

# THE CHESHIRE SMILE

The Quarterly Magazine of the Cheshire Homes

(Founded by Group Captain Cheshire, V.C.)

Photo: Wolverhampton Magazine



"At the sign of St Anthony's." The Pioneers: Mr. George Robertson, Miss V. R. Kinvig, Mrs. E. M. Cox and Mrs. P. P. Nicholls (see page 39)

# Mission for the Relief of Suffering

**Founders: Sue Ryder, O.B.E.**

**and Group Captain G. L. Cheshire, V.C., D.S.O., D.F.C.**

Out of the combined work of the Sue Ryder Forgotten Allies and the Cheshire Foundation Homes for the Sick there has evolved the concept of an association—or family—of separate and autonomous organisations, each devoted in its own way to the relief of suffering, but all sharing the same ideals and principles. The function of this Mission is, on the one hand, to strengthen its member-organisations by virtue of making them part of some larger entity, and, on the other hand, to extend their opportunity of doing good by the possibility of joint and concerted action. Application for membership from any charitable organisation is always welcome.

## The Raphael Settlements

As one step towards this goal, the Forgotten Allies and the Cheshire Homes have pooled some of their resources and experience in order to establish a series of International Settlements in different parts of the world, the primary aims of these being:

- (i) to supplement the work of the two Foundations by taking those specialised cases which neither of them are able to admit;
- (ii) to safeguard and develop the spirit of the Mission as a whole;
- (iii) to test out new ideas.

### Dehra Dun, U.P., India. (Tel. Dehra Dun 901)

Beautifully situated in the foothills of the Northern Himalayas, the first Raphael is the Far Eastern Headquarters of the Mission. Beginning with only tents in April 1959, it today houses 96 leprosy patients, 50 mentally retarded children, and 20 other children who, although fit, come from unsatisfactory home circumstances. Raphael is planned as a whole village of Homes for many different kinds of people in need.

*Hon. Sec.:* Mrs. Ava Dhar.

*Hon. Welfare Officer:* Mrs. D. Rawlley.

### Hydon Heath, Godalming, Surrey, England. (Tel. Hascombe 383)

More recently opened, the English Raphael provides accommodation for the older age groups, and for married couples (both young and old) who might otherwise be forced by their disabilities to separate. It will shortly have a 12-bedded wing for the heavily disabled.

*Warden:* Lt.-Col. R. Taylor, M.B.E.

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All enquiries about Forgotten Allies Trust should be made to Cavendish (Glensford 252).

Following the relief work started in 1945 in many camps, hospitals, and prisons for the victims of Nazism, there is today still much individual case-work throughout Germany, in addition to the following:

**Sue Ryder Homes for Concentration Camp Survivors.** Cavendish and Melford, Suffolk. 140 Forgotten Allies are brought each year from the Continent for a complete holiday and to join those already resettled there.

**Sue Ryder Home for Sick and Disabled Forgotten Allies,** Hickleton Hall, near Doncaster.

**St. Christopher Settlement.** Grossburgwedel, Hannover.

*Secretary:* Mr. Jerzy Neumann.

Eight homes and several flats, built mostly by international teams of volunteers for those whose health is broken.

**St. Christopher Kreis.** Berlinerstrasse, Frankfurt a.m.

*Chairman:* H.H. Princess Margaret of Hesse und bei Rhein.

Since 1945, Sue Ryder has been personally responsible for the visiting, after-care, and rehabilitation of the Stateless boys in German prisons, many of them convicted for reprisals against their former torturers.

**Homes for the Sick in Poland**

*Chairman:* Director Rabczynski, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Warsaw. Prefabricated buildings, each containing forty beds and costing £5,000 are sent from England to relieve the distress of the Forgotten Allies. Ten Homes have been established at Konstancin, Zyrardow, Naleczow, Helenow, Pruszkow, Radzymin, Bydgoszcz, Zielona Gora, Gdynia and Gora Kalwaria.

**Homes for the Sick and Disabled in Jugoslavia**

*Chairman:* Dr. Kraus, Ministry of Health, Belgrade.

Three Homes have been established on the outskirts of Belgrade.

**Home for the Sick and Disabled in Greece.**

*Chairman:* Mr. Theologos, Institute for Research and Development of Vocarional Rehabilitation of Disabled, Athens.

One Home has been established near Athens.

## II. THE CHESHIRE FOUNDATION HOMES FOR THE SICK

*Registered in accordance with the National Assistance Act 1948*

Caring for the incurable and homeless sick (mostly in the younger age-group), they are autonomously run by local committees within the general aims and principles of the Foundation. In each country there is a central trust which owns all the properties, presides over the Homes, and is the source of the committees' authority. Average number of patients when Home complete: thirty.

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<b>Danybryn</b> , Radyr, Glamorgan ... ..	Radyr	237 —
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<b>Lake District Cheshire Home</b> , Holehird, Windermere, Westmorland... ..	Windermere	2500 387
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<b>Llanhenock Cheshire Home</b> , Caerleon, Mon. ... ..	Caerleon	545 —
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<b>Mayfield House</b> , East Trinity Road, Edinburgh ... ..	Granton	2037 —
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<b>*Sheffield</b>		
<b>Spofforth Hall</b> , near Harrogate, Yorkshire ... ..	Spofforth	284 287
<b>Staunton Harold</b> , Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire ... ..	Melbourne	71 387
<b>*Sutton Coldfield</b> ... ..		
<b>White Windows</b> , Sowerby Bridge, Yorkshire ... ..	Halifax	81981 82173
<b>Hawthorn Lodge</b> , Hawthorne Road, Dorchester, Dorset (for mentally handicapped children) ... ..	Dorchester	1403 —
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## Eire

<b>Ardeen</b> , Shillelagh, Co. Wicklow ... ..	Shillelagh	8
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## India

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\***Cheshire Home**, Calcutta. (*for refugees from East Pakistan*)

**Cheshire Home**, Poona.

**Govind Bhawan**, 16 Pritam Road, Dehra Dun, U.P.

**Shanti Rani House**, 13 Upper Strand Road, Serampore, West Bengal.

**Vrishanti Illam**, Katpadi Township, North Arcot (*for burnt-out leprosy patients*)

(*and the following two Homes for crippled children*)

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**Johore Cheshire Home**,

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**Cheshire Home**, Kuala Lumpur.

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(all for crippled children)

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## Portugal

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(for retarded children)

## Ceylon

**Cheshire Home**, Negombo

\* *In preparation*

# THE CHESHIRE SMILE

The Quarterly Magazine of the Cheshire Homes

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Contributions to *The Cheshire Smile* are invited from all readers and, in general, should reach the Editor at least six weeks before the magazine is published. Opinions put forward in individual articles do not necessarily represent the official view of the Cheshire Foundation, but it is our aim to encourage free expression of ideas.

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If you would like to ensure that you receive "The Cheshire Smile" regularly, we should be glad to put your name on our mailing list. You will find the necessary form on back page.

## IN THIS ISSUE page

The Spice of Life <i>by the Editor</i> ... ..	7
Spring Conference 1963 ... ..	9
Family Day at Seven Rivers ... ..	23
The Role of the Residents <i>by Group Captain L. Cheshire</i> ... ..	27
Concert for Overseas Homes ... ..	27
Inter-Home Handicrafts Exhibition ... ..	29
The Experiment that Worked ... ..	30
Princess Royal at Kenmore ... ..	32
May we introduce . . . Dudley Kitching ... ..	34
Speaking for myself <i>by Sheila Ridley</i> ... ..	36
Whitsun in Spain ... ..	38
Opening of St. Anthony's ... ..	39
A Home—not a Hospital, The Grove, Norwich ... ..	40
The Story of my Life (Clement from Nigeria) ... ..	42
Wheelchairs <i>by Len Harper</i> ... ..	44
Pottery classes at Greenhill ... ..	45
Jeffrey Kilding ... ..	46
U.K. Cheshire Homes in Regions	49
Saga of a Short 'Un ... ..	56
Hello Cat!... ..	60
The Hong Kong Home ... ..	61
Operation Iceberg <i>by Dudley Kitching</i> ... ..	62
Red Feather Club ... ..	64

IF I ever wanted to hang a motto on the wall of my office I think it would be—'Variety is the spice of life', with occasionally perhaps a change to 'Novelty catches the eye'. Variety has always been one of the most important key words in my mind with regard to the whole business of editing the 'C.S.' For if a magazine is not to bore, its contents must be varied. But how varied? Of course, the 'Smile' must deal with the Cheshire Homes in as many aspects as possible, and cater for the greatest possible number of differing tastes. We must show what our disabled residents are like, what they do, what they want to do; and we must never forget the staff and those who administer the Homes—people want to know what they are like too. We must touch upon the many other activities that come under the umbrella-title, 'The Mission for the Relief of Suffering'.

Then, in our opinion, we ought to enable our readers to keep abreast of what is happening, what is being done, in other organisations similar—to a greater or lesser extent—to our own. We ought also to help our disabled people learn from current trends in the field of rehabilitation and 'gadgeteering', offering them new ideas, new techniques, new gadgets, which will help them to live to the full extent of their capabilities. Under this latter heading might come a certain amount of campaigning for the improvement of facilities for our disabled people or, in association with other organisations (e.g., the I.T.A.) for disabled people generally. We could in addition act as a soundingboard for putting forward new ideas from our people in the Homes.

We consider the magazine to be the ideal medium for fostering a sense of fellow-feeling between all the Homes, a sense which includes the knowledge that what affects one affects all. This is terribly important with a widely-scattered international movement such as ours. We have also to think of the general public who want to interest themselves in our affairs. We want to try and draw them into the orbit of the one big 'Family', showing them that they are playing a part; in fact, that we exist only by virtue of their interest and support.

*The Cheshire Smile* must be an authoritative source of information, and also be the means of disseminating points of view, a forum for discussion. For certain things it must be factual and reliable; yet there must be room in it for humour and the less serious sides of life. Otherwise, we might as well change its name right away.

If the magazine is to be successful, all these things must be considered, and many more besides. With every issue a delicate balance has to be struck—a

**THE  
SPICE  
OF  
LIFE**

**by the Editor**

balanced variety.

Since the inception of *The Cheshire Smile* in 1954, it has grown from a duplicated house magazine for Le Court to a fine glossy printed magazine—the official journal of the Cheshire Foundation Homes. The circulation has grown far more than ten-fold over its original 500. Copies of the 'Smile' can be found in any of the four corners of the world. As the work inspired by the Group-Captain has grown, so has the magazine. It must continue to grow. If we were to become insensitive to change; if we were to remain satisfied with things as they are in the magazine as well as in the Homes, no matter how adequate they may have been up till now—then we should begin to stagnate, we should start slipping backwards. We must develop internally as we have developed externally, qualitative progress keeping pace with quantitative progress. We must prepare for what lies ahead.

It is with all this in mind that we are introducing various changes in the magazine. As a first step, we are enlarging our staff, by appointing regional editors for several regions. In this issue you will find the news, for the first time, divided into regions, and the names of the sub-editors for five of the regions are published with their bulletins. With this innovation we are tapping a wider field of talent. As time

goes on, and we all find ourselves working more and more as a team, it will, we feel, be productive of a fresher and more vigorous approach to the whole running of the magazine.

With the idea of delving a little more deeply into our problems, we want to encourage some far-reaching discussions in the magazine. Group Captain Cheshire is starting one such discussion in this issue and, as I said last time, he wants this to be considered the beginning of a debate and not 'the last word, after which nothing more can be said!' We do hope that G.C.'s words will spark off a most fruitful discussion on what role the disabled residents can and/or should play in the Homes.

That there are many other problems in the Homes, at all levels, will be readily seen from a glance at the report we publish in this issue of the Spring Conference in London. The discussions that took place there have a tremendous importance for all of us in the Foundation, and I have no hesitation in recommending the report as 'priority reading' for all who have the interests of the Cheshire Homes at heart.

Unfortunately, owing to the extraordinary length of this report, we have been forced to hold over many items and features until next issue, and we hope the majority of readers will approve our decision in publishing it.

### **Dr. G. C. Cheshire—Dame Mary Lloyd**

Dr. G. C. Cheshire, 'The Professor' (Acting Chairman of the Cheshire Foundation Homes, and father of the Group-Captain) was married to Dame Mary Lloyd (also a Trustee of the Foundation) on July 11th by Father Gordon Albion at St. Edward's Church, Sutton Park, near Guildford. Afterwards, they went abroad for several weeks. All their many friends, outside as well as inside the Foundation, will wish them every happiness in the future.

### **A Cheshire Foundation Christmas Card**

A Christmas Card—a cheery winter night scene, by artist Anne Myssen—is being produced for the Foundation by the Hovenden House General Committee. It will be available after about mid-September from all the Cheshire Homes. The price—8d. per card.

By the time this notice appears in print all the Homes will have received sample copies, and been asked to send in their orders. It is hoped they will do all they can to support this venture; selling the cards will, of course, mean a profit for their funds.



# Spring Conference, 1963

## Proceedings

The Annual Spring Conference of the Cheshire Foundation was held for the third year in succession at the Irish Club, 82 Eaton Square, London, on 15th June. The agenda was short, but the discussions during the morning and afternoon sessions probed deeply into the work of the Foundation. It was probably the best and most constructive Conference yet held. Attending were representatives of Cheshire Home Management Committees, Trustees of the Cheshire Foundation, most of the London Secretariat, and important visitors—nearly 80 all told.

Beginning the proceedings of the day, Dr. G. C. Cheshire (Acting Chairman of the Foundation) welcomed all who had come to the Conference, some from very far away. He mentioned Mrs. Sue Ryder Cheshire, who had travelled from Warsaw, a matter of

1,200 miles, having driven non-stop through Wednesday, Thursday and Friday night with nothing more than half an hour's sleep on the boat. And Miss Margot Mason, who had motored from Tangier—a 1,500 mile journey—but with several stops on the way.

### Album of Photos presented to Lord Denning

The Professor said there was one preliminary to perform before the real work of the Conference began. 'Lord Denning (our former Chairman and now Patron) with Lady Denning are here today, and the object of their coming is to allow us to present to Lord Denning a Souvenir Album of Photographs, which is meant to mark in a modest way our great appreciation of the valuable services he has rendered us. It also marks our affection and respect for him, and for his wife who so nobly seconded his efforts. Since last year when I became the reluctant and temporary heir to the throne I have come to realise the esteem in which Lord Denning is held, not only by us but by the outside world.

Alderman Jack Stephens, who made the presentation, apologised for Mr. Bob Worthington's absence. The latter has been solely responsible for the preparation of the Album. Addressing Lord Denning he said, 'We have been inspired by your good humour at our Spring Conferences, and your wise counsel, Sir. This is only a small token of the appreciation we have for you. It is a great honour for me personally to make this presentation on behalf of each and every Home in this country. I do hope that you and Lady Denning will find enough leisure

occasionally to refresh some of the happy times we have had together'.

Lord Denning, replying, said that he had had one or two undeserved honours lately, including a Doctorate of Laws at Cambridge University, 'but nothing has pleased me greater than this lovely Album which you have prepared for me. I can see the pictures of days past—all the old familiar names. This book will serve to keep all those past years alive in my mind. Truly, a lasting memory'. He spoke of the moral and spiritual well-being of the disabled people in the Homes, 'which is the prime care of all of us'. He mentioned the spirit of the staff and helpers. 'Although there may be moral troubles in high places, I am sure that in amongst the rank and file, amongst the ordinary folk helping with the Cheshire Homes, the heart of England is secure.' Lord Denning spoke of his great privilege to be Patron of the Homes, 'and I hope you will allow me to retain it'. It is truly a wonderful Foundation, he said. He and his wife were proud to have helped in some little way, 'and we thank you most sincerely for a tribute which we shall always treasure'. He asked the representatives at the Conference if they would be kind enough to write their names in the Album.

## Review of the Foundation's policy regarding admission of patients and the founding of further Homes in the light of information recently received from Almoners throughout the country

Group Captain L. Cheshire, V.C., before introducing the subject mentioned that later in the day there would be present Mr. Guedes de Souza of Portugal, where one of our latest overseas Homes has opened. It is hoped that he will take on the Chairmanship of the (Portuguese) Foundation. This, by the way, is our first Home in a non-English speaking country, so it's a new departure for us. Mr. de Souza spent a happy evening yesterday at Dulwich, and came away very impressed with what he saw.

The Group Captain then passed on to the main item on the agenda. 'This is intended to give us the opportunity of trying to see what is the real problem that faces us as a Foundation, and how we can jointly meet it.' He disclosed that many Almoners, one in each hospital at least, had been circularised with a questionnaire in which they were asked to give their statement of the situation. A lot of answers had been received, which Mr. Heseltine had kindly been analysing and he would summarise them later.

'We have not, however, got any set plan or scheme for meeting the situation. We are not trying to sell anything or put something across. We just want to discuss the whole matter so that during these next few weeks we can try to formulate our policy. I am sure that you would like to know where you stand, what the sort of need is, and what is being done by the State services. So this afternoon Mr. Halliday, from the Ministry of Health, is going to give us an account of what local authorities and the Ministry are proposing to do about our sort of patients. Probably, we shall get confused because terminology is very loose, so I have asked him to start by defining his terms.

Some people had the impression from the recent Blue Book published by the Ministry that a lot was going to be done for the chronic sick over the next few years. But I think we shall find that in fact this is not so. It would seem that, other than the Cheshire Homes, there is not, at present, and will not be in the foreseeable future, very much provision made for the sort of patients we take.

A number of Almoners have gone out of their way to express their appreciation of what the Homes are doing, but they have also told us that a large number of them have given up applying because they have had so many discouraging refusals. We have got to decide, firstly, how many more potential patients there are who fall into our category and what can be done to meet the demand; and secondly, what the problems are regarding patients who are slightly different yet still come within our general terms of reference, and whether we can do anything about them.

No Home must look upon itself in isolation from the Cheshire Foundation as a whole. We should all think of the Foundation as a single unit, the real 'whole' of which the individual Homes are only parts. In practice, this means a good deal of give and take on all sides. Yet we must still maintain the principle that each Home is free to decide the sort of patients it thinks fit to take, and how it can best integrate itself with the overall needs of the Foundation. For example, if we found that in one county there was a need for two or three more Homes, we should have to put a certain limit on the fund-raising activities of the already-existing Home in that county.'

### Analysing the Replies from Almoners and Welfare Officers

Mr. E. O. Heseltine, who had analysed the replies, stated that a definite pattern had emerged. There is an obviously continuing demand for Cheshire Homes. Not one of the Almoners replying had failed to produce at least one case, most had several. In and around London there

are probably over 400 potential patients for Cheshire Homes. Birmingham and Manchester have the problem on a comparative scale. Of course, we have not got anything like accurate statistics, and no other body seems to have any better figures. But taking the replies as a whole, we can

say that at the moment there must be well over 800 potential candidates for Cheshire Homes spread out over the country.

I had been hoping that a regional pattern would emerge, that we could have said, with fair accuracy, that we are too thin here and too thick there. But what we are dealing with is a very nebulous thing, and the replies we had are, I am afraid, rather nebulous too. There are some definite plans for Homes in particular parts of the country—e.g., in Northumberland, in Aberdeen. There was quite a convincing plea made for specific Homes. But on the question of demand I think there is no doubt that the real immediate need is for more Cheshire Homes in or near London.

As regards age groups, the main problem seems to be concerned with disabled people under 65. Perhaps it is that old people complain less, perhaps they are shuffled away—it may be something as sad as that—but the real live problem seemed to be the under-65s, and especially the under-20 chronic sick, who have failed to find a niche after they have left a special school or a pediatric ward. (I have used the term 'chronic sick' loosely, and I hope it will be defined this afternoon). Then there are the 20-45 age group, who may similarly become misplaced in a geriatric ward, which is obviously unsuitable for them. But undoubtedly, the age group that figured most prominently in the replies—and this may be rather unexpected to some of you—is the 40-60 one. These are again unsuited to wards for the elderly, or special geriatric units, and are in addition excluded from many a Cheshire Home because of its particular age-limit.

Now for the kind of cases. It is hard to generalise, but the bulk of the potential patients seem to be what I think we can call Regional Hospital Board cases. Indeed, it may well be that the proportion of these cases to the less complicated Part III cases is something like three to one. In other words, the problem is concerned with the heavy nursing and difficult cases.

I found that the experience of the Almoners with their applications to the Homes was in some ways always extremely encouraging. Without exception, the Almoners had nothing but praise for the existing Homes. The one

often-repeated complaint was the lack of vacancies.

Great stress was laid on the reluctance of patients to go into Homes at a distance, the reason, of course, being that they do not want to be separated from their families and friends. More than half the replies referred to this problem. The bulk of the Almoners said that they had no difficulty over payment of maintenance by local authorities: your experience in the Homes may be different. This does not of course, cover the problem of payments by the Regional Hospital Boards and contractual arrangements.

A number of Almoners and Welfare Officers, particularly in the London area, stressed the need for a central register of vacancies in the Homes. There is a definite demand for the convenience of applying to one place and knowing that if there was a vacancy in any Home the patient would be considered for it.

The Almoners were questioned about what they considered the greatest need not being met at the moment, and from their replies there would seem to be a need in practically every field you can think of. It seemed that what worried them most was the lack or scarcity of facilities for the chronic sick of the 40-60 age group, the elderly who need heavy nursing care, and the young. The main disabilities which they find difficulty in placing are stated as—multiple sclerosis (half the replies mentioned this specifically), arthritis, muscular dystrophy, and those who are mentally disturbed but not enough to need treatment in a mental hospital. Amongst other problems mentioned is the need for holidays for disabled people living at home.

As regards married couples, where one partner is fit and the other disabled, nearly all the Almoners knew of one or more such cases—people who in their view would be better off in the right kind of Home than living at home under difficulties. The Almoners saw the need to cater for these people, but there was rather less certainty about the marriage of two disabled people. I think the main feeling about the latter situation was that every case had to be judged on its own merits; it works out very well in some cases, but it should always be a carefully considered step.

The foregoing remarks will have given you, I hope, some sort of picture of the general feeling amongst the Almoners and welfare officers. When we have had time to analyse the replies in more detail, we shall produce a report and circulate it. I think the main conclusion that has emerged is this—that even though in one or two of the Homes there may be empty beds it is undoubtedly true that over the country as a whole, there is still a vast unsatisfied demand for what the Homes have to offer. It does seem that a wide coverage of Homes is needed, and it would seem to be important

#### Discussion on admission age limits

The Chairman suggested that it would be best if the meeting concentrated on one thing at a time. He proposed that they take first the Group-Captain's point that they study the further needs of age groups the Foundation is already taking, the most critical of all being the 40-60s, or 40-65s.

*(The following discussions have been condensed both for reasons of space, and because it makes for easier reading. However, all the main points made by speakers have been brought out.)*

**Captain Harold**, Cann House. All the people on our waiting list are in the 40-65 group. If we do try to get a 19-year-old or even a 30-year-old we find they are very few and far between.

**Mrs. Lea**, The Hill. We have no real age limit. The majority of our people are between 40 and 60, but we do have young ones too. Having them makes the place really 'home', because you have the various age groups mixing together. With new patients, it is the person we look at, not his or her age. We try to assess how young they are mentally. You can have a 65-year-old who is quite young in outlook.

**Mr. Bagnall**, St. Bridget's. When we opened nine years ago, we had an admission age limit of 40. The ages of our 29 patients at present range from 17 to 62. Of these, three are completely bedridden, two partly bedridden, nine require complete nursing care, five are incontinent, nine are confined to wheelchairs, and five have to be fed. It seems that whatever age group you start with, if the main proportion of your patients are M.S. you are going to find yourselves with aged and increasingly heavy nursing cases.

that whenever possible new Homes should be sited near population centres because the patients do wish to remain as near as they can to their existing homes and families.

One final conclusion. In planning the future of the Foundation we must work in the knowledge of the plans of the Ministry of Health and the local authorities, what they have at the moment and what they propose to do. It will not necessarily affect greatly what we do because it may prove that they are not doing as much as they say they are doing on paper.

**Mr. Newell**, St. Teresa's. As a Hospital Secretary of a good many years standing, particularly with treatment of chronic sick cases, I think the greatest need is undoubtedly the 40-60 category. Above that the older people are adequately catered for, at least in our own county (Cornwall). The 40-60s represent a large section of the population who have been looked after by their relatives over a period of many years, and the relatives are now getting too old to look after them any longer. St. Teresa's started out originally with an age group of 18-40, but we had representations from the M.O. in charge of the geriatric service in Cornwall that we really must reconsider the matter and think of the 40-60s. Of our present patients, a great many are incontinent and heavy nursing cases, and the only ones we feel we must exclude on nursing grounds are those which require skilled medical or surgical treatment, which we cannot give. We are not refusing anyone, nowadays, on age grounds alone.

**Mr. Newlands**, Mayfield House. We should bear in mind, though, that one of the attractions of the Cheshire Homes has been that youth is not inter-mingled with the elderly.

**Mr. Dickson**, Lake District Home. The most worrying problem for our committee is that because of the preponderance of applications in higher age groups and since we are providing a home for the rest of the patients' natural lives, there is a fear that in course of time we shall become in fact a sort of geriatric ward. As regards holiday patients—those taken in to relieve strain on their families—we have no age limit whatsoever.

**Dr. Hamilton**, Dulwich. We have 21 patients with ages ranging from 20-60, the average being 43. We have not tried to create a nursing home, but rather a home where those people with relatively stable disabilities can make the maximum contribution to the

community. We try to foster the making of things, or doing things, for the outside market, but not just baskets and handicraft goods. We have tried printing, for instance. Several of our severely disabled people are printing with their teeth or with their legs'

### Discussion on Staff Shortage and Proposed Corps of Nurses

At the beginning of the discussion on the need for extending existing Homes and founding of new ones, one speaker declared that the major problem of Cheshire Homes is that of obtaining adequate and sufficient staff. **Mr. Challis**, Cotswold Home, said they could keep staff for two years or so and then they desire a change—'nursing our sort of patients gets them down'.

**G/C Cheshire**. This problem of staff is one that interests my wife and myself particularly. It is the heart of the problem both for her work and for ours. As I have said before, we need to build up our own Corps of Nurses—'nurses' in the most general sense, including assistant nurses, domestics, cooks, physiotherapists and so on. And as you know the Raphael Settlements are designed, amongst other things, to be recruiting centres and training units for such staff. Unless we can succeed in attracting people to this particular type of nursing care, the Homes will not have the stability or security that is required.

We feel that there is a call for a new category of nurse, specifically trained for nursing the 'chronic sick'. It is primarily care of the person rather than treatment and nursing of a disability or illness. There must be many girls who will never measure up to the educational standards required of an S.R.N., yet who feel called to nursing. I know they can become assistant nurses, but an assistant nurse has no future, she can never achieve any position. If we could get the approval of the Nursing Council and the Ministry of Health for this new category of nurse with special training—we have approached both of these bodies—we could offer such girls a future and promotion and, by virtue of the Corps, security and stability. We have been negotiating with the Ministry of Health, and the Minister

has arranged for us to see his nursing officers on this matter. Of course, it may turn out that we are wrong, and we shall have to be satisfied with the existing categories of nurses.

As regards the sort of training we have in mind, it would, we think, consist of first, basic nursing, secondly, a period in a hospital specifically looking after the sort of patients we take, and thirdly, since more than half the work is dependent on a certain amount of knowledge of the psychology of men and women, a course in basic psychology, how to deal with people.

We feel that this work is first and foremost a vocation and, therefore we want to ask those who are going to give a part of their life to the Corps to make some sacrifice in the matter of pay. They would give a certain number of years to the Corps; in return the Corps would undertake to look after them in all respects. Of course, there wouldn't be any question of turning them out with no kind of pension. We are thinking in terms of an annuity scheme into which we could pay a certain amount of money each week for each person, so that at the end of say, a five year period, they could draw a lump sum, or progressively more according to their term of service. If a Home wanted a nurse from the Corps, one would go, and the Home would pay what they would normally pay any other nurse they might engage. But she would draw only what was agreed in her contract, the balance going into the pension and emergency fund. And besides the pension for the members of the Corps, we would try to build up the conditions of service, the terms of service, etc. The element of security would come from belonging to an international body. The members would move from Home to Home, in the U.K. and overseas, yet still belong to the Corps.

Today we would like to know what you think about this nursing Corps. Whether you are in favour of it, at least in principle. If you are, then perhaps you would start looking out for girls in your area—those for instance, who come to work voluntarily and have, in your opinion, the right qualifications. We have in fact already arranged the training of the first person under the scheme. He is an orderly who wants to do an S.E.N. Course, which he is starting next month. Afterwards he will come back to us for what he hopes to be his life career.

In answer to a representative who asked whether the scheme could be carried out without the approval of the Nursing Council and the Ministry of Health, the G.C. replied that the whole matter was still under discussion. We don't know whether they will agree, but a nurse would certainly have no status if these two bodies did not agree.

Several speakers mentioned the employment of girls from overseas and 'coloured' people. It was unanimously agreed that there were no difficulties about these.

**Mr. Challis**, Cotswold Home. The major problem is going to be the fully-trained nurses. We cannot do with

one trained person only. We spent money on advertising, but it is out of all proportion to what we achieve.

**Mr. Bagnall**, St. Bridget's. The great problem will be the rate for the job. There will be trouble if we upset that. Are the fully-trained nurses going to accept the Group-Captain's new category of nurse? Another thing we would like to see is a register of trained staff available. The Homes ought to be able to call on a relief matron when necessary.

The Chairman said the Trustees were considering the appointment of a trained person who would be available to go wherever there was trouble.

**Dr. Agerholm** (of the Nuffield Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Oxford). I think the idea of this new type of nurse is magnificent. We need a 'Cheshire nurse'; they would fill a definite need. We all know there are not enough trained S.R.N.'s in the country; yet they still have to do a lot which is not strictly speaking their job. It is a waste of skill, and the trained nurse knows it. These 'Cheshire nurses' would know the problems of disabled people, and I think they would be accepted by, and work in association with, the trained S.R.N.'s. This new scheme would be very much in the interest of the S.R.N.'s.

#### Discussion on Extensions and Further Homes

**Mr. Lysaght**, Monmouthshire, began the discussion by asking whether there was going to be duplication between what the Cheshire Homes are doing and what the government and local authorities intend to do. He feared 'that the government intended to house all our potential future residents and perhaps even our existing ones. There is quite definitely overlapping in our county. Monmouth County Council have made known their intention of taking our patients. They have not been sympathetic to us from the start. Now they are going ahead with their own schemes and choosing sites for their Homes. There is a growing murmur in the County about the difficulties in raising funds. People are saying: "We pay rates; why should we contribute to the Cheshire Homes, which are or will soon become redundant?"'

**Mr. Wright**, Holme Lodge. The experience of most Homes has been not to enlarge to more than 30. But from the beginning, we knew we should require more than one Home in Nottinghamshire. At present our waiting list numbers 40. We would supervise another Home (or Homes) in the County; other than that the annexe would be a separate organisation with its own House Committee.

**Mr. Fenton**, Kenmore. We must retain the West Riding Cheshire Homes organisation in order to appeal more widely for funds. But for all other purposes, White Windows and its annexe, Kenmore, are run as separate entities. There is a tendency, though, for White Windows to hold control because they provided the cash in the first place.

**Judge Rowe Harding** (Trustee). May I say a word about fund-raising. In

Wales, we started by having a regional appeal; we thought it best to raise money centrally and only then to start Homes. But it became obvious later that there is a much greater draw if you appeal for a particular Home rather than for a region or county. Coomb Home succeeded in raising £20,000 in two years, and in that same period the rest of Wales raised only the same amount. Once people have

set up a Home they want to run it; perhaps it is better that they should, and raise the necessary finance, rather than have a fund-raising scheme for a county and people quarrelling as to what the allocation should be. The next Home in South Wales will be at Swansea, and we shall have to draw a line between two areas of appeal.

**Discussion on the needs of patients versus the needs of Homes, and the question of a central register of all patients applying to the Foundation**

**Mr. Wright, Holme Lodge.** In view of the increasing number of Homes, we should like to know whether or not we ought to keep Holme Lodge for Nottinghamshire patients. Our Committee is quite split on this. Should we always take the most serious cases from wherever they come, or, if one applies from London, as one did a short time ago, should he be referred through the Foundation to a Home nearer his home?

**Group Captain Cheshire.** I think that the primary consideration should be the need of the patient. Always ask yourself the question—what is the alternative for him? Yet you must consider his need in relation to the need of other applicants. If there is no reasonable alternative — then you ought to take him. The patient's need is the basic criterion, although it is not the only one. In this connection, we have been considering having trained social workers in the Foundation to make a survey, to investigate applicants and try to discover where best they could be placed. We feel strongly that every applicant should be visited in his own home or wherever he is. We certainly hope to institute a central register; the person running it would receive news from all the Homes of their situation; the

Homes would inform him of urgent cases which they can't take but feel are in some need. Perhaps he should even be responsible for placing urgent cases, or trying to fit them in outside the Foundation if necessary.

The representatives from several of the Homes said they made a practice of visiting applicants in their own homes, or else taking them for a short provisional period to see whether they were suitable. Mrs. Handscomb (Heatherley) said they favoured the latter idea, because it is difficult to form an opinion on a brief visit to their homes; she made another point, that the medical records sent with applications were often quite inadequate.

**Miss Morris (Trustee).** Certain Homes have asked me in the past to visit applicants, and I am always ready to do so. Of course, when applications are sent in by Almoners, the patient has certainly been visited and the almoner's report would go some way in helping us form an opinion. I think the idea of a central register is a good one; it would mean that each Home gave up its present extreme independence. Naturally, even now I do a lot of suggesting, and try to get applicants placed.

*(continued on next page)*

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**“If they could only see . . .”**

We are wondering whether you would care to introduce *The Cheshire Smile* to your friends and neighbours. Will you give them the opportunity of seeing the magazine, and discovering what we are trying to do for disabled people? We are willing to send you a few copies for this purpose—entirely free of charge.

You may find that some of these friends would be glad to have a copy of each issue as it comes out. If this is so, we should be pleased to hear from you, and to send you a regular batch for sale in your area. Before you know where you are you will have become a **PROMOTER** of *The Cheshire Smile*.

**Address by Mr. Halliday (an Assistant Secretary in the Local Authorities Division of the Ministry of Health) on the new plans in respect of Homes for the physically disabled**

The Group Captain introducing Mr. Halliday, at the beginning of the afternoon session, remarked, 'I have had a serious word with him, and told him the one thing he has to do is to allay the fears of Mr. Lysaght of Monmouthshire.

**Mr. Halliday.** Before I start I should like to express my admiration for the great work that is being done in the Cheshire Homes. We all know there are people in our society for whom it is difficult to make provision at national government level, and some of these, I know, are in Cheshire Homes. It is a great pleasure for me to be here today with those who have done such a great deal to help them.

As regards the 10-year plans of the Ministry, I would like to paint a broad picture of what the Minister is trying to do. All of us—you in the Cheshire Homes, Hospital Boards, local authorities—should see the parts we play in relation to the whole. It's the putting together of all the parts to produce a whole that is the important part of all planning.

There are three Plans, and they are as follows.

*The Hospital Plan.* This is the plan of the regional boards as laid down by the Minister, the Minister being, of course, the master of the hospital service, and the boards his agents. It is a directly administered service. We have recently revised this plan, and will be investing £600 million instead of the original £500 million, over the next ten years.

*The Health and Welfare Plan.* This is the plan for the development of community care, the investment size of this reaching £220 million. This is concerned with local government service, and the Minister doesn't tell local authorities what to do. Local government has its own responsibilities and its own powers. Therefore, the commentary in this book is very much longer than the commentary in the Hospital Plan.

In the past, we have dealt far too much with our welfare services from the point of view of the welfare worker. We have discussed the services in terms of health visitors, home

nurses, home helps, and so on. But now all that is changed. This blue book is built up around four main groups of people in need of such services, the four groups being (a) mothers and young children, (b) the elderly, (c) the mentally disordered, and (d) the physically handicapped. We have tried to analyse what they need and what services are being set up to provide it. After all, the people themselves see their needs whole, they don't see them divided between different people providing different services.

The blue book has a general pattern for dealing with all the above-mentioned groups. There is an opening section on statistics, a following section analysing the needs, and then a description of the services to meet the needs, with occasionally some very tentative hazards as to the ratio of provision.

I think we can take the elderly as the group about which we have the clearest picture, what the needs are and will be, and what is being done and planned. In the next two decades there is undoubtedly going to be a considerable increase in the numbers of old and infirm people. But even here, it is not easy to fit the parts into a pattern, because there is no fixed pattern; the needs are always changing, so one has to keep an eye on a changing pattern all the time.

To come now to the handicapped. We anticipate a substantial increase—but how much we don't know—in the numbers of registered partially-sighted and physically handicapped, as needs are uncovered and services developed. You see, needs don't really come to light until services are there. People don't register if there is nothing to register for.

Thus, the starting point must always be what do they really need. The Minister's line on this, and I commend it for all your discussions locally, is that one should get precisely in mind what it is that people need. The enthusiasm that decides in advance what people need has led to many services providing what they don't really need or want.



We can discuss the needs of the handicapped under four headings:

(1) skilled help to enable a disabled person to cope with his handicap, or to adjust himself to live under the conditions imposed by it.

(2) a home or some other accommodation. It is important to keep people at home if you can provide the means to enable them to live there happily. In some cases, hostel accommodation may be required to enable disabled people to undertake employment. But with those whose severity of disablement or other circumstances make it impossible for them to go on living independently, some residential care must be provided. And this is, of course, where the Cheshire Homes come in.

(3) employment within his capacity. It is important that people should have a job to do; it is therefore equally important to provide whatever rehabilitation or training is necessary to engage in it. Failing the capacity to work, to do a job, in the sense that most people would understand, some satisfying occupation must be offered. Note that I said 'satisfying occupation', not just 'occupation'.

(4) recreation and holidays. These bring the interests of the outside world into the lives of the disabled, and help them to surmount the barriers which their handicaps impose.

Having got the needs clear we can then see what services ought to be provided to meet them. The emphasis is on living at home if you can, and thus there is emphasis on building more homes for these purposes, adapting houses, providing gadgets, etc. But in spite of all that, some residential accommodation will be essential. The Blue Book states explicitly that many younger handicapped people are still in unsuitable accommodation. Yet only 11 new Homes providing 322 places are proposed for such younger handicapped in the local authorities' plans. However, the number of young handi-

capped people in any one area who need residential accommodation is small. We shall need joint studies by groups of local authorities in consultation with voluntary organisations to determine what further provision should be made.

Now I want to touch on the division—I know you are very interested in this—between the care for which a local authority is responsible and the care for which a hospital is responsible. The broad distinction is, I think, that the local authorities are responsible for providing what we call care and attention, i.e. of a sort that does not exceed the type of nursing people would expect in their own homes. But when the nursing needed is more than that you are getting on to the responsibility of the hospital service. The decision about any individual can only be taken locally by the medical and welfare people agreeing that this person falls on this side of the fence or the other.

I must emphasise here that these Blue Books are in no way blue-prints. They only show what the local authorities have so far planned to do, in order that they can compare their own plans with others. The next stage is for them to study the plans, look at the principles that are supposed to be behind them, apply the principles to their own plans, see where they have gone wrong, see what adjustments can be made, and bring forward a revised plan. The first revision of this plan will be published in December, and it will be revised annually thereafter. That's the way with all good planning. If you wait for all you want to know before you start you wait an awful long time. You must get started with something. You must push your neck out with something that will start people arguing. There will be a battle over these plans. And so there should be. But as people argue, as they disagree, so the truth will get nearer, so the plans will get more and more adequate.

### General discussion on Government and Local Authority Plans

Mr. Lysaght asked whether the Ministry had allocated a specific sum for accommodating the physically handicapped during the next ten years. Mr. Halliday replied negatively. 'We haven't committed ourselves to anything. These are plans for discus-

sion—and not the Ministry's plans. The allocations in the Blue Book are the plans of the local authorities. Now we are asking them to look at those plans again and see if they need revision in the light of our own comments.' Mr. Lysaght said that they

were afraid that the Government has decided to allocate £7½ million for the provision of Homes exactly similar to ours; if that were so, what's the use of going on? Mr. Halliday replied that this was quite wrong. 'I don't think myself there is ever going to be a situation reached in the foreseeable future where what the Cheshire Homes are doing would be superfluous.' Mr. Lysaght: 'We in the Cheshire Homes organisation could provide all the accommodation that is found to be necessary. Now it would appear that the local authorities are allocating vast sums for similar category Homes'. Mr. Halliday said that local authorities differ a great deal. 'That is one of the characteristics of local government, and one of the ways in which they differ is in their attitude to voluntary organisations. Where their attitude is not so good, it's up to you to make it good, and the only way you can do it is by approaching the people concerned. If you feel their plans are misconceived that is a good reason for calling a conference locally and seeing if you can prevail upon them to put forward a different sort of plan. It's no use asking Whitehall to beat local governments over the head, because local governments won't be beaten over the head by Whitehall. In regard to the £7½ million previously mentioned, I think the speaker has lumped together the local authorities' allocations for both Centres and Homes.'

**The Group Captain**, answering further questions from Mr. Lysaght, mentioned that Mr. Halliday had pointed out that the local authorities only provide Homes for patients who need 'home nursing'. There are other patients, went on G.C., who come under hospital classification and these are the ones whom we are most anxious the Homes should take. Mr. Lysaght answered that part of the trouble in Monmouthshire is that the local authorities do not consider that the Cheshire Homes cater for the chronic sick, but rather for the Part III type of resident. He asked Mr. Halliday outright whether it was the Minister's intention to emphasise to local authorities that voluntary organisations should be supported. 'For that has not happened in Monmouthshire, and will not happen in other areas'.

**Mr. Halliday** reiterated his previous

point that the Ministry cannot dictate to local authorities. The Minister has asked that people get together locally with an open mind, and find out what the right answer is. He himself cannot find that answer; nor should he. He, and you, can only do it by being the sort of negotiators who know how to get round local authorities. That calls for subtlety. I see no short-circuiting of this, and certainly no good at all in taking an attitude first.

A speaker enquired whether, supposing a certain local authority was proving difficult or was taking the wrong line, could some sort of legal arbitration be available. 'Would it be possible for the Minister to send down an officer to discuss the matter, and make a recommendation or something of that kind?'

**Mr. Halliday**. 'I think it a good point that someone from the Ministry's local regional organisation be brought in. The principal regional welfare officer might well be invited to your local meetings and discussions; it would be profitable to have him there. I repeat though—keep this away from Whitehall.'

**The Group-Captain** said that the last thing they wanted was to be doing something that somebody else is doing. 'That would be senseless. The only justification for our existence is that we are doing what is not being done elsewhere. If the local authorities or the Ministry really wanted to open more Homes such as we have, then that is all to the good. There would be no sense in us saying—"It would be better for us to do it!"'

**Alderman Stephens** speaking from his own experience, said that local government was to a certain extent like running a business. 'You've got to approach it in a practical way. We in local government know that when we provide a service it generally costs at least three times what it does any other organisation providing the same service. Thus, it is ridiculous for local government to say "We don't want anything to do with you." If a voluntary organisation can do the job more cheaply I am quite certain any reasonable County or City authority would welcome it. It's only a question of using tact and getting together. But it's no use waving a big stick and

saying I'm going to have it this way or that'.

In reply to a question as to whether the Government intended to take over the care of the chronic sick, including the Cheshire Homes, Mr. Halliday began by stressing the need for continuing pioneer work. 'Taking a new line on something that was previously thought impossible has historically been the greatest function of the voluntary organisations. Good luck to them! We want more of that kind of thing.'

Yet when the government knows roughly what it ought to be doing for people, it has an obligation to provide services to the right extent and in the right places, so that you don't get some poor soul deprived in a certain place because the service isn't there. As regards the main question, I don't think (certainly not with this Minister) that there is any intention whatever of the government taking over your activities. He has left it entirely to the hospital boards how they should deal with their problem of the young chronic sick. Perhaps you could discuss this afternoon what you think is the right place to look after the young

chronic sick who need long-stay nursing care, I could then take back your ideas to the Ministry. Is it best in hospital or in the sort of Homes you provide? You will have to find out whether you can prove that these people are better off in your sort of Homes than in any other. If you could prove this, there would be no point in trying to do it inside hospitals. The hospitals would then have to make their own arrangements with you.

A representative then mentioned that Mr. Halliday had spoken a great deal about local authorities, but little about regional hospital boards. 'The Minister has obviously much more control over hospital boards than over local authorities. Now in the plans for the hospital services there is no mention of any Home of the character of the Cheshire Homes. Is it possible for Whitehall to recognise that there is a permanent need for Homes of this kind under the hospital service? At the moment there is the difficulty of contractual arrangements between the Cheshire Homes and the various hospital boards.' Mr. Halliday, replying, said that these were questions he would have to throw

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back to the Foundation. 'After all, we know what a hospital is. Is it the sort of place that will ever provide the type of "home" that is needed for the kind of people we are talking about? Everybody here is saying "No". Well, if that is true, it's up to you to pursue the matter with the regional boards, making the suggestion to them and seeing how far you can get with them. The regional boards are entirely responsible for deciding how they provide for the young chronic sick, and whether they make contractual arrangements and so on with voluntary organisations like yourselves. If you can convince the boards that hospitalisation is not the best provision for this particular need, perhaps you will be able to come to some agreement. I think that since the service provided in a hospital or any other kind of state institution is a paid service without a voluntary element, they cannot be the right sort of places for people who are going to spend the rest of their lives there permanently disabled.'

**The Group Captain** interjected here, 'With all due deference, I don't really think the most important difference is between salaried service and voluntary service. To my mind, the chief distinction is that the hospital functions to provide treatment for the sick, whereas a "home" exists to care for individual people. The fact of voluntary service is not in fact, the crucial point; obviously there are benefits in it, and it could perhaps with advantage be grafted into the hospital service. But the crucial difference is that the nature and end of a hospital are quite distinct from the nature and end of a home, and from that follows many things. There is, for instance, the economic angle. Hospitals must perforce be expensive per head because of the facilities built in. We don't need such facilities because we are organised on a completely different basis.'

'Yet Mr. Halliday has put his finger right on the point', went on G.C. 'Most of our patients are in fact regional hospital cases, but local authorities are paying for many of them out of the goodness of their hearts. Now if we could really persuade the regional hospital boards that this work can be done, and is being done, more economically, as well as better from the

patients' point of view, in Homes such as ours, whether run by us or by anybody else, they might be more willing to enter into contractual arrangements with the Homes—with perhaps a say in the conditions prevailing at the Homes, which I think is only fair. It would still be up to us to provide the cost of the buildings and so on, and a certain amount over and above what the boards paid for maintenance. Thus, we could establish ourselves on a permanent footing, and there would be a clear distinction between our work and that of local authorities, who would then concentrate on providing Homes for people who were much less disabled than we take. In such wise, we could get over Mr. Lysaght's difficulties.'

The Chairman wondered whether the Homes had even begun to try to persuade their local regional boards on this matter. 'How many contractual beds are there in the Foundation? 16 at Le Court, but only 37 in the whole of England. It looks as though management committees have decided that they don't want them. Is it wise to take that attitude?' Several speakers then spoke of the failure of past approaches they had made to local boards and to the Ministry direct.

**Mr. Halliday**, 'Could I make my position clear on this. All I have been saying has nothing to do with the Department, but myself speaking. If you go to the Department, there is only one answer they can give—that it's a matter for the boards. The boards are the responsible authorities for deciding which are the priorities in this instance. So I can only say once again that you must approach the boards, where by persistence and argument, you may be able to prove that the right place to care for these people is outside the hospitals. You must show what their basic needs are.'

**Dr. Anderson** (Mayfield House) took the Group-Captain to task for making the distinction he had done between a hospital and a home. 'It might lead to some confusion. A hospital treats people, yes; but it doesn't necessarily cure them. Our residents in the Homes pass in and out of the category where they need treatment. There is no clearcut division between whether any individual is a resident in a Home, or a patient in a hospital. They pass in and out of these phases, at different

stages of their lives. This creates difficulties'. The G.C. replied that most of the residents in the Homes stayed fairly constant. If they got pneumonia or something acute they sometimes went into hospital, but that happened with many able-bodied people too. Mr. Halliday recommended his audience not to allow hospitals to take the word 'treatment' as the key. 'Whenever I see "treatment" in a draft, I always add "and care"'. There are tendencies in some hospitals to forget that part of their job is long-stay nursing care as well as acute treatment, and I don't think one should allow them to forget it.'

A Welsh speaker said that one of their local regional board officials had given a useful definition. It was concerned with the degree of nursing skill required. Where the degree of nursing skill required to look after a certain individual was what could be expected of a wife, daughter or mother who was not herself a trained nurse, then that individual was not the responsibility of a hospital. If the degree of nursing attention required grew, the local authorities should fill the gap with ancillary services, such as the district nurse, and the home help. When the skill and attention needed went beyond all this, then was the time for special care in a hospital. The same speaker went on to say that the Welsh regional board were reluctant to commit themselves, at this stage, to maintaining residents permanently in institutions not under their direct care. They had, however, accepted the principle for many years that relatives looking after chronic sick in their own homes, should be given a break. They paid for such patients to have a holiday—sometimes a fortnight, sometimes longer—in a nursing home bed. The regional board had suggested that the Cheshire Homes could fill this need.

In reply to a question as to whether a Home could have contractual beds without being registered as a nursing home, Mr. Halliday said this was purely a question of fact. 'You have to register for the type of care you are providing. If you provide hospital type care then you are a nursing home, and nursing home registration provisions apply. There are other regis-

tration provisions covering residential homes'.

**The Group-Captain** summarising the afternoon's discussion, said 'we were in an anomalous position in that although most of our patients were hospital-type cases, the Homes were mostly registered for only Part III accommodation, and local authorities were paying for the great majority of the patients. This doesn't really give us any security because if the position were officially and critically analysed the present arrangements might come to a stop. As a long term matter, the Foundation should consider very seriously the making of contractual arrangements. We all know now what the Minister himself advises. He says—do not write to your regional board, but endeavour to meet them and talk things over quietly and amicably, just to get their feeling, and put over your point of view. After those conversations, you will probably see how to make an application. And here I would like to tell you a story that the Minister told me. He said he was visiting one of our Homes, and had been shown a letter they intended to send to the local regional board. If I may be excused for quoting him, he said that the letter was not of a kind to make a favourable impression on any civil servant or bureaucrat.

We are extremely grateful to Mr. Halliday for coming here, continued the G.C. If I may speak for myself, I was very impressed. Not only did he give us the facts very clearly, but I think he set us a good example as to how we should approach these matters. It was most encouraging to hear of the Minister's insistence on integrating everything; we must see where we are going and how we fit into the whole. We should be prepared to give at every point where others are doing, or intend to do, what we are doing, and merely fit in where nothing else is being done. I have always felt that that is our particular vocation. So we should keep a flexible and a modest outlook on it all.

**The Chairman**, bringing the Conference to a close, expressed the hope that all the representatives had gained something from the speeches and discussions during the day.

# FAMILY DAY AT SEVEN RIVERS

The Cheshire Foundation has many branches of its family now, and like other families, its sons and daughters are spread all over the world, but kept in touch by the strong family bond. And we at Seven Rivers, being now one of the older members, felt particularly happy and privileged to be the hosts for the Ninth Family Day. We were able to welcome members of the family, some younger, and some older, metaphorically speaking, all developing in slightly different ways, yet each one interested in the other.

There had been much activity in anticipation of the day, and the family spirit had certainly pervaded backstage. The secretary, staff, residents, committee members and helpers all took part in preparing for our 100 guests, and it was 10.30 p.m. on the previous night before work was finally called off. A marquee had been placed conveniently near the kitchen, in which small tables for four were arranged for lunch. The stage was banked with flowers from her garden, charmingly arranged by our chairman's wife.

Visitors were welcomed in the hall by Mr. A. Logan Wood, Chairman of our Management Committee, and after being given their named badges, were taken round the Home, meeting all the residents who were very keen to talk, and also to show their work. This was arranged in the TV room,

with paintings round the walls in the dining room.

We later assembled in the marquee where a sherry party with a difference was held, as the only introduction needed was a glance at the other's lapel. Presently a cold lunch was served at the top table which was carried to the small tables; and there we had an opportunity for fairly consistent discussion with people who had previously just been names in *The Cheshire Smile*.

We were all delighted that the G.C., Mrs. Sue Ryder Cheshire, their children, and Professor Cheshire, were with us, together with our President, Col. Sir John Ruggles-Brise, the Lord Lieutenant of Essex. After coffee was finished and the tables cleared, the chairs were quickly arranged for the afternoon's meeting.

A summary of the speeches follows, but here I would just like to add how very valuable everyone felt the meeting to be. Each one of us, in all the various capacities in which we find ourselves involved in the Cheshire Homes, came away with a deeper understanding of the work we do and the ideals we must aim for.

After tea, the urgency of trains to catch and long journeys to be made, caught up with us, and we all parted feeling that we had made many friends, and were more closely knit than ever before.

## Dr. Russell Barton's speech:

### THE HUMAN PROBLEMS INVOLVED

From the Report in the *East Essex Gazette*

Guest speaker at Family Day was Dr. Russell Barton, Medical Superintendent at Severalls Hospital, Colchester, who was introduced by Mr. Logan Wood, Chairman.

Dr. Barton gave a most interesting talk upon the human problems in the work of hospitals and homes. He spoke of the concept of loyalty, the

question of morale, the necessity to be far-seeing and tolerant and to have insight, the value of group meetings, the 'prima donna syndrome' and the 'institution phobia'. Some people feel that the patients were unappreciative, said Dr. Barton, but it would be soul-destroying for the patients to be constantly manifesting gratitude.

The Chairman of the Appeals Committee, Mrs. G. Hirst, said she could not subscribe to this view of unappreciation. 'Our patients are extremely grateful for and appreciative of the outside help they receive. I think they look upon the staff as their family.' Dr. Barton replied: 'Basically, the majority of the patients are extremely grateful, though some of them have permanent chips on their shoulders. But one does not do good work for the gratitude. One is appreciated outside, perhaps far more than inside.' Dr. Barton was also asked by a Scottish questioner how to deal with the persecution complex. 'There isn't a cut and dried answer to that. I try to meet it with humour, but the trouble is that so many persecuted people have not got a sense of humour.'

At Severalls, he said, his method was to put the two disgruntled people together for the day. 'They blame the staff, they blame the world—they blame everyone', he said, 'and by the

end of the day they are much happier than they would have been if they had been working by themselves.'

Group-Captain Cheshire asked the doctor whether he thought the patient the Cheshire Homes catered for was better off in his own home than 'in a Home such as this?' Dr. Barton said he was a great believer in people living and dying in their own homes. In a Cheshire Home people get the feeling they were at home and not in an institution; 'it depends upon the success with which you run the Home'.

The Group Captain asked what the advantages of living at home were. Dr. Barton replied: 'Sometimes families are so beastly to one another that I think an escape into a sanctuary such as this is the only answer. The home life you can offer in a place like this is invaluable'. 'Cheshire Homes filled a need which the National Health system could not supply', said Dr. Barton.

### Dr. Cheshire's speech:

#### DEVELOPMENTS IN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS

Dr. Cheshire, Chairman of the Cheshire Foundation Homes, gave a short account of the chief developments affecting the Foundation that had occurred since the last Family Day. The period 1962/3 had not been so spectacular as the previous twelve months so far as the opening of new homes was concerned. It had been a period of consolidation rather than of new ventures. Nevertheless, progress had been made.

Marske Hall, the magnificent mansion near Redcar, given by Lord Zetland, was now functioning, thanks to the efforts of its very vigorous committee; the new Home at Sutton Coldfield was on the brink of opening; and the same was true of the house left to the Foundation at Christleton, near Chester, which was to be used for mentally handicapped children, probably for those who were now too old to remain at Dorchester. The valuable work being done at Miraflores, Wimbledon, had been extended by the purchase of another house in the neighbourhood which was to be used for the same purpose.

An extension to Dolywern in North Wales, designed to make the Home more comfortable and more economic to administer, was already far advanced and was expected to be ready for occupation in October. What was so gratifying here was that the Shrewsbury committee, which had been pressing for a home in the neighbouring Shropshire, had deferred the plan for the immediate future and had agreed to do all that they could to establish Dolywern on a firm footing.

Modest progress had been made overseas. In Ireland, a new Home at Cork would shortly be opened; the old Portuguese Consulate at Tangier had been acquired and was now housing disabled children. What was so encouraging there was that all religions and all races were combining to make the Home a success—a striking example of the principle of non-denominationalism.

Another foreign development was the opening of a Home on the outskirts of Lisbon, supported by both English and Portuguese residents.

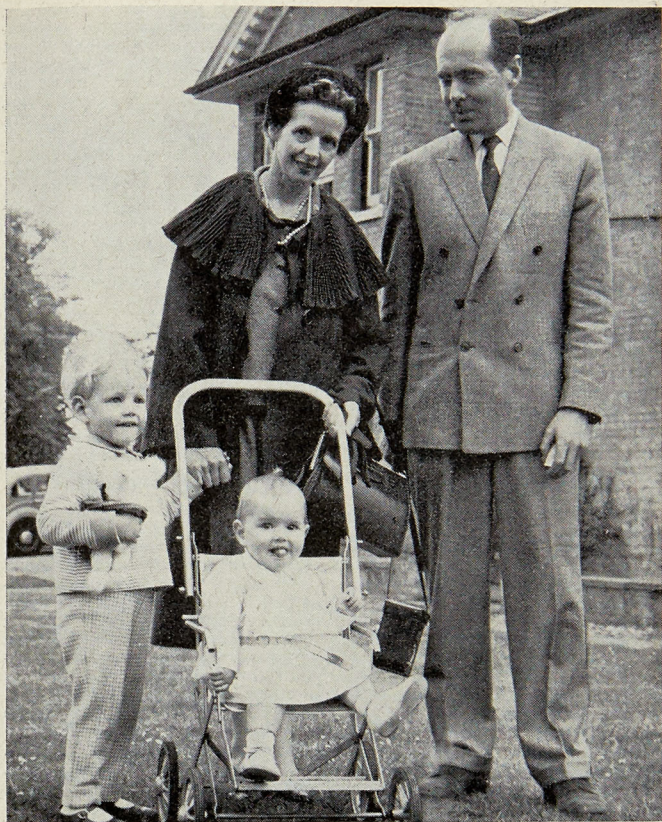


Photo: East Essex Gazette

**At Family Day. Group Captain Cheshire, Mrs. Sue Ryder Cheshire, and their children**

### **Group Captain Cheshire's speech:**

#### **THE OUTWARD-LOOKING SPIRIT**

It is true that the Homes are growing and that there is an impetus behind the Movement, but as you grow the dangers and difficulties grow also. The essential thing is to remember we are a family. Our care and regard for one another is personal. The danger is that as time goes on and money becomes less of a problem one loses

something of the personal spirit. Dr. Barton gave a clue to this when he said that we should always be outward-looking. Every Home starts by looking after the patients they take in. But as they grow, as we grow as a Foundation, we must see what we are doing in the light of not only our own patients but all those many others still in need.



Something like 800 patients of the category we ourselves try to help are still in need of accommodation.

We owe it to the public not to ask for a single farthing we do not need, and we owe it to those who have not got a home, either here or overseas. Every day we realise how small the world is, and it is one world. It is not just a matter of charity but of justice to help the people in those countries that do not possess the medical services we have here. Unless every individual and every organisation looks outside itself all the time, it gets to the point when it loses its spirit, and its life. That is the important thing to remember.

We hope to become a family in the sense of being united with other organisations doing similar work, each completely autonomous, but linked together as members of a family. This family goes by the name of

Mission for the Relief of Suffering, which is a name acceptable to everybody, East and West, and it is not personalized. The first sister member is Sue's Forgotten Allies. The second, what is known as the White Fleet, which is a hospital ship to work amongst the poorer countries.

Eventually we will build up a family of charitable organisations each pursuing its own ends in its own way as a means of bringing more help to those who suffer. I have always felt that the vocation of the sick is to bring the best out of us and to bring us together. They help unite the different elements in a sometimes disunited world.

I would like to leave you with this thought, that as we grow we must examine ourselves and be quite certain that we don't lose the personal, modest spirit that we had at the beginning.

## Committee of Enquiry on Staffing Problems of Residential Institutions

The National Council of Social Service has set up the above-named Committee under the Chairmanship of Professor Lady Williams. Its terms of reference are "To enquire into the recruitment and retention, training and field of work of the staff of residential accommodation, other than hospitals, designed for persons in need of care, whether short or long term, and whether provided by statutory authorities, voluntary bodies or otherwise; and to make recommendations." The Committee would be particularly

glad to receive observations on: recruitment of staff; staff turnover; conditions of work, including accommodation, status, hours of work and prospects; training of staff, existing staff and required staff, including full-time training and refresher courses; ratio of staff to persons in their care; and the actual work of the staff. Questionnaires are being sent out in the Autumn, but, meanwhile, information should be sent to the Secretary, Mrs. Ogilvy-Webb, 26 Bedford Square, London, W.C.1.

*The following advert appeared in the Kenmore Newsletter. Perhaps other Homes would follow the example set by our Yorkshire friends.*

### **ARE YOU A SUBSCRIBER TO 'THE CHESHIRE SMILE'?**

Many are quite unaware that there is an official quarterly magazine of the Cheshire Homes called 'THE CHESHIRE SMILE'. By being a regular reader—ONE SHILLING PER QUARTER—you could help the local Homes' Residents' Welfare Funds.

### **WHAT ABOUT PLACING A REGULAR ORDER NOW?**

*Of course, a postal subscription from the Publishing Office still costs 6s. per annum.*

# The Role of the Residents

by Group-Captain Leonard Cheshire, V.C.

The Editor has asked me to introduce a discussion on the role that the residents can play in the development and spread of the Homes. This I do with the greatest pleasure, for it is something of the utmost importance to the entire work. Indeed, what else do we exist for except to be a means of giving everyone, whether disabled or fit, the opportunity of living a fuller and more fruitful life?

The discussion will, I hope, attract many different viewpoints, and perhaps even clashes of opinion. What I should like most of all is that it will encourage those who usually remain silent to speak up.

Those who have the least to say are often the most worth listening to. But of course both are needed.

It would hardly be for me to point the way before a discussion has begun. This I shall do when it is over, and when all have said what they want to. None the less, there is perhaps one point that I can make without prejudging the issue.

No community can thrive unless it looks outward to something greater than itself. The original V.I.P. community failed primarily because it had no real end other than the well-being of its own members. Admittedly, we thought that, once we had got ourselves on to our own feet, we could be the means of inspiring others to do something similar, but that is not enough. Our Lord's words 'For he that will save his life shall lose it; and he that shall lose his life for my sake shall find it' applies to our everyday life as well as to our eternal one. Everybody, I think, will acknowledge the truth of this. The point is, how can it be applied to the role of the disabled in the Homes? This is what I hope the discussion will bring most fully to light.

*(Ed.—Letters will be published anonymously if the request is made, but no letter will be printed in the magazine unless the sender's name and address is enclosed).*

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## Concert in Aid of Homes Overseas

It was a glorious evening on May 31st, when a concert was given by the London Medical Orchestra, with guest conductor Sir Adrian Boult, and soloist Miss Hephzibah Menuhin. Beethoven's Concerto No. 4 in G was superbly played by Miss Menuhin. The rest of the programme, too, was very well selected for such an evening: the Overture Le Carnaval Romain by Berlioz, and Dvorak Symphony No. 4 in G, with its wonderful pastoral melodies. These were beautifully played, and conducted by Frederick Marshall.

A large number of people enjoyed this evening of music, at the Westminster Central Hall, and being one of the first days of summer the ladies' dresses and the robes of the overseas representatives from Nigeria, Sierra Leone, India, Malaya and Singapore, made a great splash of colour in the concert hall. The Lord Mayor and

Lady Mayoress of Westminster were guests of honour.

The interval was a very friendly time meeting old friends: it was nice to see Sister Leo with six residents from the London Cheshire Home, Dulwich. There was time to look around the exhibition of photographs of the Homes (some lovely coloured ones of the Overseas Homes).

Sir Edmund Davies, Vice-Chairman of the Foundation, thanked Sir Adrian, Miss Menuhin, and the Orchestra, as well as all those who helped to organise the concert. He read a cable, received from Tangier, wishing all success to the evening and signed *Sue and Leonard Cheshire* . . . And it was a great success, thanks to the enormous amount of work done for months before by the concert committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Barry Richards (and, during his absence, under Major Denis Parker).

C.T.S.

## HOLIDAY SERVICE

*The following letter appeared in the June 1963 issue of 'Search' Newsletter, and is reproduced here by permission of both the sender and the editor of the paper*

SIR—May I mention that a number of students and young people, to whom I have introduced your newsletter, have been impressed by your remarks concerning the necessity for a real and visible (rather than 'of the Spirit' type) poverty among the members of the Church?

In this connection perhaps, when you have space, you would discuss the origin of the 'annual holiday cult' so strong in our society today, both lay and clerical. A yearly month's holiday has become almost a divine right to most of us. The laity with their 'Fathers busy' and 'Fathers tired—he needs a holiday' myths have done much to promote this way of thinking.

It would be stupid to deny that some break is necessary for perseverance and renewal of industry in the pastoral mission, but a two- or three-week spell of sun worship on the Mediterranean

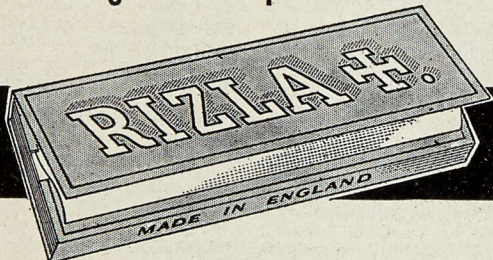
coast would seem not only cretinous but positively scandalous to the majority of the faithful whose budget can sometimes stretch to a week at Margate or Southend.

Perhaps an exchange between English and Continental priests for a few weeks each year would be profitable. For the younger priest a working holiday with Abbe Pire's mission or that of Group-Capt. Cheshire would surely do more to increase their world vision.

This I have felt but recently after a series of unproductive holidays which have done nothing whatever to further the Christian message—on the contrary they may have served to disturb the zealous and console the complacent—this I find a depressing thought.

FR. PAUL MULLINS,  
St. Luke's Church,  
Pinner, Middlesex.

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## **First Inter-Homes**

### **Handicraft**

### **Exhibition**



Photo: Millington & Chapman

An Inter-Homes Handicraft Exhibition was arranged this summer by the East Midland Area Committee. It was held for the Homes in the East Midland area—i.e. Ampthill, Staunton Harold, Holme Lodge, Hovenden House, The Grove and Seven Rivers.

A cup has been given which is to be competed for annually, and held by the winning Home for one year. It was won this year by Holme Lodge, the Nottingham Home.

The photograph shows all the entries as exhibited, after being judged at the Holme Lodge Fete, Woolaton Park, on June 24th, where it aroused great public interest. The competition also created great interest in the Homes, and the number of entries reached 80.

The judge was the occupational therapist from Nottingham Hospital, who commented on the high standard of the work.

The task of getting out the schedule, transport, and all the arrangements, was most ably carried out by Mr. George Anderson, a member of the Area Committee, and Vice-Chairman of the Hovenden House Management Committee.

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# The Experiment That Worked

Adventure in Psychiatry by Dr. Denis V. Martin (Bruno Cassirer, 1963)

Dr. Martin is Physician Superintendent of Claybury Hospital, a mental hospital of 2,200 beds at Ilford, which was started in 1893. Such hospitals are like small towns, with engineering workshops, builders' yards, general stores, laundry, bakery, butcher's shop, kitchens cooking for 3,000 people a day, farm and gardens. Claybury was a good mental hospital in the traditional pattern: the fact that the staff has always been up to strength speaks for itself. In 1953 the principle of having no locked doors was brought into operation, so it was also a progressive hospital.

Despite this Dr. Martin and some of his colleagues felt that the structure of relationships within the hospital, far from being curative, actually worsened the patients' illnesses or added new symptoms to the original ones. To understand this it must be realised that mental hospitals at the turn of the century (and later) were organised more for the segregation of people with undesirable social behaviour than for their cure. To make the task easier a rigid pattern of authority and submission to authority was built up. There was a strict hierarchy from the Physician Superintendent through successive grades of medical and nursing staff down to the bottom; the bottom being the patients. Communication was always downwards and consequently if the patients had any complaints or ideas of their own they had to suppress them. This state of affairs created intense frustration and resentment, which manifested itself in increasingly disturbed behaviour or the withdrawal into apathy characteristic of long-stay mental patients. If mental health is defined as 'a state of mind in which the individual feels free to express himself as fully as possible in ways that are consistent with good human relations' the authority-submission tradition is clearly inimical to it. Not only that, a vicious circle is

established. The system that 'tends to create tensions and disturbed behaviour was called upon to suppress and control these by the same measures that originally helped to produce them. Heavier and heavier sedation, more and more frequent periods of seclusion, repeated courses of E.C.T. had to be used in many wards to maintain some sort of control over the more difficult patients.'

Following the work of Maxwell Jones at the Belmont Hospital it was decided in 1953 to turn one of the wards, where the patients were mostly schizophrenic, into a therapeutic community unit. Maxwell Jones has described a therapeutic community as one in which a conscious effort is made to employ all the staff and patient potential in an overall treatment programme, according to the capacities and training of each individual member. For this to work it is evident that the full co-operation of staff and patients must be gained, and co-operation is only possible when there is free exchange of ideas. In other words, free communication. The three main channels of communication in the original experiment were community meetings, staff meetings and mixing of the sexes. The community meetings were attended by the patients and all the staff concerned, including various therapists. The staff meetings followed the community meetings and were extremely valuable in giving support and reassurance to the staff in this unconventional situation. In spite of both kinds of meetings being informal it was some months before the barriers could be broken down and really direct contact made between the participants. The mixing of the women patients in the community unit with men from a similar ward was also not without its difficulties. The Victorian attitude to sex still persists. Basically the purpose of the meetings was to encourage individual responsibility and

understanding acceptance. Dr. Martin and his colleagues' experience has proved that acceptance and understanding of disturbed behaviour is a more potent way of controlling it than authoritarian measures, though not easy to inculcate, especially when much of the disturbed behaviour provokes fear.

At first the rest of the hospital looked upon the experimental unit with distrust and hostility. All sorts of rumours circulated about the lack of discipline, condoning of sexual laxity and so on, and one of the most frequent remarks was 'The patients will be running the hospital soon'. However, as time went on and the staff who worked on the ward grew enthusiastic, opinion softened and people from other parts of the hospital began taking an active interest. It was too soon to judge the curative effects of the new system, but the patients were obviously so much happier and more independent, and the staff enjoyed their work more too. After eighteen months other community units were set up and by the end of four years nearly the whole of the hospital was permeated. Of course this resulted in profound changes, modifying everybody's roles, the patients' and junior nurses' most. The atmosphere of the hospital became, in the former Physician Superintendent's words 'more cheerful, more dynamic and more purposeful', and there was a dramatic reduction of disturbed and violent behaviour.

Dr. Martin describes the development of the network of inter-communication between the workers in the different therapeutic units at some length, since this was the mechanism of change. As the scheme evolved community meetings were held daily in each unit after breakfast for an hour, and these were followed by staff meetings which lasted about half an hour. Periodically there were medical meetings, meetings of senior administrative staff, and general meetings of other professional staff, so that at all levels information could be shared and problems discussed. The patients and most junior staff were free to make criticisms and suggestions on an equal footing with the sisters and senior

medical staff, which naturally involved all concerned in making considerable adjustments. The discussions were at first led by psychiatrists and later other, lay, people were trained in leadership techniques. A vast number of ideas was thrown up, not all of which could be carried out, but many were, with benefit. The staff were guided and helped to understand their own emotional difficulties as well as those of the patients, and to make allowance for the interplay of both.

The underlying concept of this work is the inherent value and dignity of every human being, whatever his present condition. It is often forgotten that happiness and the opportunity to live as fully as possible should be the aim for each individual. Expediency and love of power, lack of humanity and the clinging to conventional patterns of thought, combine all too often to reduce the individual to a case history or a number in a file.

Dr. Martin has written an exciting, unassuming book in non-technical language so that it is intelligible to the lay reader. For he suggests that the principles of this remarkably successful experiment could be applied in other spheres. The proportions of mental illness and crime in our society argue that all is not well. He cites general hospitals, prisons, the Church and schools (industry also comes to mind; in *The Changing Culture of a Factory*, Elliott Jaques describes an equally successful experiment). All these could be healthier and more constructive if each individual were given freedom to exercise responsibility and contribute to the whole. Abandonment of the authority-submission structure may sound utopian when so much of society is based on it. Yet the results of six years' practical application of free communication and shared responsibility at Claybury Hospital proves that it can be done. Perhaps the barriers between management committees, administrations, staff and residents in Cheshire Homes could be resolved in a similar way. Cheshire Homes have the name of being happy places: how much happier they might be without these barriers. *Adventure in Psychiatry* is recommended to all who care for the future of the Cheshire Foundation.

# "Welcome to Kenmore, Your Royal Highness"

A REPORT OF THE OPENING OF THE EXTENSIONS AT KENMORE,  
26TH JUNE, 1963

BY VIOLET BEISLEY  
(Disabled resident at Kenmore)

Her Royal Highness, the Princess Royal, wearing a marina blue two-piece with matching straw hat, arrived at 'Kenmore' on Wednesday, the 26th June, to open the new extensions. The Princess Royal was presented at the main entrance with a spray of roses, miniature gladioli and magnolia leaves, tied with French lace ribbon, by Miss Joan Brooke, a resident who looked charming in a pleated skirt and jumper of white, with beads and earrings of jet. Mr. Gordon Wilkinson, another resident, presented Her Highness with a bound volume in blue calf of the 'Pictorial Record of the Cheshire Homes'. The

Princess then walked to the marquee on the lawn where speeches were made.

Before an invited gathering of some 200 people, which included Sir William and Lady Fenton and Mrs M. N. Shaw, whose husband, Mr. Michael N. Shaw, M.P., was unable to attend owing to duties at Westminster, Dr. E. H. Platts, Chairman of the Kenmore House Committee, read out two telegrams: The one from Group Capt. Cheshire and signed 'Leonard and Sue Cheshire' expressed regrets at not being able to attend but were present in spirit, and sending good wishes for the day 'on which a great honour had been bestowed on them'. In his telegram, Mr. Michael N. Shaw said the day was a memorable one for a great many workers for Kenmore and one which would bring continued happiness to those who made their home at Kenmore.

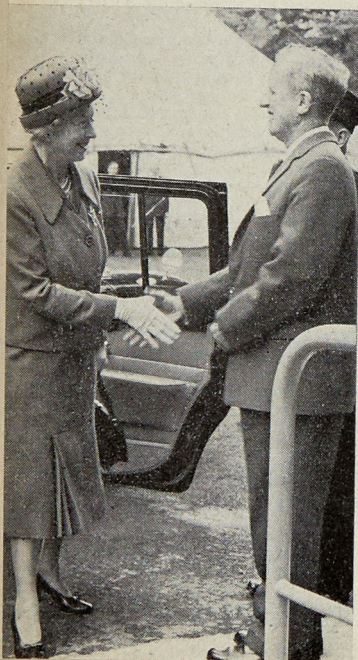
The Mayor of Spenborough (Mr. John Smith) who was accompanied by the Mayoress, then gave the Princess Royal a civic welcome, in which he recalled the happy occasions of her previous visits to Cleckheaton.

In his speech, Dr. Platts spoke of the very happy residents the Princess would find as she toured the home. He then paid tributes to all those who had supported the appeal, which had made the extensions possible. Dr. Platts paid a special tribute to the work of the Matron, Miss I. W. Gray, who had worked under great difficulties, 'whose hours of duty would be sufficient to make any self-respecting trade unionist throw up his hands in horror.

'To their Matron' he said 'they owed a great debt as they did to a most ardent worker for the home, Miss Mowat. When the Management Committee had accepted the gift of Kenmore from Miss Mowat and Sir Alfred Mowat, they had invited Miss Mowat to be a member of the Management House Committee. She little

**Dr. Platts greeting the Princess Royal  
at the main door**

*Photo: The Spenborough Guardian*



knew what work she was letting herself in for, but Miss Mowat had organised on her own three fetes which had raised £1,500 for Kenmore, and the arrangements for that day had been in her capable hands.' Concluding, Dr. Platts thanked the headmaster of the Whitcliffe Mount Grammar School, Mr. A. Morton for the loan of his school for the fetes, and expressed regret that because of limited accommodation being available it had not been possible to invite all the people they would have liked to attend.

Her Royal Highness addressing the gathering spoke of the pleasure it gave her to visit Kenmore. 'I would like to pay tribute to all who have subscribed to the home, and may those who reside here find happiness and security.'

In the speech by Mr. H. W. Laycock, president of the West Riding Cheshire Home, expressions of gratitude were made to the gathering. He went on: 'Thanks were due to Sir William Fenton that day for making himself responsible for the beautifying of the grounds, and to the Spensborough Parks department for their floral decorations in the marquee.'

Ald. A. Pickles, a Trustee of the Cheshire Home Foundation then spoke: 'It would rank as one of the finest hours in the Cheshire Homes (continued on next page)



Photo: D. V. Kitching

**Joan Brooke, who presented the Princess Royal with a spray**



Photo: Spensborough Guardian

**After the Opening. The Princess Royal with Matron, staff and residents**



# Dudley

## Our North Regional Editor

A biographical note

Dudley V. Kitching, disabled resident of the West Riding Cheshire Home, 'Kenmore', who has become our north regional editor, is proud of the fact he is of Welsh-British stock, particularly when the British part is Yorkshire!

The younger son of Mrs. L. Kitching, and the late Capt. W. H. Kitching, he hails from Derby, and has arrived in the West Riding via Doncaster!

In an interview Dudley explained his ancestry: 'My grandfather, on my mother's side was a David Edwardes—and how Welsh can you get with a name like that? My father was born in Headingley, Leeds, and my mother, I understand comes from the South of England.

'My grandfather Edwardes was an extremely clever man: he was the youngest professor of applied mathematics for some time, at the old University of Bangor, North Wales. Married my grandmother when a student and reared a large family. My grandmother was twice married previously, both husbands being drowned at sea after their honeymoons—they were sea captains, and their ships were wrecked by storm.

'The way my grandmother met my grandfather makes a good story,' Dudley continued, 'but it will have to wait for another time'. Then looking rueful Dudley added: 'I am afraid mathematically I do not take after him, but my three brothers do, for they are in the aircraft and motor

industries, where that science is an essential attribute'. Dudley went on: 'I think I must take after my great-aunt, and grandmother, both on my mother's side, for they were both prolific writers for the popular leading periodicals of that day. Apparently, too, my grandmother was also gifted in other ways, for my mother often told me of how grandmother assisted my grandfather at examination times; that she could go on to an opera, come home and play the complete score from memory. In her younger days' Dudley added 'my grandmother was a governess in the German royal family'.

Coming to the present Dudley said: 'Despite having a congenital complaint I have been extremely lucky in getting around Great Britain, and Scotland, but, alas, not in Wales! I would like to see Bangor, and look up the records at the University. You see,' Dudley added: 'we do not know the end of my grandfather. He had a typically Welsh temper, and it eventually split up the family. I would like, too, to travel around the homes, and further afield; giving my fellow disabled the benefit of my humble experience: for they are a grand crowd taking them by and large. As far as my colleagues at Kenmore are concerned,' Dudley added, 'I am extremely proud to be with them, for they have a grand sense of humour, and, as a rule, much commonsense.

*(continued from preceding page)*

and the interest shown in worthy causes in the north by Her Royal Highness was deeply appreciated.'

The Princess Royal with the Matron and Dr. Platts and official guests then walked from the marquee to the sun lounge. Cutting the ribbon and declaring the extensions open, Her Royal Highness unveiled a plaque com-

memorating her visit. After shaking hands and speaking to all the residents, Her Highness was taken on a tour of the Home.

Having taken tea with the Management House Committee and official guests, Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal left . . . leaving us with very happy memories of a most charming Princess, and a most happy day.



Photo: W. M. Butterworth

**Dudley V. Kitching, on right, with some of his fellow residents at Kenmore**

To have led a very active life—as most of them have—and then find themselves sitting about, or getting about with difficulty, trying to do things for each other, takes a very special brand of courage and determination. Such a life,' Dudley continued, 'is a constant challenge. And it is this struggle I try to convey to all who are finding it sticky going, and they are bound to find it like that at times, for, unless one faces up to it from the word go, it can mean self-happiness, or self-pity, and we all know what happens to those sort of people. Fortunately, they are few and far between in Cheshire Homes'.

Pointing to a picture of Group-Captain Leonard Cheshire, Dudley concluded: 'His amazing foresight, and personal knowledge of physical illness and handicapped people, has made a new concept of the care of the disabled and sick. He has made it possible for handicapped people to live a "NEW" kind of "normal" life: one that, thirty years ago, would have been considered impossible. Through his inspiration, and Christian outlook, we have a star upon which to focus our sights—a new hope upon which to live.'

The present Editor of 'The Kenmore Newsletter', Dudley has been a writer for the national press; an editor to a patients' journal at a large Home for Incurables in the Midlands; founder-secretary to a pen club for handicapped people in America and Britain; founder and secretary to a branch of the Infantile Paralysis Fellowship.

His hobbies are photography, amateur radio, classical music, sport, and many more. . . . 'Perhaps', he added with a twinkle in his eye, 'you can add politics and religion . . . but are they hobbies, these days?'

Finally, and very seriously, Dudley wound up the interview by saying: 'But my first love is writing . . . I would like to be able to write something really worth reading . . . a best-seller . . . not just for the money, though we all want that, but to satisfy myself that I could do it. Next to this first love is my desire to serve my fellow disabled, either through the Cheshire movement, or some other, and thirdly to travel . . . travel and travel. Seeing people, talking to people and making friends'.

# Speaking for Myself

by Sheila Ridley (of Marske Hall)

*Reproduced from The Magic Carpet by kind permission of the Editor*

A home? Or a Home? Which would you prefer? There's quite a difference between the two and, given the choice, most of us would take the first. However, the difference is not so great as was the case when Homes with a capital H were bleak institutions not much better than prisons, the only crime the inmates had committed being that of chronic illness. Now, thanks partly to more enlightened local authorities, and partly to a remarkable man, Group Captain Leonard Cheshire, the prospect of taking up residence in one of these establishments need not be a frightening one.

I do know what I'm talking about. My experience, if short, is personal. I've spent the past five months acquiring it, first in a Red Cross Hostel in Birmingham, and then at the Tees-side Cheshire Home where I am living at present. I don't pretend it's easy to make the change from private to community life, and some people will find it more difficult than others. There are snags. There are in any scheme of things. But a willingness to adapt, to see other points of view, and to accept—these are valuable assets, as they are in any circumstances.

'Speaking for myself', I can say that my life has been far more varied and interesting since I left home with a small h. I've met so many people, some important such as the Lord Mayor of Birmingham and the Princess Royal, one or two celebrities, such as Frank Ifield—(oh, yes, and I've got a photograph of us both together to prove it) and dozens of ordinary folk, notable only for their kindness and readiness to help others, folk who must often be the means of restoring a somewhat lagging faith in human nature.

I returned to my native north country in February to be nearer my father and came to stay at Marske, a pleasant village on the east coast. The Tees-side Cheshire Home is the newest in an international chain of

over sixty Homes and is less than three months old. It is an impressive, imposing mansion—from the outside. Inside, the rooms are light and airy, the furniture comfortable as well as attractive; in all, a happy blending of 17th century stateliness and 20th century convenience. The atmosphere is cheerful and usually noisy, even in the 'Quiet Room'.

A book has recently been published telling the story of the Cheshire Homes. It is called 'New Lives for Old', and is written by Wilfrid Russell. The proceeds go to the Cheshire Homes.

I hope one day to have the privilege of meeting G.C. Cheshire. In the meantime, I have achieved another of my ambitions. A few days ago I met a real live author for the first time. This was Sid Chaplin, a native of Shildon, a mining village in County Durham, and his writing is mainly about mines and miners. The occasion was the opening of a new library here in Marske, and I was lucky enough to attend the ceremony and be introduced to Mr. Chaplin. He was very friendly and we talked 'shop' for quite a while, even though refreshments were awaiting the guest of honour.

I'm looking forward to being reunited with an old friend soon. My trike and I have been separated for nearly two years owing to circumstances beyond my control and oh how I've missed it. You who have also suffered this deprivation will understand; you who have not, pause a while in the midst of criticism of sparking plugs, battery or engine, and consider life without a trike. . . . Think of being relegated to a pushchair again, of putting yourself at the mercy of the person behind who will probably rush along within half-an-inch of the kerb edge, blithely disregarding your feeble protests; who will shove you on to the road before looking to see if it's safe to step off the pavement, and will certainly charge past any shops you'd like to stop at and stand

for hours gazing into windows that hold no interest for you.

Of course, we are grateful to our pram-pushers, but I shall be glad to take possession of my dear, unlovely machine again. No, mine is not one of your spanking new models that need to be labelled in order to claim parking concessions; mine is an invalid tricycle, naked and unashamed, and a tortoise to boot, slow but unsure. Never mind, it enables me to get around under my own steam. To be in charge—something one is seldom able to feel. Whoops, I think I'm getting a touch of the 'master of my fate, captain of my soul', and all that jazz.

I thought it might be useful to start a series in which we can pass on any tricks we have learnt to get us over obstacles. I will start the ball rolling with a method of picking things up that might help someone. I call it the Complete Wangler, and the only materials required are a walking stick and a paper bag. Now, when you drop something awkward such as a pen, a comb or perhaps a bottle of aspirins, don't lose your temper. If I may suggest a slogan—Don't get your rag out, get your bag out. Next drop your paper bag near to your quarry and use your stick to inveigle the one into the other, or do I mean the other into the former or—oh, dear. Well, if anyone's trying to lure a bag into a bottle, I'm sorry. Perhaps I should have done this in the form of a strip cartoon. Anyway, having got the article into the bag,



Sheila Ridley

insert the ferrule end of the stick into the bag and raise this within reach or on to a convenient table. This stage of the operation does call for a certain amount of skill and judgement, and practice at fishing will be an advantage. However, if your early efforts are not crowned with success don't be discouraged. It will come. And the day you land your first big 'un, be it tin box or library book, will be one to remember.

Of course, it's when you drop the stick that real ingenuity is called for.

## FOLLOW THE STARS

### 2. Elvis Presley

Elvis Aaron Presley, to give him his full name, was born on January 8th 1935 at Tupelo, Mississippi. He had a twin Jesse, who died a few months after birth. His first record 'That's all right', made for Sun Records, America, wasn't a great success, but his next 'Heartbreak Hotel' released here on the R.C.A. label, sold a million copies in 1956. Since then he has become almost a legend, selling countless singles, E.P's and L.P's. Another field in which he is well-known is in films, having made at least a dozen, the latest being 'Fun in Acapulco'.

This man, who is nearly 29, has

never visited Britain. There is a divided opinion as to whether he should come or not. Some of the fans think that if he did come, then he would shatter the legend he has built up.

He is second only to Bing Crosby in number of records sold, and has made nearly 100 million dollars.

He now lives at 'Graceland', a mansion just outside Memphis, Tennessee, has a fleet of Cadillacs, a 350-dollar guitar, a private swimming pool, but he has not married yet.

DAVID WATTS (of Seven Rivers)

## WHITSUN IN MADRID

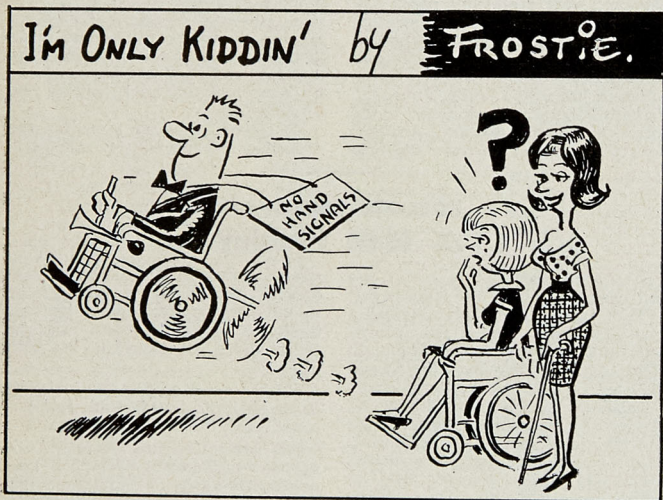
*Mouth and Foot Painting Artists' Association hold Congress*

Albert Baker of Le Court, accompanied by a friend, Robin Symonds, spent the Whitsun weekend in Madrid this year. Albert was there for the bi-annual Congress of the Mouth and Foot Painting Artists' Association—the last one was held in Vienna in 1961. He is one of fifty full members of the Association who earn a good living through it. In return the Association has first right to its members' paintings, and reproduces many of them as Birthday and Christmas Cards, and Calenders. It is an international organisation which has set up publishing companies in a number of countries, including America and Australia, and is a commercial proposition rather than a charity.

All air fares and expenses for the Congress were paid by the Association—this included escorts where necessary. Albert and Robin flew to Madrid via Paris on Whit Friday, and back again on the Monday—

only an hour and three-quarters by Comet. The official part of the Congress began on Friday evening with a banquet at which members had their national flags laid on the table in front of them. The business conference started on Saturday morning, and it was followed by another meal which the press and publishers attended. In the afternoon the members went to an exhibition of their paintings which was opened by the Mayor of Madrid. Albert had three pictures on show. Then in the evening everyone relaxed while entertained with Spanish singing and dancing.

On Sunday afternoon a tour of Madrid was arranged, ending up at a bull-fight for those who wished to go. Albert and Robin chose a football match instead—which was exciting but a little less bloody. Monday's return was uneventful, and they arrived home happy but tired.



**"WE SHALL HAVE TO WATCH THIS NEW CHAP—THEY SAY HE'S SOME KIND OF AN INVENTOR."**



Photo: Wolverhampton Magazine

Seated at tea in the Committee tent (l to r) Miss V. R. Kinvig, Lady Dowty, Mrs. J. Simmons and Mrs. R. Butts

## We Name Thee "St. Anthony's"

*The Wolverhampton Home is Christened*

On the 8th June last the West Midlands' Cheshire Home was officially opened by Lady Dowty, Trustee for the Western Region of the Foundation.

As, by that time, we had been functioning for eighteen months, and full for twelve of them, this may well have been an anti-climax, but it was not so for two reasons. The first of these was that we used the occasion to say 'thank you' to the many hundreds of benefactors who made our existence possible, and the second reason was that the Group Captain had chosen a name for us. Therefore the occasion took the form of a garden party and christening.

The whole business was a great success—five hundred cars brought some fifteen hundred friends who heard Lady Dowty in a charming speech (and an equally charming ensemble) declare us officially in being, with the name of 'ST. ANTHONY'S'. Our guests then had tea in the marquees, listened to the band of the 5th Btn. South Staffordshire Regiment and toured the Home and grounds. The residents mingled with their guests, met many old

friends and made new ones.

Our visitors were tremendously impressed with their achievement, as well they might be—a completely new home bought and paid for by their exertions over six years, and twenty residents happy in their security among splendid surroundings.

All were reminded, however, that this day only marked the end of a chapter in our story, and that plans were well ahead for the building of a second wing which will round off our building project. When the builders have completed their job, we shall have room for a further fourteen permanent residents, making thirty-four in all, and holiday accommodation for two others. We already have funds to meet half the cost of this, and we have not the slightest doubt that we have the goodwill for the balance to be forthcoming before the last additional resident has moved in—faith moves mountains and the hearts of men.

Finally, tribute for the day's success must be made to the staff and all those voluntary helpers who rallied round as always whenever we need them.

# A Home—Not a Hospital

## The Grove, Norwich

*Reproduced from the Eastern Evening News by kind permission of the Editor*

Saturday sees the start of Cheshire Home Week in Norfolk, a week during which there will be a number of money-raising events to help pay off the debts—and the general running costs—of the local Cheshire Home at The Grove, East Carleton.

Opened about 18 months ago, The Grove now has 23 patients and room for only one or two more.

Although it has been functioning for all this time, there are still many people in Norfolk who do not know what a Cheshire Home is.

It was in 1948 that Group Captain Cheshire came across an old man dying of cancer whom nobody wanted and who was being discharged from hospital. Cheshire tried, without success, to find somewhere else for him to go and eventually took him into his own home and nursed him until he died.

Eventually he turned his home into a place for the incurably sick—and this was the start of a mission for the relief of suffering, which expanded so that there are now Cheshire Homes all over the world. The Homes, which are privately and not State owned and run, are for the incurable and homeless sick—those for whom the hospitals can do no more and who have nowhere else to go.

The Cheshire Homes are just that—homes rather than hospitals, for their function is not to offer surgical treatment but love and affection. They are undenominational, patients being admitted according to their need and irrespective of race, creed or social status.

When I visited The Grove recently I found it to be a beautiful old house surrounded by lovely gardens, with a magnificent view over a lake. All

the patients I met were most appreciative of the lovely setting, and many were of the opinion that theirs was the nicest Cheshire Home in the country.

And, talking of patients—don't get the idea that The Grove is a depressing place for visitors. Far from it, I was astonished to find so much joy and community spirit among the incurably sick.

There are problems, of course, in running a Home such as this on a family basis. The patients are from 17 to 60 and come from all over the country and all walks of life. There are those who have been crippled since birth, and those to whom illness has come later in life.

Whatever their complaint, they help each other—those who are able to use their hands fetching and carrying for those who are not, and the walking patients helping to push the wheelchairs of the lame.

Many voluntary workers have helped at The Grove since it opened—doing teas, taking patients out, helping with sewing and mending, and, the most important job of all, helping to get patients up in the morning and put them to bed at night.

The greatest need now, however, is money. Although the house has now been paid for, the Home is still heavily in debt. New staff rooms and a lift—essential in a Home of this kind—set them back nearly £6,000 and the day-to-day running costs of The Grove are very high.

'We have more than our share of non-walking cases and this means that we need a very large staff to cope with them,' I was told by Mrs. George Fenner, wife of the Chairman of the Home.

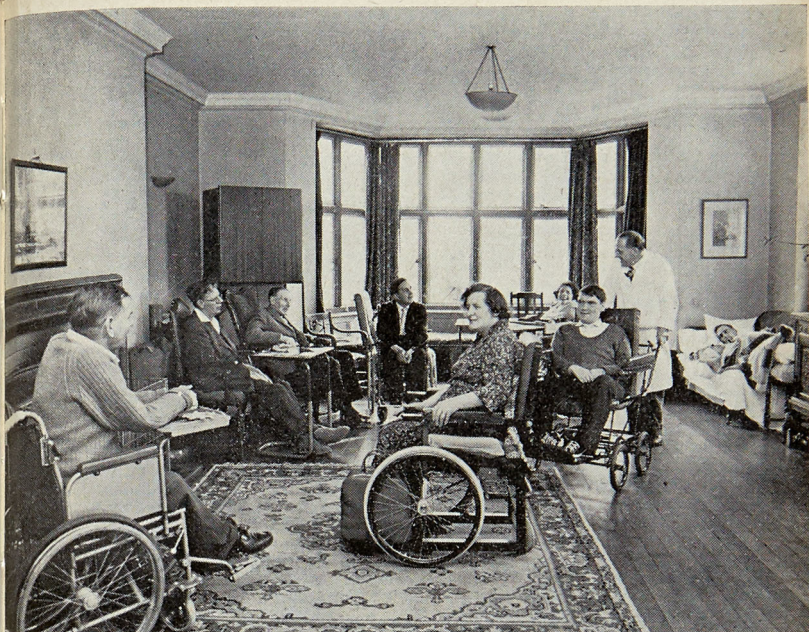


Photo: Eastern Evening News

### A group of residents in the Common Room, The Grove

The Grove is not, as many people think, a mental hospital, nor is it for those suffering from contagious diseases. The patients are physically handicapped as a result of polio, muscular dystrophy, arthritis and muscular sclerosis. Some are spastics and have been crippled from birth.

Matron, Miss H. M. Woodcock, says: 'We welcome visitors here, but we do ask them not to come if they are suffering from a cold or cough. Anything like that could be disastrous to my patients who just haven't the strength to stand up to and fight off a heavy cold.'

Miss Woodcock told me she found her work at The Grove, where she has been since last October, 'most rewarding'. Previously, for 15 years,

she had been district nurse at Cringleford.

'Experience of nursing and administration are important in this type of work, but the most important, as far as the patients are concerned, is kindness and understanding,' she told me. 'It is very important that The Grove is run as a home and not a hospital. There must be no feeling of institutional life here.'

Just what the patients feel about Miss Woodcock and all those who work so hard to see that they live together in happiness, comfort and without any worries, was summed up by Jimmy Wilkinson, a spastic and the acknowledged life and soul of The Grove. He told me as I was leaving: 'I wouldn't be anywhere else.'



# The Story of My Life (1948-63)

by Clement Ajayi (of the Cheshire Home, Ibadan, Nigeria)

My life's story began when I was born, fifteen years ago, in the year 1948 in a little village outside Ibadan of poor parents who were natives of Ekiti.

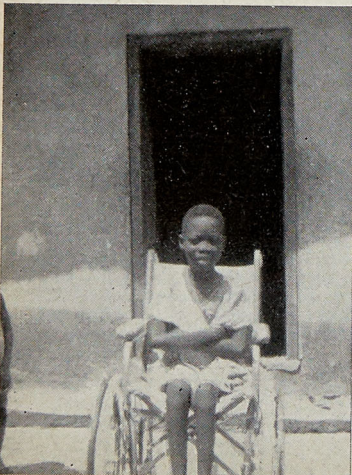
**Education:** I started my elementary education in 1955 which I managed very easily and my school fees were paid for by my poor parents quarterly.

**Sickness:** When I only had about two years to finish up my elementary education I became seriously ill and eventually became paralysed. This was in December 1957. Through my illness we had to make our way to the University College Hospital.

**At the Hospital:** I was admitted to the hospital as quickly as they could do so and was nursed by a physiotherapist, Miss Sacks, who is now in Kent and a kind doctor named Dr. Low. During this time an Almoner's Officer, Mrs. Omitowoju, came to visit me regularly. I explained to her how poor my family was and she chose to help me at once. This happened after I had been introduced to her by this kind Doctor Low.

**Remembering Schooling:** During my six months' stay in the hospital I remembered that I must go back to school and reported to Dr. Low who said I was not yet alright to go to school but I explained everything to him about my condition and he agreed with me that I ought to go but I had no legs to walk to school.

A photo of Clement, taken when he first arrived at Oluyole



My physiotherapist who was so kind to me hired a wheelchair for a short time.

**At Home:** My mother and father and two of my little brothers had packed up and come to Ibadan from the little village a few miles away and had managed to get a room for us. I practised how to use my left hand to write and within a few weeks I could manage alright with it. I went to occupational therapy twice a week where Miss Fraser taught me more. By the time I was at home I always felt hungry and an officer of the Almoner's office gave me some money to eat every week and also Dr. Low always came to my home to see me and dashed some money to me. A job was given to my father which was later taken away just because of a mistake he made.

Before the end of 1958 the wheelchair hired for me was taken away and I was left alone, to my own trial. All the business about schooling was arranged for me but there was no wheelchair to push me to school and then this kind doctor chose to buy one for me with his own money. This was on December 31st 1958. On January 12th 1959, I started my elementary education again at the grade of Primary IV. I managed well in school and by my reports kept up the hope of my mother and the rest of these kind people, Dr. Low, Mrs. Omitowoju and Miss Sacks, the physiotherapist. In my school the boys and girls learnt to love me and helped me whenever I needed it and sometimes when my mother came late to collect me home they took all the trouble to push me back, especially one boy whom I will never forget in my life called Adebayo. He came to me to carry me back home and even carried my urine and excreta which I passed when my mother went to buy our food in the market.

During this time I was forced out of where I was living and had to give many reports to the Almoner and the officer had to go and beg the landlady for us but she completely refused. We had to pack up to a nearby house. All this happened to me just because my mother had to have another boy also paralysed. She and all of us had to pack up and leave, and my

mother had to go and look for a house nearby. Luckily for us she found a house but it had a filthy and dusty floor and there I had to lie for nights and days which I did not enjoy at all, but my mother saw that I was pushed to school every day before she did anything else.

**Influence of Cheshire Home:** In April 1959 a famous woman came to me, Miss Mason was her name, and I was introduced to her by Mrs. Omitowoju. An officer of the Almoner's office and Miss Mason brought my father and mother and Mrs. Omitowoju a picture and I was told that the Cheshire Home would be opened very soon and that I would be taken there. When I heard this good news I was very happy and thought that I who had once been sleeping on a dusty floor would go and sleep on an iron bed with a white sheet.

Two months later news came to me by the Almoner's officer who came to my school one sunny afternoon to tell me that the next day I would be leaving for the Cheshire Home. This was on Saturday, 12th August 1959. At about a quarter-past nine I was picked up by Mrs. Omitowoju's car to be taken to the Cheshire Home.

**Life in the Cheshire Home:** I arrived at the Cheshire Home where I was met by a charming lady, Miss May Cutler, who quickly took care of me, as if I was her child. I was the sixth person to be admitted to the Home and the six of us acted as if we were born of the same father and mother. After this we were taught by our faithful mother Miss May Cutler, and she also taught us how to say our prayers and I taught them some songs of Catholic doctrine which I learnt when I was in the Catholic School I attended and I felt as if we were a family of man as well as of God and felt at home.

Now I have regular food and go to school in good clothes and have my regular bath. Everywhere I go the Grace of God follows me and I am loved by everyone. I get on well with my education and in 1960 I was in Primary V of my elementary school. A very kind Reverend Father Mac-Elgun bought all my books for the whole year and in 1961 my last year in the school Reverend Father Galvin bought some of my books and the rest were bought for me by the Cheshire Home Committee.

**1962: Secondary Education:** In Jan-

uary 1961, a form was given to us costing ten shillings. I reported this to Miss Swindon our secretary and to the Almoner who paid the fees for me. A boy called Oluwanifese helped me a lot in my secondary school and deserves my prayers.

Within a few days I received the form and a decision was taken by the Admission Committee and the result of the decision was successful. Now I was going to do the examination but the transport was another trouble but those helping me quickly arranged this.

This kind Reverend Father Mac-Elgun who still fixed his kind eyes upon me gave me his Grammar School examination to do so that he might accept me into his school. Luckily for me I did very well in the examination and I was accepted. My school fees are £30 per year which the Cheshire Home Committee chose to pay in an amazing way.

Before entering school I was taken to an interview a few miles away from the town and this was taken up for me three times by kind Chief Falomo who had tried his best and hardest for me to see that I entered a grammar school and the kindest outstanding woman, Mrs. MacDonald and with all the good wishes of all eminent members of the Cheshire Home Committee and Dr. O'Beirn.

The school is far from the Home and it would cost 3s. a day to go and come back by taxi. The money was paid by the Cheshire Home Committee and I owe much to them and the Red Cross who now kindly give me transport when it is available.

**Life and Enjoyment in Cheshire:** I realized that the Cheshire Home is a place of good family virtues and also of good life-leading and our mother, Miss May Cutler, arranged for our outings which I must say I enjoyed. One of the best 'taker-outs' of those days was a man called Mr. Tyrel who took us to many places like Lagos and the sports field and the aerodrome to see 'planes. When he left us everybody was very sad including me. Mrs. MacDonald, Mrs. Butcher and Mrs. Duffus took us out to their own homes and I fully enjoyed it with them. One of the best and most kind of today is Mrs. Vera Norman whom we call our mother because she treats us as if we were her children and we enjoy staying with her.

In my last examination I passed and was promoted to the next class.

## Wheelchairs

by Len Harper (of St. Teresa's)

To a person, male or female, who is badly disabled in the legs, a wheelchair is a great help. There are various types of wheelchairs: some are for those who are so badly disabled that the chair has to be propelled by another person. However, it is not THAT type of chair I wish to talk about, no, it is the chair which is, for the most part, propelled by the person sitting in the chair.

The latest type of chair is easily folded and can be easily put into the boot of a car (or coach). This is all very well, *but the main purpose of the wheelchair is to enable the person to wheel himself about*, either in his own home or in . . . shall we say—a Cheshire Home.

Some of these newer types of wheelchair are of little use to a disabled person (male or female) who is not very strong in the arms. Actually those wheelchairs which have the smaller wheels in the front are by no means easy to manage, even if one's arms are fairly good.

It is not a lot of advantage having a wheelchair which is quickly and easily folded if that chair is NOT easily propelled by the person who has to use that chair.

There is a certain type of wheelchair, very comfortable—with *plenty of leg room* and easily propelled by a disabled person, even if that person is *not* very strong in the arms. *It does not fold easily* and certainly not quickly—but that doesn't matter, *it does the job it was made for*. This type of chair, so I

am given to understand, is now obsolete and no longer issued by the Ministry of Pensions. Those of us who at present use this type of chair will not be able to get a replacement when our chairs wear out.

Who decides when a certain type of chair becomes obsolete? Apparently the people who *use* the chairs are not allowed a say in the matter. I have tried more than one type of wheelchair and I am utterly convinced that the type of chair I have at present—(the type considered obsolete by the Ministry of Pensions) is by far the most easily propelled and the most comfortable (incidentally, it is a lot easier for another person to push, too).

It may be thought, 'Why this article in a *Cheshire Smile*?' Well, there are quite a number of Cheshire Homes in the British Isles alone—and the majority of residents use wheelchairs: perhaps some of these residents have found their chairs unsuitable but are putting up with it. Each Cheshire Home has a Medical Officer (I believe) and perhaps if a *suggestion* was made to the Ministry of Pensions in regard to wheelchairs by a body of responsible representatives we might get more satisfaction than if we—as residents—write to the Ministry of Pensions, or am I asking too much? Anyway, I feel sure that there are several residents in other Homes who have found some difficulty in regard to their wheelchairs. What do they think?

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### I Asked

I asked God for strength, that I might achieve,  
I was made weak that I might learn humbly to obey . . .  
I asked for health that I might do greater things,  
I was given infirmity that I might do better things . . .  
I asked for riches that I might be happy,  
I was given poverty that I might be wise . . .  
I asked for power that I might have the praise of men,  
I was given weakness that I might feel the need of God . . .  
I asked for all things that I might enjoy life,  
I was given life that I might enjoy all things . . .  
I got nothing that I asked for—but everything that I had  
hoped for . . .

Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered,  
I am among all men most richly blessed.

Anonymous



Photo: Bath & Wilts Chronicle & Herald

A pottery class in progress

## POTTERY CLASSES FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

by B. M. Cooper, Somerset Branch, Red Cross

*Reproduced from the News-Review of the Red Cross Society, by kind permission of the Editor*

One Saturday afternoon in March, six Welfare cars belonging to the Clutton Division of the Red Cross in Somerset drove up to the 'Goods' entrance of the Bristol Museum and Art Gallery where attendants were waiting to help out the arrivals, all of whom were physically disabled men and women from Greenhill House, the newly-opened Cheshire Foundation Home in Timsbury, who had come to see the exhibition of Contemporary Pottery.

'It had given me all sorts of new ideas!' said Ruby afterwards to the West of England B.B.C. 'Round-up' reporter. Three months before, neither

she nor any of the others had seen wet clay or knew anything about pottery-making. But in this short space of time the enthusiasm of their Red Cross instructor, Mrs. Mollie Herbert, had spread to the students of the pottery classes she runs at Greenhill each Monday, which are now among the highlights of the week.

Other handicapped people in the district have joined the weekly classes, brought there by Red Cross members, and are equally keen to learn. The ash-trays, plant-pots and bowls they make are fired in Mrs. Herbert's kiln and are selling well locally and at Red Cross stalls in Somerset.

# Jeffrey Kilding

of the West Riding Home, White Windows

The chain and bond between radio amateur fiends in Cheshire Homes is being further strengthened by yet another link at the West Riding Home, White Windows.

Jeffrey Kilding, born 21 years ago in Old Goole has been resident at White Windows for five years, arriving here in May 1958, after his schooling days had ended. No one can say that his education was localised, when hearing that he had spells at schools in Doncaster, Coventry and Huddersfield. It was at Coventry that Jeffrey met Tony Kellett eleven years ago. Their friendship being renewed when both boys found themselves together again at the Sowerby Bridge Home. Tony from Castleford, Jeffrey from Old Goole, not far from Kingston-upon-Hull, have at least the common link of the Rugby League game to help bind their friendship. In addition to his schools Jeffrey had two periods of private tuition at home, arranged by the local Education Authority. Being a spastic has therefore brought in its wake rewards, often envied of more fortunate folk. At his last school Hollybank, Huddersfield, he recalls with pleasure a three-wheeled cycle he rode about the grounds, his only regret being that due to its overall length he could never take it home for his holidays.

Here at White Windows Jeffrey looks forward to his two fortnightly holidays each year with his mother and step-father. At home he completes the family circle with two step-sisters and a half-brother.

Prior to being accepted at the Cheshire Home this young man looked forward to acceptance at Leatherhead Training School for disabled, where he had hoped to be trained as a telephonist. From this keen interest Jeffrey has developed to become yet another keen radio amateur fan and here at White Windows a workshop

has been converted for him down in the basement. There complete with transmitters and receivers one gains the impression that here is another astronaut, preparing for a trip to the moon. His BC348 receiver was originally sent to the Home for another resident, who unfortunately could not take advantage of its facilities. Jeffrey took over and with the assistance of Mr. Littlewood, the husband of one of our former nursing sisters, he has become adept at receiving messages and hopes shortly to take his test so that he may be allocated a code sign and then transmit his own messages.

He is a member of the Radio Amateur Invalid and Bedfast Club. He tells me the aerial from his workshop runs from the roof-top of White Windows, across our grounds on to a nearby wall, with an 80 metre centre-fed dipole.

Jeffrey is a keen enthusiastic worker at White Windows, always willing and cheerful. The residents have shown their confidence in him by appointing him Secretary of their own Welfare Fund. This entails a not inconsiderable amount of writing to thank the many visitors who entertain in our home, keeping records of the committee meetings, and collecting the weekly subscriptions.

Recently he became a member of the Sowerby Bridge Young Conservatives, and at the very first meeting he attended, was appointed to the onerous position of Press Officer. He attends their meetings, being transported in members' cars, having become interested in the movement and being enrolled during a recruiting drive.

His world-wide scale communications have thus in his new interest been cemented with communications on a local scale. We wish him well.

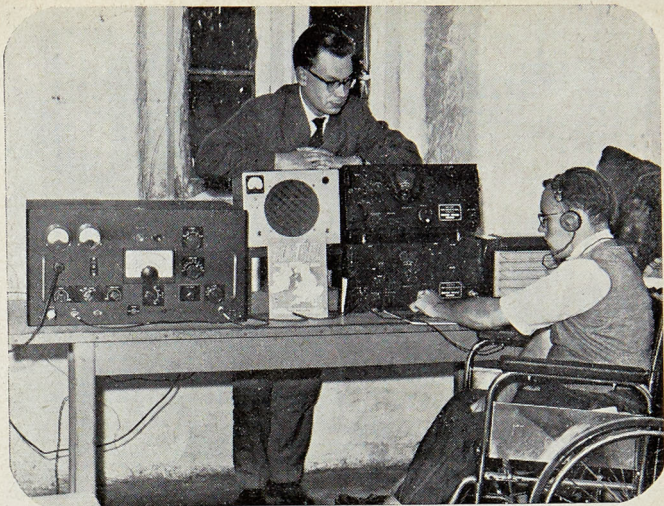


Photo: Halifax Courier

Jeffrey, watched by Mr. Littlewood (see facing page)

## SMALL ADS

Small advertisements are accepted entirely **free of charge** from *bona-fide* advertisers resident in the Homes. The charge to those outside the Homes is 2s. 6d. per line (or part of line).

**HAS ANYONE** in the Homes, or outside, something to sell? Or some need to make known? Something to exchange? Why not advertise in this section?

**HANDMADE GOODS** of various kinds are available, or can be ordered in most of the Homes. Why not visit your nearest Cheshire Home, and see if there is anything you would like?

**WANTED:** Typing outwork, literary or otherwise. Apply Paul Hanson, Le Court, Liss, Hants.

**DRAMA GROUPS:** This Christmas why not aid the Cheshire Homes by producing a Nativity Play commended by clergy and press—'LIGHT IS COME', by Thomas Doran. Acting Fee 30s. Sample copy 2s. 3d. Samuel French Ltd., 26 Southampton Street, Strand, London WC2.

**ACCOMMODATION ADDRESS** wanted by Cheshire Home resident for postal business. Please write for full details to Barry Stone, Miraflores, 154 Worpole Road, Wimbledon, London SW20.



Photo: Wiltshire Newspapers Ltd.

**Roye McCoye and his bride, Joyce Barnfield, both formerly of Great-house, after their wedding at Station Hill Baptist Church, Chippenham**

### **Bridlington 'Wings of Raphael' Support Group**

At the second Annual General Meeting of the Group, held in March, it was reported that over £500 had been raised through subscriptions, covenants, coffee mornings and other social events, including a Garden Party, since the Group's inception.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Bridlington, Councillor and Mrs. Harry Dixon, attended the Garden Party held in the grounds of the Convent of Mercy on July 25th, which was opened by Mr. Tom Mennard, the well-known Yorkshire comedian.

In his opening speech Mr. Mennard spoke of the vision which the G.C.

and his wife must have had in order to accomplish so much for the sick and suffering peoples of the world.

During the afternoon a film of Dehra Dun was shown by Mr. Richard Blackburn, organising secretary of the Group. Mrs. Blackburn and some of the Bridlington members sold booklets to publicise the aims and work of the Mission.

We were happy to welcome Miss Belcher, late Matron of St. Teresa's and Mr. Heywood, a committee member of the Home in Lagos. Over £140 was raised by the event.

MRS. L. WALLACE.

### **Subtle Commitment**

'Dependence based on physical and mental disability, is one of the greatest threats to Democracy. I have gone around the country and around the world, and I have concluded that of all groups working to serve people, and of all citizens who are supporting

them in their efforts, no group has a firmer and more subtle commitment than those who are working in the field of the rehabilitation of the disabled.'

MARY E. SWITZER, *Director,*  
*Office of Vocational Rehabilitation,*  
*U.S. Government.*

# U.K. Cheshire Homes in Regions

## NEWS AND FEATURES

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### NORTH OF ENGLAND

*Edited by Dudley V. Kitching*

To Marske Hall, Lake District Home, Alne Hall, Spofforth Hall, Honresfeld, White Windows, Kenmore and the Sheffield Committee. Please send your notes, newsletters, photographs, etc., for the December issue to your Regional Editor, Dudley V. Kitching, Kenmore, Whitcliffe Road, Cleckheaton, Yorkshire, not later than October 1st.

May I say 'Thank you', to the many people who have wished me well upon being appointed Hon. North Regional Editor to *The Cheshire Smile*. It is a task I take up with pride and pleasure, but with some trepidation too; the standard set by the Editor-in-chief being a very high one. I know I will be helped by the co-operation and practical assistance, not only from the homes within my region, but from all, whether disabled or working for the disabled, who have the Cheshire Foundation and its work at heart.

From the North-east coast, our correspondent Sheila Ridley, disabled resident and Editor of the **MARSKE HALL**, near Redcar, newsletter, writes: 'As one of the youngest members of the Cheshire family we send cordial greetings to our elder brethren. From half-a-dozen residents in February, we are now twenty-three—four of whom are here for short periods. We have made some very good friends in the district who visit and encourage us to take part in local events.'

'The main item of news in our short life has been the opening day on June 15th, when we were pleased to welcome back to his ancestral home, the Marquis of Zetland. In his speech, declaring the Tees-side Cheshire Home open, he said:

"On my grandmother's death there was much speculation about what would happen to the house. It might have been razed to the ground and a petrol station or some such functional building taken its place.

"I am sure everybody is pleased it has been resurrected as a home and put to such good use. My family and I are pleased to see it reported."

Our Correspondent reported a good crowd attendance, which resulted in £400 being raised—more than £60 of which came from the sale of residents' work.

From Miss B. C. Lane, Secretary of the **LAKE DISTRICT CHESHIRE HOME, HOLEHIRD, WINDERMERE**, comes the seventh impressive issue of their bulletin, *The Holehird Herald*. Within its pages one reads of the gratitude felt by the residents of this beautiful lakeland Home for the gift of a sound film projector. Bill Powley, a disabled resident, writes: 'It has been purchased as a result of donations given in memory of Mr. F. E. Hargreaves, a former member of the Committee and an ardent worker for the structural alterations to the Home. Mr. Hargreaves died recently, and his widow presented the projector to the Home'.

The *Holehird Herald* also gives a full list of events and activities that have taken place in the past three months . . . thirty-one items in all! They range from visits by residents to local theatricals; the arrival of a new nursing sister; film and slide shows; Beetle Drives, and what sounded most intriguing, a lecture on "Spies"!

Like most Cheshire Homes who have them, Holehird is finding the Residents' Shop a great attraction; filling a much needed want, not only



for their own community, but to those in the vicinity.

**THE WEST RIDING CHESHIRE HOMES - WHITE WINDOWS AND KENMORE** - have both had a very busy and happy three months. The tremendous and gracious honour bestowed upon 'Kenmore' by Her Royal Highness, the Princess Royal, is reported elsewhere.

Both homes have held their annual Fetes, and it is these we report here. From White Windows, Sowerby Bridge, Halifax, Mr. Tirebuck writes:

'White Windows is gaining a reputation for its polished efforts on its now looked-forward-to annual Fete. Wilfred Pickles and Mabel did us the honours on June 22nd in opening the proceedings: after that the good folk of the West Riding showed how they think about us . . . to the tune of some £850-£900, in fact!

'Rumour has it that this was the best organised fete since we took over this Georgian house; the stalls, amusements and entertainment looked good and ran well. As usual our own district Committee were to the fore in working as hard as ever. To everyone a big "Well done".'

Mr. Tirebuck also wrote of the gratitude felt by the residents of White Windows for the extension to their

sun lounge. He writes: 'Tastefully decorated and furnished it adds distinction to the home and more especially allows more elbow room'.

From 'Kenmore' Dudley Kitching reports: 'The third annual Fete, held at the Whitcliffe Mount Grammar School, on May 28th, resulted in over £500 being raised. The opening ceremony was performed by the B.B.C. personality, Roger Moffat. The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (T.A.) band played and gave a display of marching. Two electrical gadgets designed and built by William Shaw (our "Willie"), disabled resident at Kenmore, proved extremely popular.

'Radio contact with the Cheshire Homes at St. Teresa's in Cornwall, and The Hill at Sandbach, Cheshire, was successfully established by courtesy of the local qualified licensed amateur radio operators, Messrs. Maurice Firth (Call-sign G.3 M.M.K) and Ashley Petts (Call-sign G.3 P.F.X).

'By the time this is in print two events, organised by the Kenmore Residents' Welfare Committee, will have taken, or be taking, place: the annual trip, again to Belle Vue, on August 14th, and a new venture, an Autumn Fayre, on September 14th at Kenmore. The proceeds from the latter are going to the Residents' Welfare Fund.'

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## EAST MIDLAND AREA

*Edited by Tom Gair*

To Ampthill, Staunton Harold, Holme Lodge, Hovenden House, The Grove and Seven Rivers. Please send your notes, newsletters, photographs, etc., for the December issue to your Regional Editor, Tom Gair, Staunton Harold Hall, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicester, not later than October 1st.

As this is an entirely new venture, let me apologise in advance for any errors or omissions which might creep into this report. We are bound to have teething troubles, but I promise I will give as full and fairly proportioned an account of the doings in our six Homes as space permits. I would like to thank the many people who responded to my letter asking for co-operation.

A new venture in the region was the handicraft competition between our Homes which was held and judged at the **HOLME LODGE** Fete. I believe the standard of work was very good, and it is perhaps fitting that the 'home team' should have won by the narrowest of margins—one point.

Holidays play quite a big part in the news from our Homes this time.

Several of us were at the holiday camp in Caister in May, and I speak from personal experience when I say we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. It was good to meet our opposite numbers from other Homes, and my one regret is that it was not until I was on the coach to come home that I discovered that my 'next door neighbours' were from Ampthill.

One of our Homes who did not go to Caister, however, was **HOLME LODGE**. They went *en bloc* to the Derbyshire Miners' Holiday Camp at Skegness for a week in April and had, I believe, a whale of a time. They are also hoping to return for another week in October.

**STAUNTON HAROLD**, on the other hand, whilst represented at Caister, once again made Trearddur Bay in Anglesey their holiday resort, and were made to feel that they had come to their second home!

To take place in July is the 'Residents' Family Day' of the East Midlands, to be held at **HOVENDEN HOUSE**. This is one of the biggest steps forward, to my mind, that the Cheshire Homes have taken for a long time, and which has been advocated by some of us for many years. Each Home in the region may send up to 12 residents and we will be able to have discussions amongst ourselves, which I am convinced will be beneficial to everyone. Another idea put forward is that each Home should provide 10 minutes' entertainment for the company.

Fetes are very much in evidence. I have already mentioned the one at Holme Lodge. Another worthy mention was that at **THE GROVE**. Out of a total of £975 raised, no less than £227 16s. 4d. came from the efforts of the residents, a very high proportion, indeed. Amongst the 3,000

people who attended were Roger Livesey and Ursula Jeans.

**THE GROVE** seems to be very socially active, for two other functions they have held were to entertain the 200 voluntary helpers who come to help them, to tea. This seems to me to be a wonderful gesture and one which we might all consider. Another event was a party organised by Dr. Green for 200 disabled persons in the district. Although the weather could have been kinder, at least it didn't rain, and they were able to keep warm by playing such games as wheelchair hockey.

From **AMPHILL**, I hear that Miss Byatt has taken over as Matron. We will all wish her a long and happy stay there. Two outstanding days here have been the visits to Windsor in May, and Kew Gardens in June. A thing which is always good to hear is that Ampthill recently exchanged two men with **SEVEN RIVERS** for a fortnight. News of a much sadder nature from Ampthill is the death of Alfred, at the age of 46. He had been going downhill for some time, but it is always a big blow when the end finally comes.

The big news from **SEVEN RIVERS** is, of course, 'Family Day', but as that has been dealt with fully in another part of the magazine, I can concentrate on more personal items.

I would like to print in full the letter by Len Hobden, because it praises so well the volunteers, to whom I think most of us are indebted.

'Perhaps every Home has experienced a staff shortage, for now is the time of the year when it is more lucrative to work outside. Some staffs are nobly tackling three people's jobs, merely because there is nobody else to do them. That is one of the ways in which the voluntary helpers are such a boon. They give their services with a smile. We

## DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

(to be published early December)

We beg all correspondents and contributors to the Winter issue, in those regions where no regional editors have yet been appointed, to take notice that copy must be received at the Editorial Office by October 15th at the latest, in order to have a chance of being published. No further reminder of this date will be sent to the Homes, so please make a note of it in your diaries.

are lucky to have ladies of the local guilds come over and do the mending. Almost every weekend, about a dozen cadets from "H.M.S. Ganges", a naval training establishment near Harwich, camp in the grounds and are a great help working inside and outside the house. Nearly every evening, members of their staff come to give our staff a well-earned rest. Our fete would not have been such a success if it were not for the "Ganges". Whilst giving thanks, let us not forget the kind people who have no time to offer their services physically, but give so many various things from a crate of lettuces to a sack of apples.

Thank you, Len. Although you were talking about a group of volunteers who help Seven Rivers, I think you have summed up what we all feel about our own particular 'unpaid friends'.

Another item I received was a short article on photography by Charles Davis, and this set me thinking. Surely there must be many people in our family whose hobby is 'making pictures with light', as Charles so aptly put it, so why not have a Cheshire Home Camera Club? How about it?

**HOVENDEN HOUSE** residents seem to have had quite a time socially, with outings to Skegness, the Long Sutton Show, the sports day of the

West Norfolk Fertilizers at King's Lynn and to the Shrine at Walsingham. The visit of the Tulip Queen to this Home was another great occasion, and after meeting her personally, it gave everybody an added thrill to see her once again as Queen in the Tulip Parade.

The residents who went from **STAUNTON HAROLD** to Caister, are very grateful to the Matron, staff and residents of Hovenden House for allowing them to call in on the way there and back. It made a perfect 'half-way' house on the long journey.

The saddest item of news from **STAUNTON HAROLD** is the death in office of Mr. A. R. C. Holland, the Warden. A tribute is being paid to him in another part of this magazine, but I must just say here that his death is a very sad blow to the residents, who looked upon him not only as Warden, but as a personal friend. We are all missing him terribly.

Staunton's big day was 'Civic Sunday', when the heads of all the local authorities and other organisations who help us, attended a Thanksgiving Service in the 17th century Church. Following the service, tea was provided, and then the guests were addressed by Lord Lothian before being shown over the House.

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## WEST MIDLAND AREA

To St. Anthony's, The Hill and the Sutton Coldfield Committee. Please send your notes, newsletters, photographs, etc., for the December issue to your Regional Editor, Tom Dugdale, The Hill, Leonard Cheshire Home, Sandbach, Cheshire, not later than October 1st.

### THE HILL, SANDBACH

At the Sandbach Home the Annual Garden Fete has come and gone. The weather was kinder than it might have been, but a threat of rain in the morning probably kept many visitors away. Jack Walker, the character from 'Coronation Street', played his part, in more ways than one, when opening the proceedings with a most amusing speech. It is hoped that the final figures will show a profit on the day of over £400.

I wonder if any other Home has discovered the game of bar skittles? This is a game requiring great skill, but little physical strength, and can be played by nearly every resident in this

Home. During the winter we had our own championship, and we have won all three matches played against visiting teams.

A skittles board could be easily made by any competent carpenter, and if any other Home would like details of construction, a letter to the Chairman of the Residents' Committee here would bring them.

The building alterations have now reached the stage when progress seems to be very slow, but we expect that everything will be completed by September. Then our family will be increased from the present 15 to 30.

## Death of Staunton Harold's Warden

*We have received the following obituary note from the Home:*

It was with a great sense of loss we heard of the death of our Warden, Mr. A. R. C. Holland. During his stay with us we had come to regard him as a very sincere friend, and one in whom we had complete trust.

Nothing was too much trouble for him to help us in every possible way, and apart from his duties as Warden, he, personally, gave us many hours of pleasure. Ordinary duty hours had no

meaning for Mr. Holland, and there was never a time when he would not give up his personal leisure to take us on our many outings.

We could always apply to him in trouble, and we do feel his work at Staunton Harold was a 'Labour of love'. We are indeed grateful for all his kindness, and we shall sincerely miss him.

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## WEST OF ENGLAND

### The Cotswold Home

The cricket season is once again here and wheelchairs grace the boundary-line by the pavilion at Dean Close School, as well as tuck-shop at tea interval.

The Scout 'Gang Show' at Gloucester was very popular and a huge success. After this, our Opera Season commenced. Close on the heels of the Queen and Prince Phillip's visit to Cirencester, we were the guests that evening of the Amateur Operatic Society to their production of the favourite, 'Gondoliers'. A fortnight later the Cheltenham Society's 'Pirates of Penzance' was the venture.

May Day didn't start with the traditional May pole 'Heigh-nonni-no' or roast beef, but in 20th century swing! Our friends of Innsworth R.A.F., headed by Fr. Boyd gave us a rousing time.

A very generous anonymous donor provided us with a memorable afternoon tour of the Cotswolds. We had a grand tea on Cleeve Hill, a local beauty spot, giving a panoramic view of the countryside before our return home.

On the first Wednesday in June we were the guests of the W.I. at Ashlyworth, near Tewkesbury, a delightful village. After a talk, we enjoyed a meal on the lawn of the medieval farmhouse, and then some delightful sketches also in the open air. The second Wednesday we went to Ragley Hall, Alcester, Worcestershire, for our annual outing. We went through some

Cotswold villages and stopped at Broadway for coffee. We were soon in Stratford-on-Avon viewing familiar Shakespearean sights including Holy Trinity Church and the Bard's birthplace. The Memorial Theatre looked particularly nice by the River Avon with numerous rowing boats and picturesque swans. A novel spot for our picnic lunch was in the coach outside Ann Hathaway's Cottage. On our arrival at the Stately Home of the Marquis of Hartford, who allowed us in free, some toured the house whilst others enjoyed the sunshine by the lake. Tea was enjoyed watching the yachts, the liquid being brought in a tea urn from Innsworth by Fr. Boyd, plus two strong R.A.F. chaps who with our ever 'Cheerful Charlie' bus driver, all contributed to our enjoyment.

All our outings have been organised and arranged by Mrs. P. Barrett; and we heartily thank her for all efforts, and the Group of Friends for the outing, and kindly help at other times.

The garden furniture we bought from our Christmas Sale efforts looks nice and has been put to excellent use. The employees at Spirax-Sparko hearing of our efforts and need have supplied us with two garden seats which are put to good use.

We are looking forward to another trip in the Cotswolds, and later to the much looked-forward-to Andoversford Gymkhana.

## GREATHOUSE, WILTS.

Mrs. Moseley, a generous friend of Greathouse, has presented the Home with a new mini-bus. Needless to say, it is already clocking a considerable mileage, and leading a varied, even exciting life. Amongst other duties, it appeared as the bridal carriage at the wedding of Joyce Barnfield and Roye McCoye, transporting them afterwards, together with friends and luggage, to their new flat in Oldham, Lancashire. Whilst not exactly the star, it looms large in the film made by the B.B.C. of the ceremony and departure, parts of which were shown in a B.B.C. news programme.

This Home seems to have had a spate of departures, a resident (Martin Edwards) has returned to his own home, Doris Elliott has left after two years in charge of the kitchen, and

Mrs. Mills is no longer on the night staff. A new Matron has taken over, Miss Davies, with Sister Adams second in command. On an unhappier note, the deaths of Ken Rowland and Mr. Simcox are reported. Amongst the new faces are a Mrs. Kirk and Miss Daniel on the staff, and Jean Brown and Reg Smith's brother, John, amongst the residents.

There was a milling crowd of over 3,000 attending yet another successful Fete; they were even dropping in by parachute, in a demonstration by a Chief Instructor from Swindon, Mr. Porter. Toc H, which has played such a large part in the building up of Cheshire Homes, honoured Greathouse with a visit from the founder, 'Tubby' Clayton. The Home's Toc H group became a fully fledged branch.

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## WALES

*Edited by Douglas Roberts*

To Llanhennock, Dolywern, Danybryn and Coomb. Please send your notes, newsletters, photographs, etc., for the December issue to your Regional Editor, A. D. Roberts, Coomb Home, Llanstephan, Carmarthen, not later than October 1st.

This being the first Welsh Regional News I would like to wish all my correspondents from the Welsh Cheshire Homes all that we here at Coomb would wish ourselves.

It is from these Welsh Homes, by Newsletters received from their individual letter writers, that I shall make up my News Bulletin—or at least the bulk of it. But, as Mr. Frank Spath, Editor of *The Cheshire Smile* has told me, any news remotely connected with the Homes will be given the most earnest consideration.

After receiving the word 'go' from the Editor I sent out an appeal to the three other Homes in the region, asking them to send me their articles by July 8th, thus giving me a clear fortnight to study them and prepare them for publication. The first to answer my appeal were the North Walian, from the **DOLYWERN** Home, near Wrexham, who sent me the following article.

We are pleased that the number of residents has risen to twenty-two, at which number we are literally bursting at the seams and anxiously looking forward to the completion of our extensions, commenced on March 20th and promised for occupation in November. The extension is in the form of five rooms, to accommodate four residents in each, a spacious lounge, and bath and toilet facilities. When eventually in use this will enable us to take in a total of about thirty to thirty-five residents.

At the time of writing contractors are busy installing central and domestic heating systems to the existing building.

On the social side there seems to be a never-ending series of birthday parties—the most memorable one being that of our Matron.

We are most grateful to the numerous societies, associations and other groups who come along to entertain

us, and also to the volunteers who pitch in and not only provide us with their company but do a great deal of work at the Home as well.

This letter was written by Mr. R. W. Aubrey, Dolywern's Hon. Secretary. Thank you, Mr. Aubrey, for your prompt co-operation.

The news from the Radyr Home near Cardiff, called **DANYBRYN**, which is the Welsh equivalent of 'Under the Hill', was sent to me in the form of their second Newsletter, written by resident George Webster.

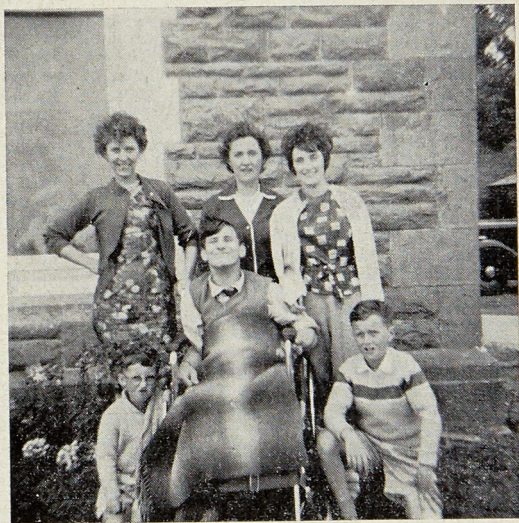
Danybryn's activities for the first three months of 1963 were numerous and varied, ranging from visits by the local W.I. to bingo sessions.

They now have a lift, donated through the generosity of Mrs. A. Sherman who also paid for the installation.

Recently all the residents were invited to a Garden Party held by the Dowager Duchess of Plymouth at her home in St. Fagan's.

The Danybryn Fete, held on the Green of Cardiff Castle, was quite a success despite the idiosyncracies of the weather.

Because of the local Eisteddfod at Carmarthen our Open Day at **COOMB** has had to be postponed for a week. But like the residents at Danybryn we have been working hard to put on what I am sure will be a most successful show. There will be a number of stalls run by the residents, on which will be all kinds of articles painstakingly made by them. It isn't considered fair to mention any individual effort where all the workers are adapting themselves to their own disabilities, but I feel that an exception should be made in Hughie Davies's case. A Llanelly born man, Hughie is a spastic and gets almost continual spasms. He has been residing at Coomb for over two years, and is one of the most popular residents here. He has a ready wit, is good humoured and has an eye for the women. When we started our all-out endeavours in the handicrafts room, Hughie asked if he could do a stool. His finished products were almost as firm as Bill Elliot's, who is an old hand at the game and has the full use of his hands. It is absolutely amazing what determination will do.



Hughie Davies, with his sisters and nephews

Amongst many outings and entertainments, first and foremost was our annual outing, given us by the Carmarthen Commercial Travellers' Association. The venue was, as usual, Pendine Sands. The first car rolled into the courtyard at about 1.30 p.m. Elgar Williams was half in and half out of the car when down came the rain as if it had never rained before. Other cars started arriving until there were twenty-three cars of different varieties, together with four vans. The weather brightened up just before we got to the sands and kept that way for the rest of the afternoon and evening. After a sumptuous tea, which consisted of the most luscious hot-dogs I have ever let pass my tonsils, beautiful cakes, individual fruit salads, sweets, chocolates and as many cups of tea as we wanted, we had a sing-song with Mr. Alan Thomas accom-

panying on the accordion. During this interval of melody, drinks—somewhat more potent than tea—were passed round to those who were not T.T. Resident Elgar Williams said a few words of appreciation for the wonderful time the 'Travellers' and their good ladies had given us.

On July 10th we were invited to attend a Bring and Buy Sale by Mrs. Ramsden. The Sale was being held in the grounds of Cocheston Hall, in Pembrokeshire.

Future outings will include a visit to Amroth, a seaside town in Pembrokeshire, and a day at Swansea's premier cricket ground, St. Helen's, to see the Glamorgan v. West Indies match. This cricket date was arranged through the good offices of His Honour Judge Rowe Harding and Glamorgan's Secretary, Mr. Wilfred Wooler.

*Douglas Roberts, Welsh Regional Editor, writes: To resident Marjorie Ekers of Llanhennock, I would like to say a word of thanks for two articles, the second of which I am choosing for publication. Miss Ekers, who is the newsletter writer for that Home, sent me a most charming note, and enclosed the following lines, written by Resident Mavis Morgan.*

### The Saga of a "Short Un!"

This is my story, this is my song,  
 I'm little and short, I wish I were long.  
 Until now, I kept hoping that each passing year  
 Would add to my inches, but now it is clear  
 That nature had foiled all my schemes and my plans,  
 And made me in stature, like famed 'Peter Pan'.  
 Though unlike Peter, who never grew old,  
 Already, I find, the years taking their toll.  
 But my years are less of a burden, I find,  
 Than the people I meet, who mean to be kind.  
 Like the old gent on the bus, who with great chivalry,  
 Because of the crush, offered a seat on his knee!  
 Not because I was thin, not because I was fat,  
 Prompted the kindly conductor to give me a pat,  
 When I ask for my ticket enquires, 'Whole or half?'  
 And I want to cry, but I have to laugh.  
 Ah, me! It's a hard life for those that are small,  
 In queues I suffer most of all.  
 I'm half drowned in the drips from ladies' umbrellas,  
 And totally eclipsed by stalwart young fellows.  
 Babies in their mother's arms,  
 Pull my hair without a qualm.  
 Or knock off my hat, and I have to be fleet  
 To rescue it, before it gets under feet.  
 And when the queue moves, like a leaf in a gale,  
 I'm carried along up hill and down dale.  
 Cinema seats envelop my slight little form,  
 And when people sit on me, it's not to be borne.

The screen is blacked out, and someone's nether end,  
To my consternation, on my lap descends.  
Then they harrow my feelings by saying sweetly  
'My dear, you're so little, you should grow up you see'.  
Ah, me! Though I suffer from my lack of height,  
There are compensations in this funny old life.  
I eat less than most, and can squeeze in a corner,  
So folk are willing to feed me like Little Jack Horner.  
Though I have nicknames, I shall make one admission,  
No-one has yet called me 'pocket edition'.

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## SCOTLAND

*Sent in by Bernard McLaughlin*

To Carnsalloch House and Mayfield House. Please send your notes, newsletters, photographs etc., for the December issue to your Regional Editor, Bernard McLaughlin, Mayfield House, East Trinity Road, Edinburgh, not later than October 1st.

As can be said of almost every Home at this time of year, the big news from over the Scottish border features Fetes. **CARNSALLOCH HOUSE** Fete, which was held on the 6th July, was opened by a local personality well-known in films and TV, John Lauries, and despite threatening clouds he certainly drew in the crowds. Before rain finally drove everyone to seek shelter, at least £1,150 had been spent. The residents' stall made £102 of this, proof of the hard work they had been putting in over the past few months. As always, the credit for the success goes to the many helpers far too numerous to mention.

Also on the 6th July, at **MAYFIELD HOUSE**, was a Fete with a difference, or rather a Grand Fair. It was different because it was originated and organised by children. For the past two years they have held a Fete in the garden of their own home; last year £32 was raised. Growing more ambitious this year, the help of the Friends' Association was sought, Mayfield House grounds was the venue, and £300 was raised in aid of the residents of the Home. Surely as Fete organisers from all the Homes will

admit, a most creditable effort! It sounds rather as though the Fete is going to grow as the kids grow; we wish them every success in 1964.

A new Association, called the Friends of Mayfield, was formed on May 14th. Mr. Jackson of the Management Committee spoke of the need to form an independent association within the Home, to give voluntary help of various kinds to Matron and staff. Miss Moyes, the Matron, outlined the jobs which voluntary workers could do. A committee was elected.

A party from Mayfield House visited Carnsalloch on May 20th.

The following note appeared in the Mayfield Newsletter: Every other Thursday about a dozen of the Mayfield 'shower' can be seen splashing about in the swimming pool of the Thistle Foundation at Craigmillar. They are kept under control by Miss Blackwood and her bevy of physiotherapists and some very willing male helpers. This is surely the best exercise for our old limbs; it prevents them from going stiff through inactivity. Some of us are actually learning to swim, and we all enjoy it.



# THE SOUTH OF ENGLAND

*Of the three Homes in this Region we have news from two:*

## HEATHERLEY

Out of hibernation have come the invalid tricycles, and most days one or other are off on a run. Our coach has also been out quite frequently, everything from a performance of the Mikado to a Donkey Derby. Visiting parties to the Home have abounded but one in particular must be picked out, the girls of Eothen School, Caterham, who raised £200 through their own efforts and came over to present us with the cheque and to meet the family. Highlight of the early part of the year was a visit by G.C. who showed us two films of the wonderful work in his Homes abroad.

In May, a stone was unveiled and the gardens blessed by the Archdeacon of Lewes, in commemoration of the giving of the gardens by the 'Haywards Heath Friends of Heatherley'. The Rev. Marsden Jones dedicated a book of remembrance, containing all the names of the family who are no longer with us, which now lies in our chapel.

Our long awaited new dining room was christened with a party given by the family for their close relatives and

friends. As the date was very close to the original opening of the Home, it also doubled as an anniversary party. Food was prepared, brought over and served by volunteers from Caterham; they even cleaned up afterwards.

Our Fete this year, fortunately held in wonderful weather, raised over £1,300. It was opened by the 'Black and White Minstrels' and some of the T.V. Toppers were also there, looking exquisite in picture hats and pretty dresses. Rides were given by 'Hercules and the Cart' of Steptoe fame, and the gardens were full of gay stalls and thronged with the curious looking at the 'Largest White Rat in the World'. A children's fancy dress and a dancing display were among other intriguing items. Special mention must be made of the Heatherley artists' exhibition, and the success in selling their paintings. Paul and Chris from Athol House spent a holiday with us, and while the Matron was away Miss Sands (recently retired from the matronship of the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital) served in her stead.

## LE COURT

On May 4th Mrs. Pat Galbraith, who has worked here for twelve years, was appointed Matron, to our great joy. Five days later she was acting as Matron of the Holidays-for-the-Disabled week at Caister Holiday Camp, with over 200 disabled in her care and over 100 helpers and families. 17 residents from Le Court went, and four staff as well as many of our slaves. Despite cold, windy weather they all came back bursting with stories to add to the legend.

Betty Hiron, who has been a resident at Le Court for over 2½ years, left to live at a Home in Birmingham, hear her husband and son.

There have been many and varied outings this quarter, including three to different race courses. The Ascot contingent went glamorised by hatty hats—at least the ladies did—lent for

the occasion. Among other outings were one in a yacht from Southampton to Cowes, attended at Cowes by local dignitaries, and a series of parties at Longmoor Camp while the A.E.R. men were doing their annual fortnights.

It has been a good season for visitors. As well as ones, twos or three we had a record bag of parties, mainly from women's organisations.

The Fete topped the £2,000 mark at last and Marion Thorlby hopes the total will be £2,200. Dame Sybil Thorndike was a wonderful opener, indefatigable in autograph signing, interested in everything. The Residents' Stall made £162 and the others did equally well. We do thank the countless people who gave so freely of their time, money and goods and made the Fete the best so far.

## THE SOUTH WEST

CANN HOUSE is particularly rich in the number of concert parties visiting the Home, barely a week goes by without entertainment of this kind. Outings around Plymouth seem from their Newsletter to be equally frequent, everything from attending a boxing tournament to a farewell party for H.M.S. *Ark Royal*.

Amongst their notable events for 1963 must rank the visit of the Lord and Lady Mayoress of Plymouth, sure proof of the interest taken in the home by the town. Besides touring the Home the Lord Mayor presented a cheque for £50, and spent much time talking to everyone.

Those who know Cann House will miss a familiar face, Candy the donkey now resides in the local zoo. Working in the gardens recently were several young men from Plymouth College, sent through the local guild of social services, their work was much appreciated. A sad note was struck with the passing of Rose, the first woman resident to arrive.

ST. TERESA'S annual trips to the Scilly Isles were a week or so earlier this year and the usual success. Two

people on holiday were fortunate in being able to go with them. Len Lloyd of Greathouse and Miriam Chinnock from Redruth. Having our own coach has already been of the greatest benefit to us, thanks to the personnel of the Western National Omnibus Company, who have already made many alterations to the interior of the coach. When completed it will certainly be as good—if not better—than the coach of any other Home. To all those who have helped with transport in the past, our grateful thanks.

A new resident is welcomed, Miss Betty Coad, while one of the original members of the staff, 'Tony' will be sadly missed by us all; he died after a short illness.

St. Teresa's residents must be congratulated on a truly magnificent achievement, the raising of £1,200 in just over two years. This sum will finance the building of a Unit at Dehra Dun (Raphael), India for children. Undertaken at the request of G.C. the money has been raised by such things as weekly tombola sessions and the running of Open Days in the Home.

## LONDON AND THE SOUTH-EAST

*A bulletin from one of our two Wimbledon hostels is the only news we have received from this Region. We hope to publish further items in our next issue.*

### GAYWOOD, Wimbledon

Well, what a winter in which to start a nice new Home—and the aphorism 'never a dull moment' might certainly be said of 'Gaywood' since its opening last October. Since our original three residents arrived we have grown steadily to eighteen, which is about our capacity in this one house.

To start with, the house was for men only, and we almost became settled to that regime—but with the admission of the gentler sex our horizons widened. We guessed our problems would too. We were quite right.

Now the family has become a real family with its attendant joys and sorrows—and an age group of from 23 to 58. Needless to say, with the varying tastes and habits of our family—the household has turned into something resembling a beehive.

At Gaywood we enjoy the pleasure of having had the whole house re-decorated, and we are proud of our new fitted carpet and elegant curtains in the sitting room (the gift of the Wimbledon Round Table). However, to offset this (and in keeping with the Cheshire tradition) we have ancient brands of armchairs, throw-outs in fact, with their decrepit springs and coverings. We may boast radiators in the ground floor rooms, but did our baking in old tin lids, used one saucepan for relays of cooking, and rejoiced in a few odd cups and saucers and a minimum of knives for quite a time before circumstances permitted us to accumulate more utensils.

Big wardrobe units were divided or screwed together, bedframes fitted to their rightful heads and tails (most

of them did not fit together at all and had to be dumped). A few of us, 'the schemers', would sit in the cold, slowly emptying bedrooms after supper, pondering and discussing what furniture to put where; then we would warm ourselves up with some heavy labour and cups of coffee before going to bed. This was repeated night after night until slowly things began to take shape. Odd lengths of stair carpet were laid at intervals by unemployed residents (from both houses), bathrooms and landings gradually acquired a covering of lino, and boards became stained with a dark shiny stain—walking on these occasions became almost impossible, but now we are very smart and such problems are mostly behind us.

The new Agamatic slow combustion boiler in the dining room, familiarly known as 'The Monster', demanded a great deal of attention until we got to understand its recalcitrant tempera-

ment. On two occasions in the early days I had to rush out of my bath and downstairs to the sound of an explosion—'backfire' was the technical term. Electricity cuts during the freeze-up, if prolonged, meant the fire would die from lack of oxygen, the electric fan being out of action. This was perhaps *the* most frustrating trial during the winter, and efforts at natural resuscitation by blowing into its mouth, or with a bicycle pump, in desperate attempts to keep it alight, sometimes proved abortive.

But those days are over now and we can see a green garden instead of a white one (even the paths are green). We have high hopes of seeing a very beautiful garden one day, and 'the family' may even sit in deck chairs (we possess one) during intervals of gardening.

Certainly, it may be said, 'Ours is a nice 'ouse, ours is'.

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## "HELLO CAT!"

*From a contributor, resident at Miraflores, Wimbledon*

One warm, starry summer evening, a man walked down a country lane and met a cat. He bent down and stroked it. 'Hello, cat,' he said. He liked cats. He liked all animals. For one thing, they couldn't . . .

'Hello, man,' replied the cat, arching its back rhythmically in response to the stroking.

The man withdrew his hand and regarded the cat with several simultaneous four-syllable emotions. He was not used to having four-syllable emotions. After a long, long silence, the man spoke. Not to the cat this time, but to the starry sky. 'Cats cannot speak,' he said. He was appealing to whoever or whatever ordained the course of the stars to—well, to *do* something. If a cat could speak, then there just wasn't any sense in anything any more.

'I wonder,' said the cat, 'if you would mind scratching me just above the tail.' The man did so, after much hesitation. The cat purred.

'How come you talk?' asked the man. He was sweating profusely. 'Talk?' laughed the cat. 'What do you mean? Cats can't talk.'

The man stopped scratching the cat, and scratched his own head instead.

'That's right,' said the cat. 'You're realizing. Now, if you will excuse me, I really must go. Thank you for the stroking and scratching.' And it bounded off suddenly as if a dog were after it.

The man carried on walking down the country lane. It was a beautiful evening. But there was something different, somehow. He was in too much of a whirl to try to begin thinking what it was.

Suddenly there was a roar of scrunching gravel ahead of him, and a giant—a truly vast giant—strode up to him and stopped. He bent down, smiling, and putting out a hand the size of a writing-desk, said: 'Hello, cat.'

BARRY STONE

## The Cheshire Home, Hongkong

Our big campaign for funds is under way, but with only moderate success. The Home in Hongkong costs about £200 a month to run, and collections in 1963 total so far only some £1,500 which, though really a lot of money, does not enable us to do much more than keep the Home going. What we are really after is sufficient money to expand, our eventual target being to take in 120 patients instead of the present 30. European firms and individuals have responded to the appeal fairly well, but the local Chinese have not, and ways and means will have to be found to get them interested and to extract money from them.

At least, however, the Home is getting better known. A great many pamphlets have been sent out; we gave a party to representatives of the Press on 8th July, and got quite good publicity in both the English and Chinese papers the following day; and a Charity Concert is being held in the new City Hall for three nights at the end of August, and this will help not only with regard to publicity, but will also, we hope, bring in substantial financial help.

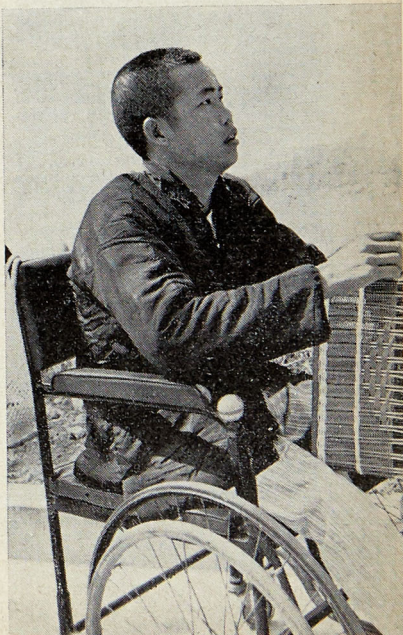
We are having a very hot, dry summer, and the water shortage (at time of writing) is still critical. The Cheshire Home in Hongkong is in an old Army Camp on a cliff above the sea near Stanley, occupying two Nissen huts and some old storehouses cut into the hill, and somewhat poorly equipped. It is, however, a going concern, and the men and women, old and young, who have arrived lonely and ill cared for, soon become healthier and happier. We are indeed fortunate to have three very dedicated helpers. Firstly, Mrs. Poon who is in charge of the Home, and who, cheerful and hardworking, is a tower of strength; secondly Mrs. Mary Hayes, an experienced occupational therapist, who spends two mornings a week instructing and helping the patients to make quilts, baskets, toys, etc. for which they can earn a little pocket money; and thirdly, Denis Herdon, a member of the Committee and in charge of welfare, who goes to the Home every Thursday evening, shows films, takes out cigarettes, and does 101 things, from getting emergency water supplies to a new wheelchair, to make patients and staff happy.

I hope the photographs enclosed will be of interest. Of the 30 patients, only 5 can walk unaided, but most of them are usually found making something or sitting quietly out of doors in their chairs.

There is a great need for what the Cheshire Home, Hongkong, offers—which is hope for a useful life, as well as medical care, food, clothing, and so on, for all those who are disabled and homeless. The Committee will, it is hoped, include more Chinese in the future so that more can be done to bring the Chinese community into the management itself and make them feel that it is a Chinese Home rather than an English one. But nothing is so important that we expand, by rebuilding on the present site or elsewhere, so that we can take more people in, and we are all confident that our continued efforts will result in success if we have patience and perseverance.

G. M. B. SALMON  
Chairman - Appeals

Another patient at the Hong Kong Ho



## OPERATION ICEBERG

by Dudley V. Kitching (of Kenmore)

Jim and Mick came out of the R.A.F. together. They both found civvy-street very dull, after the excitement of 'Op's': those low-flying attacks in 'Spit's' or 'Hurri's' for instance.

One day Jim said, 'Mick, let's put an advertisement in the paper, you know the kind of thing: two bored able-bodied's looking for adventure...' Mick readily agreed, and soon it appeared in one of the national dailies, without it attracting any attention, except to one man.

One morning a letter arrived for Jim inviting him and his companion to call at certain offices for an interview... outlining the proposition, which was a Whaling expedition.

'Ah, sure, we might be having a whale-of-a-time' and Mick ducked before Jim's well-aimed cup was able to hit target.

'I admit', said Jim, 'that it's not what we expected, but there might be a bit of excitement in it... anyway there might be some lolly, if it's a successful trip.'

'I bet it's some crazy professor wanting us to count the flippers or something... anyway, we'd best be getting along to see', said Mick.

To cut a long story short it was not a crazy professor but a genuine business venture to catch whales and make hard cash out of them. That it was dangerous work, but very possibly lucrative suited the two friends, and as they seemed to satisfy the leader of the expedition it was soon agreed that they set sail.

It was not found possible for both Jim and Mick to sail on the same boat in this whaling fleet—and a lucky thing too, as events proved later.

Soon they were on their way, and everything went well until they separated for their particular stations.

Jim's boat was preparing to start operations when 'Sparks' reported a

complete breakdown in his radio and radar equipment... this, in seas with icebergs about, was indeed serious.

The Captain explained the situation to the men; giving them the opportunity to either stay put, until repairs had been made, or go on blindly. Knowing that time was valuable, the men decided that the ship should proceed.

Steaming dead-slow they felt like ghosts... alone in the midst of a vast expanse of blackness, but which they knew was water—icy cold water.

Suddenly from out of the darkness a shape appeared, and at the same time the cry: 'Iceberg dead ahead' rang out crystal clear.

The engine-room telegraph sounded... alarm bells rang... it was too late. There came a sickening crunching crash; a sound of splitting wood; the grating of iron and steel plates being wrenched from their positions...

Jim found himself in charge of one of the lifeboats, and soon getting clear had the portable automatic radio transmitter working. This sent out a continuous SOS signal, which, when picked up by rescue craft, can guide them to the scene of the disaster.

Although it was a grim situation, the men were in good heart—believing their radio signals would be picked up by the rest of the whaling fleet. However, their optimism dimmed when, after surviving high winds and blizzards, they were still in the small lifeboat on the fifth day... soon it was the seventh, eighth and ninth day.

The weather by now was foggy, and on the tenth day the cold grey light of dawn revealed the same monotonous scene.

By now frostbite and sickness had taken its toll. Jim looked round the boat that morning and felt that something much more unusual was wrong... at first his numbed senses could

not take it in, then he realized that one of their number was missing, he had gone overboard during the night.

The fog lifted that day, and gave way to a terrific storm which tossed the boat about in an alarming manner; tearing the rudder away, and smashing the compass.

Rations were down to two biscuits and half-a-cupful of water twice a day.

As Jim was opening one of the remaining tins of biscuits one of the crew suddenly exclaimed: 'I can hear something.'

Jim and the remaining survivors thought the poor fellow was going mad, for the only sound they heard was the wind.

'I . . . I tell you I CAN hear something . . . I know what you're thinking . . . it's a roaring sound'.

At that moment they all heard it, Jim realizing what it was suggested they got the boat into that direction. Though very weak, the men managed to pull the boat round with the oars and row towards the sound.

Soon it loomed up in front of them—a gigantic iceberg.

The boat grated on the edge, and the men stumbled and crawled onto it—it was better than a rocking boat anyway.

Jim explored the berg, which was of great size, and finding a cave-like indentation in the wall of the ice, soon had the men in it, using the boat as fuel for a fire.

In his log that night Jim wrote:

'I am a bit worried about bears. Our only arms consist of a revolver and three knives. These may not be adequate if we are attacked by more than the odd bear heard so far'.

The day passed in what was considered comfort, after being tossed about in the boat.

That night the man who were not too sick took it in turns to do guard duty. It was just before dawn the following day that Jim was awakened by a sound. At first he could not understand what it was that blocked the entrance to the cave . . . then another noise came and with horror he knew: it was a BEAR.

His first thought was 'What had

happened to the guard outside . . . were they killed . . . oh, my hat! They've got my revolver!'

Jim snatched a knife from one of the men, and stood watching the great beast.

The snarling animal lunged forward, arousing the men from their sleep, and they, being so weak, could only watch the drama.

The bear, on its hind legs and with its front paws thrashing the air before it, caught Jim a glancing blow; he staggered back and the animal seeing this, closed in. Locked together Jim and the bear twisted and turned: Jim trying to get his knife into the vital part of the animal, at the same time having the life squeezed out of him . . . suddenly he felt himself sinking into a black chasm of oblivion when a shot rang out. With a grunt the bear let Jim go, and sank sideways dead.

The guard outside upon hearing the noise, had come into the cave, seen Jim's plight and taking careful aim, had fired the revolver.

Shortly after this terrifying experience another sound came upon their ears . . . an aircraft was approaching. Half running and stumbling the men scrambled out and waved frantically at the skybird—their one and only link with civilization. The pilot had seen them, and dipped his wings. Jim knew that sign: they were saved.

A few weeks later it was front-page news. After the SOS messages had ceased, all hope of finding the men was given up. One man, however, never lost faith in the belief that they were alive. It was Jim's friend Mick who, persuading the authorities, got the plane and carried on the search.

Some weeks later they were sitting on the beach at a seaside resort, Jim recovering from his ordeal, with Mick insisting that having rescued him he was going to see he got really well again for some further adventure, when above the turmoil of the sea, and children running about on the sands, the sound of some chimes came to their ears.

'Now, Jim, m'lad, would you be liking an ice-cream?'

'Do you know, Mick, me broth of a boy, I should . . . an iceberg!'

# THE RED FEATHER CLUB

## The Generous Briton, Ingham, Lincoln



This Club was formed by ten founder members and I was elected Secretary. Unfortunately, I was off work at the time through ill-health and I kept myself busy making contacts and seeking new members.

The Club was opened by Group Captain J. Garden, D.F.C., Officer Commanding R.A.F. Station, Scampton, who is now at Bomber Command H.Q., High Wycombe, and who is the Hon. President of the Club.

The Club held a very successful Spring Ball at the Officers' Mess, Scampton, by the kind permission of the Officer Commanding and Officers. We made a profit of over £200 and we have ordered a Kenwood Major food mixer for Hovenden and the balance of the money will go to the Home.

We also had a successful Gala Day

on the Village Green at Ingham on Whit-Monday and 14 of the residents of Hovenden attended, they all had a good time. Each one took a goldfish back to the Home to re-stock the pond; that is, all except one, Dora Cottam, who has called her's Jimmy and has him in her room.

If we had not made a profit from this day, the letter of thanks from Dora made it all worth while.

I have enclosed photographs of our Club and also the Club Crest. We also wish good luck to Johnny Smith at St. Bridget's Home and to Patricia Hindley of Highfield, Southampton, who hope to start Red Feather Clubs, and also to the new Lincoln Chariot Club, who have offered to help Hovenden.

J. A. WRIGHT (Secretary).

### Pen-pal column?

I feel that a pen-pal column could be a useful feature of *The Cheshire Smile*. It could provide a hobby for some of our more severely disabled friends, and excellent opportunities for others to combat loneliness, exchange ideas

and get to know our friends in other Homes. Such a column should not be reserved for residents only. We must include all those who are in any way working for the relief of suffering.

D.R.

### SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Annual Rate—6s. (post free)

If you would like to receive *The Cheshire Smile* regularly, please fill in your name and address below and post this form, with a remittance for 6s. to The Treasurer, The Cheshire Smile, Le Court, Liss, Hants.

(N.B.—Receipts are sent only on request.)

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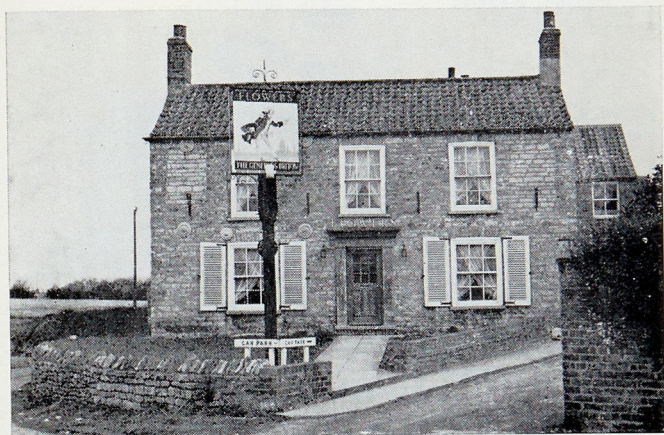
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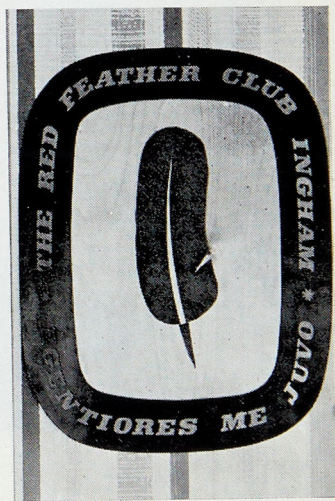


(Above)

**The Generous Briton Inn  
at Ingham, Lincs**

(On right)

**Their Emblem**





**HONG KONG**



*A patient at Hio Sin  
(Star of the Sea) Cheshire  
Home, Hong Kong*