



'RAPHAEL'

NEWSLETTER OF

THE RYDER-CHESHIRE FOUNDATION (VICTORIA)

Vol. 3 No. 1

JUNE, 1968

Price 10¢.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation (Victoria) will be held at the rooms of the English-Speaking Union, 146 West Toorak Road, South Yarra, at 8.00 p. m. on Monday 15 July, 1968. All members and supporters of the Foundation are cordially invited to attend.

BUSINESS

To receive and consider the Chairman's Report for the year ended 31 May 1968, and the Treasurer's Financial Statements for the year ended 31 May 1968.

To consider and, if approved, adopt, a revised Constitution for the Foundation.

To elect Office-bearers for the year beginning 1 June 1968.

Any other business.

At the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting, an address will be given by Mrs. P. Brooks on the work of Mrs. Sue Ryder Cheshire - the Forgotten Allies Trust. Mrs. Cheshire has, ever since the end of the Second World War, worked for the survivors of the Nazi concentration camps in both West and East Europe. Mrs. Brooks is well qualified to speak on this subject, as she has been a close associate of Mrs. Cheshire for the last three years.

Supper will be served after Mrs. Brooks' address.

J. Graham
Hon. Secretary

(The revised Constitution of the Foundation, which will be submitted to the Annual Meeting is printed in this edition of 'RAPHAEL'.)

LEPROSY

Leprosy! A frightening word which conjures up in one's mind a picture of mutilation and deformity; of a beggar clanging his bell and shouting 'Unclean! Unclean!' while a passer-by throws a coin as far as he can, in order to avoid contamination.

The Persians refer to them as 'The Avoided Ones'; in Egypt it was called the 'Death before Death', while in India it was referred to as 'A curse of the Gods'. In the early part of this century, even in U.S.A., a man was allowed to die of exposure and starvation alone in a cattle truck, because of fear of this disease.

Combined with fear were myths and superstition. It was an Asian belief that if a person suffering from Leprosy died naturally, his disease would be passed on to other members of his family. Whereas, if he were buried alive, the Leprosy did not escape from him until after death. In Africa, there were people who believed that you could catch Leprosy from being rude to a sacred crocodile.

The disease was known before the Christian era in Egypt, parts of Africa, China and India. Pompey's army returning from the East brought the disease into Italy. The Roman troops took it to Spain; it spread along the Trade Routes until hardly a corner of the world escaped.

This is the unpalatable past, but how many of us ever stop to think where one's own personal fear first arose? Did we not first absorb these ideas as young and impressionable children when we were learning our first Bible stories? Having absorbed these fears at such an early age, are they not all the more difficult to eradicate? The truth may be hard to appreciate. A large variety of skin diseases known today can be readily recognised from the descriptions given in Leviticus Chapter 13 and 14, but Leprosy as we know it today, is not one of them. It is now thought that a word denoting unworthiness, uncleanness, or a type of sin was translated as Leprosy. In fact, it is a disease like many others known to man and we should think of it as such, and not a thing apart. In modern treatment, it is believed that the patients should be integrated in Hospitals as it happens with any other patient.

The history of Leprosy has been studded with many famous names:- Father Damien, Danielssen, Hansen, Cochrane and Brand, to name a few. Their work has been exciting and rewarding. Now we can look into the future full of hope and anticipation. There are drugs with which to fight the disease, the surgeon's knife can give fresh use to helpless limbs, protect eyes and correct deformities, while the feet can be protected with special footwear. But in spite of this,

there is no room for complacency and much remains to be done.

By now, the reader must be saying to himself: 'What has this to do with 'RAPHAEL'? So much can be done for these patients. What are the problems and why do they need so much attention? The answer is that there is much more to be done than ever before. The possibilities are there and they must be made use of. For many of the older patients, there is little we can do - the disease has ravaged the human body and all that can be done is to help their disabilities and make their lives as happy as possible in the unfortunate circumstances. Many of the patients have no fingers, their faces cannot be seen without their complaint being obvious to everyone. They are shunned by society and tragically also by those who are near and dear to them. If they were not being cared for, they would have no choice except to earn a precarious life by begging.

Now there are younger people who are coming to 'RAPHAEL'. The disease is less obvious and with the right treatment, they need never know the horror of a bygone age, and their lives can have purpose, usefulness and dignity. These patients are a challenge to us and their need is urgent. We can teach them to look after their limbs, which need never be deformed. They can learn to work and find interest in their lives, and in some cases, they may even be able to return to the outside world, instead of living like animals in a cage. The patients who are being cared for at 'RAPHAEL' are simple Hill People; their wants are few and they have a child-like faith in those who are trying to help them, and they easily find happiness. Their biggest problem is ignorance and here we can do much to help them.

Amongst the people who have come to 'RAPHAEL' during the last year, was a woman who told us how she had lived for nearly a year in a coal shed, because her family would not allow her into the house. Another case was a young man who was in tears when he described his wife and family, to whom he was very attached, but to whom the people in the village would not allow him to return.

These are not exceptional cases. Most people in the Colony could tell of similar stories, and are still attached to their husbands and wives they have left behind. Like other people in trouble, they have found their solution and most of them have formed an attachment to another member of the opposite sex, with whom they live and share their problems.

Recently, two members of the staff, Marie Maguire, Physiotherapist, and Betty Beckett, visited Purulia and stayed at the Hospital there run by the 'Mission to Leprosy'. This hospital in West Bengal consists of many buildings in a large compound surrounded by beautiful trees, and is an inspiration to anyone visiting the area. The atmosphere gives a feeling of purpose and hope for the future. No longer are patients admitted with the idea of spending the remainder of their lives in limited surroundings; instead, they come with the hope that their symptoms can be cured or relieved and that they can again enter and participate in the outside world. In

order to do this, a Committee has been formed which can discuss their past history, and the work they performed, so that they can be helped when they leave the Hospital.

How much that was learned can be applied to 'RAPHAEL'? Unfortunately, we have no surgical facilities in the district, but there are people at a distance to whom we can turn for help. We are fortunate in having a Physiotherapist and much of the work depends on this. Perhaps some day we shall also be able to return some of our patients into the outside world.

Unfortunately, India is hampered by superstition, and caste problems. The course of Leprosy might have been different if Gandhi had had more time in which to dispel these ideas. To him, the fight for Leprosy was a great cause, and his views were far in advance of his time. To quote his own words;- 'Leprosy work is not merely medical relief; it is transforming the frustration in life with the joy of dedication, personal ambition into selfless service. If you can transform the life of a patient or change his values in life, you can change the village and the country!'

BETTY BECKETT

(In charge of Leprosy Colony)

REVISED CONSTITUTION OF THE RYDER-CHESHIRE FOUNDATION (VICTORIA)
(To be submitted to the Annual General Meeting on 15 July, 1968)

1. NAME: The name of the Foundation shall be 'RYDER-CHESHIRE FOUNDATION (VICTORIA)' hereinafter called 'the Foundation'.
2. AIMS AND OBJECTS: The aims and objects of the Foundation are:-
 - (a) To give financial and/or other support to homes, institutions and hospitals throughout the world, established or maintained or supported by the Ryder-Cheshire Mission for the Relief of Suffering of England - a mission founded by Group Captain Geoffrey Leonard Cheshire, V. C. , D. S. O. , D. F. C. , and his wife, Sue Ryder-Cheshire, O. B. E.
 - (b) To co-operate with the said Geoffrey Leonard Cheshire and Sue Ryder-Cheshire, in the establishment, maintenance and support, financial or otherwise of homes, institutions and hospitals established for the relief of suffering humanity.
 - (c) To do all such things as may be necessary or ancillary to either of the two objects aforesaid.
3. MEMBERSHIP: The following persons shall be members of the Foundation -

- (a) persons who subscribe to the Foundation an amount of not less than \$2 in each financial year of their membership - such members shall be known as 'full members';
- (b) persons, being under the age of 21, or being under the age of 25 and full time students, who subscribe to the Foundation an amount of not less than \$1 in each financial year of their membership - such members shall be known as 'junior members';

Each of the amounts mentioned in this paragraph is referred to herein as 'annual subscription'.

4. Financial Members: Financial members of the Foundation in any financial year shall be those members who have in that financial year paid their respective annual subscriptions.

5. The Council:

(a) Management of the affairs of the Foundation shall be under the control of a Council who may delegate such part of the management as it considers appropriate to an Executive constituted as set out in Paragraph 6.

(b) The Council shall consist of:-

(i) A President, Vice-President, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer, and at least 8 but no more than 16 other members, all of whom are to be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Foundation in each year;

(ii) The liaison Officer in Australia of the Ryder-Cheshire Mission for the Relief of Suffering;

(iii) The Chairman of each official Support Group affiliated with the Foundation.

(c) Elected members of the Council shall take office from the close of the Annual General Meeting at which they were elected and subject to termination of office by resignation or otherwise, shall remain in office until the close of the next following Annual General Meeting. They shall be eligible for re-election.

(d) The Council shall have power to fill any vacancy that may occur.

6. The Executive

(a) The Executive of the Foundation shall consist of the President, Vice President, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer, and two

other members of the Council who shall at the time of their election in accordance with paragraph 5(b) hereof be specifically appointed as members of the Executive by those present at the Annual General Meeting, and the Liaison Officer in Australia of the Ryder-Cheshire Mission for the Relief of Suffering. The Executive may, at its discretion, co-opt up to two additional members of the Council to be members of the Executive.

- (b) The Executive shall exercise only such powers as may be delegated to it by the Council pursuant to paragraph 5 (a).
- (c) The Council shall have power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the Executive by appointing a member of the Council to fill such vacancy.

7. Annual General Meeting: An Annual General Meeting of the Foundation shall be held in each year as soon as possible after 31st May, but not later than 31st July in that year, subject to fourteen days prior notice in writing being given to the members. The following business shall be transacted:-

- (a) To receive and if approved to adopt the President's report and statement of the Foundation's accounts to the end of the preceding financial year.
- (b) To consider and if approved to sanction any alteration to this Constitution.
- (c) To elect the Executive and other members of the Council.
- (d) To appoint an Auditor.
- (e) To deal with any special matter which the Council desires to bring before the members and to receive suggestions from the members for consideration by the Council.

8. General Meetings: General Meetings of the Foundation other than the Annual General Meeting may be held at any time subject to fourteen days prior notice in writing being given to the members; such meetings may be convened by the Council (or shall be convened by the Council upon receipt of a requisition in writing signed by not less than ten financial members specifying the object of the meeting) for any of the following purposes:-

- (a) To further the aims and objects of the Foundation.

- (b) To consider and if approved to sanction any alterations to this Constitution.
 - (c) To deal with any special matter which the Council may desire to place before the members.
 - (d) To deal with any special matter which the members requiring the meetings may desire to place before the members.
9. Voting at General Meetings: At all General Meetings (Annual and otherwise) of the Foundation only financial members may vote.
10. Quorum: A quorum of at least ten members shall be necessary at any General Meeting of the Foundation before any business may be transacted.
11. Chair at Meetings: At Executive Meetings, Council Meetings, and at General Meetings (Annual or otherwise) the President, or in his absence, the Vice-President, shall be Chairman, and in the absence of both the President and Vice-President, the members present shall choose a Chairman for that meeting. The Chairman shall have a second or casting vote, in the event of an equality of votes at any meeting.
12. Financial Year: The financial year of the Foundation shall terminate on 31st May of each year.
13. Council Meetings:
- (a) Meetings of the Council shall be held at such times and places as the President shall decide, but in any event, not less than four times in each financial year.
 - (b) At such meetings a quorum shall consist of eight members of the Council.
 - (c) A simple majority of those voting shall be sufficient to pass any resolution.
 - (d) The President shall call a meeting of the Council if requested to do so by five or more members thereof.
 - (e) Not less than seven days notice in writing shall be given of any Council meetings.
14. Executive Meetings:

- (a) Meetings of the Executive shall be held at such times and places as the President shall decide.
 - (b) At such meetings a quorum shall consist of four members.
 - (c) The proceedings of meetings of the Executive shall be reported to the Council.
 - (d) Not less than seven days notice in writing shall be given of any Executive meeting.
15. Alteration of Constitution: This Constitution may be altered by a resolution passed by three-fourths of those present and voting at a properly convened General Meeting (Annual or otherwise) of the Foundation.
16. Bank Account: The moneys of the Foundation shall be banked in a banking account to be opened at such Bank as the Council shall from time to time direct. All withdrawals from the said account shall be by cheque, which must be signed by any two of the following office-bearers, viz. President, Vice-President, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer.
17. Auditing of Accounts: The accounts of the Foundation shall be audited annually by an Auditor to be appointed at the preceding Annual General Meeting.
18. Duties of Honorary Treasurer: The duties of the Honorary Treasurer shall be:-
- (a) To present a Statement of accounts at all Council and Executive meetings and to prepare financial accounts and a Balance Sheet and present it to the Auditor together with such records as the Auditor shall deem necessary at least fourteen days before the Annual General Meeting;
 - (b) To keep true records of all sums of money received or expended by the Foundation and to retain such vouchers, receipts and other documents as are necessary to show the manner in which such receipts and expenditure took place and to ensure that such records and the statement of property credits and liabilities of the Foundation are open to the inspection of the members of the Council subject to any reasonable restrictions as to the time and place of such inspections, as may be decided from time to time by the Council;

- (c) Carry out all such other duties and exercise all such other rights and powers as the Council may from time to time entrust to or confer upon him.
19. Duties of Honorary Secretary: The duties of the Honorary Secretary shall be:-
- (a) To attend all meetings of the Executive, Council and Foundation and to keep or cause to be kept Minutes of such meetings and a correct record of all resolutions proposed and carried or not carried;
 - (b) To keep the Minute Book or Minute Books of the Executive, Council and Foundation and cause the appropriate Minutes to be entered therein from time to time;
 - (c) To conduct all correspondence on behalf of the Foundation and to cause reports and notices of all proceedings and notices of all meetings to be given or issued in accordance with the directions of the Council. In collaboration with the Honorary Treasurer to collect or cause to be collected all subscriptions, donations, or other moneys paid to or for the purposes of the Foundation and to hand such moneys as are received by the Honorary Secretary from time to time to the Honorary Treasurer;
 - (d) To keep a record of the names and addresses of the members of the Foundation and all donors thereto, together with a note of the date of payment of subscriptions to the Foundation;
 - (e) To carry out such other duties, and to exercise all such other rights and powers as may be conferred on him by the Council from time to time.
20. Sub-Committees: The Council may from time to time appoint sub-Committees from members of the Foundation and allot to such sub-Committees such powers and duties as it may deem appropriate.
21. Newsletter: The Council shall cause to be published a newsletter to be known as 'RAPHAEL'. Issues are to be made quarterly and all copies are to be posted to the private address of members. The price of 10c per issue is included in the annual subscription. 40c per annum from each annual subscription shall be set apart for the newsletter and be separately accounted for in the Annual Balance Sheet and be duly audited.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OF ADOPTIONS SECRETARY

Please note that Mr. Bruce Hamilton's new address is: 49 Stevenson Street, Kew. 3101. Telephone: 86-9736.

FUTURE OF THE NEWSLETTER

In the last issue the proposal to reduce the number of issues of the Newsletter to two per year was reported. However, as representations have been made to retain four issues per year, the Executive Committee has decided that this will be done, while investigating ways in which the cost could be reduced.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual Subscriptions for the year beginning 1st June 1968, are now due. \$2.00 per person entitles you to membership of the Foundation, and you will receive our quarterly newsletter giving information about the work and activities of the Foundation in Australia and overseas. Please return the coupon below with your subscription to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. D. A. Sinclair, 21 Moorwatha Street, Macleod, 3085, or hand it to him at the Annual General Meeting.

To: Mr. D. A. Sinclair

We enclose remittance of \$, being annual subscription to the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation (Victoria) for the following persons :

Name	Address
.....

THE RYDER-CESHIRE FOUNDATION (VICTORIA)

- Patron: His Excellency, Sir Rohan Delacombe, K. C. M. G. ,
K. B. E. , C. B. , D. S. O. , K. St. J.
- Chairman: The Hon. Sir Arthur Dean, LL.M.
- Vice-Chairman: Mr. Philip H. N. Opas, Q. C. , LL. B.
- Executive Committee: Mrs. W. M. Calanchini, Mr. S. H. Collie, Miss J. Collins, Dame Mary Daly, Mrs. P. M. J. Dance, Mrs. G. H. Lavery, Mr. A. A. Lord, Mrs. A. A. Lord, Miss N. Sheehan.
- Hon. Secretary: Mr. J. Graham, F. F. A. , 3 Hollingsworth Avenue, Hawthorn, 3122.
- Donations to:
- The Hon. Treasurer: Mr. D. A. Sinclair, B. Com. , B. Ed. , M. A. C. E. ,
21 Moorwatha Street, Macleod, 3085.