



'RAPHAEL'

NEWSLETTER OF THE RYDER-CHESHIRE FOUNDATION (VICTORIA)

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MISS JOSEPHINE COLLINS' ACCOUNT OF HER RECENT TRIP TO INDIA.

We have been fortunate over the past year to have had a busy two-way traffic between 'Raphael' and Australia - Mr. John Martyn, whom many of you will have heard during his 3 months' visit here, and who has featured in the last two issues of 'Raphael'; Anne Young, our now quite famous nurse/secretary, who had a busy two months in Melbourne. Now, Mary Vaughan, our Physio-therapist, has just arrived home as I write, and I returned this week after ten weeks in India.

For me, the trip had a two-fold purpose: firstly, to visit Hazaribagh, the centre of the Australian Jesuit Mission in India, and the last resting place of my Jesuit brother, who died there in 1963. The other purpose, to spend some time at 'Raphael', doing a little office work, meeting the staff and patients, and forging a closer link and liaison between 'Raphael' and Australia.

I arrived in Delhi on 13th November, and was met by Mr. Martyn, with whom I drove the 150 miles to Dehra Dun. The five years since my last visit seemed to have flashed by, but I realised them fully when I saw the progress that has been made at 'Raphael' in that time. All of you who have known of Mrs. Ava Dhar will understand that she is still sadly missed, and this was perhaps my first impression; but her memory is held dear, and her spirit is still very much alive at 'Raphael'.

I was warmly welcomed by Matron Joan Usher, who despite illness soon after her arrival, and the innumerable problems with which she has had to cope, has achieved an extraordinary amount, and is now the much loved and deeply admired "Burra Memsahib".

Mary Vaughan was still there for most of my stay and had proved herself one of the most adaptable and versatile of volunteers. Through the many ups and downs of her time at 'Raphael', she has turned her hand to office work, even teaching herself typing as she went along - nursing, and anything else needing to

be done. I saw her rolling bandages to make her own plaster casts, developing films in the dark room and daily teaching her half dozen "lep ladies", embroidery. These table mats that they are making will be coming to Australia for sale among the groups - in fact, already the first batch has been sold.

Taking over the "lep ladies" from Mary is Shona Sutherland, a volunteer and trained nurse from New Zealand. Although the 'newest' volunteer to 'Raphael', Shona is no newcomer to India, as she was born but a few miles from Dehra Dun, and is now doing her second term as a volunteer in the country. She had been for two years working in a children's centre in the slums of Madras. Shona is one of the two nurses at present working shift duty in the hospital, and is always happy to help in any way during her off-duty hours - hence the embroidery classes and also a warm hearted interest in the welfare of the children in the Little White House.

The other nurse in the Hospital is Mrs. Denis, an Indian lady living in Dehra Dun with her husband and family. It is hoped that the vacancy for another nurse will be filled by an Indian.

Also a New Zealander is Philippa Mansfield, trained nurse, but again one of the adaptable ones, as during a crisis in the office, she took over as Secretary, and has done such a magnificent job that nobody wants her to relinquish it, and I am not sure that she wants to anyway! Many of our sponsors, I know, will hope that she is writing the letters for as long as she is at 'Raphael'.

To add some variety and humor at the dining table, we have our Irish volunteer (who, as she is quick to tell you, is really a 'Dooley girl'), Dorothy Huggard. Dorothy, another nurse, works full time in the mental unit, but despite what sometimes must be a depressing and heart rending job, invariably has an amusing story to relate in her own inimitable Irish brogue.

Pamela Holt, our young Indianaid volunteer from Adelaide, with a quiet sense of humour and that rare quality of being able to get on with almost everybody, spends most of her time with the children in the Little White House, coping with everything from missing buttons to their problems at school. When she is not down there, she may be found in her room, perhaps surrounded by children and supervising letter writing, or straining her eyes over the sewing machine, making pantees out of old dresses, or patchwork quilts out of ???...!

Last on our list of volunteers, but by no means least, is Mrs. Betty Beckett, an English widow, who having launched her only son onto the world, came to India determined to work with leprosy patients. She found herself eventually at Raphael, 18 months ago, and has set no limit on her time there. Betty is completely devoted to her rather large brood - 120 in 'Raphael', and countless numbers in small communities of lepers living in and around Dehra Dun. A familiar sight is Betty, slim and well groomed, haversack over her shoulder,

scooting off on her Honda to dole out tablets or to dress ulcerated hands and feet. She is the one, too, who supervises the poultry farm, carpentry shop, spinning and weaving and even the vegetable gardens. Perhaps her happiest day during my sojourn was the one on which the ayahs first donned their overalls - all made in 'Raphael' Leprosy Colony, starting even with the spinning and the weaving of the cloth.

A question I am often asked in Australia is whether Indians themselves give any assistance to places such as 'Raphael'. I am happy to say that I did see concrete evidence that they do, and 'Raphael' seems to have a special appeal for the young people of the district. One day, a group of girls from the Convent walked into the Matron's office and presented money they had collected during the term. The senior boys from Colonel Brown's School sent a deputation another day with a cheque from their Junior Rotary. The boys from the Doon School, as part of their social welfare activities are to be seen frequently, entertaining the children in the Little White House with cycle rides, swings and slides, as well as piggy backs and races.

My month at 'Raphael' went all too quickly and I would like to have had longer to spend in the various units and with the patients and children. In the Hospital, I remember well, Mr. Grover, who I hope will be writing some news from 'Raphael' for these pages; Bhola, a bright and happy seventeen year old tied to his bed or wheel chair. Lalu, lovable four year old who is in calipers - his favourite thing is school, which he attends each morning at the Little White House.

My lack of Hindi was a distinct disadvantage when in the Leprosy Colony, but we could always exchange smiles and "Nameste" - Hindi greeting. No matter which of the units one enters, they all love visitors - one is surrounded immediately one goes near the mentally retarded children, with bright and smiling Gravie in the foreground, her arms flung around one in a huge bear hug, with six or eight of the others following suit. And, of course, at the Little White House the same warm welcome with even more bear hugs, except, of course, from the older boys.

Amongst other happy memories of my time at Dehra Dun were two days "off". First, a lovely drive up to Mussoorie, the hill station, 5000' above us and twenty-five miles by road, from where one can get the most splendid views of the snow-capped Himalays; the other, to Rishakesh on the Ganges, which has achieved world fame as the proposed venue of the Beatle's "transcendental meditation" - a picturesque and amazing array of ashrams and saffron clad sadhus. And, of course, I shall never forget my participation in a play - Galsworthy's "The Little Man" at the Doon School, and presented by the newly formed Arts Club of Dehra Dun. The "star-studded" cast included six different nationalities.

In February, we have a Physio-therapist from Australia joining the staff at 'Raphael' - Marie Maguire - and she will find work in each of the units. Firstly, though, she and Betty will do a short course at Purulia Leprosy Mission Hospital in West Bengal, founded in 1890 by the British Leprosy Mission. I had the privilege of visiting Purulia, seeing all over it and meeting many members of the staff. It is in a large compound, in which much of the natural growth has been left, and the general impression is one of expanse and peace. Here they are doing a tremendous amount in reconstructive surgery, and rehabilitation of leprosy patients, and I am sure it will be of great advantage to 'Raphael' for Betty and Marie to have a few weeks training there. Purulia is about half way between Burnpur and Jamshedpur, two of the largest industrial centres in India, and where two of the Indian Cheshire Homes are located. The newer one at Burnpur is for crippled girls, the other for crippled children, and at both of these I was able to meet the patients, staff and committees.

Christmas and New Year were spent with the Australians at Hazaribagh and from there I was able to travel through much of Bihar, and saw the results of the combined efforts of many organisations - Government and voluntary, Indian and foreign - the godowns, the wells, agricultural equipment and vehicles, permanent medical and relief centres established in many parts of the State and Food for Work programmes continuing. In a lonely and remote corner of the State, I saw the work of two Indianaid volunteers, young Australians who have worked for two years converting what was barren land into rich food producing crops. Here, the point is being well taken that hand-outs are not acceptable to either donor or recipient, and special stress is being laid on proving by example.

As I was flying home from Madras, I decided to take the opportunity of spending a little time in the South, more particularly to see some of the Cheshire Homes down there, and to meet some of the people who are planning to open new ones. With Mr. and Mrs. John Eva, long associated with Group Captain and Mrs. Cheshire's work in Madras, and Mr. John Martyn, I spent a very memorable day at Covelong, the Cheshire Home, 25 miles South of Madras, right on the sea, and probably the most picturesque setting of any Cheshire Home. The patients here are of all ages and types of chronic sick, but there - as in all Cheshire Homes I have visited - there was a warm and friendly atmosphere that was immediately apparent.

I saw, too, 'Gabriel' - the Ryder-Cheshire Rehabilitation Centre recently opened in Madras. There are at present nine young men, victims of leprosy, polio or accident, who are now being trained in this sheltered workshop, and more will be admitted shortly. And at Katpadi, 80 odd miles West of Madras and near Vellore, is Vishranthi Illam, the Cheshire Home for Leprosy patients, with 3 sections: men's, women's and the very fine Industrial Workshop opened in 1967. Here, there is a very close liaison with the Christian Medical Hospital and College, where such wonderful research into leprosy is being done, where reconstructive surgery was pioneered, and where the rehabilitation of leprosy patients

is the prime factor.

Looking back over the kaleidoscope of ten busy weeks in India, what do I now feel and remember a wider knowledge and, I hope, understanding of the depth and breadth of the work of Group Captain Cheshire and Sue Ryder, a deep appreciation of the warm welcome and infinite kindness I received everywhere from 'Raphael' through Bihar and West Bengal, to Madras and Cape Cormorin and, of course, the never-to-be-forgotten experience of seeing both sunset and sunrise at the Cape, a certain pride as an Australian to see what is being done by Australian Missionaries and Volunteers in India, and certainly the poignant realisation of how much more there is waiting to be done by those of us who are at home.

NEWS FROM SUPPORT GROUPS

MELBOURNE:

Voted a success both socially and financially was the "Beer and Curry Night" held by the Melbourne Support Group in October. We hope that the Family Picnic Day and the Theatre Night planned for early 1968, will be as enjoyable.

Our good wishes are extended to Miss Patricia Daniel on her engagement and appreciation is expressed for her work as former Secretary of the Group.

Congratulations to the President, Mr. Nick Byrne and his wife on the arrival of their son - Anthony Nicholas. And Bon Voyage to Mr. Bill Galbraith who left recently to spend twelve months overseas.

GIPPSLAND:

At the moment, the Gippsland Support Group is busy organising its Annual Dinner-Dance in support of 'Raphael'. Planned for Saturday, June 22nd, the function will be again held in Shaw's Ballroom, George Street, Moe.

Through the good offices of Mr. J. C. M. Balfour, M. L. A., Minister for Fuel and Power, three representatives from the Office of the High Commissioner for India, will be in attendance. The price of the function will be \$10 a double, and includes a four-course dinner, plus ale and wines.

The Committee is hopeful of seeing upwards of 300 Gippslanders at the Dinner-Dance. It is also planned to seek the attendance of some Indian students studying in Melbourne, who would be willing to oblige with an exhibition of traditional Indian music and dancing.

During the latter part of 1967, the Group made good use of the Photo-

graphic Display of India and 'Raphael'. Business and commercial premises in Moe, Yallourn and Morwell kindly allowed the display to be exhibited in central parts of these towns, and by this means the public came into contact with the work of the Group. Also the film: 'Share Thy Bread' was used in Gippsland secondary schools for post-examination screening.

Recently the Group suffered the loss of its capable Secretary, Graham Marshall, when he received a Melbourne promotion in his employment. While we wish Graham well, for the future, we are sorry to be losing from Gippsland such a keen worker for 'Raphael'.

So far this financial year, the Group has raised well over \$1,100 for 'Raphael'. Many organisations and individuals have taken the cause of 'Raphael' to heart. In particular, the Committee wishes to thank these organisations :-

The Moe Apex Club.

The Hazelwood Construction Group.

The C. W. S. G. , Morwell.

Kelly Bros. Social Club, Morwell.

The Students of Moe High School.

The Students Representative Council, Trafalgar High School.

Roland Hill Pty. Ltd. , Traralgon

The Students of Presentation College, Moe.

The Students of St. Kieran's Primary School, Moe.

The individuals giving large amounts and small are too numerous to name but to all of them, the Committee extends a sincere "Thank You" on behalf of 'Raphael'.

BALLARAT:

The Annual Meeting of the Ballarat Branch was held at Ballarat College on the night of 20th June, 1967. The following members were elected to the Committee :

President: John A. Hurley, Esq.

Vice President: Brian Colbert, Esq.

Hon. Secretary: Miss Mary Murphy

Hon. Treasurer: B. Lloyd, Esq.

Ass. Hon. Treasurer: R. Williams, Esq.

Committee: Sister A. McLean, Messrs. A. Brandenburg,
R. G. Dobson, S. Crawford, W. Fogarty,
E. McLenehan, A. Scott, R. Horner.

The speaker for the evening was Mrs. D. Sarah, who, with her husband, had visited 'Raphael' during the year. Mrs. Sarah gave a wonderfully interesting account of her impressions of 'Raphael' and showed slides which she had taken there.

During the year, the sum of \$3,033.30 was raised and remitted to Melbourne.

This is an increase of \$300 over the preceding year. At present, the Branch has a total of 37 adoptions and 2 bed endowments

Various functions were held during the year, notably a charity night at the Ballarat National Theatre, at which PYGMALION was performed and a charity day at Dowling Forest Race Course. From both these functions we received a total of \$187.

We were also the recipients of a most generous gift of \$500 from Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Gleeson of "Kildara", Kariah, via Camperdown.

At present, the whole of our area is in the grip of the worst drought in living memory, and it is bound to have an effect on our income for the ensuing year.

All Committee meetings during the year were well attended and the Branch is very active.

RISPANA: (DONCASTER)

The Rispana Support Group is holding a dinner-dance at Hunters Lodge, Dorset Road, Croydon, on Friday, 29th March, and would welcome any supporters of the Foundation who would like to attend. Ticket Secretaries are Mrs. B. Hamilton (848-1030) and Mr. P. Hewitt (848-1026), and the cost of the evening is \$10 per double ticket.

USED CLOTHING FOR INDIA

Matron Usher and Miss Philippa Mansfield at 'Raphael' have both written praising our gifts of clothing, and stating that these consignments are vitally important. The patients could use more than we send, particularly blankets and clean, old linen (sheets, pillow cases, etc.), which are invaluable where there are so many incontinent patients.

Suitable clothing needed is for:-

Men: Overcoats, sportscoats, shorts, trousers, pullovers and shirts.

Women: Overcoats, cardigans, jumpers and blouses.

Any type of children's clothing, except nylon underwear, is in constant demand.

Swimming costumes, foundation garments, hats, gloves, socks, and shoes are unsuitable.

Goods, preferably clean, folded and mended, may be consigned to Mrs. J. W. Arundell, Ryder-Cheshire Foundation (Victoria), C/- Ormond Railway Station, free of cost. A letter should be sent to 409 North Road, South Caulfield, 3162, stating date of despatch and care should be taken to tie the boxes very firmly.

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

This is the fourth edition of 'Raphael' in its new format. Twelve months ago, we had hopes of registering the newsletter with the Post Office as a periodical, thus saving a considerable amount in postage. In order to do this, a number of conditions had to be fulfilled, one of which was that the newsletter had to be published at least four times a year. This was the main reason that we decided to publish it quarterly.

Unfortunately, we have now found that it will be impossible for us to register the newsletter, because we will not be able to fulfil the requirements of the Post Office in relation to membership of the Foundation. While it would be possible to meet these requirements by centralising our records and setting up a formal subscription system, this is not practicable at present. We must, therefore, give up the idea of registering 'Raphael' as a periodical and hence, we must review the whole basis on which it is issued.

Our present thinking is that the expenditure of approximately \$600 per year on four issues of the newsletter (made up of about \$400 for printing and \$200 for postage) is not worthwhile, when we consider that every dollar spent on the newsletter is a dollar which cannot be sent to India. However, we do think we must have some means of keeping in touch with our supporters and friends, and a regular newsletter seems the best way. In the circumstances, therefore, we propose to issue the newsletter twice a year, in June and December, which will save us some \$300 per year.

The Hon. Secretary would, however, like to hear the views of our readers before we make a firm decision.