garnett, a member of the well-known Wiltshire family, in memory of his parents. The Trustees have gratefully accepted the gift. We hope to open a new Home here in the spring.

THE HOMES IN INDIA

Here are some brief notes culled from letters received from G.C. (who is now in India), and from other sources. The full addresses of the Homes are given inside the back cover.

Katpadi (the Leprosy Home): Had its first birthday on 11th September. Mrs. Chinnadorai, the Secretary and Warden, has infused a wonderful spirit into the patients. Cheshire headquarters in Calcutta writing of Mrs. Chinnadorai's lack of funds, informs us that "she has never had enough money to start a bank account and (in July) was sent a small sum so that she could open an account."

It was a great encouragement when the patients of Le Court, England, offered to adopt the Home, and to provide all material help possible.

Le Court patients sent them a gift of £10, and in reply the Katpadi community wrote, "Beloved Brothers, we your fellow patients, have great pleasure in writing to you. We thank you very much for your kind letter and the gift. Our kind and loving Mother read it to us. Every sentence of it we enjoyed. We don't know how to thank you enough. May God bless you all and crown you

with long life, health and happiness."

It is very much hoped that some of the other Homes will follow the example of Le Court. Apart altogether from material help, an interchange of correspondence would certainly help to maintain the spirit of the Cheshire Homes.

Professor and Mrs. Cheshire (G.C.'s parents), who are visiting India, will be spending Christmas at Katpadi.

Dehra Dun: There were 500 people present when this Home celebrated its first birthday.

G.C. writes: "They have a little boy there, who was found in a hedge, starving and unable to walk; he is deaf, dumb, practically blind and was covered with ulcers all over. No one knows his name or where he came from, but he has now settled down happily. The ulcers have cleared up and he can walk about. He is fond of cigarettes and once he has got over his shyness when meeting strangers, indicates that he would like a smoke."

There is also a little girl of 12, who was playing by a well and fell into a mechanical pump which cut off both her arms right up to the shoulders. She has settled down here now and we have given her a ball she can kick about; it is difficult to know what toys to give her. Once she has got accustomed to being with us we will send her to Bethlehem House and arrange for her to have artificial limbs fitted at one of the Bombay hospitals."

Bombay (Bethlehem House). The new building was completed and a further ten patients were able to be taken in. What is literally one of the best roads in Bombay has also been constructed to lead to the Home.

Jamshedpur: This childrens Home had ten children in July, and with rapidly growing support it is aimed to have 50 within the next twelve months. The children are in the care of an Australian S.P.N. A second unit for physically handicapped adults will probably be added some time in the future, and this should take care of the children when they grow up.

Serampur: Major building modifications were carried out and it is anticipated that the number of patients will soon total about 40.

"Royalty is a government in which the attention of the nation is concentrated on one person doing interesting actions. A Republic is a government in which that attention is divided between many, who are all doing uninteresting actions. Accordingly, so long as the human heart is strong, and the human reason weak, Royalty will be strong because it appeals to diffused feeling, and Republics weak because they appeal to their understanding."

WALTER BAGSHOT

HOME GOSSIP

Informal accounts of life in, and out, of the Homes

THE FIRST YEAR AT WHITE WINDOWS

The residents and staff of White Windows wish all readers a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

It is now twelve months since this Cheshire Home saw its first arrivals. And although things are now progressing quite nicely, the year has not been without its trials and tribulations, which appear to be meritable when forming a Home of this nature. However, we are happy to say that they have been faced up to and we have come through smiling in the end. We are looking forward to another steady year of progress.

The first two months after our arrival were given over to planning the alterations needed to make the house suitable for disabled residents. By May, all the essential alterations were completed, and the top floor and basement decorated. For this speedy completion we are thankful for the co-operation of several local tradesmen, and the lift firm who did a magnificent job.

At first, we were only able to cope with seven residents, as they all had to remain on one floor. But since the lift was installed the number residing here has been increased to twenty-one, and we are settling down to a happy family life. It should not be very long before the Home has its full complement of eight females and twenty-one males.

The residents are gradually getting organised. They have started a welfare committee to manage funds accumulating from the shop which has been running for ten months and doing quite well. Our occupational therapy is also slowly coming into being; it will be a great help to the residents, particularly during the winter months.

The residents are most grateful to all the people of the West Riding who have come forward to help make the past year's work possible. We trust they will continue their support in the years to come.

All Cheshire Homes owe a deep debt of gratitude to their staff for the splendid work they do in many ways, and none more so than White Windows. The residents say "Thank you for a wonderful year."

We particularly want to mention Mr. Blackburn and Sister Leonie, upon whose shoulders such a large amount of work has fallen. The Home owes them a great deal for its present excellent state of organisation and happiness. We deeply regret that they are both leaving, but we wish them every possible success in their new ventures. We are sure they will undertake these new duties with as much energy and enthusiasm as they have shown here.

JIM JAQUEST

CHESHIRE WEEK IN CORNWALL

As part of Cheshire Week activities, St. Teresa's held an Open Day on Tuesday 27th August, with our president and Lady St. Levan, the local Trustee, greeting visitors. Every patient had something to do, from selling tea tickets to manning small side shows, which were very well patronised. All the patients, and staff, and those members of the Management Committee concerned, gave their full co-operation to the event, which socially was an outstanding show. Much of the patients' work was on show. The reporter from "The Cornishman" was especially taken with the mantelpiece ornaments made of plaster casts, varying from Toby jugs to squirrels and Cornish piskies.

During Cheshire Week, many of the patients were able, much to their delight, to take part in the Penzance street collections.

Cheshire week also brought in quite a tidy sum of money for the swelling patients' welfare fund, which was being built up to finance the new O.T. building, but, now that the Rotarians have stepped into the breach, can be used for some other needy purpose.

Quite rightly, those responsible want to see that the new therapy building is put in the right place. Already there is a new bungalow erected for the Matron, Miss Brewer, out of the proceeds of a legacy, so that one has to be careful about overcrowding and spoiling the view.

It seems that almost everyone concerned has been trotting round the Home considering how to site the therapy building so that the patients could reach it without getting wet. Yet not long ago when a party of patients went for a day out in Plymouth and it rained all the time, they arrived back declaring they had had a wonderful day. "We haven't had a chance for ages to get soaked to the skin." Such is the price of perfect freedom!

Our concert party has given several shows this year in nearby towns and is now fairly well known in West Cornwall. The patients certainly enjoy working for the concert as much as the public enjoy seeing it. There is no doubt that we have considerable talent at St. Teresa's, coupled with determination and enthusiasm. The patients are even thinking of putting on an entirely new play next year.

St. Teresa's Concert Party. Readers might like to know something about this concert party. "Gaffer", one of the patients, writes, "It was originally formed to give a concert on 11th May - the anniversary of the opening of the original St. Teresa's at Predannack in 1951. During February six of us patients with the addition of two female staff and a youth from Penzance got together and began to rehearse a one-act play, our producer being "Sparks", Len Harper.

The play - Elizabethan in period - is called "A Merrie Christmas": it is actually the first act of a three-act play. Sparks has to do a little adaptation owing to the restricted movement of the patients, all of whom are in wheel-chairs except one, and he is on crutches.

Apart from the play, there is a quartet of male patients, with Enid Bottomley at the piano, singing every kind of song from "Bless this House", "The Holy City", negro spirituals, "Glorious Devon" to (a favourite) "The photo of the girl I left behind me." - the latter by Edwin Walsh, a Devonian with a rich Devonshire accent.

We gave our first public performance in Penzance on 26th April. It was a great success we cleared £18, and received many congratulations on our performance.

On 3rd June we had the pleasure of giving our show here in the lounge before G.C. himself.

The next performance was three weeks later at Indian Queens; then in September at Newquay, and in October at Falmouth."

What with these shows and donations the patients' welfare fund has now risen to over £240.

The R.N.A.S. at Cudrose, near Helston, give us a good deal of help. They provide transport on many occasions and take us each year to their Air Display. We are also pleased and very grateful to go over and see their Dramatic Society productions. In February it was "And so to Bed", and in October "The White Sheep of the Family".

The Steamship Company of Penzance that owns the S.S. "Scillonian", has been generous enough to offer us an annual free trip to the Scilly Isles. Seventeen patients in all made the trip this year, four parties on four different days in June. We had about four hours ashore after landing at St. Mary's.

To add to all this excitement, there are now rumours of extensions to the main building, paid for by some anonymous benefactor. Are they only rumours? We should all know by the time the next issue of "The Cheshire Smile" comes out.

THE DRAW OF THE RING

Bertram Mills' Circus is a great draw wherever it goes up and down the country. The patients in the Cheshire Homes are far from being the least enthusiastic of its admirers. When the circus visited Penzance in August, a party from St. Teresa's attended one afternoon performance. And in October a gang from Le Court went over to Aldershot to see the show there.

LE COURT NEW BUILDING - THREE YEARS OLD

The third birthday of the new building was marked by two celebrations this year. On Sunday 22nd September, the actual anniversary, we had a festive dinner, and two days later, a grand party, to which were invited several notabilities, including Raymond Baxter and Sheila van Damm, and many friends of Le Court. Though there was nothing Continental about the music provided by the band we were treated to an exhilarating display of French "Cha-cha-cha" by Yvette.

Our most outstanding loss this autumn was Frenchi's departure for Canada. Le Courtiers gave her a handsome leaving present, decorative "Good Wishes" card, and a rousing send-off. We were very sad to see her go, but look forward to her return, perhaps with a big French Canadian in train, when she has satisfied her wanderlust in the wide open spaces. We miss her, not only for her tireless work as Secretary, but for her cheery helpfulness as one of the most vital members of the family.

Miss Stopford, who has taken over all the intricacies of Frenchi's work (with the exception of the tropical fish!) is already making her own personal mark in our midst.

We are very pleased to report the recent marriage of Nigger (Albert Carter) to our attractive

former-slave, Teresa Howell. They are now living in a comfortable caravan at Winkfield on the edge of Windsor Forest, and Nigger has his old job back. We all wish them well, even though some of us make ribald remarks, like who said he thought it was a successful escape - from the frying pan into the fire!

We welcome three new permanent patients - Francis Horton, Brian Line and Paul Hanson.

Outings have as usual been too numerous to list here, but they have been nothing if not varied. Our thanks go out to Dorothy Bourdillon and Peggy Shiffner for entertaining parties to tea at their homes. Also to the Alton Operatic and Dramatic Society for inviting us to their production of Agatha Christie's "The Hollow."

A party of patients went to see the charity football match at Petersfield between the United team and Midhurst. The game ended in a draw, but we much enjoyed it. The two teams tossed for the prize, the Coronation Cup. Our Edith presented it to the winners, while Petersfield asked if they could be presented with Edith.

Len Pepperell went to the Farnborough Air Show on 7th September. We are told he was accompanied by several others, to whom "Britannia" still only means an old lady who rules the waves.

We remembered Guy Fawkes this year by attending the Liphook Carnival and Fireworks.

Some members of the REA Club at Longmoor came over one evening to play tombola with us. Despite fears as to the moral effect no orgy of gambling followed. And the success of the evening was proved by the generally expressed wish to repeat the occasion at regular intervals.

Sir Charles Woolley, a former Governor of British Guiana, gave us a talk on that country. His informative talk was illustrated by a good documentary film. He gave us a really clear picture of a land that not many of us know much about, and managed to show that a serious talk need not necessarily be dull.

Not the least item to report this time is the presentation to Le Court of a 16mm sound film projector by Frank Spath - a gift that is greatly appreciated by everyone. We are now putting on our own film shows every fortnight, our cinematician being Trevor Prothero, who has taken, for the purpose, a short course on film projection.

Skiffle found its way to Le Court on several evenings during the last six months. Nip usually has to be tied in his chair beforehand to prevent his being "sent"!

One day in the autumn we had a surprise visit from a well-known radio personality, Freddie ("Any Questions") Grisewood.

NOTES FROM ALNE HALL

During the summer several patients have enjoyed a holiday with friends.

We have now undertaken Occupational Therapy, and many of the patients are showing an aptitude for one thing or another. We have leatherwork, jewellery, basketry, weaving and soft-toy work on the go. Sales are good!

The new lift, when it begins working shortly, will be a boon to both staff and patients.

On the occasion of our Garden Fete in September, the house was thrown open to visitors and many took the opportunity of seeing what a change has taken place since the opening in 1956.

At a recent patients' meeting the following officials were elected to the welfare committee

Chairman	Arthur D. Tatterton
Vice-Chairman	Edward Carey
Secretary and Treasurer	Pat. W. Robson

INTRODUCING "JET"

(We were delighted to receive the following from Alne Hall)

Each Cheshire Home has its Cheshire Smiles. I wonder how many have a Cheshire Cat. As "he" (whoever he may be) is the foundation of "The Cheshire Smile" cover, and no cat has ever been mentioned, could our Jet have the honour of being the mascot? We here all think a cat makes any home more homely, and Jet is a very sensible little thing.

He can't claim the honour of being born in a Cheshire Home. Yet he knows no other home than this, as he was a very very wee black kitten when he was brought, as a birthday present, to our oldest member, Miss Walton, on her 86th birthday.

We don't know exactly when Jet was born, but he is just about a year old. He celebrated his birthday at the same time as his mistress, 30th November, with, we are told, an extra tin of Kit-e-Kat.

The name "Jet" refers to his colour and not to his speed, although we think he could well be placed in the Hawker-Siddeley Group, since he is such a marvellous "Hunter".

I have said he is black, but he has a nice little white medal or brooch on his throat. So far he is very thin: we all hope he will expand, not in length, but in width.

Like all cats he enjoys a comfortable chair. When he is curled up in a wheel-chair he certainly looks more comfortable than the cat on your cover. He likes a ride on my lap as I trundle around in my propelling chair.

I am sure he will not become a "Big Ed." If he is made the mascot, because he seemed quite unaffected when Group Captain Cheshire made friends with him, which surely was an honour that would swell the most modest cat's head.

EVELYN PLUMRIDGE

(Editor: Kavanagh, the Le Court cat, who is the original of our cover-cat nearly had a heart-attack when he read that Alne Hall hadn't heard of him, considering how many times he was mentioned in the first dozen issues of The Cheshire Smile. He is now eagerly looking forward to meeting his newly-found little brother, Jet, and has no objection to holding the "mascotship" jointly with Jet. Le Court assures Alne Hall that K. is extremely good-tempered except to rabbits, moles, rats and mice and everything that isn't nice.)

WELL DONE, JUNE!

(Reprinted from "The Lincolnshire Free Press")

June Whitworth, a 13 year old Gedney Dyke girl, has been doing excellent work recently. She has already sold 20 copies of the last issue of "The Cheshire Smile" and has distributed many appeal leaflets in Gedney.

FROM ST. CECELIA'S NEWSLETTER No. 2

Andy Banks (the subject of our profile in September) made a quick recovery from pneumonia, and is back with us again fit and well. He is making great headway with our Shop, which now has a turnover of £8 - £10 a week. The builders are good customers.

Peter McGarry's poultry farm grows rapidly, thanks to generous gifts of birds.

A number of local sick friends have been helped at the Home whilst patients have been on holiday. We hope that next year we may be able to get many more of our patients away for a holiday and at the same time give temporary help to more local people.

Sister Reynolds joined us on 1st October, and shortly afterwards took over as Sister-in-Charge. She has had many years' nursing experience both in this country and abroad, and has done fine work as a Queen Alexandra Nursing Sister. She has also been mentioned in despatches. We are sure everyone will help her in the very hard tasks ahead.

BOUQUET TO RAILWAY

(The following letter appeared in the "Nottingham Evening News" in September)

"How pleased Group Captain Cheshire would have been to know what happened at the Midland Station last Saturday (his birthday), 7th September.

One of the patients from Staunton Hall was returning to Nottingham after a pilgrimage to Lourdes. She was a stretcher case and entirely dependent upon the help and co-operation of British Railways staff.

The 11.26 a.m. from St. Pancras steamed into the station. The station master was ready on the platform, having made complete arrangements for the transfer of the patient from train to the S.J.A.B. ambulance. The patient was moved swiftly and comfortably and the train departed from Nottingham on time.

The guard of the train took the trouble to report how the patient had stood the journey, and the authorities had telegraphed ahead to warn that the patient was travelling alone.

Smiling happily in the ambulance, the patient left the Midland Station - clutching raffle tickets which the station master had bought and presented to her, with the wish that she would win something at the annual garden fete, which was being held that day at Staunton Hall."

LUCY'S FRIEND

(It was Lucy Bertheny who accompanied the Nottingham diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes led by Mgr. Canon Maurice Parmentier).

LIST OF HOMES

England

- Le Court, Liss, Hants.
St. Teresa's, Long Rock, Penzance, Cornwall.
St. Cecilia's, Sundridge Avenue, Bromley, Kent.
St. Bridget's, The Street, East Preston, Sussex.
Amphill Park House, nr. Bedford.
Staunton Harold, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire.
Alne Hall, Alne, York.
White Windows, Sowerby Bridge, Yorkshire.
Hovenden House, Fleet, Spalding, Lincolnshire.
Mirafloris, 154 Worple Road, Wimbledon, London, S.W. 19.
(rehabilitation of ex-mental patients)
Seven Rivers, Great Bromley, Colchester, Essex.
Honresfeld, Littleborough, Rochdale, Lancashire.

India and Far East

- Bethlehem House, nr. Vinayalaya, Andheri, Bombay.
Shanti Rani House, 13 Upper Strand Road, Serampur, West Bengal.
Govind Bhavan, 16 Pritam Road, Dehra Dun, U.P.
Vrishanti House, Katpadi Township, nr. Vellore, South India.
Rustomji P. Patel Cheshire Home, Sundernagar, Jamshedpur.
Banarsidas Chandiwala Swasthya Sadan, Kalkaji, New Delhi.
Tanah Merah, Singapore, Malaya.
Office, 10b Chulia Street, Singapore.
- 258