

Next we had to decide where we wanted to go and what special equipment and arrangements we would need. The local representative from the travel firm felt that Oberau in Austria was the best resort for us to go to for a variety of reasons. There is a large area of gentle nursery slopes running right into the village, a very good ski school and, what turned out to be most important, the boot and ski hire shop there had a very wide range of equipment available and a very efficient and patient staff.

To find out what equipment we would need we then got in touch with the Uphill Ski Club, an organisation for disabled skiers associated with the Spastics Society. They told us that we would need short skis for the children with cerebral palsy and probably outriggers as well. These are short skis, only about 2 feet long, attached to elbow crutches and are used partly to give extra stability and balance, being in contact with the ground at all times unlike ordinary ski sticks, and partly to take the job of steering and stopping away from the legs which are not able to react quickly or efficiently enough where spasticity is present.

This presented our next problem. The Uphill Ski Club were willing to lend us some of their outriggers but unfortunately they were going to be away at the same time as us and so were unable to do so. They gave us instructions on how to make them and between the school's craft department, the metal work department of another school and the O.T. department of the hospital, we managed to convert an old pair of skis belonging to one of the teachers into our own pair of outriggers.

Two wheelchairs and two moulded plastic sledges completed our list of equipment. The sledges were to transport children and skis around the slopes and the village and proved invaluable both for this purpose and for fun as a change from ski-ing.

The holiday booked and the equipment organised, we then had to get ourselves fit for the trip. We worked out a circuit of exercises to strengthen legs and improve balance and twice a week at lunch time the physiotherapy room at school became a scene of frantic activity as everyone competed to see who could get through the circuit fastest.

The day of departure arrived all too quickly, and we loaded up two minibuses with people and luggage and set off for Gatwick. As we had to be at the airport at 7 a.m. we decided to stay overnight at a nearby hostel. This proved to be an experience in itself as it had not been used all winter and was very cold and damp. Added to this some of the children were unused to sleeping in bunk beds and sleeping bags and spent most of the night falling out. Undaunted however by this or by bacon and eggs at 5.30 a.m. we arrived at the airport at 7 o'clock to be met by an exceptionally efficient system for dealing with disabled travellers.

We were escorted through passport control and into the departure lounge as soon as we arrived and were then met by a man with an electric buggy on which Joanne and Gary, the two poorer walkers and myself were transported through the long corridors and virtually on to the plane. We were all in our seats and ready to go when most of our fellow travellers were still having their passports checked. In Munich we were dealt with equally efficiently by the airport's fire department and the system worked just as well coming back as it did going. It seemed to us that flying was one of the most trouble free modes of transport for the disabled as long as the airports were given advance warning.

Having had such an early start, we were very glad to see the hotel when we eventually arrived, but we did manage to get all the boots and skis fitted that afternoon, which allowed us to start ski-ing straight away the next morning. We had surprisingly little trouble fitting boots and skis for everyone and no trouble at all with tight Achilles tendons which was the one problem I had expected. The ski shop staff went through most of their stock to find a pair

of boots to fit Graham's typical dwarf broad feet and went to the trouble of changing adult size bindings on to child size skis to make them short enough for Joanne.

After all the preparations, actually teaching the children to ski was relatively easy. Five of the children and the three non-skiers on the staff went into a class with one of the ski school instructors and Joanne and Gary, who would not have been able to keep up, stayed with me.

Strangely Gary, the poorer of the two walkers, turned out to ^{be} the better skier. He usually walks with two tripod sticks so had to use the outriggers all the time and very soon got used to jumping his feet along to get himself moving then letting his arms take over to steer himself.

Joanne did not like the outriggers as she found it difficult to get herself moving, nor was her balance good enough to use ordinary ski sticks with any success. She did ski however by holding on to my hands and they both successfully completed the slalom course at the end of the week with the help of the ski school instructors.

The two big surprises in the group were Graham who took to skis as if he had been born on them and, Sean the hemiplegic who did wonders with one stick in his better hand and controlling his descent virtually with one leg. Graham's success was probably directly attributable to his handicap, short legs and a low centre of gravity being a positive advantage when learning to ski, a point of view with which he violently disagrees, putting it down to natural talent.

On our next to last day, we were amazed to see another wheelchair at the slopes when we got there. It turned out to belong to a German school for physically handicapped who were also on their first ski-ing trip. They had borrowed minibuses and equipment from the German Ski-ing Association for the Disabled including some specially built toboggans which ran on two skis and could be steered using two handles. This enabled them to have some totally wheelchair bound children with them which we obviously could not. Unfortunately our stays only overlapped by two days and the language barrier prevented much contact between our group and theirs.

The week we spent in Austria passed very quickly as most holidays do. Apart from the ski-ing we fitted in some shopping in Innsbruck, a trip up the chair lift to the top of the mountain and tobogganing, bowling and a disco at night all of which was organised by the firm's courier who went out of her way to make our trip a success.

We have been asked frequently since our return "Was it worth it?". The answer is "Yes". Although we only took seven children those seven were given an experience they would not otherwise have had and all seven have asked if we are going again.

It is very unlikely that the school will organise a ski-ing trip again unless it is in conjunction with another school to make the numbers more viable. Unlike the ordinary secondary schools we do not have a large intake of new pupils every year but tend always to come down to the same small group of suitable participants.

There are two organisations in Britain dealing with ski-ing for the disabled. Both organise ski-ing trips for their members and both are willing to give advice to anyone thinking about organising such trips themselves.

I would advise anybody contemplating such a trip to contact one or other of these groups before doing anything else. It is much easier to approach a travel firm knowing exactly what you will need from them beforehand, than it is to try to find out as you go along having already booked. We travelled with Hourmont who were very willing to help us with any special arrangements or equipment as long as we could tell them what we needed.

The choice of resort is vital, needing somewhere where the slopes are not miles away from the village and also somewhere where there is a proper ski hire shop not just a store of equipment with no trained staff. We were lucky with both.

It is useless to try to go unless you have at least one experienced skier and preferably a lot more. Looking back on our trip it would probably have been much easier if the staff involved had had some experience of skiing with the disabled before organising a trip themselves.

The two organisations involved with skiing for the disabled are

- 1) the Uphill Ski Club of Great Britain, 16 Fitzroy Square, London W1P 5HO. Secretary: Miss Denise Wright
- 2) the British Ski Club for the Disabled, Corton House, Corton, Warminster, Wilts, BA12 0SZ. Membership is open to anybody (Membership Fee £3.) and they run courses to train people as guides or instructors for their skiing holidays. The B.S.C.D. do deal mainly with adults and mainly with the less heavily handicapped but both Clubs are in close liaison with each other and will pass enquiries on.

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THE BRITISH SPORTS ASSOCIATION FOR THE DISABLED

The British Sports Association for the Disabled has, as one of its main aims, to encourage people of all disabilities to take an interest in sport and leisure.

This is achieved in many ways; "Come and Try" and "Have a Go" days are organised following which a number of clubs have been formed.

In other areas concern has been shown for special schools and with disabled children in ordinary schools. The latter are hard to locate and even harder to cater for as with small numbers they have problems to find sporting outlets.

BSAD run a number of National events each year catering for all ages. The Junior Swimming Gala has swimmers of all disabilities aged from 10 - 16 years competing in all strokes and relays at 25 and 50 mts. The Mini Games is for 8 to 12 years who participate in a day of sport mainly athletics events. This is an introduction to competitive work much used by schools who are newly affiliated and by clubs with children in that age group. It gives an insight both to competitors and staff members who have the opportunity of meeting others with similar problems.

In July the National Junior Multi Disabled Games with Archery, Bowls, Snooker, Table Tennis, Field and Track Events takes place. Just under 400 young people from 12 to 16 years are resident from Friday evening until Sunday lunch time with two days of highly concentrated competition when medals and trophies are won and lost in good humour.

Senior Games for all over 17 are held in September.

Although most participants start in clubs for the disabled it is always hoped

that many will eventually graduate to mixed clubs in sport where it is possible to play on even terms, Archery, Bowls, Snooker and Table Tennis are examples.

BSAD was formed in 1961 and during the last ten years has grown from one Regional Committee and twenty clubs to ten Regions based on Sports Council Regions and some 300 clubs and schools.

As the co-ordinating body for sport for disabled BSAD has member organisations covering all disabilities, Amputees, Blind, Cerebral Palsy, Deaf, Paraplegic and Mentally Handicapped and have just helped form the first organisation for all other disabilities known as Les Autres who, for the first time, have attended an International event in Oslo.

BSAD has been responsible for many teams going abroad and will be organising the Great Britain Junior team at the Junior International event to be held at Gateshead on the 3 - 11th August.

Many youngsters take part in swimming award schemes usually on a par with their able-bodied counterparts and in some instances in awards designed especially for disabled swimmers. Within schools and clubs children can achieve the AAA 5 star award scheme adapted for the disabled. Following on from that a Wheelchair Proficiency award in a three tier system is now in the final stages of preparation.

BSAD has voluntary committees throughout the country and details of these can be obtained from Headquarters at the Ludwig Guttmann Sports Centre, Stoke Mandeville, Harvey Road, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP21 8PP. Tel. 0296 - 27889

Within the IYDF year much progress has been made and many new clubs have been formed. The sincere hope is that they will continue to thrive and provide sport, recreation and leisure for any disabled child and person who wishes to find this outlet.

A Water Sports Division has also been formed which encourages everything from Angling through Canoeing to Yachting. For information on Water Sports of any kind contact Mr. L.D. Warren, National Co-ordinator, BSAD, Water Sports Division, 29 Ironlatch Avenue, St. Leonards - on-Sea, East Sussex, TN 38 9 JE, enclosing a s.a.e. or ring 0424 - 427931 Mon. to Fri. 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

THE DISABLED LIVING FOUNDATION

Becoming disabled can well be a dramatic event - an accident, the onset of a crippling disease, the birth of a handicapped child will all involve the person or the family in a set of circumstances which however frightening are never-the-less stimulating. The person or the family are for a short time the centre of attention.

This does not last and when the situation stabilises, they are faced with a permanent condition that is likely to last for the rest of their lives and affect everything they need to do or want to do. To overcome the effects of disability it is usually necessary to learn a new way of life, to learn new techniques, to learn about new equipment, new regulations, new services, perhaps new employment or new housing. No person professionally concerned with disability can be expected to know all that is necessary for his or her patient or client. Even less can the newly disabled person be expected to know what is available and what can be done.

The main purpose of the Disabled Living Foundation is to collect, collate and disseminate information on any subject related to the lives of disabled people, with the exception of purely medical matters.

We do this in several ways. Firstly, our Information Service provides general information on aids, equipment, design, transport, education and so on, to our subscribers and we also run an enquiry service for members of the general public.

Our Aids Centre provides training in the range and use of aids for those professionally concerned and is also a showroom for disabled people themselves. (An appointment is necessary.)

Then our various advisory services provide information and advice on specialist subjects such as incontinence, clothing, visual impairment and music.

We also publish a wide range of books. The data for these is usually collected following requests for information in an unchronicled area. For instance, our book on hoists was written because there was no manual available on these complex pieces of equipment which could be used for the training of staff or for the families looking after severely disabled people. Again our report on the problems caused to severely disabled women by menstruation, which is shortly to be published, covers a subject which causes much distress and yet there is very little information available.

If disabled people are to reach their full potential information on all everyday matters must be available to them and to their professional advisers. In one way or another the Foundation aims to supply it. For further information please write to: The Disabled Living Foundation, 346 Kensington High Street, London W14 8NS.

Elizabeth Fanshawe.

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A.P.C.P. NEWS

1. Further Education

It would appear that the policy of the C.S.P. at present is to develop a Post-graduate Diploma in Physiotherapy Studies, with specialist in-put at Senior II/Senior I level. A.P.C.P. Education Sub-Committee is meeting on July 27th, to discuss plans for a Specialist Paediatric module. This will be presented to the C.S.P. for validation and also we hope will be subsumed into any future C.S.P./C.N.A.A. validated Post-graduate Diploma (C.N.A.A - Council for National Academic Awards). There is to be a Post-registration Study Day, arranged by C.S.P. on September 29th. We hope that this will give us the guidelines to work on.

Open University (O.U.)

The O.U. runs many courses which will be of interest and value to physios. Courses from the fields of education, sciences, social sciences and technology, can be taken as an Associate Student. Any credits obtained can be transferred to a B.A. degree, if the student then enrolls as an undergraduate.

The O.U. asks for 6 credits towards an ordinary B.A. Degree and 8 for Honours. Individual courses have a rating of either a half or a full credit. Courses are designed so that a half credit course involves approximately 10 - 12 hours of study per fortnight. If full credit it will involve that number of hours per week.

Most physiotherapists, entering as an undergraduate, are given 2 general credit exemptions, as the course of study undertaken in our diploma is considered to represent at least 2 full years of academic study (ref: Advanced Standing Office, O.U. June 1981)

Registration for the Associate Student Programme runs from June to early October. Information and prospectus from: The Associate Student Central Office, The Open University, P.O. Box 76 Milton Keynes, MK7 6AN

Registration for the Undergraduate programme runs from January to June. Information and prospectus from: Undergraduate Admissions Office, The Open University, P.O.Box 48, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AB.

Higher Degrees

i.e. B. Phil., M. Phil., Ph.D. It is normally required that a student who wishes to submit for a higher degree should already hold a good honours degree. Exceptionally some academic institutions may consider a student for e.g. an M.Phil, if that student can show that their professional experience or previous research is a suitable preparation for post-graduate research in their chosen field of study. Any physiotherapist who wishes to submit for a higher degree and who has had no education in research principles should consider applying for e.g. the new O.U. Course "Research Methods in Education and the Social Sciences", which can be taken as an Associate Student.

Continuing Education

We hope that the programmes organised by the Regional Committees of A.P.C.P. and the information from the Newsletter, assists the members in a continuing education process.

Marion Whyte

Chairman

Education Committee - A.P.C.P.

2. Retired Members

At the last National Committee Meeting it was agreed to give consideration to a proposal that there should be reduced subscription and conference rates for retired members of A.P.C.P.

3. Membership

You must send a completed membership form to the National Treasurer, (address on Page 1.) if you have not already done so, giving your C.S.P. and NOT your C.P.S.M. registration number, if you wish to remain a member of A.P.C.P. If you have correctly changed your Banker's Order as requested in the February and May Newsletters, the Treasurer will only be aware of this IF she has received a completed membership form. Please help her to help you.

4. Post-Registration Education

Marion Whyte and Pamela Eckersley are now in contact with the Association for Paediatric Education in Europe. This Association is mainly composed of Professors of Paediatrics in the European Medical Schools.

5. Donations

£25.00 was sent to the International Lecture Fund of the C.S.P. and £135 was sent to the C.S.P. Benevolent Fund as a result of a collection at the Hatfield Conference.

Publications Committee

Profit from the Hatfield A.P.C.P. Conference was £2,000. In case members wonder why we need to make such a sizeable profit, the publications sub-committee would like to bring the following to your attention:- New booklets on "Plastering", "Respiratory Care" and "The Myopathies" planned for this year. New editions of the booklets on "The Clumsy Child" and "Chronic Juvenile Polyarthrititis" are being done for the autumn. The cost of this is£2,000. Without the splendid efforts of the Hatfield Conference organising committee, we should not have been able to update or add to our publications due to rapidly escalating costs of paper and printing.

Future Conferences

- 1982 - Weymouth College. April 3rd and 4th. "Community Paediatrics"
Speakers include Professor Court, Philippa Russell and Professor
Brimblecombe
- 1983 - St. Martin's College, Lancaster. "The Physiotherapist as Adviser
and Counsellor" (probable title)

National Treasurer

Congratulations to Sandra Hill on her recent marriage. As you will see from Page 1, your subscriptions now go to Mrs. Sandra Holt.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Winston Churchill Memorial Trust

Travel Fellowships are offered for 1982 in eleven categories and are open to all U.K. citizens of any age or occupation with the object of providing an opportunity for study abroad. Potential fellows are required to show that they can make effective use of the opportunity on their return. To apply send your name and address on a postcard between August and mid October to:- Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, 15 Queen's Gate Terrace, London SW7 5PR. You will receive a form to complete which must be returned by 2nd November 1981.

Categories of interest - Integration of Young Disabled People in Schools,
Colleges and Employment.
Medical Research into the relief of pain
Open category for outstanding or adventurous projects.

Foresight - Society for Pre-Conceptual Care

This organisation has a lending library and leaflets on subjects relevant to the prevention of foetal damage for professionals. Further details from Dr. and Mrs. Clarke, 8 Duchess Close, Strood, Rochester, Kent. For parents "Guidelines for Future Parents" and "The Case for Pre-Conceptual Care". £1.00 + 20p postage and packing from Belinda Barnes, Woodhurst, Hydestyle, Godalming, Surrey.

Disabled Living Foundation.

An information pack for those who help the partially sighted is now available for hire and includes low vision aids, slides of aids, lecture notes and lists of manufacturers and aids clinics.

Surrey County Council and AHA

A six booklet pack has been produced which covers such topics of information as benefits available to handicapped children, voluntary organisations, and support from local authorities. It is distributed free to the parents of handicapped children under five. To others it is £1.00 per copy. Contact Trevor Cribb, Press Officer, 6 Penrhyn Road, Kingston, London.

Microprocessor Applications for the Community - A Survey

Funded by the Manpower Services Commission, this two part publication lists in Part I some 50 microprocessor based devices designed to help disabled people. Line drawings, construction, application and price are included. Part II is mainly a catalogue of computers. Part I - £1.50 (inc. p & p) from The Department of Mathematics and Computer Studies, The Polytechnic, Chester Road, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear. SR1 3SD Cheques to 'Borough of Sunderland.'

Aids for the Speech Impaired.

The Scientific and Technical Branch of the DHSS has produced a free catalogue of equipment available in the U.K. under three headings -

- aids to assist speech or produce it artificially
- aids to replace speech in those who can use writing
- aids to replace speech for those unable to write.

From Scientific & Technical Branch (STB 6C), Department of Health & Social Security, 14 Russell Square, London WC1B 5EP

Play and the Handicapped Child

An information pack to mark IYDF has been produced by Fair Play for children, 248, Kentish Town Road, London NW5, Price £1.50 inc. p & p. It lists organisations and resources involved with play and handicapped children.

Optical Information Council

To help children who have had glasses newly prescribed, the council have produced a book for parents to read aloud to them. It explains vision problems simply, why glasses are necessary and how to care for glasses. It is called "Eagle Eye looks at Children's Eye Care" ! From Optical Information Council, Walter House, 418-422 Strand, London, WC2Z 0PB

King's Fund Centre Conference

Mrs. June P. Dixon, Principal of the Centre for Cued Speech in London, has written to APCP to outline the contents of the Conference on June 17th at the King's Fund Centre on "Problems in Daily Living for the Speechless". During discussion it was felt that the difficulties of this group of people needed to be brought to the attention of a wider audience. Mrs. Dixon asks that APCP members help all they can in this regard.

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OVERSEAS PAEDIATRIC SIG'S

We have recently received information on groups of paediatric physiotherapists in Canada and New Zealand. The Canadian organisation seems to function very much like APCP. It is hoped to be able to contact all the members countries of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy and thereby liaise with paediatric groups around the world.

TELEVISION

The Disabled - Aspects of Physical Handicap. Sunday mornings in October. Series of five 20 minute programmes aimed at professionals, which examine questions affecting disability e.g. contrast between Europe and the Third World, comparison of life style in residential care and in the community etc.

BOOKS

1. Children and Parents in Hospitals. J. Lind, S. Harvey & L. Newman (editors)
Publishers: J. Wiley & Sons Ltd. Paperback. £5.25
This book covers early stimulation and therapy through play, bonding, with particular reference to special care baby units and adolescents in hospital.
2. Disability Rights Handbook 1981
From the Disability Alliance, 1 Cambridge Terrace, London NW1 4JL
£1.25 + 50 p. & p. for orders of 20 or more from voluntary organisations.
3. Advice for Amputees
A Handbook for persons who are amputees, for those about to undergo amputation and for the parents of child amputees.
From Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, Australia.
Sorry - no price available.
4. A Comprehensive Program for Multi-handicapped Children - an illustrated approach
A workbook for child care workers giving developmental sequences and an indication of what they can expect the multi-handicapped child to achieve in the long and short term.
From Alvin Buckworld Centre, University Hospital, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Canada S7N 0X0
Sorry No price available.
5. Involuntary Stranger
A guide on autistic children for parents and professionals. P. Everard 1980
John Clare Books £5.95.

HEALTH EDUCATION

1. The Book of the Child.
80 page booklet supplied free to all expectant mothers in Scotland, which covers pregnancy to first four years of life. It encourages the use of the antenatal services (Antenatal exercises shown but not approved of by Obstetrics and Gynaecology SIG). From Scottish Health Education Group, Health Education Centre, Woodburn House, Canaan Lane, Edinburgh EH10 4SG
2. Care of Young Feet
A booklet produced by the Health Education Council in association with the Society of Chiropractors. From your local H.E. Office or from the H.E. Council, 78 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1AH Tel. 01-637-1881
3. Children's Foot Health Register
A Guide to shops which stock children's shoes in width fittings and where trained staff will measure and fit shoes carefully at the time of sale.
From Leather Trade House, 9 St. Thomas Street, London SE1 9SA. Tel. 01-407-5281
4. First Three Years
Booklet produced by the Health Visitors Association, 36 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1PF. General health care 0 - 3 and also includes a list of voluntary agencies for handicapped children.
5. Who's bringing them up? Martin Large
Publisher: T.V. Action Group, 25 Reservoir Road, Gloucester, G14 9RT.
£5.95 or £2.95 (paperback) + 50p p. & p. A debate on the effect of T.V. on children.

6. Play.
Health Education Council's new booklet is designed to help parents choose appropriate play things for young children. Address as before
7. Play and the Handicapped Child.
An information pack on organisations and resources involved in play for the handicapped. It has been produced as a joint effort by the major play organisations for IYDP. Price £1.50 including P. & P.
From Fair Play for Children, 248 Kentish Town Road, London NW5

PUBLICATIONS

1. Physiotherapy for Children with Asthma.
A booklet produced by Charing Cross Hospital Paediatric Department and Astra Pharmaceuticals Ltd. 1979
From: St. Peter's House, 2 Bricket Road, St. Alban's, Herts AL1 3JN
Tel. St. Alban's 33241
2. Mental Handicap Reports
Mental handicap - the under fives. Report of APMH Conference of November '80 at the King's Fund Centre.
Teamwork in mental handicap. Report of APMH Conference at Manor House Aylesbury, Feb. 1981
Mental Handicap - The Adolescent Years. Conference report of Feb. 1981
All price 20p + s.a.e. from Association of Professions for the Mentally Handicapped, 126 Albert Street, London, NW1 7NF. Tel. 01-267-6111
In preparation - mental handicap - the first twelve months.

EQUIPMENT

1. Electric Wheelchair
Mecanum Innovation in Sweden, in association with the Swedish Institute for the Handicapped, has developed an electric wheelchair which can rotate on the spot and move in any direction between 0° and 360°, including direct side movement i.e. 90°. The wheels are built up on a number of rubber rollers and the chair is operated by a joystick, movement being similar to that of a hovercraft vehicle. It exists as a prototype at the moment. Further information is available from Mecanum Innovation, Domarevagen 5, S - 90 52 Umeå, Sweden.
2. Maxi 502
Work chair for handicapped children made by Alvema of Sweden and available through Carters (J. & A.) Ltd., Alfred Street, Westbury, Wilts. BA13 3DZ
Tel. 0373 822203. Suitable for children between 2 and 8 years. Fully adjustable chair with footrest, arms and rail to secure child in front. The base has five legs and can be raised and lowered by means of a gas spring with a lifting force of 23 kg to bring the chair to the height of a dining table. Height from 390 - 550 mm. Price: £210 + V.A.T.
3. Alvema Pushchairs for disabled children
From Carters as above. Two sizes - 2 - 5 years Minimax 203 and 5 - 9 years Max 303. Basic chairs £175 and £190 respectively. Features include three position back rest angle, adjustable footrest, optional abduction block, footstraps, groin straps, chest harness, tray and weatherprotection. The chairs fold for easy transport and the wheels are removable individually. Weight 14.5 kg or 15 kg.

4. Totally Soft Play Environment

Large range of brightly coloured foam play shapes. From Hestair Hope
A T.S.P.E. free audio-visual presentation is now available lasting 15 mins.
Contact Adrian Battersby, Hestair Hope Ltd., St. Philips Drive, Royton,
Oldham OL2 6AG. Tel. 061-624-1411

SAFETY

1. Electric socket cover.
Useful for inquisitive fingers, CIMA Products, 82 Queen Square, Bristol BS1 4J.
now make a cover for both single and twin sockets. Available from Boots,
Woolworths, etc.
2. A recent letter in the British Medical Journal warns of the dangers of
improvised toys for babies. A thin plastic tub-shaped ice cream carton
was given to a nine month old who was subsequently found cyanosed and apnoeic
with the carton over its face after being left in prone in a pram.

STOCKPORT ODD FEET ASSOCIATION

The Association, which champions the cause of those with odd sized feet, has
launched its Footstep '81 campaign in an attempt to gain support amongst M.Ps and
others for the plight of this group of disabled people. At the moment, if two
pairs of shoes have to be bought, in order to fit both feet satisfactorily, the
customer is paying V.A.T. on each pair, giving the manufacturer double profit and
probably having to throw away two spare shoes. Disparity in size can be as great
as child size 13 for one foot and adult size 5 for the other. This leads to
financial hardship, and often frustration because of the difficulties in fitting.
Extra charges for a single odd pair of shoes can be as high as 75% and waiting
periods can be as long as twelve weeks.

For further details of how you can help with Footstep '81 contact the secretary
Mrs. G. Evans, 17 Deva Close, Roynnton, Cheshire SK12 1RH Tel. 0625-6498

A.P.C.P. REGIONAL REPORTS

Scotland. Reg. Rep. Miss M. Booth, MCSP, 210 Union Grove, Aberdeen. AB1 6SS

Sat. Sept. 5th '81 "Introduction to Conductive Education (Peto Method)"
Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Yorkhill, Glasgow
Mrs. Ester Cotton, MCSP.
Apply to the regional rep. at this address:- Physiotherapy
Dept. Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital, Cornhill Road,
Aberdeen. Please send s.a.e.

North West Reg. Rep. Mrs. P. Eckersley, MCSP, 62 Goulden Road, Didsbury, Manchester
M20 9TF

Sat. Sept. 12th '81 "Hands and Feet". Whiston Hospital, Nurses Home.
Subjects include - The Physiotherapist in the Foot Clinic,
Development of Hand Use, Splinting & Appliances, Training
for Sport, Mobility, Footwear.

Sat. Nov. 14th '81 "Sense and Sensitivity".
Preswich Conference Centre, in conjunction with Regional
Education and Training Officer. Subjects include Vision
(RNIB Advisor?), Touch (Play)-Roma Lear, Taste/Speech,
Hearing, Physiology of sense receptors.

Possible subjects for 1982 - spinal disorders, alternative
medicine. Any other suggestions or comments gratefully
received.

North East Reg. Rep. Mrs. M. Soper, MCSP, 29 Garth Terrace, Clifton, York.

Sat. Oct 10th '81 "Brittle Bones and Bone Abnormalities"

Postgraduate Suite, Huddersfield Royal Infirmary.

10 a.m. Dr. J.H.B. Buckler, M.A., D.M., F.R.C.P., D.C.H.
Consultant Paediatrician, Leeds General Infirmary.
"Bone abnormalities in Children"

11 a.m. Miss J. Stadden, Member of the Association for Research
into restricted growth.
"The Practicalities of Restricted Growth"

12 noon - Lunch

1.30 p.m.

1.45 p.m. Dr. R. Smith, M.D., Ph.D., F.R.C.P., Consultant
Physician, Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre.
"Pathology and Clinical Presentation of Brittle Bones
in Children".

3.00 p.m. Miss A. Wisbeach, Dip. C.O.T. Occupational Therapist
The Wolfson Centre.
"Management and Aids for Children with Brittle Bones".

Applications to Mrs. B. Pickard, MCSP, 73 Moseley Wood Gardens, Leeds.
Members £5. Non-members £5.50. 80 places.

Wales Reg. Rep. Mrs. W. Williams, MCSP., 12 Gelligaer Gardens, Cathays, Cardiff

A study afternoon was held on 18th June at Ely Orthopaedic Clinic.
Orthopaedic conditions in infancy and in the older child were covered and
a film on Plaster of Paris technique was shown.

Midlands & Trent Reg. Rep. Miss R. Dawson, MCSP, 19 Main Street, East Bridgford
Nottingham, N13 8PA

1. Birmingham sub-group have a committee of seven including Mrs. Mary Brown, Secretary. On June 18th '81 Chadsgrove School, Catshill, played host to a very interesting and enjoyable evening seeing the activities of the school on video and slides. Newton Aids, Orthokinetics and Kirton Designs exhibited their products.

Sept. 1981. Day course on Still's Disease. Details from Mrs. M. Brown
Chadsgrove School. Tel. Bromsgrove 71511

March 1982 Annual General Meeting of Region. Venue Saxon Hill School, Lichfield.
Speaker - Mrs. Suzanne Leavesley, Speech Therapist on "Assessment
of children to use non-verbal communication".

2. Leicester group will continue the monthly meetings at Ashfield School,
Leicester, in September.

3. Nottingham group. Paediatric Interest Group continue quarterly meetings.

Sept. 1981 "The Toy Library".
Details from Mrs. M. Braley. Tel. Nottingham 608111 Ext. 2938

South East Reg. Rep. Miss P. Charon, MCSP, Physiotherapy Dept., Royal
Alexandra Children's Hospital, Brighton, Sussex

Oct. 10th '81 Royal Alexandra Hospital for Sick Children, Dyke Road, Brighton.

10 a.m. Registration and Coffee

10.30 a.m. Mr. J.M. Howatt, FRCS, "Aspects of Some Neonatal Surgery"

11.15 a.m. Sister V. Lancaster, SRN., SRCN., "Nursing Aspects
of some neonatal surgery".

2.30 p.m. Dr. M.D.A. Heller, MRCP, FRC. Psych. "The Hysterical
Patient"

APCP members £5.50 Non-members £6.50

Applications :- Miss S. Raymond, 56 Gates Green Road, West Wickham, Kent
(sae please)

We have 66 paid up members and there are several therapists who paid in 1980
Do these people still wish to belong - if so, subscriptions please !

South West. Reg. Rep Miss T. James, MCSP., 23a High West Street, Dorchester
Dorset. DT1 1UW

Sat. Sept. 12th 1981 "Halliwick Swimming". Double Trees School, St. Blazey
Cornwall. Organiser Mrs. J. Williams.

Oct 30th/31st Bobath Course, Bodmin, Cornwall.
Further details to be announced.
Contact Reg. Rep.

London. Reg. Rep. Miss M. Veach, MCSP., 102 Monkleigh Road, Morden, Surrey.

COURSES DIARY

August 25th - 28th 1981 "Sport for all Disabled People".
University of Stirling, Scotland. Scottish Sports Council,
1 St. Colne Street, Edinburgh, O31 225 8411

September 2nd - 6th '81 "Paget Gorman Sign System" 17/52 - an introductory
course. Castle Priory College.

September 9th - 11th '81 "Preschool Counselling for Families of Mentally
Handicapped Children" 17/53. Castle Priory College

September 11th - 13th '81 "The Portage Teaching Materials" - introductory
practical workshop. Castle Priory College, Thames Street,
Wallingford, Oxon, OX10 OHE. Tel. 0491 37551

September 11th - 13th '81 "Running a Toy Library. Residential course covering
practical and theoretical aspects. Digby Stuart College of the
Sacred Heart, Roehampton Lane, London, S.W.15. Members of
TLA £50, non-members £55. Applications by 31st August to
Toy Libraries Association, Seabrook House, Wyllyotts Manor,
Darkes Lane, Potters Bar, Herts, EN6 2HL

September 16th '81 Day release course for nine weeks for care staff working
in special care units. Contact Gabi Michaelis, Mencap National
Centre, 123 Golden Lane, London, EC1Y 0RT, Tel. 01-253-9433

September 17th '81 "IYDP and then?" Active Autumn Conference,
Great Hall, Imperial College, London, S.W.7. Members £6.00
non-members £6.95p. Contact Judy Denziloe, Active, Seabrook House,
Darkes Lane, Potters Bar, Herts, EN6 2HL. Tel. 0707-44571

September 25th '81 "Disabled People. Living and Learning". Isle of Wight
College of Arts and Technology, Newport, I.O.W. Arranged by
Mr. Rogert Jefcoate. £5.00 including lunch. Contact Mr. Bill Stock
73/75, High Street, Ryde, I.O.W. P.O.33 2SU. Tel. Ryde 63437

September 29th '81 "Professional Employment Opportunities for Disabled People".
Mr. Hugh Rossi, Minister of State for Social Security and the Disabl
will open the seminar at Kensington Town Hall, Hornton Street,
London W 8. £10.00 including meals. Contact The Conference Officer
Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation, 25 Mortimer
Street, London, W1N 8AB. Tel. 01-637-5400. Ext. 220

COURSES DIARY cont.....

- October 1st - 4th '81 "Planning Better Learning for Children with Neurological Impairment". Dublin, Ireland.
International Cerebral Palsy Society, 5a Netherhall Gardens, London, NW3 5RN
- October 16th - 18th '81 "Yoga for the Handicapped". 17/66
Medical aspects and practical sessions,
Castle Priory College - see as before
- October 16th '81 "Teaching Methods and the Learning Process of the Severely Handicapped Child". Speakers include -
Malcolm Jones, Psychologist, Beech Tree House, Meldreth.
Dr. S. Henderson, Lecturer, Institute of Education, London University, Mrs. S. Seglow, Senior Physiotherapist,
Watford Spastics Centre. £10.00 including meals.
Mencap Centre. (see as before)
- October 19th - 23rd '81 "Preparing Handicapped Children for Adult Life"
Noordwijkerhout, Netherlands. Commission of the European Communities. Mr. H. Vidali, Luxembourg.
- October 21 - 24th '81. Naider'81. Stoneleigh, Warwickshire.
Organised by Royal Association of Disability and Rehabilitation
£12.00 per day, all inclusive.
Wednesday 21st Oct - "Integration in Education".
Many sessions on other days of interest to the paediatric physiotherapist. Details from the Conference Officer.

AIDS IDEASChild's Elevating Seat.

The principle of the system is simple - the progressive compression of a spring as the seat bears a larger and larger proportion of the child's weight as the child sits down. This may be better understood from the sketch.

When the seat is closed with the child sitting firmly on it, the spring is at maximum compression. However, at the closed position the lever arm is small (about zero as the hinge and strut anchors are almost in line). Thus there is almost no lift. A small upwards movement of the seat induced by the child commencing to rise provides a rapidly increasing lever arm and the spring starts to assist elevation. As it is in maximum compression, the lift is also maximum.

Because the action of the spring is progressive, the lifting effect reduces as the seat rises. By altering the position of the ends of the strut relative to the hinge it is possible to tune the seat for different weights and length of leg.

The construction of the chassis (25mm sq. MS tube) and the hinge (20 mm dia. MS tube) were substantial, as severe twisting would be induced by applying load towards the edge of the seat. Being essentially a play thing when fitted with castors, as in this case, such treatment is almost certain. The spring loaded strut is gas filled, a proprietary item very similar to those fitted to the rear doors of modern estate cars. In this application, it damped the rise of the seat and the load - hopefully preventing too rapid a "lift off".

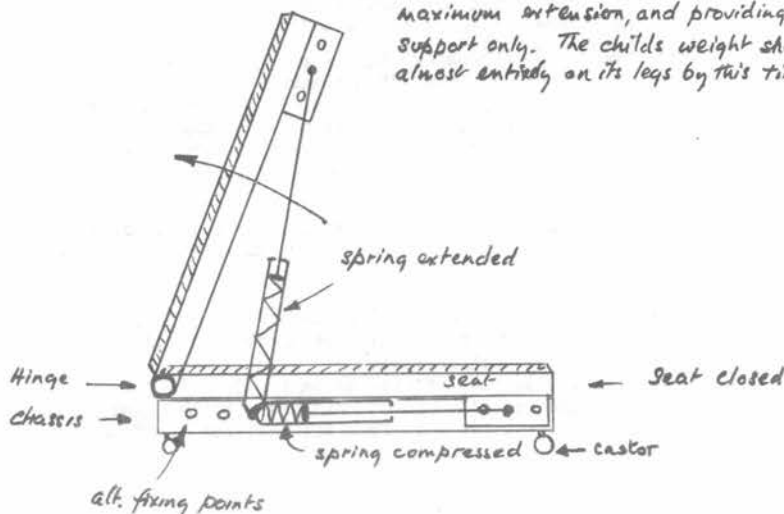
Treatment Note

This seat was designed by H.W.Poole & Son Ltd., Leeds to help a Down's child of eighteen months to get into standing with as little effort as possible. Due to Fallot's Tetralogy with a very poor prognosis, the child's attempts to stand caused cyanotic attacks and loss of consciousness. It was undesirable to prevent

her exploration of the world so we made it effortless for her to stand by using the riser seat. The effort was also removed from bottom shuffling by adding castors to the seat base. This aid was extremely successful and the child was fascinated. Many thanks to Poole's.

M.E. Carrington.
Child Development Centre, York District Hospital.

seat raised - the spring strut is at maximum extension, and providing a small support only. The child's weight should be almost entirely on its legs by this time.



TOADSTOOL SEAT

An empty cable drum made of either wood or cardboard and the top covered with foam and a washable loose cover. Sizes vary slightly from the dimensions given below. It is useful for children who are learning unsupported sitting and for taking the strain off a therapist's knees when treating a child who is standing on the floor. It is a low seat giving very good stability. Available from a cable company.

Anne Raffle, MCSP.
Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital

