

WITH COMPLIMENTS FROM

National Spastics Society

28 FITZROY SQUARE, LONDON, W.1 EUSTON 5651

WILFRED PICKLES OPENS SPASTICS SCHOOL

The first special school in the Eastern Midlands for spastic children, the Wilfred Pickles School, Tixover Grange, Duddington, near Stamford, Lincs, was officially opened today Thursday October 20 by Wilfred Pickles.

Mr. E.P. Smith, Clerk to the Soke of Peterborough and Chairman of the School Management Committee, presided.

The school which is part of the National Spastics Society's programme to provide educational and treatment facilities for spastic children is in a spacious house and grounds bought by the Society from public subscription. Forty-one children from cities and towns throughout Eastern England are accommodated in the school. Eventually the school will accommodate sixty-five children.

Wilfred Pickles in his opening address referred to the untiring efforts of parents throughout the country to give their children a chance in life. The schools and centres set up with the generous support of all sections of the community were a miracle.

"A wonderful tribute to the courage and determination of these parents." he said. "The re-distribution of income and changed pattern of earning in this country since the war has meant that the man in the street is in a far better position to help charities than ever before." he said.

He hoped all would continue to 'have a go' in helping spastics by using the Society's Christmas seals which he had sent to schools, shops, offices, and factories throughout the country.

Patrons:

Rt. Hon. Lord Aldenham
The Marchioness of Carisbrooke, G.B.E.
The Countess of Derby
Dr. Somerville Hastings, M.B., M.S., F.R.C.P., M.P.
Rt. Hon. Antony Head, C.B.E., M.C., M.P.
Dr. Rt. Hon. Charles Hill, M.A., M.D., LL.D., M.P.
Rt. Hon. Viscount Kilmuir, G.C.V.O.
Rt. Hon. Viscount Knollys, G.C.M.G., M.B.E., D.F.C.
The Rt. Rev. The Lord Bishop of London
Christopher P. Mayhew, Esq., M.P.
Cwen, Lady Melbett
Rt. Hon. Herbert Morrison, C.H., M.P.

The Marchioness of Northampton
Wilfred Pickles, Esq., O.B.E.
The Very Rev. The Chief Rabbi Israel Brodie, B.A.
The Marquess of Reading, C.B.E., Q.C.
His Eminence The Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster
Marie, Marchioness of Willingdon, C.I., G.B.E., LL.D.

Vice-Presidents:

J. Cecil Hubbard, Esq.
P. B. Lucas, Esq., D.S.O., D.F.C., M.P.
Dr. Sydney Northcote, D.Mus.
The Lady Rossmore, M.D.
J. Leslie Williams, Esq.

Chairman:

I. D. Dawson Shepherd, Esq.

Hon. Treasurer:

A. Meira, Esq., A.R.I.B.A.

Hon. Secretary:

E. Hodgson, Esq., B.Sc.

Director-General:

Commander Ian R. Henderson

The Archdeacon of Oakham, the Rev. E.M. Millard, M.A., asked a blessing, and offered a prayer specially written for the occasion. Other speakers were, Mrs. S. Swiffen, of Peterborough, the mother of a spastic girl, who welcomed the establishment of the school and spoke of her early efforts to get treatment for her daughter; and Mr. I.D. Dawson Shepherd, Chairman of the Society.

Thanking Wilfred Pickles, Mr. J. Bennett, Director of Education Rutland, said he welcomed the setting up of these special schools by the National Spastics Society which were providing a long felt national need in giving specialised education and treatment for spastic children together with the home atmosphere which was so essential.

Among the guests at the opening were Lord and Lady Exeter, Lord and Lady Gainsborough, the Mayor and Mayoress of Stamford, the Mayoress of Peterborough and representatives from many local, civil, and voluntary organisations.

E N D

WITH COMPLIMENTS FROM

National Spastics Society

28 FITZROY SQUARE, LONDON, W.1 EUSTON 5651

TEXT OF SPEECH BY WILFRED PICKLES AT THE OPENING OF
THE WILFRED PICKLES SCHOOL FOR SPASTICS AT TIXOVER
GRANGE, DUDDINGTON, NEAR STAMFORD, ON THURSDAY,
OCTOBER 20.

Mr. Pickles said:-

"This is a very great day for me, and one which, in a life of not a few exciting moments, is, I feel, one of the most exciting.

I am only too conscious of the great honour the National Spastics Society has paid me by inviting me to come here today to open and name this very wonderful school. Wonderful because of the chance it is giving to these children to play a far more active part in life than would otherwise be possible.

To all parents, the most important person in the world is their child -- their John or Joan -- but how much more important is a child who is born with only half a birthright. A child who in most cases has an active, lively and intelligent mind -- thirsting to learn and understand life but imprisoned in a crippled body -- often so badly handicapped that he cannot even do the normal, simple, every day acts that we take for granted.

I have met many disabled men, women and children, in Britain, and one thing about all of them has always impressed me -- their courage. Not only the courage that helps them to bear pain and to smile through it -- but that deeper stronger courage -- the courage of the spirit. The courage that gives people the will to keep in the stream

Patrons:

Rt. Hon. Lord Aldenham
The Marchioness of Carisbrooke, G.B.E.
The Countess of Derby
Dr. Somerville Hastings, M.B., M.S., F.R.C.P., M.P.
Rt. Hon. Antony Head, C.B.E., M.C., M.P.
Dr. Rt. Hon. Charles Hill, M.A., M.D., LL.D., M.P.
Rt. Hon. Viscount Kilmuir, G.C.V.O.
Rt. Hon. Viscount Knollys, G.C.M.G., M.B.E., D.F.C.
The Rt. Rev. The Lord Bishop of London
Christopher P. Mayhew, Esq., M.P.
Gwen, Lady Melchett
Rt. Hon. Herbert Morrison, C.H., M.P.

The Marchioness of Northampton
Wilfred Pickles, Esq., O.B.E.
The Very Rev. The Chief Rabbi Israel Brodie, B.A.
The Marquess of Reading, C.B.E., Q.C.
His Eminence The Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster
Marie, Marchioness of Willingdon, C.I., G.B.E., LL.D.

Vice-Presidents:

J. Clegg Hubbard, Esq.
P. B. Lucas, Esq., D.S.O., D.F.C., M.P.
Dr. Sydney Northcote, D.M.S.
The Lady Ramaden, M.D.
J. Leslie Williams, Esq.

Chairman:

I. D. Dawson Shepherd, Esq.

Hon. Treasurer:

A. Meira, Esq., A.R.I.B.A.

Hon. Secretary:

E. Hodgson, Esq., B.Sc.

Director-General:

Commander Ian R. Henderson

of life -- even in the face of impossible odds. It is a faith that is inspiring.

And spastics have this courage and faith just as strongly. And when it is backed up with the same degree of courage and determination as it is by their parents, it is not hard to understand why these parents have fought, so untiringly, for their children. Have fought to give them an opportunity to receive the vital treatment, education, and training that is their right.

When we remember that it was not until some ten years ago that treatment for spastics was first introduced, at a time when few facilities existed, I think what these parents have achieved since the Society began four years ago, is nothing short of a miracle. Groups of parents have set up treatment centres, schools and homes. A wonderful tribute to their courage and determination. But there is still such a long way to go before all these children and adults can have all the facilities they need. There is a waiting list already for this school.

I have had the privilege since the Society was formed, of sharing and helping in this wonderful work, and so have millions of people throughout the land who have given their sympathy and interest and generous support.

I understand that at this school are a number of children from Yorkshire -- you can't keep Yorkshire out of anything -- but it doesn't really matter where

they come from, what matters is that they now have the chance of going to this school and being helped to take their place in life. Later, when you have not the children and seen them in class receiving therapy, all of you will, I feel sure, understand how vitally important is the need this school and the others are filling.

The most important function of education is that it equips the individual with the ability to take his place in life. It is a means to an end, the end being a full life in which the individual feels himself to be of use, both to himself and to the community. That is what this school will do for these children. But unlike the normal child who when he leaves school or college, goes out to take his place in the world, for many spastics this school is only one stage in a long process of achieving independence. For treatment and training must continue for a long, long time for many of them.

I think many of you will probably know a certain phrase which I use in my radio programmes, it is "Go on, have a go." Well, with all due modesty, I think it could well be the motto of this school. I do not know how it would sound in Latin, but certainly I think it typifies the spirit of spastics. For they are always ready to "Have a go" and I make no apologies for inviting you all to share in helping them to do so.

The redistribution of income and changed pattern of earning in this country since the war, has meant that the

man in the street is in a far better position to help charities than ever before. Indeed, one of the most heartening aspects of our work is the widespread readiness of all sections of the community to support us so generously.

Some of you will have noticed the posters asking you to use Christmas seals. There are plenty of these for everyone -- 160 million in fact. And I have sent these out with a letter to schools -- yes, even the schoolchildren are helping us -- shops, offices and factories, all over the country. So I hope after today, you will all "have a go" at using these seals, because it is your donations which have made this school possible and which are going to help us build others.

In years to come, I know I shall be very proud to meet a young boy or girl who says "I went to the Wilfred Pickles school".

It is with the greatest pleasure and confidence in the future, and the blessings it will give, that I now declare the school officially open and extend my good wishes to all concerned with it and the fine work it is doing.

E N D

WITH COMPLIMENTS FROM

National Spastics Society

28 FITZROY SQUARE, LONDON, W.1 EUSTon 5651

TEXT OF MRS. SWIFFEN'S SPEECH, WHO IS A PARENT, AT
THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE WILFRED PICKLES SCHOOL
FOR SPASTICS, TIXOVER GRANGE, DUDDINGTON, near
STAMFORD. ON THURSDAY OCTOBER 20.

Mrs. Swiffen said:-

My little daughter is a spastic. I wonder how many people can know the heart-ache that parents have when they are first told this? Can I just say briefly how it has affected me, as a mother when my husband and I were first told 'Your child will never walk.'

At six years old she was still unable to do so, or talk. Ann was refused admission to one school at the age of five years because we were told she was too badly handicapped. My husband and I visited faith healers and every place where we hoped she would get help. After travelling to London three times a week for a period of over six years for treatment at a famous childrens' hospital and also to a local clinic twice a week for speech therapy, Ann is now able to walk and talk, if not perfectly, at least she is now able to be independent in many ways.

As I began to see the improvement in Ann's physical condition and realised there were other children in our town suffering in the same way and receiving no treatment whatever -- I began to feel that what had been done for my own little one could be done for others.

With this in mind I paid a visit to our County Medical Officer and after a talk with him, I was able to

Patrons:

Rt. Hon. Lord Aldenham
The Marchioness of Carisbrooke, C.B.E.
The Countess of Derby
Dr. Somerville Hastings, M.B., M.S., F.R.C.P., M.P.
Rt. Hon. Antony Head, C.B.E., M.C., M.P.
Dr. Rt. Hon. Charles Hill, M.A., M.D., LL.D., M.P.
Rt. Hon. Viscount Kilmauir, G.C.V.O.
Rt. Hon. Viscount Knollys, G.C.M.G., M.B.E., D.F.C.
The Rt. Rev. The Lord Bishop of London
Christopher P. Mayhew, Esq., M.P.
Gwen, Lady Melchett
Rt. Hon. Herbert Morrison, C.E., M.P.

The Marchioness of Northampton
Wilfred Pickles, Esq., O.B.E.
The Very Rev. The Chief Rabbi Israel Brodie, B.A.
The Marquess of Reading, C.B.E., Q.C.
His Eminence The Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster
Marie, Marchioness of Willington, C.I., G.B.E., LL.D.

Vice-Presidents:

J. Cloon Hubbard, Esq.
P. B. Lucas, Esq., D.S.O., D.F.C., M.P.
Dr. Sydney Northcote, D.M.S.
The Lady Rosendon, M.D.
J. Leslie Williams, Esq.

Chairman:

I. D. Dawson Shepherd, Esq.

Hon. Treasurer:

A. Meira, Esq., A.R.I.B.A.

Hon. Secretary:

E. Hodgson, Esq., B.Sc.

Director-General:

Commander Ian R. Henderson

contact a few parents of our local spastic children. In October 1953 we had a small meeting at my home, and from this our Local Group was formed.

We were determined that our children should have treatment and education, and we set about raising funds for a small clinic or room where this could be obtained. However, at the end of our first year we heard vague rumours about Tixover Grange so felt all our efforts could now be for this school.

I am most happy today to be able to tell you that we have eight children from Peterborough attending here where they will receive the treatment that is so vitally important to them, under skilled supervision and in addition, education from teachers who have been specially trained for this work.

Can anyone imagine how we parents feel, knowing that our children are now going to get their chance in life and to be helped to overcome their handicap so that, as far as possible, they will lead a normal active life. This great feeling of relief comes after years of anxiety wondering what was to become of our children -- what the future held -- what would happen when the parents had gone -- it seemed all so hopeless. We now face the future, for our children with confidence and hope.

I will conclude by saying how very happy I am today to say that my own little one is a pupil at this lovely School.

E N D

WITH COMPLIMENTS FROM

National Spastics Society

28 FITZROY SQUARE, LONDON, W.1 EUSt:en 5651

TEXT OF MR. I.D. DAWSON SHEPHERD'S SPEECH, CHAIRMAN
OF THE NATIONAL SPASTICS SOCIETY, AT THE OPENING OF
WILFRED PICKLES SCHOOL FOR SPASTICS, TIXOVER GRANGE,
DUDDINGTON, near STAMFORD on THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20.

Mr. Dawson Shepherd said:

I am very proud to be at the opening of this school. Proud for two reasons. First: because it bears the name of that very hardworking man who has I think done more to make the spastics problem known in Britain than anyone else in the country.

The Wilfred Pickles school therefore starts on the right foot by borrowing an illustrious name. And if I know anything about such schools it will keep on borrowing good things for the rest of its long life. But each year it will pay back in a wonderful form of interest new hope, for new lives.

The second reason is that this school is a triumph of faith. Had we of the National Spastics Society listened to advice this school would not exist today. When we first planned it we as a Society were well aware of the need. But we were warned by the Ministry of Education that we must set the school up at our own risk as it was not likely that we would be able to fill it.

They said that spastic children were being adequately cared for -- except for the small number of children whose parents would not allow them the chance of going to a residential school where they could get proper treatment.

Petrons:

Rt. Hon. Lord Aldenham
The Marchioness of Carisbrooke, C.B.E.
The Countess of Derby
Dr. Somerville Hastings, M.B., M.S., F.R.C.P., M.P.
Rt. Hon. Antony Head, C.B.E., M.C., M.P.
Dr. Rt. Hon. Charles Hill, M.A., M.D., LL.D., M.P.
Rt. Hon. Viscount Kilmuir, G.C.V.O.
Rt. Hon. Viscount Knollys, G.C.M.G., M.B.E., D.F.C.
The Rt. Rev. The Lord Bishop of London
Christopher P. Mayhew, Esq., M.P.
Gwen, Lady Melchett
Rt. Hon. Herbert Morrison, C.H., M.P.

The Marchioness of Northampton
Wilfred Pickles, Esq., O.B.E.
The Very Rev. The Chief Rabbi Israel Brodie, B.A.
The Marquess of Reading, C.B.E., Q.C.
His Eminence The Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster
Marie, Marchioness of Willingdon, C.I., C.B.E., LL.D.

Vice-Presidents:

J. Clean Hubbard, Esq.
P. B. Lucas, Esq., D.S.O., D.F.C., M.P.
Dr. Sydney Northcote, D.Mus.
The Lady Ramsden, M.D.
J. Leslie Williams, Esq.

Chairman:

I. D. Dawson Shepherd, Esq.

Hon. Treasurer:

A. Meira, Esq., A.R.I.B.A.

Hon. Secretary:

E. Hodgson, Esq., B.Sc.

Director-General:

Commander Ian R. Henderson

Unfortunately WE have been proved right. The numbers of applicants for the school has been great. As you have heard there is a waiting list. How I hate these waiting lists! To some people a child on a waiting list is just another name. But here the child is waiting for its one big chance in life. You can imagine the anxiety of the parents, the hopes and fears, the long, long, wait as they see their child growing older and not getting the all round treatment it needs.

Yes, this school will soon be full up. So we need not only this school but others. For I must stress that this problem of spastic children is greater than many people are prepared to admit. We are doing our best to cope with it. I am glad to say that our new schools near Cardiff and in Kent, are both proving their worth. And I am most moved by the splendid way local education authorities have helped and supported us.

But this is only the beginning. Since 1952 when the Society was born as a small group of anxious parents prepared to fight for their children's future, much has happened. Over 20 local treatment centres and schools, three residential schools, a residential centre for adults, have been set up. And we have the buildings for three more residential training centres for adults. In addition we have started an extensive medical research programme.

This has all been made possible by the wonderful generosity of about ten million people. Yes, I mean that. Over ten million! Our wealth -- and don't mistake me, there is precious little left this month because it is almost all gone in buildings, treatment, schooling, and so on --

Our wealth comes from pennies and tanners and bobs and half-crowns. We occasionally get a beautiful windfall -- like a thousand pound cheque from Mr. Rank, or a gift of ten thousand from Mr. Delarue -- but really the real big money comes from people, the mums and dads who can understand what it would be like to have a crippled child; the school kids -- especially the school girls who get out Christmas seals in such amazing quantities -- the young folk and the old age pensioners with big hearts. The people -- yes, just the sort of cheerful people you hear singing "Have a go, Joe" on Wilfred's programme.

Last year they gave us £250,000 for the Christmas seals we sent them. This year our target is another £250,000. And -- well, I am giving away no secrets when I say that we have got off to a good start. I pray that it continues. We need every blessed penny. Because we parents of spastic children are not going to stop work until this terrible problem has been brought under control.

E N D