

The Cheshire Smile

The Quarterly Magazine of the Cheshire Homes
(founded by Group Captain Cheshire, V.C.)

Vol. 6, No. 2

Summer, 1960



Photo: S. J. Brown, Norwich

Vera Cornish, a disabled resident of Seven Rivers, Essex

Special Feature:

Profile of the
Group Captain's Father



ONE SHILLING

The Cheshire Foundation Homes for the Sick

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Vol. 6, No. 2

Summer, 1960

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Please
hand this magazine to one of your friends

PROFESSOR CHESHIRE

The second of a series of features on the Trustees of the
Cheshire Foundation Homes

ALL OF US owe a great deal to our parents: but to his father and mother Group Captain Cheshire must owe a very special debt. Not only during his childhood, but since he became a man, they have provided the sure base from which he has gone forth on his dynamic expeditions, and to which he has returned for the short, all too short, rest periods. He still takes his big problems to his father, as he always did, and talks them over with him; and his mother, with her vivacity and charm, so manages the distaff side that they can solve their problems in the quiet atmosphere of home.

Home atmosphere

No wonder that their son stresses so much the value of home life. He knows it from his own good home which his father and mother made for him. They built a beautiful house and garden near Oxford where they lived when the children were young. And then, as now at their lovely cottage on the Le Court estate, there is always the atmosphere of home which family and friends love to visit. Just the atmosphere which Leonard Cheshire has transmitted to the Cheshire Homes everywhere. Which is as it should be.

A Great Lawyer

I sometimes wonder if the Professor's main claim to distinction is considered, at least within the Cheshire Homes, to be merely "the father of Leonard Cheshire", the phrase by which he is so often referred to. Let me tell you that he is one of the greatest lawyers in this country. His reputation is world-wide. I first met him when he examined me at Oxford in the Final School of Jurisprudence. He was a very young "don" then. Since that time he has written law books which have become standard works of high authority on *Modern Real Property*, *Private International Law* and (with Mr. Fifoot) *Law of Contracts*. Each of these books has passed through many editions. They are used by practitioners and students of law all over the world. He reached the highest position in the academic field of law when he became Cinerian Professor of Law in the University of Oxford. When he retired from that position, he did not relapse into idleness. He moved from Oxford to Laundry Cottage (near Le Court), where he has his splendid law library and continues his legal work, keeping his books up to date, and

"The Professor"



Photo: Walter Stoneman

Dr. G. C. Cheshire, F.B.A., D.C.L.
(Deputy Chairman of the Cheshire Foundation)

giving legal advice to governments and people on many subjects.

Wise guidance for the Foundation

Despite all this legal work, "The Professor" has still found time to help the Homes. It was a great thing for Le Court that the Professor and Mrs. Cheshire came to live at Laundry Cottage next to them. The Professor kept his eye on estate management, and both he and Mrs. Cheshire made friends with everyone. But the Professor has also done much on the Board of the Cheshire Foundation Homes for the Sick, and he has visited the Homes on many occasions. He is Deputy Chairman and has often taken the Chair at the Trustees' meetings. And whenever a troublesome point arises his quiet sane sound advice convinces everyone that he is not "The Professor" for nothing. He is the wisest of all. No wonder that Leonard Cheshire often turns to him with a knotty problem and is guided to the best solution. Next to Leonard he has done more than anyone for the Homes. It is truly a *Cheshire* Foundation, father and son.

Lord Denning.

SPRING CONFERENCE AND FAMILY DAY, 1960

There is to be a combined Spring Conference and Family Day this year at Hovenden House on 25th and 26th June. The conference of administrations will be held on the Saturday, and the Sunday will be Family Day.

We have received the following provisional programme of events for Family Day, but this is subject to some alteration:—

Noon	Service in Tent to be conducted by the Archdeacon of Lincoln.
1.00 p.m.	Buffet lunch.
2.30 p.m.	Welcome by Chairman of Hovenden House, Mrs. H. M. Clark, J.P. Talk by Group Captain Cheshire.
3.00 p.m.	"What's Your Line?"
3.30 p.m.	Tea.
4.15 p.m.	Close.

IDENTIFICATION DISCS

It was with some misgivings that we heard of a new scheme, designed to make travel by bus easier for disabled people, in Edinburgh, the Lothians, and parts of Fife. Disabled people are being issued with identification discs, which can be worn on the wrist, so that they may

be given adequate help, and time to get on and off vehicles. Perhaps in time disabled people will also be issued with a special uniform (marked with something different from broad arrows) to help "normal" folk identify them even better!



Photo: Keystone

A charming study of the Cheshire family.

The Big World of Little Jeromy

The following report appeared in the "Catholic Herald" of February 5th, 1960, and is reproduced here by permission of the Editor

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**Y**OUNG JEROMY CHARLES CHESHIRE arrived in the world on Sunday (Jan. 31st.) He wouldn't know yet, but Sunday was World Day for Lepers: a day on which we remembered the 15,000,000 lepers in the world, prayed for them, and gave what we could for them.

And although his father and mother will in a few months be off again on their travels it will be a few years before Jeromy can realise what World Leper Day means, and what the work of his mother and father means to thousands of incurably sick people in many parts of the world.

His father is Group Captain Leonard Cheshire, V.C., one of the greatest bomber pilots of World War Two; official observer at the A-bombing of Nagasaki, who now devotes his life to helping the sick. His mother is the former Sue Ryder, untiring worker for survivors of Nazi concentration camps.

The story that follows is a small sample of what it means to work for the Cheshire Foundation.

Sunday for Cyril and Stella Lyle of Bournemouth, Hampshire, was "World Day with the lepers".

Cyril and Stella are thousands of miles away now: they are at Dehra Dun, north of Delhi in India and they are helping to build a village for lepers—lepers who until months ago lived on the local refuse dump.

These two are, in fact, part of the wonderful crowd of really amazing people whose lifework is now to spread the ideals and objects of the Cheshire Foundation.

### Start in 1955

In 1955 Group Captain Leonard Cheshire went to India. He acquired a piece of land, then built some huts which were immediately occupied by patients—as always, the incurably sick.

Within months more homes were on the way. One was at Dehra Dun. Here, Princess Nabha gave the Foundation a house. A long-disused but nevertheless lovely house. Help ar-

rived. Two weeks passed and the house was filled with patients.

Another home was needed. The government gave a piece of ground nearby and helpers were recruited from different parts of the world making this new centre truly international.

They started with tents and as usual no money.

### In Singapore

Meanwhile, hundreds of miles away in Singapore, Cyril Lyle, a Senior Technician with the R.A.F., had spent his spare time with friends working on yet another Cheshire Home.

A former gun emplacement—used by both British and Japanese during the war—was the site. Cyril and his friends bought their own tools and an old car. Weekends and leave were then spent on the roofless, jungle-overgrown derelict building.

Within twelve months ten patients had moved in. That was the beginning. There are now several more wings—and Cyril Lyle has been demobbed.

### And to India

Return to Bournemouth? Oh no. It was next stop India with his wife Stella (who can turn her hand to almost any job on the site). And Dehra Dun. And the Leper Colony.

Small houses—the Cheshire Foundation never houses many people in one home to guard against the institutional atmosphere—are going up around a central block. At least four hundred incurably sick and the lepers now turn gratefully to the Cheshire Foundation.

Mentally handicapped and physically handicapped children are happily in the charge of Miss Burton, S.R.N.,

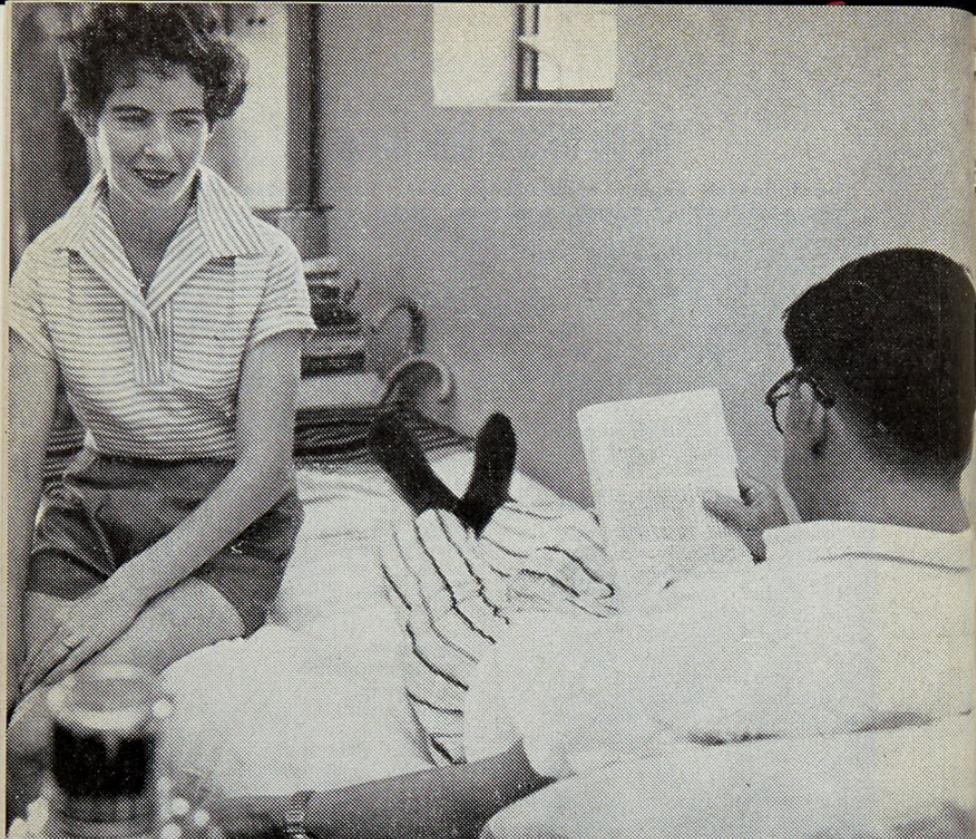


Photo: Catholic Herald

*Stella Lyle has a cheery word for a patient at Singapore. Maybe there's a joke or two in that newspaper!*

whose home is in Brighton, and Miss Jane Wehner, also from England.

Cyril and Stella Lyle are just two of the many dedicated people who work for the Cheshire Foundation in the homes and sites now strung out across the globe.

A second home has been built in Malaya; India has nine homes in all, Nigeria is to have one, Poland has two in the charge of Mrs. Leonard Cheshire (Sue Ryder); seventeen are in full working order in Britain while five or six are at the Organizing Committee stage.

Two more are nearly ready to open their doors: one in Edinburgh—the first for Scotland, the other in South Wales near Carmarthen. M.C.

### **Baby Jeromy**

Jeromy Charles Cheshire was baptised by Father Tuomey in the Chapel at Cavendish, Suffolk, on 25th March. His god-parents are Lady Cholmondeley, Sister Maria (of whom we have a separate note in this issue), and Father Clarke of Petersfield, Hants. The baby behaved beautifully during the ceremony, despite the general excitement, TV cameras etc. We are told he weighed 12lb at the end of April. He will be six months old in July.

# THE RYDER CHESHIRE MISSION

## for the Relief of Suffering

(In association with the Cheshire Foundation Homes for the Sick)

### “RAPHAEL”

The Joint International Centre of the Ryder Cheshire Mission  
at Dehra Dun, India

THE PLAN FOR Raphael is to have a number of small Homes for different groups of patients with a central hospital to serve their needs. The foundations of the first Home were laid in March last year, and at the same time nine handicapped children under the care of two trained personnel from England moved across to the site to start a new life in tents amid lovely surroundings but completely primitive conditions. “Anyone standing on the banks of the Rispana that day would have seen a moving sight. Eager little faces, disabled little bodies, an impatient band scrambling out of Exechiel (the adapted ambulance), up a steep slope to a cluster of tents amidst the sal woods. Hastily the cots were set out, a hurried meal given before the evening light went, and the family of nine were bedded down in one large tent.” (W. Burton).

Fortunately the weather was perfect to start with. Gradually water was laid on, and as the staff and patients adjusted themselves to the strangeness of their environments, the Home began to take shape and was ready to take them under its shelter as the monsoon broke. It is a simple and attractive building with grey walls and blue windows and makes a pleasant picture against the background of the green sal tree. There is a playground and a garden and the first flowers to bloom were the golden marigolds so loved by Sue. Later there were violets and sweet-peas and fresh vegetables for the kitchen.

#### Children First

There are about twenty children living there of various ages and characteristics. The most loveable of them is Gracie with her affectionate ways and sweet laugh, and Dolly aged three, a bonny little girl, and Paiman who once begged in the streets of Ambala, and still asks for two pice.

There is Shanti who is deaf, dumb and mentally retarded, but who can feel joy and pain and knows when people are kind. The way her face lights up whenever she sees the Group Captain is indeed beautiful to see. And there is Bholi who was sent to us. “In the heat of the summer a tonga struggled up the narrow path to Raphael, and as it stopped with a jerk a little naked brown body rolled off the back and on to the ground. A twisted little spastic figure with shining white teeth and closely cropped head. The tongawalla handed over a small slip of paper . . . it just said, “Miss Burton, Cheshire Home”! The child had been picked up at the railway station and no one knew from where he came or who sent him. The little fellow said his name was “Bholi” . . . the lost one . . . and so here was a new member of the growing family.”

#### The Leper Colony

The other part of the plan for Raphael is the Leper Colony, for which a portion of the estate has been set aside. The incidence of leprosy is very high in these parts and the victims are mostly the hill folk of the region. Last January Sue and G.C. visited them in their colony where they dwelt in pitiable conditions—and asked them if they would like to come and live in the new “village” which he was planning for them. At first there were some murmurs of dissent, but when they realised that they were being welcomed to a home and not an isolation camp—they agreed with joy.

No one had ever "wanted" them before.

One of the problems that Raphael is faced with is the erosion of the land by river and rain, and for this some precautionary measures are being taken. Early in January this year there was an unusual sight. Shining in the winter sun were rows of gleaming metal where more than fifty bicycles had been neatly parked against the river bank. And on the site there were busy groups of young men in shirt sleeves trying to build check dams and wooden palisades with branches, leaves and brushwood. They were the students of the Forest Rangers' College and represented a good cross-section of Indian youth, and the morning's work was a part of their training.

### The Tower Room

For the administration of Raphael an office has been set up at the picturesque old house—16 Pritam Road. Here too, is the Tower Room, which Group Captain Cheshire has always occupied since the house was first given to him by the Princess of Nabha. Bare and dilapidated as it then was he lived in it alone, eating hurried meals and spending his time helping with the repairs which the old building so badly needed. Now it is cosy and comfortable with his books, pictures and relics, where he and Sue live and work when they are here, and perhaps the only place where they sometimes relax. At one end of the terrace is a small private Chapel built for their devotions and which is kept supplied with flowers every day.

One of the earliest functions to be held at Raphael was the little reception given in honour of Group Captain and Mrs. Cheshire soon after their wedding in April last year. The lunch was held in a tent and the table had been specially improvised for the occasion from a sal tree in the woods by Chippy Lyle. Flowers had been artificially arranged in various and unusual containers, and the seats were boxes prettily covered. It was the first time that all the members of the staff had met.

### Diwali

The Indian festival of Diwali was celebrated in the Leper Colony with lamps and crackers, and garlands and sweets were offered to Group Captain and Mrs. Cheshire after sunset. Later

there was Christmas with its gaily decorated tree and presents for the children, and gifts of money and a sheep for the Leper Patients. Nearly all of them went to Midnight Mass for the first time in their lives. But perhaps the most memorable of all days was the day when the electric lights were switched on for the first time—the look of joy and wonder on the faces of the children was something to remember. "To them it was just another pretty and bright Diwali, but for us it was the end of the semi-twilight of oil lamps, burnt fingers on the charcoal iron, and at the light to read and sew in comfort." Another stepping stone in the life of Raphael, and a lovely symbol—bringing light into dark lives.

### Latest News from Raphael

Group Captain and Mrs. Sue Ryder Cheshire completed their two weeks' tour of the Homes in India on 14th April, and then stayed for a fortnight at Raphael, their joint centre and headquarters. They were pleased at the rate of progress there.

Pamela Breslin, a teacher, has come from Australia to look after the children. She has written a note, published below, on the new work she has undertaken.

A building contractor and civil engineer, Laurence Shirley, of Farnborough, England, came to Le Court some months ago, having seen the TV documentary, "The Pathfinder". He offered to put his knowledge and experience at the disposal of Group Captain Cheshire. His services were gratefully accepted, and he has now sold his building business in order to build the hospital at Raphael.

Miss Winifrede Burton ("Barty"), has unfortunately had to leave Raphael, and return to her elderly mother in Brighton. She will be sadly missed. We owe the Children's Home to her great efforts together with those of Miss Jane Wehner. It is due to their fine work at the beginning under canvas that the pattern of Raphael has been set.

We hope that Government grants will at some time become available to cover at least part of the large building and maintenance costs. At present the project is supported solely by gifts and donations raised in England.

## A "Handwork School" for Raphael

by Pamela Joan Breslin

For any teacher in any country the prospect of taking over a new group of children is always a challenge. When the children are in age groups from three to sixteen, and when not one child has ever had a single formal lesson in his life then the prospect is really a challenge worth accepting.

It was with mixed feelings of anticipation and wonder that I arrived at Dehra Dun from Australia on Holy Saturday night. When I eventually met my group of children on the following Monday I realised that I had not been wrong in assuming that the next two years would carry for me a very special challenge. The children, with the possible exception of one—Gracie—are mentally retarded to such a degree that any kind of academic work is completely out of the question.

After a week of observing and assessing I came to a very definite conclusion. My school would become a "handwork school". What I must do is carefully observe each of the twelve children daily and decide what, and how much potential each child has. Then I must develop in each child the dormant talent however small it may be, to such an extent, that he is leading as full a life as possible.

For the first few months very little progress will be obvious. Already we have commenced paper crumpling, cutting with scissors, scribbling with chalk. Soon we shall advance to block building and water-colour painting.

These activities to an orthodox teacher of average children would be so much waste of time, but for our children each bundle of crumpled paper, each jagged edge of newspaper, each fantastic coloured splash of paint will mean a little more muscular development, and with that muscular development will come awareness of a new faith and belief in the heart of

each child.

This is the aim of my school—to make each child aware of his own importance as a "cog" in the wheel of life.

My task has been lightened enormously by the remarkable work and obviously untiring energy of two English women who had taught the children in seventeen months to take an active part in the life of Raphael. Miss Burton and Miss Wehner have been tireless workers in their efforts to help these children to become self-sufficient members of the community. To them I owe a great deal. If you were to inspect the medical reports that come with each child and compare them with the child as he is today you would be amazed at the difference.

This section of Raphael is called the "Olive Garden"—a reminder of the mental suffering and anguish of Jesus Christ a few hours before His triumphant death.

I live at 16 Pritam Road and cycle down across the dry riverbed each day, to my school. It is only a few minutes away and during those few minutes I have time to notice the beauty and warmth that is so much a part of Dehra Dun. The blue of the mountains forms a jagged edge across the horizon and contrasts with the paler blue of the Indian sky. Surrounding Raphael are hundreds of yellow and green trees that create an almost Gauguin-like atmosphere of colour and warmth. There must be very few places in the world that can capture the spiritual quiet and sensitivity of another world and I cannot but wonder if God, when He made the world, deliberately set aside this lovely setting for the mentally afflicted children who are here now.

This was virgin jungle—now it has become another Olive Garden.

## GERMANY

Based on the St. Christopher Settlement, hospital and prison visiting has continued as before. Always the same problems are met with though by now the number of persons have decreased amongst the Forgotten Allies. But the casework in camps is kept up and

just over a hundred Stateless children were brought over for education in England during the past twelve months. This involved a great deal of documentation driving many thousands of miles between camps and transportation of the boys and girls to the Ockenden Venture.

## THE HOMES IN POLAND

Since Sue Ryder's first visits to Poland in 1958, when she was shown round hospitals and medical institutes, met many doctors and health authorities and discussed with them the possibility of providing Homes and other forms of relief for the sick, she has gone ahead with arrangements for several Homes.

The immensity of the need is shown by the numbers of people suffering, for example, from rheumatism, cancer and T.B., less than 10 per cent of whom are in hospitals and sanatoria. In repairing the devastation inflicted on the country during the war, the Government had to give priority to housing the millions left homeless, and re-starting industries and schools. Consequently, the existing hospitals are too few in number, overcrowded, and with long waiting lists. The administrators are unable to admit chronic patients, who would occupy for months beds urgently needed for those requiring operations and short-term treatment. People with lingering diseases must remain in whatever accommodation they have, no matter how unsuitable, and in many cases a desperately sick person shares a single room with the rest of the family, or even two or three other families. Other helpless invalids are alone, with no relatives to look after them, dependent on neighbours for what

nursing they receive.

In the autumn and winter of 1958, Sue Ryder visited many of these patients in and around Warsaw, especially cancer sufferers in their own homes. Some of those whom she met were already very near death. The woman doctor who acted as escort had the heart-breaking task of explaining to each patient that there were no beds free in the hospitals, so that they could not be admitted. Sue Ryder's own impression was of intense cold, poverty and the darkness of crumbling, semi-ruined buildings, in the corners of which the sick dragged out their last days in desperate pain and loneliness. She was told that at least 30,000 die of cancer every year, and there is an acute shortage of pain-relieving drugs, which in any case are expensive.

In an average family the one wage earner usually has to take two full-time jobs to support the burden of a permanent invalid, especially when the sick person needs a special diet or medicines. This also means that the patient is alone for even longer each day. A great many of these sufferers could be helped effectively simply by removing them from their present surroundings, and giving them full-time treatment and care in a properly-equipped Home.

### Latest News

As already reported two Homes have been built, the first at Konstancin, near Warsaw, and the second at Zyrardow. The next two will be in Cracow and near Lublin.

The third and fourth Homes have now been ordered. The fourth Home at Helenow will be for children in need of care and treatment, whose parents are ill and cannot cope.

It has been decided with the Ministries of Health and Social Welfare and Labour in Warsaw that a standard design be adopted for all future Homes. This will simplify the technical and language difficulty. As previously mentioned, these are prefabricated buildings shipped from England, together with all the paint, furnishings, equipment, etc.

Each Home costs over £5,000 which is raised entirely by private contributions from well-wishers in England and the Commonwealth. The money is collected at meetings, by support groups, or sent in to the office at Cavendish, mainly in small postal orders. It is naturally a continuous and hard struggle to keep pace with the demand for more Homes. Great efforts are being made to publicise the need in Poland, and to raise more money.

The Girl Guides in Tasmania recently sent a wonderful cheque for £750. Each year, they have sent a gift, after Miss Gwen Hesketh, the Guide Commissioner, returned in 1952 from Europe, where she had worked with Sue Ryder.

## RESETTLEMENT OF PHYSICALLY OR SOCIALLY HANDICAPPED DISPLACED PERSONS

Our recent survey has shown that there are at the moment between 20-30 concentration camp survivors and other victims of Nazi persecution who would like to avail themselves of the opportunity of emigrating to England, but whose health or circumstances do not permit them to stand on their own feet. For these it will be necessary to provide a sheltered environment where they may not only receive the medical, nursing and therapeutic care they need, but also have the sense of belonging to a stable and well-ordered community. In particular they should be given productive work, proportionate to their physical and mental capacity, and thus helped to regain a purpose for living. It is felt that the Holiday Home at Cavendish (now in its fifth year of operation) with which so many of them are already familiar and which they have come to look upon in a very real sense as actually belonging to them, is ideally suited for this purpose.

Approximately half of those who come into this category are married and would prefer a small house or bungalow of their own. These could very easily and suitably be built in the grounds, far enough to allow for privacy and independence, yet close enough to feel part and parcel of the community living at Cavendish itself. The rest would be better accommodated in a wing of their own, built on to the house and accessible to its amenities and services. The cost of the former would be approximately £2,000 per family, or proportionately more if a more elaborate unit be thought desirable, and the latter £1,100 per person, exclusive in both instances of furnishings. In addition a workshop would have to be provided. There is, in fact, a disused village cinema up for sale which backs on to the garden and could fairly simply be adapted. Purchase price is believed to be approximately £1,500; alternatively,

a new building could be put up on the kitchen garden area. Adequate ground is available.

The Holiday Home which has been extended and modernised—though without in any way losing its “Old English” character and appeal—is also registered as suitable for Part 3 accommodation in order also to enable chronically sick or disabled British patients to be admitted on a short-term basis during the off season months (October to May inclusive). A State Registered Sister is in charge and the services of many voluntary helpers are available. This scheme is being operated in conjunction with the Trustees of the Cheshire Foundation Homes for the Sick, and maintenance of the first few patients is being borne by local authorities.

Three patients from this country are already happily installed at The Old Rectory, Cavendish, under this scheme, and are enjoying their brief holiday, despite the fact that workmen are still banging around with alterations and renovations.

The maintenance of the holiday home for the stateless concentration camp survivors is borne entirely by voluntary subscriptions from the public. Two committees are in existence—one for the purpose of fund raising, and the other for organising the welfare and entertainment of the guests.

The Old Rectory at Cavendish is the headquarters of the Ryder Cheshire Mission, as well as the personal home of the two Founders, who feel very privileged to receive as permanent members of the family these Forgotten Allies whose past sufferings preclude them from a normal life.

During the last few months, Miss Ryder has been extremely busy registering Our Forgotten Allies for permanent resettlement in this country.

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### Sister Maria

Some interest has been aroused at the appearance of the name of Sister Maria amongst the list of godparents of Jeromy Cheshire, the few months'-

old son of Group Captain Cheshire and Sue Ryder. “Why was she chosen?” is the question we have been asked in the last few months.

It was in the course of her welfare work in Germany that Sue Ryder came to know Sister Maria and a personal friendship has developed over the years. She worked with Sue for fourteen years in the displaced persons' camps despite ill-health as a result of her sufferings under the Nazis.

Sister Maria's story is the bitterly unhappy and terrifying tale the Cheshires know so well. She was taken to Auschwitz concentration camp as a reprisal when one of her

family escaped and joined the underground movement during the war. One of the many tasks forced on her was the digging of pits into which the Nazis tipped children and burned them alive. Says Sue Ryder now, "You can imagine that her experiences there have affected her terribly. We felt that to ask her to be a godmother to our son would make up in some ways".

A permanent entry grant was obtained for Sister Maria so that she could come and settle in this country.

## WORSHIP IN THE HOMES

### The Family of the Cross

The Family of the Cross is an association of Catholics who sincerely desire to assist and further the combined Ryder Cheshire work for the relief of suffering, whether it be in the Homes themselves, or amongst the Forgotten Allies, or in the prisons of Western Germany. As its name implies it is first and foremost a family. It seeks to bind all those who belong to the household of one and the same Faith together, it order that their common ideals in the service of the sick and needy may be strengthened by an identity of religious purpose and by a feeling of unity among themselves. But for all this it is not a family within a family, a sort of inner clique or circle. It is one which embraces in spirit all those who are in distress or want, wherever they may be, and sees in their sufferings and courage not only an example to be followed, but a reflection of the very victory of Christ on the Cross. For its inspiration and model it looks to the small group of men and women—amongst whom was included not only the Blessed Virgin Mary, but also the good thief—who on Calvary itself formed the first Family of the Cross; and like them it hopes to offer the support of prayer and the solace of spiritual companionship to all those who by virtue of their sufferings have the privilege and opportunity of sharing in the redemptive work of the Cross.

Every afternoon at 3 o'clock members are invited to unite themselves with docility to the Will of our

Heavenly Father, Who so loved the world that He gave us His Only-begotten Son, by pausing and silently saying:

"Christ was made obedient for us unto death, even the death of the Cross; because of which God hath exalted him, and given him a name which is above all other names."

They also recite daily the prayer of St. Ignatius:

"Teach us, Good Lord to serve  
Thee as Thou deservest,  
To give and not to count the cost,  
To fight and not to heed the  
wounds,  
To toil and not to seek for rest,  
To work and not to ask for any  
reward,  
Save that of knowing that we do  
Thy Will."

Meetings of the Family are held monthly, at present only in London, and those who cannot attend are kept in touch by means of a monthly newsletter. Days of recollection, retreats and pilgrimages form part of the year's programme. Amongst the Family's practical activities is a mission to make better known the Holy Shroud of Turin in which is seen a pre-eminent means of assisting people to a fuller understanding of the meaning and significance of suffering, as well as a source of inspiration to the members.

Further details will be gladly forwarded, on request, by John Messent, 10 Spencer Hill, Wimbledon, S.W.19.

## CODE OF PRINCIPLES FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Recently adopted by the Executive Committee of the Conference of World Organizations Interested in the Handicapped (C.W.O.I.H)

"The handicapped person is an individual with full human rights which he shares in common with the able-bodied. He is therefore entitled to receive from his country every possible measure of protection and assistance and to be given the opportunity for rehabilitation. He is capable of developing his residual resources to an unexpected degree if given the right opportunities and can generally become an economic asset to his country instead of a burden." (Harold T. Balme, U.N. Technical Working Group on Rehabilitation; *International Social Service Review* No. 2, March, 1957).

To accomplish this the C.W.O.I.H. believes that:

1. The medical, psychological and social sciences should continue and increase their research efforts in the causes of disablement and in the development of measures to prevent and alleviate mental and/or physical disabilities.

2. Treatment should be available on both a resident and an out-patient basis. It may be given in a general or special hospital or in a special centre or through some combination of relationships between the community treatment resources and the homes of the patients. Wherever possible or necessary, medical, dental, ophthalmological, psychiatric, nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech and hearing services, as well as social and vocational services, should be provided. It will thus be assured that the needs of the patients will be met and in a sequence designed to minimize the adverse effects of delays in preparing them to resume an active life.

3. Educational opportunities should be provided on a standard equal to those for the able-bodied to assure maximum intellectual and vocational development. When required, specially trained personnel and transportation should be provided. In some

instances it may be necessary to provide separate facilities.

4. There should be a comprehensive programme, including social, educational, psychological, medical and vocational services for the chronically ill or disabled who are no longer able to profit from a programme for prevention of disablement or physical restoration so that their abilities may be used to the maximum.

5. Within the limits of his abilities the handicapped person should be encouraged and aided to develop those vocational and avocational pursuits for which he is best qualified and from which he will receive the most satisfaction.

6. Employers should be encouraged to give the same consideration to the skills and abilities, potential and attained, of an applicant with an impairment as to those of one without. A handicapped worker should be employed at the established salary or wage scale for other workers with comparable skills.

7. The community, recognizing the right of the handicapped person to achieve an independent and normal life, should assist his integration into the community through employment and inclusion in activity programmes of clubs, churches, schools and recreation agencies.

8. Legislation should be enacted at all appropriate governmental levels to provide for rehabilitation and education programmes and other necessary services to enable the handicapped to achieve maximum usefulness.

9. Good rehabilitation programmes must have the understanding and financial support of an enlightened public. In order to achieve this, programmes for the rehabilitation of the handicapped should include public education, which should emphasize not only the responsibility of society but also its gain through the conservation of human resources and the contribution that rehabilitated persons can and do make."

MRS. CHINNADORAI

I am the wife of an Assistant Collector in India and have been interested for many years in Social Work. In 1956, two months after the death of my husband, I contacted Group Captain Cheshire for the first time.

"Would you please help me in the running of a leprosy home in South India?" is what he asked me when we met for the first time at the home of Dr. Ida S. Scudder, the founder of one of the greatest medical institutions in India—The Christian Medical College and Hospital of Vellore.

In all my long experience of social work, I had not worked among leprosy patients. My first reactions naturally was reluctance because of fear. What impressed me most at the time was the easy confidence with which he made the proposal of starting this home for crippled leprosy patients. He seemed so full of faith, this man. Faith in God, in himself and in his fellow men. I noticed other qualities too; the ability of leadership, a great charm and an intrinsic kindness towards everybody.

*I finally agreed*

At this stage I was not prepared to commit myself to leprosy work. I had to see and talk to my children about it. So I went back to my home in Salem. But the seed had been planted and inevitably it blossomed forth. After seeing my children I wrote to him that I would like the home to be situated at Katpadi, a suburb of Vellore. So a few months later I went down to Vellore to look for a place for the new home. Some good and kindly people at Katpadi helped in this task and we decided on a location for the new home. Group Captain Cheshire visited Katpadi during this time and we began to collect a Committee for the management of the new home. The Collector of Vellore, the District Medical Officer and other socially-minded citizens of Vellore came forward to help us.

However, as soon as word got around that the Home was to be started in Katpadi, we were faced

with trouble and strife. In the first instance, I received a letter from the Secretary of the Township telling me that the idea was impossible. Then the people of the neighbourhood turned hostile and threatened to molest me! But by this time I had already taken up residence close to the home we intended to buy one day for the leprosy patients. The District Medical Officer came to our rescue and assured the people around that the leprosy patients we intended to house at this home were crippled, bacteriological negative people who were no danger to the public.

*Vishranthi Illam*

And so in 1956 we opened Vishranthi Illam, the home for crippled leprosy patients at Katpadi Township. The Collector was present, as also Dr. Ida S. Scudder. There were also the new members of the managing committee and a fair section of the leading citizens of Vellore. The building was rented and we had just one patient to begin with. He was badly crippled and totally blind and with more than a quarter of a century of leprosy behind proved extremely irascible! His ugly appearance often threatened to throw me out of the home! And Vishranthi Illam means the abode of peace!

But those were the early days and soon more and more patients came to us from all parts of India. From Calcutta, from Bombay and from Madras. The more able-bodied helped the crippled ones and life in the home started taking more shape and more meaning. Group Captain Cheshire was in and out of Katpadi quite often during this time. He often stayed at the same home in a little room with these patients and showed them much love and kindness. He spent as much time as he could during these visits with the patients. He seemed to see far beyond the ugly deformities of the human body. He knew instinctively as only a leader of men would know that they needed love and understanding and always he gave it to them.

### *Millionaire in faith*

I particularly remember a piece of conversation I had with a friend of mine in Vellore at the time. This friend said to me: "Cheshire must be a very wealthy man, he must be a millionaire." And I replied, "You are quite right, he is a millionaire in faith."

Group Captain Cheshire has come again and again to Vishranthi Illam. He says that he thinks it is the best of his homes in India. He is always there with his guidance and help and his great love and understanding. This ability of being able to give of himself so fully is what I find most fascinating in the man. Money means so little to him where these poor leprosy patients are concerned, and love means so much more.

The home has grown during the past three years. Today we own this home. Group Captain bought it for us. He has given us money to build another home alongside the present one for women patients who are crippled by leprosy. This home is under construction now. The old home provides shelter for 30 leprosy patients. Most of them are permanent residents, deformed, blind and in most cases with crippled hands and ulcerated feet.

### *The work they do*

In spite of all this they are able to

do some kind of light work in the form of occupational therapy. They make toys out of wood, they frame pictures and they have a small poultry farm. The money they earn is shared equally between them as pocket money. The home is extremely clean and tidy and most of the time amazingly full of laughter and song. My daughter who is a doctor attends to their minor needs and my son who is a Captain in the Indian Army spends a great deal of his time in the home entertaining the patients when he is on leave. My grand-daughter who is about 8 years old and is being trained in Indian dancing, often dances for these patients at their home.

Group Captain Cheshire has told me that he is starting another home for leprosy patients at Dehra Dun in North India. He has asked me to visit the place and to help to get it started. I probably will some time later. This home is now well established and we also get some grant from the Government annually.

To Group Captain Cheshire this home means a lot. I know it. He has told me on several occasions, "Mrs. Chinnadorai, if a leprosy patient comes to you and asks for a home and shelter, give it to him and give him love." That, I believe is the secret of this great man. Love, even as his Master loved.

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## SOME INTERESTING LETTERS

### A Plea to the Homes

"Anonymous" writes:—

I wonder if you have space, sometime, to say a word or two on behalf of people who had a hand in the early stages of homes being set up, and then for some reason or other (marriage, removal, etc.) have been unable to continue. *The Cheshire Smile* is about the only means by which we can keep in touch with "our" Homes—and if the *Smile* carries no item about these particular Homes, then we are left without news. Could not the secretaries of each home be circularised calling attention to this point. I was asked the other day how many there were in residence at . . . , and what proportion of short-term people were being received. I just could not answer, and the friend gave me a queer look as though to say, "How odd that you are so out of touch with a place that you served only recently for three years . . . !"

(The Editor wishes to draw the attention of the Secretaries in the Homes to this letter. "The Cheshire Smile" cannot publish all the news, but it can include quite a good proportion if it is condensed and well put together. We would particularly like to point out that our readers are interested both in personal chit-chat and in factual information about the Homes).

### **Mary Brown (Manchester):—**

Please would it be possible to indicate whether the news-bulletins from the various Homes are written by the Secretaries and Warden, or by a patient.

I know I am very interested to guess who the writer of each bulletin really is in the Home. Do you think I am alone in this?

(We have tried to adopt this idea in this issue).

### **Mental Rehabilitation**

From John D. Williams, Social Worker, Park Prewett Hospital, Basingstoke, Hants.

I was very interested to read the article on "Returning Hope for the Mentally Ill" by Roma Sherris, in the winter issue of *The Cheshire Smile* and also to learn that the Cheshire Foundation is now taking an active interest in the rehabilitation of ex-mental hospital patients.

I am sure that Miraflores Hostel provides a very real need for discharged psychiatric patients and that more hostels like this will help in their rehabilitation.

At this hospital we have quite a number of patients who live in the hospital for a time whilst going out to work, until they feel able to leave hospital completely. This forms a useful stepping stone for patients who have been in hospital for a long period, but unfortunately some of the patients stay much longer than is really necessary for them because we are unable to obtain suitable lodgings.

Jobs can be found for them comparatively easily but suitable lodgings are well-nigh impossible. There is still a lingering stigma against the ex-mental hospital patient, and this was illustrated to me very forcibly recently by a probation officer who told me that he had advertised for a home for a discharged prisoner. He had two offers of accommodation for the prisoner, yet when we advertised some time ago in the local press for homes for rehabilitated patients now successfully working,

the response was nil.

One other point I should like to comment on is the statement in the article that the League of Friends formed at Warlingham Park Hospital nine years ago was the first band of volunteer workers ever to penetrate into a British Mental Hospital. I should like you to know that an experimental scheme was initiated by the Social Worker at this hospital in conjunction with the W.V.S. in October 1947, whereby welfare visits were paid by selected members of the W.V.S. to patients' homes on trial or discharge. This had become necessary owing to the shortage of psychiatric social workers to carry out the after-care and general support to discharged patients.

Members of the W.V.S. who were interested in welfare work were specially chosen and only those who could overcome the deeply-rooted fear of mental illness were asked to undertake the work.

The after-care scheme has worked exceptionally well since that time and the W.V.S. do, in fact, carry out the bulk of the routine after-care work at this hospital, sending in between 600 and 700 reports on discharged patients every year.

I thought you would like to know about this. I am not claiming any specific record for Park Prewett as I believe other hospitals have also used voluntary workers even before we started to.

### **What's in a Name?**

Charles Darby, of Liss, Hants., has this to say:—

May I butt into this discussion about the word "cripple"? I cannot make any suggestion about an alternative, but does it really matter?

My dictionary defines cripple as: "a lame person; one who creeps,

halts or limps". Rather a depressing definition and one which the type of "physically normal person" to whom you refer would quite readily accept. But even physically normal people can be creepers! Some of them limp

through life and come to a halt without making any effort to do something worthwhile. Surely they, too, can be classed as "cripples"?

What if we do find a name to replace this seemingly obnoxious word? It would not make any difference; it is the conception of the word that counts, and those who look upon cripples as "more to be pitied than blamed" would still do so, no matter what the name.

So we must accept these people as they are, poor things, and try to help

them to understand that the "cleverness" which made the pretty baskets was due to guts and concentrated effort; that a grotesque appearance can conceal a keen intellect; that a mis-shapen body contains a soul! Believe me, you have many friends who *do* understand.

But if we cannot change the word, we *can* change its meaning and write in our dictionary another definition: "Cripple: One who with courage, determination, and strength of mind, combats the weakness of his body"!

## Male v Female

Tom Gair, Staunton Harold Hall, makes a protest:—

May I say a few words in reply to the very provocative article on the Women's Page of the last issue. Of course, I realise that, as it was written by a woman, one cannot expect too much in the way of consistency or logical argument, but I do think the writer could have told a few more of the facts, and not confined herself *quite* so much to the ones which suited her purpose. I am alluding to the part of the article referring to the men in one of the Homes "commandeering the sitting-room, and banishing the women". That, of course, is only part of the story. She didn't mention, for instance, that the women have their own sitting-room, where they can get away from the men at any time, whereas the men have none, and so, until this idea was brought forward, could never at any time get away from the cattiness and gossip of the women without going to their bedrooms—and who wants to live in their bedroom? She does not mention that the granting of the Library to the men on two evenings a week was decided upon at a full meeting of the patients—male and female—and that during the discussion only one voice registered protest, and that belonged to a person who rarely uses the room. Your correspondent tries to give the

impression that on two nights a week, the cruel men throw the women outside into the cold, cold snow, with no roof over their heads at all. This isn't quite true, for, apart from their very nice sitting-room, they also have access to two other communal rooms.

She asks why the men want the room on these two nights, unless it is to tell bawdy stories, yet with typical woman's logic, she has already answered that question by admitting that, even at Le Court, which she so obviously looks upon as the nearest thing to Paradise to be found on this poor earth of ours, "for some extraordinary reason, quite a few men prefer an unattached bachelor existence."!

As for her theory that we only want to get rid of the women so that we can tell bawdy stories, that is sheer bunkum. Any man will tell you that he heard all his best stories from his girl friends!

In conclusion, may I say that I hope in future, Miss Beasley will see that all the facts of a case are put and not just the ones which make the men look selfish, black-hearted villains.

P.S.—I must add that I very seldom use the Library, and give you a toast, "The Ladies, bless them, with all their inconsistencies"!

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### ST. GILES' CALENDAR

As mentioned in our last issue the St. Giles' Fellowship of Prayer has been formed for Anglicans within the Cheshire Homes and their Friends.

The newly-published Calendar with a suggested form of service and a daily rota of prayers is available from the Secretary, Le Court, Liss, Hants: price 1s., plus 2d. postage.

## Taking the "Dis" out of Disability

"Give us the Tools", by Henry Viscardi, Jr.  
Eriksson-Taplinger, 1959, New York

**G**RADUALLY the long prejudice against disabled men and women, the refusal to allow them the rights and duties of ordinary citizens, is being worn down. And it is through the example of people like Franklin D. Roosevelt, Douglas Bader, Helen Keller and Henry Viscardi, that the struggle against indifference, fear, pity and well-meant but emasculating protection is carried forward. Such people act as spearheads and pilots at one and the same time. The book under review is the story of how Henry Viscardi, born with only stumps of legs, started a factory in a disused garage, employing only severely disabled people, and made it such a commercial success that in five years the firm had 300 workers and was worth a million dollars. Nobody would have thought it possible. But it happened.

### It's Early Days

Henry Viscardi was born in 1912, the American son of an Italian immigrant barber. He spent the first six years of his life in hospital, and then when he went home he had to face and overcome all the difficulties of a crippled child in a tough world. He had been given shoes like boxing gloves to protect his stumps and on these he lived an active life, going through elementary and high school, and paying his own way at college by refereeing ball games, working as a waiter, and as a sports writer for the *New York Times*. While he was still a law student his stumps began to wear out, and there was a possibility he might have to spend the rest of his life in a wheelchair, but luckily, through his doctor, he was able to get artificial legs. So, at the age of 25, he stood for the first time at man's height.

At the beginning of the war he gave up his job as a government tax expert and became a Red Cross worker, helping war disabled to come to terms with their handicaps and build new lives for themselves. After the war, married and with two little girls, he quickly rose to become a business executive in the competitive hurly-burly of American broadcasting. But Dr. Howard Rusk, the great American rehabilitation pioneer, whom he had met during his Red Cross work, asked him to join in an organisation which was being

started to try and find jobs for disabled ex-service men.

### Just One Break

It was appropriately named Just One Break, or J.O.B. Ironically, though most of these people would have done anything to earn their own livings again, to feel useful and purposeful, the able-bodied community was only prepared to give them pensions, charity, coddle them, shelter them. It would not let them be independent by doing a day's work for a day's pay. For every man J.O.B. could place there were twelve still desperate for jobs. Henry Viscardi and one or two more disabled men decided they would set up a firm themselves to employ some of the work-hungry. *Give Us the Tools* is the history of this venture, Abilities, Inc.

The first step was to find a factory. Viscardi heard of an empty garage and, though his backers retracted on grounds of safety, he found less timorous sponsors and went ahead. The garage was dirty and draughty, but it was well built and dry. The next problem was insurance, and there he had another bit of luck. A good lawyer and a contact in the U.S. Treasury were able to get the necessary O.K. He could at last prospect for contracts. He found one, benches were set up, and production began. How simple this sounds without the details of effort and disappointment, generous help, technical skills learnt, incredible ingenuity and patience in overcoming physical lacks. Abilities, Inc. expanded steadily. They undertook many sorts of electronic and other engineering contracts. They made costly mistakes and managed somehow to put them right. More men and women were taken on; blind, deaf, paraplegic, paralysed by polio, crippled in accidents, all determined to work normal hours at normal jobs. Every corner of

the garage was crammed with workers, materials and equipment. It was obvious they must expand.

#### **Expansion**

After searching for more spacious premises, they finally had to settle for an extension to the garage. The employees were given two weeks' paid holiday and the new building finished by their return. The firm prospered and grew, till a big factory was essential. Not only that, the zoning board wanted them to move out of the area they were in. An ideal piece of land was bought, in neither too busy nor too isolated a position, and on it a \$650,000 factory was constructed. This had everything—excellent welfare facilities, ramps, wash-basins at the right level for wheelchairs, plenty of light and air. Moreover, Henry Viscardi could realise a cherished dream, of incorporating a medical research project with the commercial side of the venture. Human Resources Corporation was the name he chose for this enterprise, and a team of specialists began to study the potentialities and the limitations, the different types and degrees of disability, of the employees. Before long, however, the trade recession hit Abilities, Inc. as it did industry everywhere, and they had the painful task of picking out the workers who would least suffer from the tragedy of being laid off. Sixty-five of the three-hundred-odd had to be given notice for the firm to survive. It was a day of triumph when they had weathered the crisis, taken back these men and women, and actually added fresh labour to the strength. Strength is an apt word too, for this miracle of achievement had happened in five years, and there seems nothing to stop it going on to become one of the giant business corporations so familiar in America.

#### **Example followed**

The success of Abilities, Inc. is not in itself the biggest gain, either. For the example this factory has set in using—from labourers to directors—people who are so badly disabled that they were formerly considered unemployable has had its effect all over America and indeed throughout the world. As a direct result Sears, Roebuck, the mail-order firm, now employs 2,500 disabled out of a total labour force of 250,000. Many, many

more hard-headed business men have been converted to realising the value of these people who just want a chance to work, and will then give all they have got. Similar factories are being started in other parts of North America, Mexico, Germany, Australia, and New Zealand. Why not in this country?

To go back to the point Viscardi emphasises again and again, what is so important is to dislodge the curious attitude which assumes that because a person is disabled the community must support him or her in soul-destroying idleness. This old-fashioned idea is still all too prevalent that society is responsible merely to prolong a disabled person's existence, not to encourage his independence and initiative and a rich, positive life. "We would throw out the old insulting notion that disabled people should be protected and supervised like backward children. We'd dispense too with charity drives and professional hand holders . . ." These words of Viscardi illustrate his forceful plain speaking. And his book is full of examples and anecdotes. A 50-year-old man, blind since birth, could look with pride at a cable assembly that would some day be a part of an aeroplane in flight. He had assembled it. "It was hardly more difficult than weaving baskets—but how much more rewarding for everyone concerned!" Of course there are numbers of people too severely disabled to live independently but the principle applies to them equally. They don't want to be treated like backward children either. A good proportion of those who are now counted too handicapped to work for their livings could do so with a little ingenuity and understanding.

Some of the examples amongst the workers in this enterprise are almost unbelievable. Murray Nemser, working flat on his back in a litter, began by lacing wires, soon became leadman of a crew of five, and then went on to a front office job. Alex Alazraki was born with no arms or legs: he developed such sensitivity and skill in his arm stumps that when he was given a job of sorting and packaging he outdid everyone and in no time was a charge hand. Esther Caldwell, born blind, lost her hearing as well, but she works as a harness maker.

### Lessons for Us

Have Henry Viscardi's ideas any application in the Cheshire Homes? I think they have. For one thing the very name under which the Homes are registered The Cheshire Foundation Homes for the Sick reveals an assumption—probably quite unconsciously held—that the residents in the homes will never be capable of taking the dynamic. Considering the Cheshire movement is only eleven years old and excitingly unconventional, what a pity that the official emphasis should have tended already to harden on the sheltering aspect rather than the active, adventurous possibilities.

*Give Us the Tools* can be warmly recommended to anyone who is interested in the future of the disabled not least to the disabled themselves. The book could well be compulsory reading for Management Committees and Administrations of homes. They might gain a new insight into the behaviour of the more ambitious (in an altruistic sense) of their residents. It is an inspiring story of imagination, resourcefulness and guts. Henry Viscardi is an uncommon man—and, for that matter, his wife, whose faith and support has helped him immeasurably, must be a no less uncommon woman. B.B.



### THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF TANNOU TOUVA

by Edwin Hand  
of Greathouse,  
nr. Chippenham, Wilts

The remote and little-known country of Tannou Touva is most well-known for the colourful and picturesque stamps it uses, such as the triangular one pictured above. This is an airmail issue of 1936, showing a pair of Siberian llamas alarmed by the passage of a modern aircraft overhead.

The State of Tannou Touva is situated in the heart of Siberia, and this very lonely province is reputed to be the scene of the many Russian atomic bomb explosions. The country lies between the Sajan and the Tannu Ola ranges of mountains, while the main town and capital of Kyzyl is only about the size of Epsom.

I fear that most of the stamps of

Tannou Touva are not genuinely used postally, as the country has made quite an industry by supplying stamps cancelled by order, solely for the benefit of collectors. However, this State is now part of the Soviet Union, and so uses Russian stamps, this making the others obsolete.

The set of Tannou Touva triangular stamps which are illustrated below are from the issue of 1935. The first stamp shows a Siberian native shooting a bow and arrow, while the second portrays another native spearing a fish in the river. The third stamp illustrates another Touvan penetrating a bear with a bayonet in hand-to-hand combat, piercing him with a violent thrust.



### An All-in-One Reference

**Gadget Leaflets. National Association for the Paralysed, 1 York Street, Baker Street, London, W.1. 10s. 6d. plus postage. (The eleven sections of this booklet are also obtainable separately).**

The introduction to this booklet states clearly enough that its purpose is "to give information about various aids, appliances, and gadgets, already manufactured in this country, or easily made, which can help to overcome the everyday problems of disabled people." The different sections include hints and suggestions that will assist you in many difficult situations.

There is a list of organisations and manufacturers who recommend or supply the appliances and gadgets, and in addition prices are given. And if you desire information about any particular difficulty, or about local services for the physically handicapped in your area, we note that the National Association for the Paralysed are willing to help.

I have yet to see a more comprehensive work on this particular subject.

It gets off to a good start on the major problem of lifting. A number of appliances are listed, from overhead grips attached to the bed to those suspended from frames (e.g., Balkan beams). Then portable stands for those who can help themselves. For disabled people who are not so independent, or are heavier to deal with, slings are mentioned in various forms. These range from the simplest to the most elaborate and efficient hydraulic hoist, suitable for transporting "bods." in and out of bed, bath or chair. I should also like to mention the simple board, described in the section on car transport, allowing one to slide along, or even be pushed from one seat to another, on its shiny surface.

Dressing aids are innumerable; suggestions for helping oneself in the toilet are very good and sound. I particularly liked the bath-steps built for those who can help themselves a little to get in and out of

the bath. The highest step is level with the top of the bath; you slide down one step, then another, then another, and—you're in.

Kitchen equipment to lighten the disabled housewife's tasks is presented along with fittings such as sink units and cupboards, some of which can be quite easily obtained or even made. Hints are also given for helping with general household activities—reaching objects from different levels, or telephoning. In all these cases, special attention is given to the one-handed person. Eating and drinking are necessarily a part of the book as they are of life.

I have used the word "comprehensive" to describe the booklet although I know from experience that there are many more aids and gadgets needed, in day-to-day living, for the disabled. They have not yet been thought out as the needs of so many are not known, or probably because there is no one to encourage a try-out of some form of gadget.

Recreation is not neglected; there are tips to assist you in card playing, reading, knitting, etc. As for the disabled person who is lucky enough to have a car available, we all know a pleasant time can be had on an afternoon jaunt, but we also know how the struggle of getting in and out often spoils the fun. Occasionally this can be overcome in one of the ways suggested. Addresses are given of firms who convert cars to partial or full hand-control. Then for those who feel they can manage an invalid tricycle, and can get a consultant's recommendation, advice is given on how to go about obtaining one. There are even tips on driving. All models of hand-propelled chairs available from the Ministry of Health are listed.

This is a book well worth keeping in reach.

## Occupational Therapy for Disabled People in the Cheshire Homes

by Doris Willmot

THE young chronic disabled who come to the Cheshire Homes fall broadly into two classes. There are, firstly, those who, though disabled, are reasonably strong, and whose condition is not deteriorating—e.g., polio cases, congenital deformities, etc. And, secondly, those suffering from progressive diseases—e.g., sclerosis, ataxia, etc., in which their condition can only deteriorate and their strength diminish.

We must always remember, in regard to the determining of the right kind of work for patients, that a different approach is needed for the second group than would be applicable to the first.

Those in the first group can be expected, and should be encouraged, to learn long-term crafts. They have much more expectation of becoming skillful enough, not only to derive a great deal of pleasure and satisfaction from creative self-expression, but also to produce saleable articles and thus earn a small income. Because their

disablement is generally less severe, their outlook on life is on the whole more optimistic than those with progressive diseases.

The members of the second group are in a somewhat different position. Having spent long periods in hospital, amongst patients similarly afflicted, they are well aware of what the course of their illness must inevitably be. Of course, they don't talk of it much, but it certainly colours their thinking and affects their attitude to work of any kind. It is a real effort for them to take the trouble to master a new craft. Some of them, who have learnt an art or craft before their disability reached its present stage, can continue with that for a while. But all find that, as muscular control grows weaker, and often eyesight too, one craft after another has to be given up. This presents a really difficult problem to those in whose care they are placed—that of keeping alive their interest in work that they are growing less able to perform.



But all occupational therapists know that their job is not merely to teach crafts. At the deepest level their aim is to heal by drawing out a patient's capacity for creative self-expression. And that can be achieved by all kinds of intellectual and artistic occupations, which are therapeutic even to normal people. We must especially remember this and not restrict our concept of occupational therapy, when dealing with the more severe cases of progressive disablement. If a patient's background and inclinations lead him (or her) to the study of science, literature, engineering, art, music, nature study, etc., should he not be encouraged to make these his O.T., the necessary muscular drill being supplied by physiotherapy? Yet there is no need for these static occupations to supersede altogether the more dynamic craftwork until the latter becomes physically impossible. In a normal balanced personality the two are mutually complementary and compensatory.

In this connection it must be remembered that many chronic cases, especially congenital ones, have never been able to take advantage of normal educational facilities. A certain amount of general education would be needed if they were to take up any intellectual interest. Well, why not foster it? In many cases, the lack of school discipline, and then of regular work, all too easily leads to an inability to concentrate. They can't apply themselves for long to any one interest or occupation, but continually change from one thing to another.

These intellectual and artistic pursuits would, in many cases, be best undertaken in small groups, on the principle of the study circle. It would generally be necessary to have access to an extensive, in some cases, technical, library. But county librarians are usually willing to arrange for an institution to be regarded as one of its local branches to which books can be supplied in quantities.

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## CHRONIC DISABLEMENT FROM NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS

The following note appeared in the *British Medical Journal*, January 2nd, 1960, and is reproduced by kind permission of the Editor.

PATIENTS with severe and permanent disabilities, including young adults, are mostly to be found in geriatric wards, or waiting with misgivings in other hospitals for transfer to such wards. Some are in voluntary societies' homes; many more are at home imposing heavy burdens on their families until physical deterioration especially incontinence or a social upheaval finally causes their admission to hospital: and others with lesser disabilities are in the care of local authorities. A recent investigation carried out in and near London by an almoner, Miss A. Whitaker, with the help of a grant from the Nuffield Foundation has thrown more light on the needs of these unfortunate people. The 314 "chronic sick" patients she studied were aged 15 to 55 and with medical advice from Dr. M. E. Fearnley she classified them according to the disorder from which they suffered. Five out of six were found to have neurological disease, one-third of the total having Multiple Sclerosis.

Young patients in geriatric hospitals or confined in welfare homes with elderly people are often found to be bored and disillusioned, lacking congenial company and sufficient occupation, and cut off from the outside world. A few, with loss of mental powers, or as a result of long familiarity with their environment, come to accept it. To those with independent and vigorous minds such unsuitable accommodation can be acutely distressing.

Clearly the younger patients with these serious chronic diseases should be separated from the very old or degenerated and cared for in more appropriate surroundings than a geriatric ward. Separate "young" wards in long-stay hospitals are one solution: completely independent units, with as little as possible of the usual institutional regimen, are probably better. But there are many difficulties in the way. There are only small numbers of these younger patients in any one district, and it must be possible for their relations to visit them easily and

for other links with society to be maintained. The nursing units must be small, so that the patients can be grouped according to temperament and abilities, and, more important, so that those who are relatively well need not be in close contact with others on the downward grade. Full facilities for treatment, including physiotherapy and occupational therapy, must be available in the building, which should have good day-rooms and every device for encouraging independence. The patients should be able to feel that even terminally they need not be moved elsewhere for care. Yet some of them will survive to old age and pose a further problem. Thus the administration of such places will have to be particularly flexible and imaginative.

Intermittent hospital care with periods at home is often much better for the patient than endless confinement in hospital. Most families would co-operate thankfully in such arrangements. The sense of a burden shared, with the certainty that there will be periods of real relief, is a great encouragement to the particular member of the family who nurses the patient and often enables her to continue much longer than she would otherwise have done. The care of the patient at home can also be made much less of a burden by the provision of nursing help, aids to movement, such as wheelchairs, and by structural adaptations in the home. There is evidence that the statutory powers under which help of this kind can be given are not being used to the full. Further, local authorities might provide day or part-day attendance. The principle of the day-hospital could possibly be widened to meet the needs of the chronic invalid, young or old. Above all, forward planning for

the individual patient is essential. All too often at present the interest of general hospitals and neurological departments wanes after the possibilities of diagnosis and initial treatment are exhausted. Patients and their families are introduced too late, if at all, to the domiciliary aids and hospital services which are available for the chronically disabled.

Who is best placed to plan the care of these patients? The geriatric physician already deals with almost identical problems in older patients; he is concerned with long-term nursing, with disabilities and rehabilitation, with domiciliary care; he has daily contact with local authority services and must necessarily adopt a medico-social approach in helping to overcome his patients' difficulties. If he is willing to care for the younger chronically disabled patient also—and it must be said that not all geriatric physicians regard this as their proper function—there is hardly anyone in a better position to help the general practitioner to plan ahead and provide the necessary continuity of care. In most hospital regions geriatric physicians are acting in this way, but before their help can be fully effective two requirements must be met—properly designed accommodation for the chronically disabled younger patient, and close liaison between neurologist and geriatric physician in the early stages of the patient's illness.

### DRY SUMMER

Thor, tempestuous, sailed the sky,  
Storm was imminent, the earth was  
dry.  
His mission, alas, was delayed for days,  
By a fleecy cloud, with winsome ways.  
Her billowing skirts displayed her  
charms,  
She whirled and danced, right into his  
arms.  
Later a son to them was born,  
Small, and frail, and very warm.  
Possessed of talents unknown to his  
sire,  
He painted the clouds with colours of  
fire.  
At this, Thor, with jealous contempt,  
With fury *all* clouds he rent.  
The earth was now no longer athirst,  
The rains beat down, the dams were  
burst.

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## Children in the House

At the beginning of the holidays children pop up all over the place, like rabbits from hats, and we have a horde of chair-pushers and doers of odd jobs. There are always half-a-dozen or so about at weekends during term time as well, and three or four teenagers come and help most weekends. They add greatly to our lives. Watching the children grow and develop is a never-ending source of interest for one thing, and the sheer pleasure of having the young around is another. The teenagers are a valuable addition to the labour force. One young man works in the pantry every Sunday, a second will hire a car and take people on the more exotic kinds of outings (the Festival Hall to hear Chris Barber's band, and supper in Chelsea afterwards) as well as doing any humdrum job that needs doing. A 16-year-old Red Cross auxiliary helps with washing, changing and feeding; a 17-year-old types for the editor, tidies up the workshop—and you know how often workshops need tidying! Our 12-year-old Pat from the farm turns her hand to anything, from serving suppers to taking part in the revue.

The absorption of children and young people into the family of a Cheshire Home in this natural way has so many virtues. We gain immensely of course, and there's little doubt they too gain a lot. They certainly love coming. And they will grow up with a healthy and positive attitude to disabled people and pass it on to their children, something of incalculable value in influencing public opinion along the right lines.

**English as she is spoken**

At Le Court, and probably at most other Cheshire Homes, there are generally one or two foreigners on the staff, and from time to time we get slaves and visitors from abroad. If they come to us knowing practically no English they learn a rich language combining Gloucester rumble, Cockney rasp, Irish rhythm, mixed with

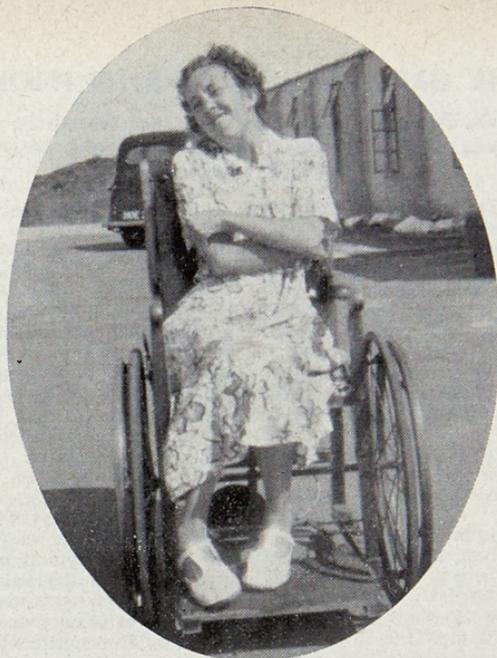
appropriate idiom and current TV catch-phrases. In exchange we break out into a rash of Danke schöns and oh la la's with a Norfolk or Glasgow tinge. The possibilities of misunderstanding are—happily—infinite.

**Tuppence coloured**

Although when this is published midsummer will almost be here, it is being written while spring makes most impact. The day before yesterday we heard the cuckoo and the nightingale for the first time this year. There are primroses and dog violets and milkmaids (floral, not human variety) on the bank outside the window. The sun suddenly came out after rain just now and all the colours doubled in intensity. It struck me for the umpteenth time how important colours are. Have you ever sat in a car and watched the winter passers-by, dressed in their safe greys and fawns, and then a group of young girls in vivid kingfisher plumage lights up the pavement? Thank goodness that since the war there has been a reaction from austerity to rose-sprinkled sheets and curiously decorated tea-cloths, cars dipped in tomato juice and houses with yellow front doors. What fun it would be if we acquired the same feeling for colour as the West Indians, say—if it descended on us overnight—and everybody blossomed into clothes that were speedwell blue, tiger lily orange, orchid pink, gorse yellow, geranium red, crocus purple. . . .

**Contributions please**

The Woman's Page is a year old now, or at least this is the fourth quarterly instalment of it, and I'm beginning to run out of ideas. To prevent me going completely up the wall, *please* won't some of the residents or staff in the other Homes come to my rescue and write an article for the next issue? Aren't any of you full of enthusiasm or indignation or something? Please.



## GLADYS VARVELL

Gladys Varvell was born in Norwich in 1919, and was able to get along quite well, going to work after leaving school, and it wasn't until her early twenties that she was stricken with her disability, which also made her deaf.

One day—after the war—she was reading a newspaper and saw some news about the Cheshire Homes (there were just two then). Gladys contacted her local Welfare Officer about the chances of entering a Cheshire Home. The outcome of this was that, in 1954, Gladys entered the original St. Teresa's at Predannack. Her mother travelled with her and stayed for the first few days, but Gladys soon settled in and, as she says, she was more amused than dismayed when—on at least one occasion—candles were used for lighting.

Just before the move from Predannack to Long Rock, near Pen-

zance, Gladys was confirmed in the Anglican Parish Church in a little place called Cury, on the Lizard Peninsula.

Gladys is a cheerful soul as a rule and in spite of her—almost—stone deafness, likes to sing occasionally, her favourite song being "Clementine", not perhaps sung as well as Joan Hammond would sing it, but it pleases Gladys and it pleases us too, to hear and see her so cheerful.

However, Gladys will soon be leaving us; she is going back to Norwich, to a Home run by the Norwich County Council. She is, of course, looking forward to the time when she will be living near to her mother and sister, but she says she will miss St. Teresa's and Cornwall, especially the sea trips to the Scilly Isles in June.

Well, we shall miss Gladys too but we wish her many years of happiness in her new Home, near to her own people.

## THE CHESHIRE HOMES IN INDIA

**Mr. W. W. Russell, Managing Trustee, Cheshire Homes, U.K., gives some impressions of a recent tour of the Indian Homes**

I was lucky enough to have to go to India on business in January and February; this was particularly fortunate as G.C. and Sue had been compelled to cut short their winter stay in India without having completed their usual round of all the Homes. G.C. was particularly unhappy that he had not been able to visit the Committee at Poona as he had hoped. He therefore asked me to do what I could to visit the Homes during my business trip and particularly those that he and Sue had not been able to visit themselves during the previous November.

I started off in Bombay, which is the town I know best, having spent over twenty years there in business before returning to England four years ago. It was also in Bombay in January 1956 that I first met G.C. at Bethlehem House; this meeting took place only a few weeks after he had started to build the Home with the help of Roy Sugden and Sidney Whiffing. Margot Mason was also with him at that time.

Another interesting thing about starting in Bombay during the first week of January was that I coincided with the pantomime which is now an annual feature of the Bombay winter season. G.C. had been able to be present at most of the recent pantomimes and he was particularly unhappy that his premature return to England at the end of November had prevented him from seeing "Jack and the Beanstalk" in Lady Duggan's beautiful garden on Malabar Hill.

"Jack and the Beanstalk" was quite terrific. The cast was international with a number of Americans taking leading parts, notably the giant, who stole the show and scared both grown-ups and children alike. I saw the show twice and was amazed at its efficient production and the originality of music and lyrics. It lasted for over a week and promised to bring in a large sum of money for Bethlehem House. Lady Duggan and Mrs. Captain, who were largely responsible for the show, very sweetly asked me to speak on

the last night from the platform on behalf of G.C.

During my ten days in Bombay I was able to spend half-a-day out at Bethlehem with Bob and Madge Ruggles who have done so much for the Home. The last time I saw it was in March 1956 when there was only one hut completed and the second under construction. They had only four patients then, but when I visited it in January there were over twenty with a dozen or so more expected just as soon as Carney Cottage should be complete.

I was amazed at the beautiful garden, the number of patients and their evident happiness in the lovely surroundings of the Salsette jungle. The Spanish Sisters were in great form and contribute enormously to the happy atmosphere of the Home. Carney Cottage, a permanent stone building, was nearly finished during our visit and must by now have been opened for the admission of another twelve patients.

### Poona

I was able to get away from Bombay for a whole day in order to go up to Poona by train, surely one of the most beautiful stretches of railway in the world. In Poona I found a most enthusiastic Committee under the guidance of Commander Godrej. I took a recorded message from G.C. and Sue to them, but unfortunately the Stenorette would not work so we had to be content with the message being read.

The Committee took me to the tent which had been given to them by G.C. some months ago. They had pitched it on an open space in the middle of the town, and it was now in fact the Poona Cheshire Home, with two patients. The Committee has no intention of staying in the tent and rushed me at once to a site, also in the town, which had been offered by the Government, not very suitable I thought, and from there to a perfectly wonderful site eight miles from the city in the Mahratta Mountains

near the famous Shivaji fort of Singad.

In these exhilarating surroundings, a Mahratta farmer, Babu Sanas, has offered some land on his farm to the Poona Committee. They suggest that a series of huts be built there as soon as possible. I met Babu Sanas and thanked him on behalf of G.C. for his magnificent offer. The Poona Committee have collected quite a sum of money from the inhabitants of Poona and the International Committee here have been able to send them a contribution. I hope that the G.C. when he returns shortly from India will bring us the news that the Poona Home is under construction, on Babu Sanas's land.

### Delhi

From Bombay I went to Delhi for ten days and saw quite a lot of the Home at Okhla, about five miles south of Delhi. It is a lovely old Indian house, built in the centre of a grove of trees with a very picturesque tank, as they call them in India, or pond, behind the house. The atmosphere is very peaceful although industrial development is creeping near, as indeed it is outside Bombay near Bethlehem House.

I saw a lot of Margaret Marshall, the Matron, who is doing a most gallant job all on her own with about eleven or twelve patients. I also met the Delhi Committee and in particular Brigadier Virendra Singh, who by now I expect is installed as Chairman of the Committee. I was also lucky enough to have half an hour with Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, who for ten years, until quite recently had been the Government of India Health Minister and who has always taken an active interest in the Cheshire Homes in India. In fact, it was through her good offices that the Okhla Home was presented to G.C. She had several excellent ideas for developing the Homes and it was a great pleasure to walk with her in her beautiful garden, on the President's estate.

### Dehra Dun

On my first Sunday in Delhi I took the day off in order to do a whole day's trip with Margaret Marshall to Dehra Dun. It was one of the fullest and most rewarding days of my life,

although we nearly came to grief before dawn when my brother-in-law's car drove straight into an upturned tar barrel on the Agra-Mutra road.

In Dehra Dun I was able to meet the Committee of the Dehra Dun Home, notably Mrs. Thakur Das and General Seghal. I also met Mrs. Ava Dhar who looks after the Ryder Cheshire interests and the administration of the wonderful new settlement, Raphael.

Dehra Dun is one of the most beautiful places in India and is situated on the plains at the foothills of the Himalayas with a view of the hill station of Mussoorie on the ridge three thousand feet above the plains where at present the Dalai Lama has been given refuge in his exile. The Home at 16 Pritam Road seemed to me to be flourishing and has nearly thirty patients. G.C. and Sue have a delightful flat on the first floor which is kept for them in their absence by Ava Dhar; there is also a small Chapel, and Ava Dhar herself lives there looking after the developing entity of Raphael.

Another personality I met there, who curiously enough had been a lifelong friend of my mother-in-law, was Mrs. Dot Rawley who lives in Dehra Dun and has done a great deal for G.C., notably with Raphael. Dot Rawley gave a delightful lunch in her bungalow where I met, of all people, Barty, who must be one of the best-known members of the Cheshire Family, well-known to so many during her period as Matron at Staunton. I heard many wonderful stories of the pioneering days at Raphael, which is an island in the middle of a river, presented by the Government of the State of Uttar Pradesh to G.C. This river is completely dry for eight to nine months during the year and for the remaining three months is in torrential spate. There is no bridge to the island and there have been many occasions when Barty has been carried away trying to get supplies from the bank to the island.

On the island there is a most exciting settlement of lepers who are being gradually transferred from their present home, if one can call it a

home, on the refuse dump of the city of Dehra Dun, to a series of proper brick huts which are being put up by Chippy Lyle and his wife, with the help of two local masons on the island. I was most impressed with the cheerfulness and happiness of the community of twenty-five lepers who had been installed in the first two huts.

Two hundred yards to the north of the leper settlement a most beautiful building has been erected as a home for backward children, and it is here that Barty and Jane Wehner are happily installed with seventeen children in these glorious surroundings at the foothills of the Himalayas. A second building was under construction which will take even more children.

G.C. has ambitious plans for a four-hundred bed hospital which will represent the training centre for the Cheshire movement throughout the world.

#### **Calcutta**

From Delhi I went to Calcutta and was able to spend an afternoon at Serampore, the peaceful and historic settlement on the banks of the Hoogly, built by, I believe, Danish missionaries in the eighties of the eighteenth century. The solid and useful house, once a monastery, had been presented by the Archbishop of Calcutta and housed well over thirty patients. I was taken to Serampore by Mrs. Milne-Day. Mr. and Mrs. Milne-Day have done a very great deal to build up this very excellent Home which is doing magnificent work in Calcutta.

From Calcutta I flew, again fortunately on business, to Jamshedpur, the great steel town of India, which houses not only the largest steel company in the whole of the British Commonwealth, but a growing number of industries which are clustering round the great Tata Industrial Complex. Here I visited the very inspiring children's Home which is being run by Mr. Ashton. Mr. Ashton took me round the garden and estate, presented to G.C. by a Parsee couple in memory of a child who had been seriously ill and later recovered. In the centre of this lovely estate full of fruit trees Mr. Ashton is looking after twenty or thirty children who seem to me to

be almost the happiest children that I saw during the whole of my tour of India. Mr. Ashton is desperately keen to find sufficient capital to make the estate pay for itself in the provision of vegetables, fruit and rice.

#### **Madras**

From Calcutta I flew to Madras where I met one of the most interesting personalities in the whole Cheshire movement in India, Mr. Jagadisan. Mr. Jagadisan is Secretary of the most important organisation in India connected with leprosy, a disease which is more prevalent in South India than in any other part of the sub-continent. He is Chairman of the Madras Home at Covelong, some twenty-five miles south of Madras on the golden sands which stretch so far on the east coast of India.

When he took me to Covelong, the Home which is a spacious house on the sea, it only had about four or five patients, but the local Committee had every confidence that it would soon build up in numbers. Its position is certainly one of the most enviable of all the Cheshire Homes that I have seen in the world.

Mr. Jagadisan and I were able to take a whole day off from our respective businesses to motor into the interior where I did have an excuse to visit a factory. We went to Vellore and had a look at the justly famous mission hospital where a great deal of work is being done on the rehabilitation of lepers.

#### **Katpadi**

Some few miles outside Vellore is Katpadi where Mr. Chinnadorai has built up one of the most effective and cheerful of all the Cheshire Homes in India. I can't tell you how thrilled I was to spend a couple of hours among the patients, all of whom were burnt-out lepers, that is to say lepers who have been cured of their leprosy but who cannot return to their own communities because of the prejudices which still exist unfortunately among their own villages and families.

This community of men seems to be extremely cheerful—they have made a considerable number of most attractive toys and seem to be constantly employed and full of life. They had arranged a most touching

ceremony for me which included music and speeches.

From Madras I went to Bangalore where there are several influential people most anxious to start a Cheshire Home, but unfortunately I was not able to meet the moving spirit, who is also involved in the formation of a new and probably very important political party in India. I am confident however that there will soon be a Home in Bangalore.

My general impressions in India of the Cheshire Homes were of a

plant that has been firmly bedded out in new soil and which is beginning to flourish. We must all hope that it will succeed in transplanting into other beds in other parts of the enormous sub-continent of India and Pakistan. This spreading of the Family to India, and we hope later to Pakistan, seems to me to be a typical example of the way in which the new commonwealth of nations is expressing itself in forms different from the previous ones, but likely to be more enduring and more rewarding.

### **Retirement of Mr. L. J. Donnelly**

#### **First Managing Trustee of the Indian Homes**

It is with great regret that the *Smile* learns of the retirement of "Larry" Donnelly, due to his being posted home to England by his firm. On Mr. Donnelly's shoulders has fallen the burden of building up the administration of the Indian Foundation from its insecure, almost precarious state in early 1957 to its present position. As second in command of Messrs. Babcock and Wilcox in India, he had an already full-time job; and as Father of three children he had every reason in the world for wanting to spend his spare time at home. But he has given generously and unstintingly both of his time and his money, and he will leave behind him a gap that will not easily be filled. We all join in wishing him, his wife and all his family the happiness and prosperity which they so richly deserve.

### **FAMILY DAY FOR INDIA**

G.C. and his wife were very glad to be able to visit the Home near Calcutta for the Family Day held there on Sunday, 3rd April. According to a correspondent who was present, "It was quite different from any other Family Day we have known." There were no representatives from other Homes since distances are so great; and there were no speeches or discussions. "But I think it was one of the best of Family Days. We were all much struck by the family

spirit that prevailed. I particularly noted that the patients were so intermingled amongst the guests that one could hardly distinguish one from the other."

This Family Day was organised in honour of Mr. Donnelly, our first Managing Trustee in India, who is retiring and going home to England. The Group Captain and his wife called on Mr. Donnelly, who was unfortunately unable to attend the function, having succumbed to a 'flu attack.

### **NEW WING AT BOMBAY HOME**

The official opening took place on April 2nd of the latest extension to Bethlehem House, the Cheshire Home near Bombay. It was a wonderful day at the Home, probably to be known henceforward as "Carney Day", for the new wing has been specially dedicated to Jimmy and Nina Carney who did so much for

the Home and have now regretfully left Bombay. They could hardly have thought that the present beautiful buildings would have come so soon out of their early struggles. What could be a better, and more lasting, memorial to all their efforts and sacrifices than this living reminder of their work? It is a memorial

that will certainly do much good in the service of the sick and destitute. Over the door of the new building is a little board which reads simple "Carney Cottage".

We had an excellent gathering for the ceremony. The Governor arrived promptly at 4 o'clock, and after meeting a few people, went up to the platform on the verandah of the new building, and the ceremony began. An introductory speech from Mrs. Captain was followed by one from Group Captain Cheshire, who, with his wife, had managed to fit into their latest tour of Indian Homes a visit to Bombay appropriately timed for the opening.

The Governor was handed a pair of silver scissors and ceremoniously cut the tape which led to one of the doors; and he had a few words to say. Finally, Mr. Wetherall moved a vote of thanks, and after walking round the Governor left. He had spent more than his allotted time

with us, and we were sorry that he was late for his next engagement which was at Santa Cruz, where Krishna Menon, Air Marshal Muckerjee and others must have been anxiously looking out for his arrival. After he had left us tea was served under an awning in the centre of the circle of buildings.

The new building is most palatial and seems to tower over the others. It is on the high ground more or less level with the Chapel, and running at right-angles to the Sisters' bungalow. The far end has a tall foundation since the land begins to fall away in that direction. Nevertheless, it is built on the same principle as the other buildings, except that it is of stone and cement, the stone being polished and looking very smart. The roof is high, which will make it nice and cool, and the beds, bedside tables, bedspreads, etc., look lovely. All the ground round the buildings has been levelled, and we now enjoy an extremely pleasant-looking lawn.

## CHESHIRE HOMES, MALAYA

### The Singapore Home

Now that the new wings have been added, the men's quarters have their maximum of twenty-seven residents. There are at present only six women, but more will be admitted as soon as possible. Their wing in particular looks extremely colourful, having gay patchwork bedspreads very kindly made by Mrs. Hopcroft's party of ladies at R.A.F., Seletar.

Unfortunately, the great majority of the residents are more or less helpless, but their need is so great that this seems to be unavoidable. However,

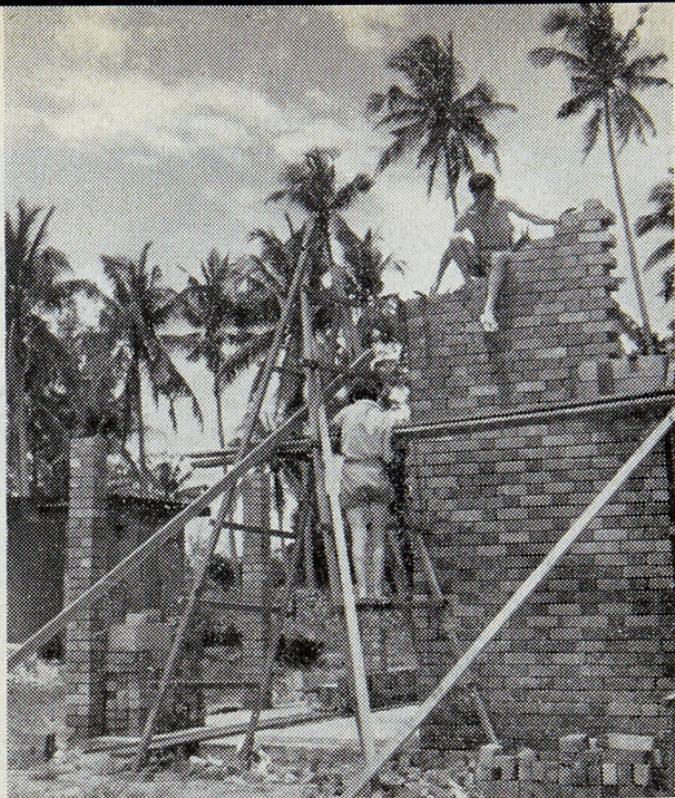
a Patients' Welfare Fund has been set up by the Welfare Committee which provides comforts for the residents.

### New Home in Johore

News has just come through that the second Cheshire Home in Malaya, at Johore Bahru, is now complete, so far as the first stage of building is concerned. It was recently officially opened by the Sultan of Johore. At the time of writing the Home awaits the first patients.

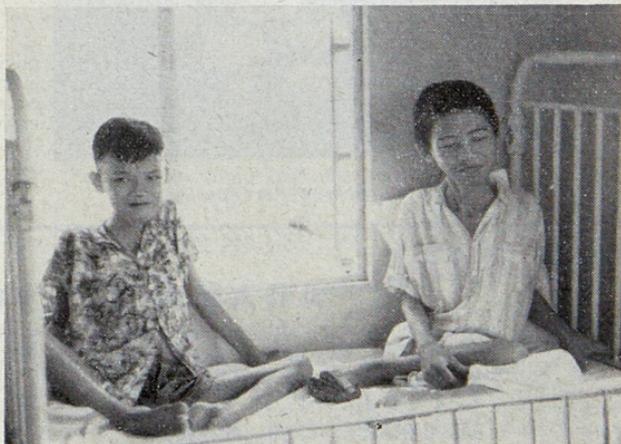
## FOR HIS SAKE

In the March issue of *Blackfriars* the Rev. C. C. Martindale, S.J. wrote on the changes in the world that have occurred in the last forty years. One change that is so huge as often to elude our sight is concerned with the centre of world civilization, hitherto complacently assumed to be Europe. The non-European cultures are perhaps, he says, even now breaking up, but "less than ever are they willing to accept anything from the West save what is to their material advantage. So if we cannot foresee ourselves Europeanizing China, for instance, we probably can introduce Christ by means of good works done for his sake even though not explicitly "religious"—such is the astonishing development of Cheshire Homes in India."



*Photo: Catholic Herald*

*This picture taken some time ago shows Cyril and Stella Lyle helping to build the Singapore Home.*

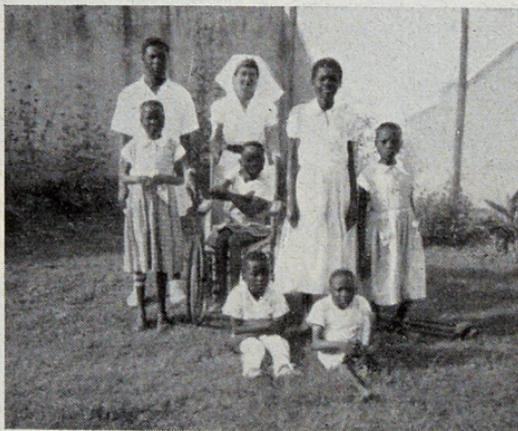


*Two more patients at Singapore.*

**MORE PICTURES FROM NIGERIA**



*The first Cheshire Home in Africa—Oluyole, Ibadan, Western Nigeria.*



*Some of the patients with May Cutler and "Brimo", her trusted helper, at Oluyole.*

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# Home News

*Official News and Informal Gossip from all Quarters*

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## WHITE WINDOWS, CONSOLIDATION AND EXPANSION

### Another Home in the West Riding

The extensions and alterations at White Windows have now been completed, and the home will soon have its maximum number of residents, 34 to 35. The Management Committee decided that this was as far as it was advisable to extend under one roof, as it was felt that any larger unit would tend to become institutional, thus losing the home atmosphere.

The wonderful generosity and support for the Cheshire ideal continues, and as there is still a considerable waiting list for admission, it was decided to extend White Windows in a different area of the West Riding. Several properties had been examined by a small sub-committee, led by Mr. Bowes of Ilkley, when we were extremely fortunate in having offered to us a house at Cleckheaton—"Kenmore"—which is most suitable for our purpose. We are tremendously grateful to Sir Alfred Mowat and Miss Mowat, as Trustees of the late Sir John Gunn Mowat, for making us this wonderful gift, which will enable us to cater for additional residents at a much earlier date than we could otherwise have hoped for.

The house is in excellent condition, but will require a lift suitable for wheelchairs, central heating, re-wiring etc. A House Committee has been formed under the Chairmanship of Mr. John Rushworth of Bradford (our Vice-Chairman), and the necessary work is soon to be put in hand after which we shall have accommodation there for sixteen residents some of whom we hope will be in residence before next winter.

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Mary Whitaker who died at a Halifax Hospital on January 20th following an operation.

Welcome to four new residents. Valerie Gatley from Todmorton. Sylvia Simpson from Brighouse, Tom Parker from Heptonshall and Roland Roberts from Elland.

Donations totalling £718 have recently been received. The value of giving Covenanted Subscriptions to the home was emphasised just lately by the fact that the Hon. Treasurer had a repayment of Income Tax on Covenanted Subscriptions amounting to £250 4s. 4d.

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## CANN HOUSE, PLYMOUTH

### The Devon Home Opens

Cann House opened quietly on 28th March with two Devonians from St. Teresa's who wish to return to Devon and be near their friends and relatives. Cliff Foster and Edwin Welsh were thus our first residents, and duly appeared on television and in the local newspapers! Since then we have

gradually increased our family and now have three ladies and three gentlemen in residence. We hope to receive one of each sex this week and again next week, when we shall have reached our limit of ten on the ground floor.

The lift erectors are busy and the

lift should be ready by June, and then we shall be able to go full ahead till we reach our twenty-five.

The residents have been rather shattered by the news that they are expected to make sixty lampshades, as at the moment we have none in the house—this item seems to have passed our good friends by. As we are going to attempt to make the frames as well, no wonder they are appalled!

The lovely weather at Easter has shown the house and grounds to perfection so no wonder everyone seems happy and contented.

Capt. H. R. HAROLD, O.B.E., R.N.  
(Secretary).

I arrived at Cann House on April 7th,

and my first impression on being wheeled through the hall was—how wonderful to be living in a place like this, and as the days go by I think it is a lovely home as well.

At present there are only six residents here. They are all extremely nice, and find great joy in being able to do small services one for the other. The staff are all very kind and always pleased to help us in any way. Things seem to be done without any trouble, which means an awful lot to people who are handicapped.

I am quite at a loss to tell you what being a resident in this Cheshire Home means to me. I feel that I am safe and secure for life.

A DISABLED RESIDENT.

## COOMB — THE CARMARTHEN HOME

In July it is hoped that the first of the Cheshire Homes in Wales will be opened at Coomb Mansion, near Llanstephan, Carmarthenshire.

Strong local committees in Carmarthenshire, supported by others from the three West Wales counties, have been working assiduously. They have put in many hours of detailed administrative study preparing plans to adapt the mansion, former home of the Kysant family, in one of the most beautiful corners of South Carmarthenshire.

This spacious and well situated house, with its links of long standing with the history of the county and the sense of tradition and old world contentment that it inspires, will provide an ideal setting for the family life that is so essential a part of a Cheshire Home.

The Home will be developed in four stages. Completion of the first stage will enable 35 patients to be given a place, and ultimately it will be possible to accommodate 70. The mansion, the dower house and other property on the site, have been purchased mainly from donations by the Welsh University Colleges of Cardiff, Swansea and Aberystwyth, whose "Rag Week" collections come to over £5,000.

It is estimated that £10,000 will be needed to complete the development of the first stage. A nation-wide appeal for funds has been launched and gifts have been pouring in, including £517

from the proceeds of the "Rag Week" of Trinity College, Carmarthen, £50 from the Carmarthen Townswomen's Guild and £25 from the Pembrey Women's Institute. Donations have been received from well-wishers from all parts of Wales, from Welsh people in London and as far afield as Northern Ireland. Thousands of appeal letters have been sent out inviting people to become members. The hon. appeals secretary, whose address is The Secretary, Appeals Committee, Coomb Cheshire Home, Llanstephan, Carms., says, "Donations will be greatly appreciated."

Our latest gift is a van to provide transport in connection with the extensive preparatory work necessary to establish the Home. The vehicle was bought by Carmarthen Round Table, and handed over by their president (Sir G. P. Philipps, Lord Lieutenant of Carmarthenshire, who is also president of Coomb Cheshire Home) to Mr. J. Havard Evans, chairman of the Coomb committee. Mr. John Coombes, chairman of the Round Table, said that it was a great pleasure for members of the Table to be able to do something tangible for the Cheshire Homes. Sir G. P. Philipps paid tribute to the voluntary workers who had made such progress in so short a time. Mr. Evans, receiving the van, said that the Round Table's gesture showed that the movement to establish a Home was worthy of support and that there were sec-

tions of the community which were always ready to give their aid.

D. F. EDMUNDS.

The International Voluntary Service are planning to send a group of 15 volunteers to Coomb from May 24th—June 25th, for ground clearance, sewerage extension and redecoration of the Home.

### Aberystwyth

In the last issue we published a photograph showing G.C. receiving a cheque from Mrs. Parsons, who was acting on behalf of the Aberystwyth University of Wales Rag Committee, of which she was Chairman. By mistake we said that the presentation was on behalf of R.A.F.A., Carmarthen. Apologies to all concerned.—*Ed.*

### HAWTHORN LODGE

The family here is increasing; a few weeks ago we reached our maximum so far, twenty-two children. We felt rather like the old woman in a shoe, but I should add that we did not treat them in quite the same way that she did!

The permanent children are all well and growing fast. Sally and Jacqueline (aged 2) are now able to sit up in their new Amesbury chairs, and it is a pleasure to see them playing so happily in them. The staff have had a radio installed in the play-room, so even the toddlers are learning to rock and roll.

Easter was enjoyed by all; vast quantities of chocolate eggs (the gifts of local friends) were consumed, but

there were no ill effects. Mr. Warren of Le Court paid us a short visit in March. He soon became "Grandpa" to the family, and we were very grateful for his help, especially with the washing-up which he insisted on doing.

An extra ground floor night nursery is now occupied by some of the boys. The decorating was done by the Charminster Toc-H, the curtains made by our W.I. sewing group and four beds put in. The beds are by no means new but with their bright knitted blankets they look very gay. Who knows, we may even have new beds one day?

P.Q. (*Nursing Staff*).

### ST. TERESA'S, CORNWALL

#### Goings and Comings

Changes are taking place at St. Teresa's—old friends going and new ones arriving. Edwin Welsh and Cliff Foster went to Cann House, Plymouth on the 28th March, and Molly Wynne went on the 8th April. Soon Gladys Varvell will be leaving us to go to Norwich. Edwin and Cliff appeared on the TV the evening after arriving at Cann House in the West Region News.

Ian Macgillivray from Par who has been here as a holiday patient on at least two occasions, is now a resident and settling in very well. At present we have Sheila Hancock here on holiday; she has been here before and hopes to eventually become a resident. Mrs. Brown from St. Ives came to us as a resident on the 11th April. She has been on holiday here two or three times and she is a very welcome "replacement" to those who are leaving, or at least—one replacement. Jean

Horner is away in Yorkshire on holiday and having a very happy time.

Things are under way towards the extensions, and as far as Enid and Graham are concerned, the Radio Room will be their chief concern when they pass their exam. in May, as we feel sure they will do this time. We all hope that by the time the September issue of *The Cheshire Smile* is out not only will the extensions be completed but that Enid and Graham will be fully qualified "hams" and able to contact other Cheshire Homes in due course by short-wave radio.

At the end of April some of the "boys and girls" will be going to see "The King and I" at Redruth, performed by the Redruth Amateur Operatic Society and by their kind invitation.

So far "Sparks" has not given any hint as to a new play, comedy or drama, for the 1960 season of amateur theatricals with "St. Teresa's Players".



*Easter Egg weighing 42lbs. decorated and presented to St. Teresa's by Mr. and Mrs. Ltitler of Penzance. To the left is Sister Kirk and to the right Reggie Moore.*

but no doubt there will be something moving within the next month or so. We shall, of course, be without the valuable services of Edwin Welsh ("Jan") who could put over a very good comic song as well as giving Devonshire dialect readings in his own excellent manner.

We have had a variety of entertainment in the past few weeks, male voice choirs, concert parties, etc., and we are indeed grateful to all who come and entertain us. We had a very successful Fancy Dress Parade on Friday, February 19th. and were very pleased to have our Dr. and Mrs. Hall as judges. Their job was no easy

one as the standard of Fancy Dress was really good and varied. Many of the "Ideas" were thought up at very short notice, but this in no way detracted from the excellence of the "Character" portrayed. One of our male orderlies—Jim Beard—is quite a handy man at this sort of affair and without his assistance we would be at quite a loss—he even helps some of the girls to make-up.

Now we are looking forward to a nice sunny summer, not only for ourselves but for our brothers and sisters in the other Homes.

L.H. (*Disabled Resident*).

## SEVEN RIVERS, COLCHESTER, ESSEX

It is regretted that our contribution starts with the announcement of the death on February 3rd of Bill Stevens, after a great fight against pneumonia.

With the admission of four new patients we now have twenty residents equally balanced between the sexes.

There have been a number of outings and entertainments for patients to help pass away the winter months. On the few warm days lately the Home has taken on the look of summer, with most of the patients

enjoying the sunshine on the drive in front of the Home.

Everyone is looking forward to the Fete to be held in the grounds on 21st May, and which will be opened by the Lord Lieutenant of Essex, who is President of Seven Rivers. The workroom is busy and a large stock of goods is being got ready for sale at the Fete.

In addition to the Fete the Appeals Committee has been busy and the formation of Associations is going on well.

Now for news of Staff. Sister Kathleen left us at the end of January and we are happy to welcome Miss Hall who has taken her place. Matron is unfortunately off sick and we are very lucky to have Mrs. Browning with us in temporary charge.

A generous gift from an Essex Charity has been made to enable us to improve amenities for both staff and patients.

Lieut. Comdr. P. E. HESELTINE  
R.N. (Retd.) (*Secretary*).

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## ALNE HALL, YORK

### Musical Appreciation

Quite a number of things have happened since the last issue. On one evening we were entertained by some blind people who turned out to be very gifted. A man and his wife played the piano well, there were various solo items and amongst other things the choir sang "All in an Aprill Evening".

On another night one of our Committee members brought along a "talented family". They certainly were that, and gave us an enjoyable evening of songs and monologues. The youngest member (about 10 or 12) even played the trumpet.

Members of Elim Bible College.

whose homes are in places like Berlin, Sweden and London, came on yet another day to sing and play to us.

Also recently we have had some very good slides. One lot showing us parts of the British Isles, another of animals and birds—those of swans and cygnets were memorable—and some of a Mystery Play.

We're pleased to have for transport a new Bedford bus which is proving comfortable and convenient. All we need now is good weather.

A DISABLED RESIDENT.

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## HOVENDEN HOUSE — THE LINCOLNSHIRE HOME

### Planning for Family Day

We have enjoyed the Pathfinder Film and many gifts have come to the Home as a result of people seeing it. Naturally, the shots of Hovenden were appreciated particularly.

Since then, we have enjoyed an amateur film of our last year's fete and a holiday in Spain, both taken and shown by our local dentist and solicitor.

Various Women's Institutes have brought plays to the Home and patients have gone to two local amateur theatrical shows.

Last week a tour was taken of the Tulip Fields which are a feature of our district. Next week we are being allowed to park a bus on the route of the Floral Parade to which everyone is eagerly looking forward.

Before we know where we are we shall be in the midst of the excitements of Family Day which is to be

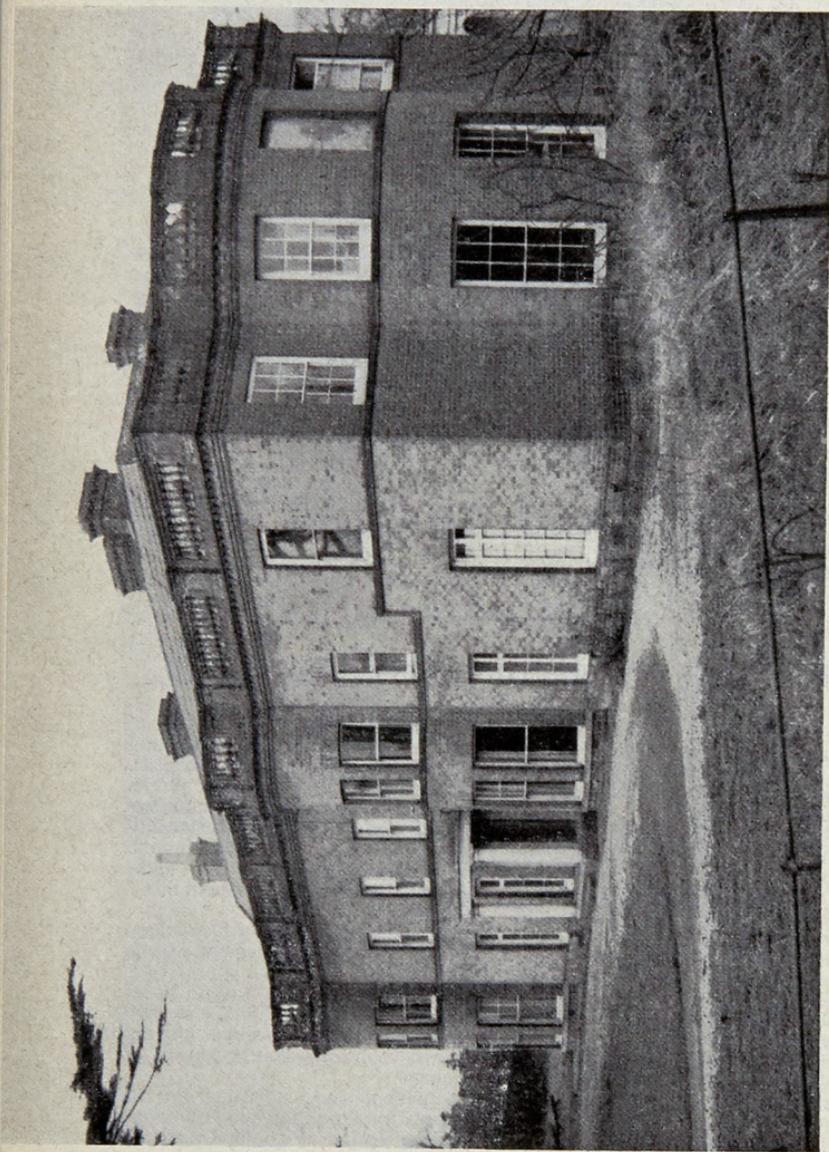
held here this year on June 25th and 26th. (See Family Day Note on p. 4). Everyone is very conscious of the honour of being selected. Rumour has it that it was thought that our locality would provide a "week-end by the sea" as few people realise from looking at a map that we are some thirty miles from the sea proper.

The week after Family Day, there will be the added excitement of our Annual Fete.

One of our patients, Arthur, is off for a holiday at Le Court, the envy of all the others. We are looking forward to having Laurie Mawer in exchange.

A patient came to us from St. Cecilia's for a holiday and is anxious to come again, which has made us very pleased.

Mrs. R. M. M. READ (*Secretary*).



*A fine view of Alne Hall.*

## ST. CECILIA'S, KENT

We are sad to record the passing of two of our family, Mr. John Johnson and Captain Frederick Hewison.

We welcome five new permanent residents, Arthur Canacott, Lewis Edwards, Sydney Hooper, James (Jock) Hogg and Joan Pines. Unfortunately, one of our earliest residents, Peter McGarry, has had to be admitted to hospital.

A change of note is that Sister Ruth Castleton has left us to become Matron of the new Cheshire Home at Plymouth. We wish her well in her new post and know that the Plymouth Home will be well administered by her. In Ruth's place we welcome Sister Ann Whelpton, a very popular addition to the family.

Under the competent direction of Miss Kist, the Occupational Therapy Room is flourishing and orders are

being taken for basket-work, stools, jewelry, plaques and other useful goods. Much of the work will be on display at our Garden Fete on June 11th.

On March 3rd, our Roman Catholic Chapel was dedicated by the Right Rev. Lord Bishop of Southwark. It was a moving and beautiful occasion and we were pleased to have the G.C. with us on that day.

Sir Archibald Jamieson, who was a great friend to St. Cecilia's and a Trustee of the Cheshire Foundation, died last year. On March 5th, Lady Jamieson very kindly attended the Home and planted a magnolia tree to perpetuate his memory. It was a simple and touching event and we are happy to have this permanent reminder of one of our most generous benefactors.

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## HONRESFELD, LITTLEBOROUGH, LANCS.

The Home is now able to take fifteen patients, our full complement for the first stage of development. This number will be raised to approximately twenty-four when a further building programme has been carried out. It was originally planned to extend behind the present house, but this would have involved a costly bridge to reach a suitable site. The new idea is for two buildings to be erected adjacent to the house, and preliminary plans for this are being discussed. However, in the meantime the Management Committee has approved a plan for providing staff bedrooms in the attic quarters of the house. This will give additional living space at a comparatively low cost.

Meetings between the Management Committee and members of Support Groups are proving a great success. These are being held quarterly. At the February meeting there were so many supporters that they could scarcely fit into the dining-room, but they are such happy occasions that it would be a pity to limit the numbers. In addition, it has been decided that

each Support Group should have a special Sunday on which to visit the Home and to bring up people who might be interested in helping.

Two items are particularly being discussed at the moment. It has been suggested that a Football Pool should be organised but a decision on this has been delayed while the many difficulties involved are considered. And the Cheshire Trustees have stated that they are interested in an international emblem, but some people feel that each county could well adopt an emblem of its own choosing. This matter is being taken up with the Northern Trustees before any decision is made.

Our Gala is being held at Royton on May 21st, at which it is hoped to raise more than £1,000. The emphasis this year is on side-shows, although there will be all the usual stalls. Special attractions include celebrities, a motor-cycle display, a P.T. display, maypole dancing and a road safety display given by the Police. In the evening a special dance for teenagers will be held.

## GREATHOUSE, WILTSHIRE

### Coming Events this Summer

On the 28th, 29th and 30th April, the citizens of Calne, Wilts., are holding a Three-Day Event in aid of the Home, including a Car Rally, Ball, Comic Football Match between Calne Boys and the Imperial College of Science Rugby XV, a display by an R.A.F. Helicopter, beating Retreat by the Band and Drums of the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, followed on Saturday by a Grand Dance and Finals of Miss Calne 1960.

On the 7th, 8th and 9th July, a cast from Pembroke College, Cambridge, are producing William Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" at Greathouse. They are giving three evening performances and two matinees, and are coming to us after touring Germany. Visitors can be assured of a worth-while production and, if anyone would like to come and they will write to the Warden as early as possible, bookings will be made. Prices 5s. and 3s. 6d., except Saturday night.

On the 12th July, the Royal Air Force Station, Hullavington (shades of Leonard), are holding a Grand

Fete with parachute drops, flights and all the fun of the Fayre. Proceeds will be divided between the R.A.F. Benevolent Fund and this Home.

Last week, apart from a number of us going to Badminton for the Cross Country Event, we arranged a very successful Whist Drive, which brought in £16.

Some friends in the R.A.F., who used to help us, were transferred to Cyprus, and last week a most unexpected and very welcome cheque for £70 arrived from the Catholic lads at Akrotiri. It makes one feel very humble when we have so many well-wishers. A closing thought—do we take all this effort too much for granted? L.A. (Warden).

### Apology

The aerial photograph of Greathouse published in the Spring issue, was kindly taken by Sqdrn. Ldr. D. S. Stoten, R.A.F., Hullavington, and not by Messrs. Woodward of Devizes as we had stated.—Ed.

## STAUNTON HAROLD, LEICESTERSHIRE

### March Weddings

Although the first three months of 1960 have inevitably seemed quiet following the hectic Christmas and New Year period, there have been a few events which should interest anyone who is interested in Staunton, including a couple of weddings, a confirmation service and a twenty-first birthday party.

The first wedding was that of ex-patient, "Jock" Finlay, who is at present in hospital in Birmingham. We announced "Jock's" engagement to Red Cross nurse Margaret Needham in the *Smile* two years ago, and the wedding took place on the 30th of March. We were pleased to notice that "Jock" and Margaret did not forget their old pals at Staunton, and sent us the top tier of their cake. Everyone here at Staunton will join me in wishing them both a long and happy future together.

Wedding number two was that of

popular Penny Turland, who was here as a nurse for a long time, before leaving us to join the W.R.A.F. She was married on March 5th, and we were very pleased to have her back with us for a fortnight before her wedding. Again, we all wish her and her husband the very best of happiness.

Talking of Penny, I must say that we are all highly delighted to welcome her younger sister, Christine, back to the fold. Chris., who was with us for over a year, before leaving to join the Civil Service, has decided to throw her lot in with us again, to the great delight of everybody—especially the boys!

The confirmation service, held in the 17th century church which stands in the grounds, was of interest to us mainly because, in addition to several people from the rest of the parish, five patients and a member of the staff

## STAUNTON HAROLD — FINANCIAL REPORT

The last five years at Staunton has taught us that people mainly ask three questions:—

1. Why do you need money? 2. How much do you need? 3. How can you get it? We need money because, even in cases where we get grants from Health Authorities for particular patients, they do not meet the cost of maintaining them.

We are also in need because we have borrowed money to spend on improvement to the building, and because we are constantly trying to provide more facilities for our patients.

In the very best cases we need another £3-10-0d. per week per patient, and in the very worst, another £9 per week, because we consider it to be our duty to accept patients who are in desperate need of help, even if we cannot get financial support for them.

Altogether, therefore, we must have £150 per week to enable us to keep going. This seems a large sum—and it is!—but there must be nearly a million people within 25 miles of us, and you can do your own calculation of how little we need per head!

We can get money because you, and many like you, are giving it to us. We get gifts, loans, covenants and legacies, and much support at our Annual Fete, but we have not been able yet to get enough to free us from debt, and that is our first aim. £6,000 will clear us and enable us to breathe a little more freely, but small fish are equally sweet, and we are as grateful for the shillings as we are for the pounds.

Please write to us if you would like any more information—we are always glad to hear from you.

were confirmed, as well as an ex-Roman Catholic being officially received into the Church of England. After the service, the Bishop of Leicester, the candidates and their friends were all entertained to tea and biscuits in the Hall.

The twenty-first birthday party was that of our very good friend, Geraldine Shaw, whose mother is a member of the Management Committee, and who has herself been a regular and welcome visitor ever since the Home opened. This is the third year she has given the patients a party on her birthday, and a grand affair it was too, with a smashing buffet-supper, followed by an entertainment given by the Shaw family, together with a few of their friends, most of whom are members of the Melbourne Operatic Society. During supper, George Barnes, chairman of the Patients' Committee, presented Geraldine with

a week-end case on behalf of us all.

Another notable occasion, especially to the two Toc-H groups in the Home, was the visit of "Tubby" Clayton, the founder of the movement. As he was in the district to address a meeting in the evening, he generously agreed to come and see us in the afternoon.

For the second year in succession, the Quorn Hunt met outside the Hall and this time we were blessed with a fine, if rather cool, day for this very colourful spectacle.

We had a bigger than usual quota of students to help out during the Easter vacation, and were very pleased to welcome seven new friends from schools in the Birmingham and Wolverhampton areas, as well as a very old one in Martin, who has been here several times since last summer.

TOM GAIR (*Disabled Resident*).

## ST. BRIDGET'S, WEST SUSSEX

It is with great regret that we commence our notes by reporting the death of Ida Bond on 24th March.

We miss Ida very much, she was always smiling and cheerful and was popular with everybody.

Eve Ainsworth and Ethel Mather have both been ill. The former has quite recovered, but Ethel is waiting for a bed in the Middlesex Hospital to undergo an operation. We hope that this will be successful and that she will soon be back again.

The highlight in entertainment has been the live and film shows given by the Worthing Rotary Club. These were excellent and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Another special event was the wonderful tea provided one afternoon by Mrs. Burgess.

The Barking Scouts have again spent a week-end here, during which they did fine work repairing a hut and on many other jobs.

Miss Orchard, who takes a great interest in St. Bridget's and comes every week to do our darning, sang our praises to such good effect that Miss Cant, of Dorking, made the magnificent donation to our funds of £1,000. We are also very much indebted to Miss Whitmore, of Hove, for the gift of £250. We do sincerely

thank these ladies for their generosity, and can assure them that the money will be put to very good use on the extension to the Home, which has now commenced. The builders started work on February 29th, and at present we look rather as if we were in the middle of a bombed site. The building is beginning to take shape however, and is due to be completed in October. We are eagerly looking forward to the day when we can not only take more patients, but can provide better accommodation for our hard-working staff.

We were very sorry that our Matron, Miss Houghton, had to leave us at the end of January, and we wish her all the best of health and happiness in her retirement. In Miss Houghton's place we are very pleased to welcome Miss Elliott, who has quickly settled down. We sincerely hope that her stay with us will be a long and happy one.

Col. E. D. EDINGER (*Hon. Treas.*)

## LE COURT, HANTS

### Annual Report - An Extract

For Le Court the new decade opens with the question—Where do we go from here?

Last year we investigated pretty thoroughly the question of building a new Home for the Chronic Sick and Disabled in the grounds of Le Court. We had in mind the middle-aged who are not eligible for Le Court and from whom the Foundation received perhaps more applications for help than from any other age group.

Financial help would have been needed, and we approached the Wessex Regional Hospital Board and the Hampshire Welfare Authority. Both bodies were sympathetic, but all their available funds were committed. They considered, moreover, that in comparison with other forms of suffering the needs of the chronic sick in the region were already being adequately cared for.

This view may be correct as regards our own area, but certainly does not appear to be so in others. The Trustees of the Foundation have long been wanting a London Home, and recently found a suitable house on the market in Dulwich. On hearing

this, we asked them whether they thought that a contribution towards the cost of buying this would be the best way in which we could use any money surplus to our present needs so as to further the general aims of the Foundation. They replied emphatically that it would; so we have transferred the sum of £5,000 to them for this purpose.

Our maximum permitted number of patients remains at thirty-nine and every bed has been kept filled throughout the year. We have encouraged our residents to get away for a change of scenery and in their absence have had thirty-five short-term patients. Several of the former who have no friends or relatives to go to spent an exchange holiday in one or other of our sister Homes and this we hope will become a regular occurrence.

Last year there died our much-loved Molly Conibear, of whom a profile was given in *The Cheshire Smile* of June, 1957. This was our only death, but several of our residents are becoming noticeably more helpless.

This has increased the nursing load and reduced activity in the handicrafts. Though this is inevitable in a Home which caters largely for people suffering from progressive muscular and neurological diseases, it sets a

very real problem for the Admissions Committee who must forecast the future development of the applicants' disability in order to maintain a reasonable level of physical and mental activity in the Home.

#### News of the Last Quarter

After three years of service as Chairman of the Management Committee, during which we had come to depend very much on his wise and excellent counsel, Sir Ernest Gowers has retired from this office, though not (fortunately) from the Committee. We thank him sincerely for his work on our behalf, and hope he understands how much it has meant to us to have him as guide and friend. Sir Christopher Lighton has become Chairman in Sir Ernest's place, a decision which has pleased us all. During his four years as Treasurer of the Committee we have got to know and like him well, and we look forward with confidence to his years as Chairman.

We were all very sorry when Paul Hunt announced his intention of resigning from the Welfare Committee, but he has served for two years as chairman, and that's as long as anyone can be expected to continue this exacting job. He and Frank Spath have created a tradition of integrity, responsibility, leadership and disregard of self over the past four years that puts us in an enviable position. Peter Wade, who was treasurer for the last two years, has

been elected chairman and is already proving himself. Derrick Feltell is the new treasurer, and Barbara Beasley third member.

There have been several changes among the staff in the past three months. We were sad indeed to lose Clive Duncan and Andrew Norris from the pantry in March, and then in April Olga Crommelin and Margrit Schuster from the nursing side. We should particularly like to wish Margrit and Olga the best of luck in their S.R.N. training. Keith Robson and Joan Holdsworth are welcome newcomers.

Another warm welcome is to Sylvia Hunt, Paul's sister, who has come as a permanent resident.

Among the many outings this quarter, perhaps a private trip to a concert at the Festival Hall was the most ambitious. It was a nearly fifty-fifty affair of residents and staff, a football win paying for the tickets and the welfare fund for the petrol. Trevor Prothero, as always, acting as driver. What *should* we do without him? Smiling, unruffled no matter how many dozen jobs he gets asked to do in a day, he is without compare.

B.B. (*Disabled resident*).

#### The March Revue

A large and appreciative audience gave a well-deserved ovation to the cast at the final curtain of the Le Court Revue on March 19th. Particular congratulations are due to Heather Black and Peter Kay, the producer and musical director respectively, who gave up so many weekends to come down to Le Court and take rehearsals.

The distinguishing mark of this production was the emphasis on team work, and it would therefore be unfair to single out individuals. But no-one will begrudge a special word of praise for Peter Wade who, although he did not perform on the night, was assistant producer and author of much of the script.

One remembers with special pleasure the four-part harmony singing in "The Old Rustic Bridge"—here was an example of splendid team work. We hope that at some future event this particular item may be repeated.

Another commendable feature of the production was the varied material used. This ranged from a dramatic excerpt from "Night Must Fall" by Emyln Williams (Laurie Mawer and Barbara Beasley), to a revival of Edwardian Music Hall under the chairmanship of Joe Pincombe.

An "Oscar" must go to the cast of the sketch on life in Greatham. This was probably libellous but it was delightfully done. Songs about

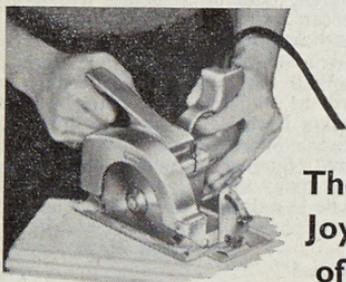
hippopotami (the company were in good voice here) and life in the sewers (Snowy Harding) underlined the talent which is available at Le Court and which we trust will soon be employed again. The production ended with the cast leading the audience in community singing and so providing a rousing ending to a most enjoyable evening.

GILBERT THOMPSON.

### MARKET REPORT

"I am not surprised to hear that the market for this homecrafts stuff is good, for hand-made goods have a strong appeal. It is not without irony that in this mass-producing age among the declining few privileged to produce their own handiwork are the most severely disabled of all."

*Daily Telegraph.*



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## A Bold New Plan

"A Bold New Plan For Dynamic Living By The Physically Handicapped", announces the cover of a brochure just published by New Horizons, Connecticut, U.S.A. New Horizons is an Association of handicapped people and their friends who are determined to do something about the position of the severely disabled in their country, a position which appears to be even worse than that in England. The founders and many of the members live in chronic disease hospitals where they are cramped by conditions geared to senility, sickness and death. These young people aspire to something different. They know that as mature adults they are capable of leading "adventuresome and productive" lives, but their present environment renders this high impossible.

New Horizons' well set-out booklet gives a good coverage to their aims and ideals. They have their sights on a family-home community for 30 to 60 handicapped persons. In many respects this will be similar to a Cheshire Home, with perhaps the main difference being that the home is to be run jointly by the residents and staff, with the administrator (disabled or otherwise) to be appointed by the community itself. As further developments to the main building, they plan on having a factory workshop, smaller homes for families with one or two disabled members, a shop and a "modest auditorium". Within this village community framework they will actualise their slogans of "Self Management; Productive Living; and Co-operative Endeavour". Notice that I say *will*. Although they have at present only 2,500 dollars in cash, their reserves of courage leave one with no doubt that they will achieve their objects. But if any other assurance was needed, a glance at the list of sponsors would supply it. People like Leonard Cheshire, Dr. Howard Rusk, and Henry Viscardi make a habit of being associated with successful enterprises.

*(The Editor has a limited number of copies of the brochure, which he will be pleased to send to those interested. A stamp would be appreciated).*

## THE ORIGIN OF THE HOMES

In May 1948 Group-Captain Cheshire came across an old man dying of cancer whom no one wanted and who was about to be discharged from hospital. After trying very hard to find somewhere else for him to go, but without success, he took him into his own house and nursed him until he died. In the course of doing this he discovered others who were in much the same situation, and took them in too, turning the house into a home for the incurably sick.

This was the beginning of a mission for the relief of suffering which, thanks to the help and support of a great many people the world over, has expanded ever since, so that there are now sixteen Cheshire Homes in England, others in India, Malaya and Nigeria, and several more in active preparation elsewhere.

### BASIC PRINCIPLES

1. The Homes have developed and expanded, not according to a pre-conceived plan, but as opportunity or need has presented itself, and normally in some premises for which no one else could find a use.
2. They care for the incurable and homeless sick—those for whom the hospitals can do nothing further and who have nowhere else to go.
3. They are run as homes rather than hospitals, for their function is not to administer curative or surgical treatment. Thus they offer the affection and freedom of family life, the patients being encouraged to take whatever part they can in the day-to-day running of the house.
4. They are undenominational. Patients are admitted according to need, irrespective of race, creed or social status, all being asked to live together as one family.

### ORGANISATION

The management of each home is vested in a committee, chosen to be as representative as possible of the local community. Thus the homes fit naturally into the framework of their surroundings and the patients have a sense of belonging to the area.

There is a central Trust known as THE CHESHIRE FOUNDATION HOMES FOR THE SICK TRUST. This Trust, which is a registered charity, presides over the homes, owns all the property and acts as a guarantor to the public that the individual homes are being properly managed and in conformity with the general aims of the Cheshire Homes. The Trustees, who are specialists within their own subjects, are for the most part public figures—and all, of course, unpaid. Similar Trusts have been established to control the homes in India, in Malaya, and in Nigeria.

### FINANCE

The Homes are privately, not State, owned and run, having no capital behind them and being largely dependent on voluntary help and subscriptions. Although precautions are taken to see that those patients who are in a position to contribute towards their maintenance do so, no one is turned away because of inability to pay. Thanks to the co-operation of local health authorities, Benevolent Funds, etc., grants are forthcoming for the majority of the patients, leaving a substantial amount of the daily maintenance costs to be found by the individual Homes, which, once established, are expected to be self-supporting.

## LIST OF CHESHIRE HOMES

| British Isles                                                                                          | Tel. No.            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Le Court, Liss, Hants. ... ..                                                                          | Blackmoor 364       |
| St. Teresa's, Long Rock, Penzance, Cornwall ... ..                                                     | Marazion 336        |
| St. Cecilia's, Sundridge Avenue, Bromley, Kent... ..                                                   | Ravensbourne 8377   |
| St. Bridget's, The Street, East Preston, West Sussex ... ..                                            | Rustington 1988     |
| Amphill Park House, near Bedford ... ..                                                                | Amphill 3173        |
| Staunton Harold, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leics. ... ..                                                      | Melbourne 71        |
| Alne Hall, Alne, York ... ..                                                                           | Tollerton 295       |
| White Windows, Sowerby Bridge, Halifax, Yorkshire ... ..                                               | Halifax 81981       |
| Hovenden House, Fleet, Spalding, Lincolnshire ... ..                                                   | Holbeach 3037       |
| Seven Rivers, Great Bromley, Colchester, Essex ... ..                                                  | Ardleigh 345        |
| Honresfeld, Blackstone Edge Road, Littleborough,<br>Rochdale, Lancs. ... ..                            | Littleborough 8627  |
| Greathouse, Kington Langley, Chippenham, Wilts. ... ..                                                 | Kington Langley 235 |
| Spofforth Hall, near Harrogate, Yorkshire ... ..                                                       | Spofforth 284       |
| Cann House, Tamerton Foliot, Plymouth, Devon ... ..                                                    |                     |
| †West Midland Home, Penn, Wolverhampton, Staffs. ... ..                                                |                     |
| *Athol House, College Road, Dulwich, London, S.E. ... ..                                               |                     |
| *Cotswold Cheshire Home, Overton Road, Cheltenham,<br>Gloucestershire ... ..                           |                     |
| *Coomb, Llanybri, Llanstephan, Carmarthen ... ..                                                       |                     |
| *Mayfield House, East Trinity Road, Edinburgh ... ..                                                   |                     |
| Hawthorn Lodge, Hawthorn Road, Dorchester, Dorset<br><i>(for mentally handicapped children)</i>        | Dorchester 1403     |
| Miraflores, 154 Worpole Road, Wimbledon, London, SW20<br><i>(rehabilitation of ex mental patients)</i> | Wimbledon 4058      |

### Cheshire Homes India (Central Office: P.O. Box No. 518, Calcutta)

- Bethlehem House, near Vinayalaya, Andheri, Bombay.  
 Shanti Rani House, 13 Upper Strand Road, Serampore, West Bengal.  
 Govind Bhawan, 16 Pritam Road, Dehra Dun, U.P.  
 Vrishanti House, Katpadi Township, near Vellore, South India.  
 Rustomji P. Patel Cheshire Home, Sundernagar, Jamshedpur.  
 Banarsidas Chandiwala Swasthya Sadan, Kalkaji, New Delhi.  
 The Cheshire Home, Covelong, Madras.  
 †The Cheshire Home, Poona.  
 †Raphael, International Centre, 16 Pritam Road, Dehra Dun, U.P.  
*(in association with the Ryder Cheshire Mission)*

### Cheshire Homes Malaya (Office: 10b Chulia Street, Singapore)

- Tana Merah, Nicoll Drive, Changi, Singapore.  
 Johore Cheshire Home, Jalan Larkin, Johore Bahru.

### Cheshire Homes Nigeria (Private Mail Bag 5094, Ibadan)

- Oluyole, Cheshire Home, College Crescent, Ibadan.

\* To be opened shortly

† In process of construction