

is true she would have been well cared for in a leprosarium but, even if better food and a long and painful series of treatments had eventually made her discharge possible, her homecoming then would have been quite different from her return from Negros. Scarred and crippled she would have become a thing apart, isolated in her own community, subsisting on charity and shunned by her neighbours.

But this is not to be her future. Consorcia will not have to leave school. She will not have to leave home. Her neighbours will not even know that she is being treated for leprosy. And that treatment will be simple.

The travelling WHO/UNICEF Leprosy Control Team will leave with the Rural Health Unit physician an adequate supply of the new sulfone drug, and of ferrous sulfate tablets provided by UNICEF. Twice a week at first, and later at longer intervals, Consorcia will go to the clinic for these drugs and for a haemoglobin test, and she will be re-examined each time the team returns for its follow-up of discovered cases. The prognosis is good. Within three months the disease will have been checked and, though Consorcia will have to continue to take the drugs for some time longer, she will not be a possible source of infection to others. The important fact is that her case has been discovered at an early stage, and it was found only because of a planned and careful search by the WHO/UNICEF team.

British Council's 21st Anniversary.

CONGRATULATING THE British Council on its 21st Anniversary the Prime Minister, Sir Anthony Eden, writes in the Council's report for 1954-55:—

"The Council has rendered distinguished service, both in peace and war, to friendship and understanding between the United Kingdom and other countries both within and without the Commonwealth."

Sir Harold Nicolson, in an historical article, sets out the events and the reasons which led to the establishment of the Council in November, 1934:—

"In the course of long and varied experience," he states, "the officers of the Council have come to realise that educational and other assistance given to individuals is more feasible, more welcome and more durable in effect than any attempts at mass persuasion."

Since the end of the war the Council has arranged programmes for 35,726 overseas visitors, mainly professional people and technicians, including many who have come under United Nations or Colombo Plan schemes. The proportion of such visits financed in whole or in part by the Council has fallen from 66 per cent. in 1945-46 to only 16 per cent. in 1954-55.

Since the Council assumed responsibility for the welfare of Colonial students in 1950, the number of these met on arrival has risen year by year from 1,950 to 3,771—a total of 14,000 in five years—and there has been similar expansion in the scale of the other services provided for them.

A recent notable addition to the Council's work has been the setting up, at the invitation of the Government, of the Council's Soviet Relations Committee to develop cultural relations with the U.S.S.R. and to provide a single official channel for this purpose.

Of gross expenditure in 1954-55 of £3,184,247, £596,490 was received back in general revenue or repayments for agency work and net expenditure out of Government grants was £2,587,757.

During the year the Council supplied about 82,000 books to the 90 Council and Council-associated libraries overseas, which contain about 700,000 books. In addition 20 exhibitions containing a total of some 12,000 books were shown overseas, and 6,921 reviews of British books were secured in overseas periodicals and radio programmes.

1,488 prints taken from 337 films were distributed in 55 countries; 800 film strips and 6,000 photographs were sent

abroad; 1,784 music records to 48 countries and 4,630 speech records.

Under the Commonwealth and Foreign University exchange schemes, 160 awards were made to British, Commonwealth and foreign university professors, teachers and research workers.

Some 30 exhibitions of British art were shown overseas, a number of them at the expense of the recipients. The Council was associated in several drama, opera and ballet, and musical tours, including a highly successful visit to Australia, New Zealand and India by Dame Sybil Thorndike and Sir Lewis Casson.

The Council sponsored or was associated with 90 lecture or advisory visits abroad by British experts in medicine, science, education and the arts.

B.R.A. Homes Limited.

(Sponsored by the British Rheumatic Association.)

Bracken Hill House.

Northwood, Middlesex.

For Rheumatic Sufferers.

ITS AIM

is to prevent permanent crippling through delay in obtaining up-to-date diagnosis and treatment. Arrangements have been made for this service to be carried out through the National Health Service under the direction of the Consultant in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Mount Vernon Hospital, Northwood.

Why a Hostel for Rheumatic Sufferers is Urgently Needed.

1. Because unless serious rheumatic conditions can be treated without delay the victims are often disabled for life.
2. Because 60 per cent. of existing cases can be "cured, checked or ameliorated" if the proved results of recent research were made available to all.
3. Because a hostel, giving care and maintenance near to the hospital, would enable men and women from any part of the country to receive up-to-date diagnosis and treatment.
4. Because involuntary absenteeism from rheumatism forms one of the heaviest taxes on industry and also results in serious loss of earnings.

The FINANCE of Bracken Hill House.

Maintenance charges, inclusive of nursing supervision, domestic services, board, use of grounds and all amenities:—

	£	s.	d.
Single rooms	9	9	0 p.w.
2-bedded rooms	7	7	0 p.w.
Dormitories, 3-5 beds ...	5	5	0 p.w.

These charges can be met:—

- (a) By the employing firm's Personnel Welfare Fund,
- (b) From a Benevolent or similar fund,
- (c) By the patient,
- (d) By grants from the patient's insurance company.

Where a covenant of £250 per annum is provided, the Association will use its best endeavours to provide priority of admission and free use of a bed for a firm's employee during the life of the covenant.

Diagnostic and treatment facilities are provided free under the National Health Service at Mount Vernon Hospital, Northwood. Some patients may need 8 to 12 weeks' treatment; others, whose doctors wish for an up-to-date diagnosis and plan of treatment with facilities for subsequent consultation, will stay at Bracken Hill for about a week on each occasion. This will enable a considerable number to benefit from the use of any one bed during the course of a year.

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