

Sunderland Echo

and Shipping Gazette
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183 Days past. Days to come, 181
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GOOD WORK IS BEING DONE AT CROFT RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

Where Ailing Sunderland Children Are 'Built-Up'

MAY BE SLOW JOB IN KOREA

THE end of the first week of the fighting in Korea finds the Communist aggressors still making headway. They have improved on the technique of aggression as practised in recent years by thorough preparation and taking of victims completely by surprise. The free peoples organized in the United Nations have been taken by surprise too. The attacker gains all the initial advantages, and the defenders of freedom suffer the usual setbacks. This is a problem which the United Nations will have to consider. If United Nations had had its own defence force actually in being and ready for action, would it have been in a position to get to the scene of the fighting in Korea and to do any more than the Americans have done? The Americans have got a sticky job on hand now. No doubt they realized this when they decided to go to the assistance of the Republic of South Korea as a duty they owed to the United Nations. It may be a hard task for them to retain a footing on the peninsula, and a still harder one to roll the Communist forces back over the border from which they sallied. But America has set her mind on doing it and most of the other free nations of the world are rallying to her support. Here in Britain there has been no hesitation on the part of the Government and of the Opposition in declaring that we are fully behind the United States in defending the independence of a nation and people so wantonly attacked. Reports from Korea of the military position are gloomy enough from our point of view, but we should not take too much notice of scare stories. There is a big responsibility on correspondents not to exaggerate the position. We may be in for a long and tedious campaign in Korea, but it is, as Mr Churchill said, an inescapable duty of Britain to support America in seeing the job through. Otherwise the United Nations might as well "pack up."

CONSETT DISASTER

SUNDERLAND, no less than other places in Durham County, will extend deep sympathy to Consett in Saturday night's tragedy by which eleven workmen lost their lives in a blast furnace mishap. Some of those who died were colleagues who rushed to the assistance of the first victims of the gassing without any thought for their own safety. Such selfless action is typical of our workers when disaster occurs. Many other rescuers worked hard to get the victims away from the gassed area, again at great risk without counting what might be the cost. It was a heavy tragedy for Consett, but one which is relieved by these evidences of heroism and self-sacrifice.

RADIO PROGRAMMES HOME SERVICE (261 metres)

3.30: Lawn Tennis. 4.0: Mayerl Ensemble. 4.30: Lawn Tennis. 5.0: Children's Hour. 5.55: Weather. 6.0: News. 6.30: N.E. News. 6.45: Sport. 6.50: Farmer. 6.55: Scottish Orchestra. 8.0: Flight to Africa. 8.15: Starlight Hour. 8.45: News. 9.15: Never Get Out. 10.45: Parliament. 11.0: News.

LIGHT PROGRAMME (247 metres)

3.30: Citizenship. 3.45: Music While You Work. 4.15: Dale's Diary. 4.30: Music at Theatre. 5.0: Lawn Tennis. 6.0: Music While You Work. 6.30: Gerald. 7.0: News. 7.25: Short. 7.30: It's a Great Life. 8.0: Rainbow Room. 8.15: Family Favourites. 8.15: Ladies' Pleasure. 8.5: News. 10.15: Topic. 10.30: Lew Stone. 11.0: Book at Bedtime. 11.15: Music Tapestry. 11.55: News.

THIRD PROGRAMME (1664 metres)

6.8: Telecast. 7.50: Poets of the South Pacific. 7.55: The Dispossessed. 8.10: Cinderella. 8.15: Admiral Leahy. 8.25: Cinderella (Act 2). 10.5: Tennyson. 10.25: Cinderella (Act 3). 10.50: Venice. 11.10: Wigmore Ensemble.

LET'S call him Arthur. He is nearly six, has big blue eyes and stocky, healthy body. A few months ago he started to write and count, now he can add up figures—and get the right answer. Arthur is also developing as an individual. He knows perfectly well how figures should be written, but when asked how to write "three, four, five," he draws them firmly, but in reverse. His teacher, Miss

explained to me by Miss Lee, who is in charge, is "to improve the children physically and at the same time keep them mentally alert." The children sent to Croft are not physically disabled; they are those who—possibly because of unhealth conditions at home—are not benefiting from their normal school life and are in need of "building up."

Up to Seven

The older children (five to seven years) are sent on the advice of the School Medical Service and the younger ones through information received from clinics and the like. In

all cases the children are examined to see if they are likely to benefit, and the consent of the parents has to be obtained before they are sent to Croft. I understand it is very rare indeed for this to be withheld.

From the moment they arrive they are examined and weighed every day by Nurse Phillips so that their progress can be recorded, and at the first sign of any ailment kept apart from the other children. In addition a doctor examines them once a week.

Broadly speaking the treatment is: Fresh air, rest, and good food. The first item is easily obtainable, for the former country house at Croft is in

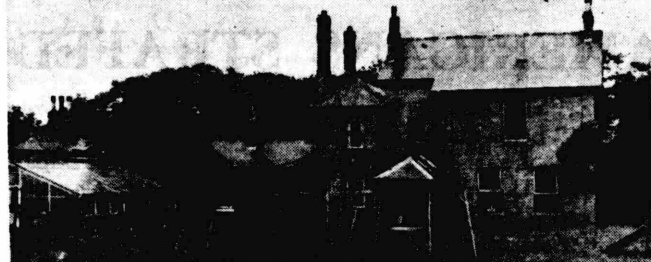
By ERIC DOW

Alice J. Lee, is not worried—Arthur will be home in a few weeks because he is physically fit.

Arthur's school is one of Sunderland's least known, but one of its most important. Hundreds of Weaside children now attending other schools in the town are only able to do so because they were once pupils at the Residential School for Debilitated Children, at Croft, near Darlington.

At the moment about 20 children are living at the school. All are between the ages of two and seven, and their stay at Croft varies from three to six months or more according to their need.

The aim of the school as



BLOWING bubbles is great fun (top); Centre—View of the School at Croft, and bottom—Despite the rain all these Sunderland youngsters except one had a smile for our photographer.

a locker, his (or her) dressing gown, toothbrush, face cloth, and towel.

The "classrooms" themselves are extremely well-equipped. There are only two rooms—one a nursery for the young children and the other a room filled with blocks, books, toys, and games for the older ones.

"Few Returns"

Most delightful surroundings. Trees abound in a large grass playground, safely away from the road and constantly watched by the staff, the children can work and play in complete security.

"We sometimes have tea outside when the weather is fine," Miss Lee told me. At other times the children rest there. Incidentally, at this time of year the children don't normally need to stay at Croft so long because they have not to be kept indoors so often as in the winter."

Miss Lee, assisted by Nurse Phillips and three probationers, sees that the children are in bed every night by 7.30 p.m. at the latest. They have approximately 12 hours sleep and during the course of the day—usually after lunch—they have another rest of an hour and a half.

Good Food

There are three main dormitories, one each for boys and girls on the first floor, and one on the ground floor for very young children. The probationers have a bed in each of the rooms, so that the children are never left alone.

Food? Milk, fruit, eggs, and good body-building items. "It is surprising the number of children who don't want to sit down to a midday meal when they first come here," commented Miss Lee. "In some cases I think it must be because the children are not in the habit of having a proper meal at that time of day."

Miss Lee showed me round the spacious airy house, and I could see for myself the proof of her words "We try to make it as much like home as possible."

In the hall were coats and hats hung on a row of pegs, and above each peg was a picture which enables every young child, unable to read, to identify their clothing. In the dormitories each child has

Many of the children when they arrive are placed in the nursery and then graduate to the other class. "You have to keep your wits about you to know when the children are ready to be transferred," observed Miss Lee. For example, a child may suddenly seem tired of the "babyish" things and of his own accord try to do something more difficult. All the time children here are learning—in many instances subconsciously, as when they see the picture of a cat and come to identify it with the letters C-A-T," she added. Parents are allowed to visit the school once a month. "The children are inclined to become unsettled if the parents come more often," explained Miss Lee. If the visitors bring sweets, the children are given so many each day, since to have them all at once would upset their stomachs."

But the best recommendation for the work that is being done at Croft lies in the fact that it is only very rarely that a child has to return for a second stay. "There are two children here now for the second time," said Miss Lee, "but we don't get many."

MURTON PRESENTATION

A presentation of an inscribed wallet, gift of members, has been made to Mr James Parker, who has been in the Management Committee of Murton Democratic Social Club for 18 years and acted as assistant secretary for seven years. Mr W. P. Harper, Chairman of the Club, made the presentation at a social evening.

Y.M.C.A. WHIST

Prize-winners at a whist drive organized by the Women's Auxiliary of Fence Houses Y.M.C.A. were Mesdames O. March, M. Smith, E. Jackson, K. Smith, E. Thompson, J. Curry, and Messrs R. Watt and D. Green. Mrs J. Swann was M.C.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF SUNDERLAND. VISIT OF H.M.S. SWIFTSURE, JULY 21 - 25, 1950.

A COMPLIMENTARY BALL TO CAPTAIN W. P. MCCARTHY AND OFFICERS will be held in the SEABURN HALL, SUNDERLAND, on MONDAY, JULY 24, 1950. Reception 8.15. Dancing 9.2; Running Buffet Supper 9.12; Licensed Buffet, Uniform and Decorations.

Immediate application for tickets accompanied by remittance, should be made to the TOWN CLERK, TOWN HALL, SUNDERLAND.

WEST PARK GIRLS' DEPARTMENT.

All former pupils are invited to attend a general meeting in the SCHOOL HALL, on JULY 5, at 6.45 p.m. to discuss forming an OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION.

BEDE GRAMMAR SCHOOLS DIAMOND JUBILEE, 1890-1950. In the picture the School over 60 years is now 1-1-5. Copies may be obtained at cost of 2/- each from THE EDUCATION OFFICER, 15 JOHN STREET, NEWCASTLE, or CO. WATERLOO PLACE, or the BEDE GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

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LEFT FOR CANADA AT 21, BACK AFTER 37 YEARS

AS a girl of 21, Mary Chambers left her Sunderland home in Victor Street to seek adventure in Canada, then and now, she says, a land of opportunity. After 37 years, she has returned as Mrs von Wurden to visit relations and renew acquaintance with old friends. When she stepped down from the train in Sunderland station she had no difficulty in recognizing her 87-year-old father and the sisters there to welcome her. She failed to recognize only the youngest of her three brothers—he was only three when she left Weaside. Mrs von Wurden is staying with sister, Mrs Ann Usher, 34 Nelson Street.

On emigrating to Canada Mrs von Wurden took up her work as a tailoress, but later joined the Civil Service. Her husband, now retired, formerly owned grocery and fruit stores in Ottawa where they have their home.

As any new housewife would, Mrs von Wurden has been comparing prices and finds the cost of many things here considerably higher than they are in Canada. She has regretted emigrating. Conditions all round are better, she says, and she still believes in Canada as a land of opportunity.

But among the prices noted here by Mrs von Wurden is the high cost of houses. Ask her if she is thinking of setting down in her old country, she'll reply: "You never know."

Wearside Echoes

To Be Largest?

SUNDERLAND'S recently-formed Film Society looks as though it may become the nation's largest 16mm. film society. The hon. secretary, Mr David Gilkerson, Jun., says it already has more than 300 members and if the Society can attract another 100 (which will be the limit of its accommodation), then its place as the largest organization of this kind is assured.

Mr Gilkerson informs me that the "season" will start in about another eight weeks time, so any Wearside students of the film as a form of art will have to be quick about joining.

A fine programme has been prepared for the coming season and I note the Italian "Vivere in Pace" and the Swedish "Frenzy," to mention only two, are included—and I can definitely recommend both of them.

Seaburn Beach

Surprised Him

SUNDERLAND is to most Southerners a smoky industrial town bordering on Scotland and vaguely connected with coal and ships.

Only now are they clearing the smoke from their eyes and seeing us in a better light. One left Sunderland yesterday after

addressing a rally of North-East newspapermen, amazed at finding such a lovely stretch of beach.

In future he will think of Sunderland not as an industrial town but as a holiday resort.

Welcome to Seaburn was given by one national president of a trade union, the Mayor (Ad. George Morgan), President of the Plumbers' Union—to another when he greeted Mr H. J. Bradley, President of the National Union of Journalists. It was Mr Bradley's first visit to Sunderland.

Women 'Terriers' in Camp

I HEAR that among 500 women soldiers of the Territorial Army who will be in camp at Farnley Park, near Oley, Yorkshire, from July 8 to July 23, will be well over 100 from Durham and Northumberland who are members of No. 206 Battalion.

On the last day of their stay they will be visited by HRH The Princess Royal.

The camp will be in three sections, two for the Territorial Army WRAC and one for the Field Headquarters Administrative Unit. Eighty per cent of each T.A. unit represented will be going into camp—a very high percentage—and proof, if any were needed, how much the girls enjoy life under canvas. —LOOKER-ON

