

Excellence

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CARING THE UNCARED FOR

RAILWAY stations hold a strange fascination for children. The hurrying crowds, the endless bustle, the noisy engines that hiss and whistle and puff—all these a child loves. Every big railway station has its cluster of kids—a few of them attracted by the mystery of continuous comings and goings—*most of them forced there by cruel necessity.*

For when children run away or lose their homes, it is to the railway stations that they are drawn, helplessly following the siren promise of better fortunes in some golden city far from their sordid, limited worlds. Stowing away in trains, these poor unfortunates land up in some big city, hundreds of miles away. Here they settle—on the platforms, under bridges, in the market-places—content to call any pitiable makeshift shelter their 'home'.

Absorbed in the big cities, these children welcome the anonymity of numbers, the absence of the restraining adult and the chance to grow up by accident rather than by design. And growing-up becomes an inescapably cruel, callous experience. With no childhood worth the name behind them, they are transformed almost overnight, into precocious old heads on tender shoulders. Is it any wonder then that they are rebellious, antisocial, steeped in evil habits, all of which they spitefully direct against the incomprehensible adult world that has betrayed them?

The runaway child, the homeless waif, the vagrant urchin, the delinquent adolescent—all these are grave sociological problems every overpopulated city like Bombay must face. Still more, they represent the sorry failure of an affluent society in a vital area of responsibility.

Please see page 8

Organ of the Indian Centre for Encouraging Excellence,
Court Chambers, III Floor, New Marine Lines, Bombay-20.

BRICK BY BRICK

LINK ROADS. About 58 kilometres of link roads were built in Ambala district during 1968-69, raising the total to 854 kilometres.

NEW BUNDS : The number of bunds constructed for irrigation purposes in Gurgaon district rose from 96 in 1968-69 to 102 in 1969-70.

POWER : The Mysore State Electricity Board had by the end of 1968-69 energized 42,288 pumping sets in the State.

PIG IRON OUTPUT : Production of pig iron by the Indian Iron and Steel Company at their Burnpur works rose from 61,785 tons in July to 72,866 tons in August.

TELEPHONE CHORDS: The Srinagar unit of the Indian Telephone Industries has produced 30,008 telephone chords valued at Rs. 2 lakhs since it started production in March this year.

ENTERTAINMENT TAX. The total income of the Punjab Government from entertainment tax rose from Rs. 114.49 lakhs in 1967-68 to Rs. 160.05 lakhs in 1969-70.

MARINE EXPORTS. Export of marine products earned Rs. 33.46 crores in foreign exchange last year.

SHOE EXPORTS: Karnal district exported shoes and handloom fabrics worth Rs. 67 lakhs in 1969-70 and in the first three months of the current financial year ending June 1970 it exported goods worth Rs. 17 lakhs.

WHEAT PRODUCTION : Wheat production in Punjab rose from 1.02 million tonnes in 1950-51 to 4.99 million tonnes in 1968-69.

SMALL-SCALE UNITS. The number of small-scale industrial units in Faridabad Township at present is 745, against 471 in 1967.

VILLAGE COLLEGE: The residents of 80 villages in Gurgaon, Nuh and Rewari tehsils have collected Rs. 2.5 lakhs and used the amount to construct the building of Baba Bhajley Ram Degree College at Sadhravali village on Gurgaon-Dharuhera road.

HIGH-YIELDING: Over 4.16 lakh acres have so far been brought under the high-yielding varieties of crops in Mysore State.

CANE YIELD: The per hectare yield of sugarcane in Punjab has risen from 2,324 kg. in 1950-51 to 3,289 kg. in 1968-69. The highest yield was recorded in Sangrur district (14,214 kg.)

SUGAR PRODUCTION: Uttar Pradesh produced 166 million tons of sugar till July 31, breaking the previous record of 1.42 million tons in 1960-61.

MORE BUSES: The number of buses of the Haryana Roadways increased from 714 in 1968-1969 to 876 up to August 31, this year.

GROUNDNUT: The area under groundnut in Patiala district increased from 29,209 acres in 1960 to 86,470 acres in

1969. The total irrigated area under the crop was 13 acres only in 1960 which rose to 11,695 acres in 1969.

TAX: The total income from motor vehicle tax in Punjab shot up from Rs. 95.97 lakhs in 1967-68 to Rs. 113.58 lakhs in 1969-70 which was due to an increase in the number of vehicles in the State.

MORE POWER: The total installed capacity of power generation installations in Punjab increased from 297.7 mW in 1960-61 to 681.77 mW in 1968-69. Of this, the thermal capacity was 21.07 mW only.

POTATO YIELD: The per hectare yield of potatoes in Haryana rose from 12,368 kg in 1955-56 to 13,506 kg. in 1968-69. The highest yield was in Karnal district which secured 15,627 kg. a hectare in 1968-69.

CEREAL CULTIVATION : Cereal cultivation in U.P. increased by 314,000 hectares in 1969-70 and totalled 1.92 million hectares.

PEELING MACHINE : A mechanized prawn peeling table has been designed by the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology to help reduce wastage of labour in peeling operations and ensure more hygienic handling of the raw material.

WATER SUPPLY SCHEME : The Dahina water supply scheme in Rewari tehsil has been completed at a cost of Rs. 9.92 lakhs. It supplies drinking water to 16 villages covering a population of 24,000

NEWS AND NOTES

The Arizona Journalism Institute has been established by the University of Arizona Department of Journalism as a permanent centre for study and conference among professional journalists within the state.

Primary goal of the Arizona Journalism Institute is to encourage excellence in Arizona journalism through continuing education of the professional newsman. A secondary objective is to foster greater dialogue within the profession.

In bringing this to the attention of the United States Senate Senator Fannin said that he thought the University of Arizona has made "a very significant announcement", in declaring the formation of an Institute to "encourage excellence".

Senator Fannin said: "Because there are occasions when men in public office find themselves critical of our present news media, I think it is important that we recognise and applaud efforts—particularly those efforts that significantly involve the media themselves—to improve the quality of journalism. "Just as I believe that our free press institutions are benefited in the free exchange of ideas within our society today—I even think the news media benefits from criticism now and then—I think every effort to improve the quality and upgrade the standing of the journalistic profession should receive the proper recognition".

VILLAGE SCHOOL UN-EARTH'S GENIUS

The son of an agency police constable in the remotest region of Bihar, Mr. Govind Narayan Vasisht, has now become a space scientist and is working in

the United States, thanks to the unique experiment in education under way at a school at Netarhat in that State.

The aim of the school is to identify and foster rural talent, which is not receiving due attention now.

The first boy in the family to go to a school, Mr. Vasisht shattered school records all over Bihar during his school days. When he was in the B.Sc., a college professor found him with a library book on advanced mathematics, which the professor had specially ordered for solving some complex problems.

When he came to know that the boy could solve some problems which were puzzling him, he immediately recommended to the vice-chancellor to straightway send Mr. Vasisht to the B.Sc. (Hons.) examination, skipping the three-year period.

SPECIAL CLEARANCE

The university passed a special ordinance for this purpose and the boy came out with flying colours, fulfilling all the stipulations about percentage of marks.

While he was studying M.Sc. a top scientist from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration came down to the college and, after a week's observation of the boy, offered to take him to America straight way to confer a doctorate on him and find him a vocation in tune with his brilliance.

This became possible because of the work of the Netarhat school in picking up potentially brilliant boys, giving full scope for the development of their talents and helping them reach the heights of leadership in different walks of life.

All the top first classes in the State are being knocked away by boys of this school every year. There are no third-class passes or failures in the school.

Mr. M. V. Rajagopal, member of the central panel of educationists and joint secretary in the Andhra Pradesh education department, who visited the school recently, told newsmen here today that similar schools were likely to come up during the next academic year, one in each of the three regions of the State.

Source: U.N.I.

MAN IS MAN AND WHAT IS MORE ?

Some persons injured in a car accident near Umbargaon two days back were brought to J. J. Hospital. Two died of the accident, one Bohri and the other a Khoja gentleman. The dead body of the Bohri gentleman was taken away by his relatives. The Khoja gentleman Sri Mohib Hussein Mehta did not have any relatives in Bombay. He was from Botad. One of his neighbours of Botad, Manilal Gandadal (a tailor by profession) came to know of this. He rushed to the hospital for the arrangement of the final rites of the deceased. The hospital authorities refused to give the dead body of a Khoja to a Hindu. Manilal sought out a few Khoja friends who could help him in giving the final rites to his friend.

SOURCE : MUMBAI SAMACHAR CONCERN FOR OTHERS DURING THE RECENT FLOODS

Everyday there is a tragedy. We also see common people rising to heights of courage, sacrifice and concern for others. The following are few of the

(Contd. on page 10.)

THE SHIVGANGA VALLEY

By Dr. V. V.

A NOTE ON THE WORK Short Description of the Shiv- ganga Valley :

The valley is 14 miles to the South of Poona and is surrounded on all sides by mountains. It is becoming narrower to the West where the village Kalyan is situated. The area of the valley is about 10 sq. miles. There are nearly 20 villages in the valley.

The rainfall is more than 80" per year. It goes on decreasing as we go East. On the eastern most side it is nearly 15". Accordingly the crop-pattern gets changed.

It is proposed that a master-plan for the Valley Development should be prepared and if proper resources in men and material are made available the valley will get completely changed for the better, very soon.

Starting of a Mechanical Factory :

Dnyana Prabodhinee proposes to establish a Mechanical Factory at Shivapur, which is the centre of the valley. The construction for the factory shed, which will cost Rs. 5 lakhs, is in progress. The Kirloskar Oil Engines Ltd. are going to collaborate with the Institution, and give the use of machinery worth Rs. 30 lakhs. This factory will employ atleast 100-125 villagers as factory labourers. The factory workers will be trained as technicians and they will also be given social education so that they understand how to play the role of village leaders in their respective villages and become the sphere-heads of

the development programme.

The mechanical workshop is expected to finance the development programme to the extent of Rs. 50,000 per year in about 2-3 years' time. With the starting of the factory atleast 20 persons of the supervisory and still higher grades will go to Shivapur and stay there. Some of them will take interest in the valley-development programme. Further the process of urbanization will start in the area, and in some years Shivapur and the adjoining two villages will get transformed into a model township.

Personnel :

In addition to the attention given by the Director and other members of Dnyana Prabodhinee, from February 1968 onwards, Shree Rairikar is giving fulltime attention to this development plan. Rev. John McLeod joined him in February, 1969. From June, 1970 Shree Ranjekar has been appointed to take charge of the office work at Shivapur. Four machine operators were trained in 1969-70 and were employed from time to time.

The budget for the financial year April 1, 1970 to March 31, 1971 amounts to Rs. 1.25 lakhs. The salary bill for the year is not exceeding Rs. 5,000.

Rev. McLeod is working full-time, without expecting even T.A. or any other allowances.

The success of development programme, admitting that it is quite a minor job, belongs to the untiring efforts, patience and skill of the above mentioned honorary staff.

(2) Details of Work Done at Kalyan and other Places :

The French Committee for Universal Campaign against Hunger, Paris gave in February, 1968, a grant of Rs. 1.75 lakhs for the following Kalyan-projects :—

(1) *Dam* : Built in 1968. Cost in cash Rs. 50,000. In addition, construction work estimated at Rs. 15,000 was done for the love of labour. Plans were prepared in Poona by expert engineers, however, all the execution was made by the villagers themselves. The dam has provided for drinking water to milch and other animals. It will also serve for irrigating the second crop in about 10 to 25 acres. This will give an additional income of near about Rs. 12,000 to the villagers. During 1969-70 we tried for fish. This year i.e. 1970-71 we shall do this very nicely. Fish will give some amount between Rs. 500 and Rs. 1,000.

(2) *Culverts* : From the village Kondhanpur to Kalyan there used to be no proper road during the rainy season. In 1968 we built 19 culverts on this road, on account of which, people are able to use this road throughout the year.

(3) *Fertilisers* : From 1968 we have been supplying carefully chosen, proper type of fertilisers to farmers. The production of paddy is increased significantly. Fertilisers are supplied on credit to the villagers before sowing and the money is collected after the harvest.

(4) *Poultry* : Due to our efforts one agriculturist started a poultry farm. We have given him a long term loan

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

PENDSE

of Rs. 15,000 for building and equipment. We also finance him for purchasing feed and birds. The agriculturist is steadily repaying the loan. His poultry is quite successful.

(5) *Pumps*: There was a rain failure in September, 1969. We tried to save the paddy crop in 25 acres. We had one small pump of 1.6 H.P., further we procured one more 4.5 H.P. pump from the Kirloskar Oil Engines Ltd. for this work. We also supplied two small pumps of 1.6 H.P. each, to two farmers on deferred payment basis. This work we hope to continue by providing 6 more pumps and making them available to peasants of different villages.

(6) *Wells*: During 1969 summer instead of 5 wells, 7 wells were sunk in the Kalyan village out of the funds given by the French. Rs. 40,000 has been made available to 7 peasants through the Bank of Maharashtra. Thus the loan will be collected back by the Bank and the money used for further development in the area.

(7) *New Wells*: With the help of small Cobra rock-drilling machines and one tractor-compressor we sunk nearly 30 new wells in the Shivganga and nearby valley. Also we deepened and broadened some of the old wells.

(8) *Threshing Mills*: We tried for paddy threshing during the year 1969-70. It was a new thing in this valley. We hope to do more threshing during the coming season.

(9) *High Yielding New Varieties* :

Rice and Wheat :

We are trying for paddy and wheat plantation with the collaboration of the State Government. In respect of wheat the new varieties were sown in 3 acres in 1969. They yielded 12 quintals per acre where only 2 quintals were possible previously. This year the area in Kalyan, under wheat as second crop, will be extended to atleast 30 acres.

Groundnut :

Groundnut plantation is undertaken with the collaboration with the Hindustan Levers Ltd., Bombay and the Vanaspati Manufacturers' Association. New varieties have been shown in 3 acres. If this proves successful we are planning to extend these new varieties to 1,000 acres during June-July 1971. This work is going on near about the village Umbre, on the Poona-Satara Road.

This is first experiment of this type in our State.

(10) *Extension Work in the Valley* :

The Centre of this extension work is at Shivapur. A substantial part of an excellent building, which is nearly 120 years old, is taken on long lease. The office of the development programme is opened there, which invites villagers for seeking advice.

(a) *Advisory Service* :

For seeds and fertilisers we seek advice from Government experts, as well as from private experts belonging to Uruli-Kanchan Research Centre and Micro-Nutrient Institutions. The same is made available to farmers.

(b) *Fodder Development* :

We are trying for high yielding varieties in five acres this year. Dr. E. G. Chavan is our Chief Advisor in this respect.

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penance. Should misfortune take the form of illness, many accept it with martyrlike resignation, refusing to help their doctors and themselves. This is sheer idiocy.

Should Mistakes keep us down?

Those who try to make up for uncharitable acts by charitable acts receive little charity from onlookers. "He's only giving because he's got a guilt complex," they sneer. To this I say, "So what?" Does a starving child care what motivated the gift of life-restoring food? What matter the motivation of people often scornfully labelled "do-gooders"? The fact remains that they do good. Without them, what would happen to those who need a helping hand? Let us not question the motives of a "do-gooder". Christ himself was one.

To develop guilt complexes, we must first pass judgment on ourselves. Is it not just as presumptuous to judge ourselves as it is to judge others? One of the precepts of all religions is that judgment is up to the Lord. I don't think he meant for us to sully the life with which he blessed us by the melancholy dedication of our vitality to the purposeless pursuit of yesterday's guilt.

Eddie Conter in *The Rotarian*

THE ABANDONED CHILDREN:

A trial is under way. As you take a seat and look around the courtroom you are immediately impressed with its atmosphere of beauty and dignity. The defense attorney is quietly conferring with his client. Then the prosecuting attorney reads the charge, with members of the jury weighing every word.

Suddenly, the incongruity strikes you—not one participant in this trial is over nineteen years old—neither the defendant, the prosecuting attorney, the defense attorney, nor any member of the jury.

This is the courtroom of the Boys Brotherhood Republic. The defense attorney has passed BBR's "Bar Exams" to qualify for practice here. The 12-year old in the witness box might have been "arrested" by one of his own friends, a boy-policeman. Or, his best friend may be sitting on the jury. And yet, amazingly, to adults who see the process for the first time, these youngsters conduct the trial in a totally serious, responsible way.

The "crime" may have been something like disturbing other boy "citizens" by making too much noise, or treating BBR property carelessly. Minor offenses in adult eyes, may be. But when a boy sees one of his BBR policemen in action, he begins to realize what the grown man with a badge and a gun is trying to do for the community. Seeing a jury notice, an arrest blank, a summons, as part of the system that protects *his* Republic, *his* privileges, he begins to appreciate both the nature of, and the need for the rules of, a functioning democratic society.

Ralph Hittman, executive director of BBR says, "We find that when you give young people an opportunity to make the rules, they seldom *break* the rules. When we first moved into this beautiful new building, nearly two years ago, my oldest son, an anthropology instructor, said, 'Dad, I know how you love this place, but you might as well prepare yourself. Within three days every boy will have carved his name or initials in the wood-work'.

"Well, here we are and there's not a mark. Visitors wonder whether we ever have children here! Actually, there are 1,170 members who come on an average of twice a week".

Even when school is in session, the building hums with activity from 9 in the morning until 11 at night. Three days a week there are classes for retarded children, taught by special teachers from the Board of Education. Senior citizens and other community groups meet here, too.

But a little after three o'clock on school days is the best time to see BBR in action. The boys come tearing in from school, where they've been cooped up, whooping and hollering and generally horsing around. But in about 15 minutes a whistle blows and they scatter to their chosen activities. Some head for the superbly equipped professional-size basketball court. Others are busy in the wood-working shop, or the metal-work, art, or ceramics rooms. Some quietly study in the library. Ping-Pong, boxing, wrestling, softball and gymnastics attract quite a number. And there are always com-

petitions going on, not only in sports, but in chess, checkers, shopwork skills, even the use of reference books.

You'll find older boys tutoring younger citizens or any boy who needs special help with a school subject. In another room, boys are learning to play musical instruments, or rehearsing a play.

Every citizen serves on a committee of his choice for at least one hour a week. It might be the Legal Aid Committee, the Sanitation Committee, the Library Committee, the Athletics Committee, the Homework Encouragement Committee. For the rest of the non-school hours, he may enjoy any of the activities of the City Hall (as BBR's home is called), so long as he respects the rights of other citizens.

Respect, by the way, is one of BBR's "three R's"—the other two are Responsibility and Representation.

What makes the Boys Brotherhood Republic so unique is the character of the neighborhood it serves, Manhattan's Lower East Side. It runs a close second to central Harlem in the number and percentage of dilapidated housing units its 150,000 people are crowded into. There's a shortage of parks and playgrounds, but no shortage of dope pushers. The unemployment rate is the second highest in the nation and ten out of fourteen families have no father in the home.

It's in the nature of a young boy to pattern himself after an older male, but in this neighborhood it could easily be someone on the street—a junkie, an ex-convict, a bitter

EFFORTS ABROAD

dropout from society. Small wonder that this is one of the most fertile breeding grounds in the city for family breakdown, crime, racism, narcotics abuse.

Here, in what used to be "the melting pot", many early immigrants were beset by grinding poverty. But they had an attainable goal—to "make it" economically and then move out of the neighborhood. Most of the second and third generation did just that.

In the last ten years, however, the character of this community has changed at least five times. Today, many of the people have a sense of hopelessness. They see little chance to move up—or out. And for children on these dingy streets the outlook is pretty bleak. Or so it seems, until you hear about BBR, a functioning democracy, run by the members themselves—boys from seven to nineteen years old.

At the same time that you're out voting for a Mayor and other elected City officials, boy-citizens of BBR are electing their own Mayor, City Clerk, Treasurer, Prosecuting Attorney, Judge, Business Manager, and Councilmen. After a hard-fought election the new boy-Mayor appoints a Police Commissioner and all regular committee chairmen.

A youngster who wants to join BBR first talks to a member of the Citizenship Committee, who sits right at the entrance door. The boy signs an application and gets a pass for any three days of the following week. Then, if he's still interested, the Citizenship Committee sends him an invi-

tation to attend a class where he learns what a citizen's rights and responsibilities are. If a boy can't speak English, the BBR idea is explained in Spanish. There are no dues as such, but boys from seven to eleven years of age pay 'taxes' of five cents a month; boys from twelve to nineteen pay ten cents.

The question one naturally asks about Boys Brotherhood Republic is, "Does it work?" The answer—it does.

Ralph Hittman tells of the aftermath of a recent interview program with Barry Farber on radio station WOR:

"There were four BBR boys, two alumni and myself. Mr. Farber put the question that's asked so often—why do so many kids turn to narcotics today? Our boys did the best they could and we got lots of complimentary mail after the program. But, of course, they had no definitive answers. Who does?

"However, the program was on a Thursday. Friday, a boy who was there brought the subject up at our Council meeting. They discussed the neighborhood, narcotics, the whole scene. The upshot was that our BBR Mayor assigned 14 boys to go out into the neighborhood to find out what's true, what's false. Are narcotics so easily accessible? Can you buy them easier than you can buy candy?

"The answers they brought back were sickening. Yes, you can buy narcotics easier than you can buy candy. You can get them at school, even at church parties. You can get as much as you want on any street in the area.

If one pusher is arrested four more are ready to take his place. Well, there it was.

"What could our boys do? They know as well as any adult that narcotics are ruining young lives in this area, leading to crime, deaths from overdoses. But they didn't know what to do until one young fellow got an idea. He said he and two other boys would make a poster, aimed at young children—the child who might be curious or unsuspecting, or afraid or ashamed to resist an 'I dare you' from an older boy.

"So, they made their poster. It wasn't perfect, but it sure was powerful. And the Council voted to use the money they made from a Valentine's Day dance to have copies printed. We had a professional artist touch it up and we added enough money to print a thousand posters and also 25,000 leaflets.

"Their acceptance has been sensational. The boys took them into their schools; they gave one to every store in the community. A teacher asked us for copies to send to her sister who teaches in Phoenix, Arizona. A man stopped in and said, 'I saw your poster. I'm on my way back to San Francisco where I'm a social worker. Can I have some copies?' We've had requests from Staten Island, Long Island, New Jersey. We don't know how much good they'll do, but they're the best thing of their kind we've seen.

The point is, this is what can happen when you discuss problems with young people honestly and are willing to listen to them.

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POSSIBLE ANSWER

In 1962 a bold experiment was made to overcome this problem. Convinced that what children, especially the hardened delinquents, needed most was a **home and affection**, an effort was made to give them just that.

The first Snehasadan (Friendship Home) was a poor hut in an Andheri slum, and the first occupants were a couple of street urchins. It was tough going in the beginning... Try convincing wary little boys who have been forced to live by their wits, that you are offering them everything and expecting no return. Or try teaching a youngster whose confidence in others has been shattered, to trust you!

It took patience—and a lot of love. Very gradually the boys began to realize that Snehasadan was not an institution, but a real home. There were no locks and no fences—just a roof over their heads, food, clothing, education. These, the assurance of genuine affection and a chance to make good. By and by the mistrust disappeared from their eyes and the restlessness died from their hearts. The street boys settled down in the security of their own new home and even lent a cheerful hand in the washing, cooking and general cleanliness.

OUR HOUSES

The number of boys in Snehasadan began to increase steadily and it was no longer possible to keep them all under one roof. Generous people came forward to donate land; others gave materials. Kindly neighbours lent a willing hand

and simple structures were erected—practically one every year. Today there are seven Snehasadan homes in Bombay. There are four in Andheri, two in Jogeshwari and one in Bandra. All these are situated in working localities so that the children grow up in an environment from which they came, and to which they will return when they no longer need the shelter of Snehasadan.

The latest Snehasadan home is called the 'Night Shelter'. It takes care of our bigger boys who are attending Technical School and completing their training in their chosen trades.

OUR HOUSE-PARENTS

Each house has about 25 boys (for that is the maximum number a couple can care for individually), under two house-parents. Called upon to be father, mother, teacher, friend—at times even barber and cook—each Snehasadan house-parent is handpicked by the Director, not merely for academic qualifications, but especially for the ability to be kind yet firm, understanding, calm, and above all, affectionate. For Snehasadan is founded on the firm belief that there is no such person as a 'bad' boy, and that there is nothing which kindness and love cannot cure.

OUR BOYS

Today there are over 160 little boys in Snehasadan—boys with an unhappy past, striving to build a brighter tomorrow. Some are lame, some are blind; most are extremely cheerful; all have a ready appetite, and all are yearning to prove themselves. Since the aim of Snehasadan is to help the children to help themselves, all of them are

given the chance of an education. The younger boys go to Municipal schools and with a little help they get along very well, soon catching up with and often outstripping their classmates. The older boys go out to learn a trade, and most of them continue their studies in night schools. Whatever they earn is put aside for them to take with them when they leave.

At the moment we have 8 boys in a technical institute. One is a qualified wireman, another has just completed his 3-year course in welding. We have a qualified tailor and another under training. Two boys are garage mechanics and one is learning carpentry.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

All along, people have been remarkably kind. Mothers and house wives who know what it costs to raise a family help out with food parcels, used clothes and shoes. Fathers donate building materials and often find jobs for our lads. Children too chip in with their savings and used toys. People have discovered thousands of ways to show their generosity. In fact everything that Snehasadan has is a testimony to the kindness of people.

Some, besides donating cash and material things, give us their even more precious time and skill. The Sisters of the Missionaries of Charity run one dispensary, while a lady doctor with a band of willing workers runs another dispensary. Our own doctor looks after our Snehasadan Free Dispensary and occasionally pharmaceutical firms donate medicines. Thus, every year since 1962 the healing hands of Snehasadan have been reaching over 10,000 poor and destitute men, wo-

SOMETHING TOO

men and children. Snehasadan believes in sharing whatever it gets with whoever needs it.

Just to mention another example, the Society called "Friends of Children" has contributed substantially to the cost of one of our houses in Andheri.

FOSTER PARENT SCHEME

Can money buy a homeless child the chance to feel wanted and secure, the chance to grow up into a responsible human being? It can. For Rs. 35 a month, you can become a foster-parent to one of our Snehasadan boys—ensure that one child is fed, clothed and given the essentials that every human being is entitled to.

Even smaller amounts help. Friends often pool together to pay for one adopted lad. Others send in Rs. 5 per month, thus regularly bearing part of the expenses for one child.

Keeping body and soul together is the first step. Yet it is not enough to save a child from vagrancy and delinquency—it is necessary to give him an opportunity to stand on his own. Snehasadan boys thrive on such opportunities. Take the case of Kisan Deshmukh ; he came to us as an advanced case of diabetes. Though intelligent, his illness prevented him from carrying on his studies beyond Standard VIII. His attacks were frequent and severe. With treatment he improved and soon revealed a very kindly, helpful nature. As Kisan was unable to continue his schooling, he began to assist the doctor in our Free Dispensary. The doctor was struck by his great interest in medicine, and the ease with which he picked up medical

knowledge. Special arrangements were made and Kisan is now doing a course in a Bombay hospital and might even get a compounder's diploma.

Then there's Victor D'Silva. He has just completed the 3-year welder's course with flying colours—he scored over 60% in every subject. He is also studying at a night school in Standard X and tops his class.

We are very proud of all these lads who bring such credit to Snehasadan and serve as an inspiration to the rest of the boys here. Indeed we wish many more lads could be given a training in a useful trade or be suitably apprenticed. An arrangement to put a boy through technical school and night school simultaneously works out to Rs. 643 per year. And with your help, we could give many more this chance.

Some of our bigger lads are already apprenticed garage mechanics, turners and general handymen. This keeps them busy during the day. And they also attend night school. The fees work out to Rs. 130 per year.

Still others are undergoing a tailor's training course (Rs. 120 per year), and three of our young tailors, Narayan, Badkar, Vincent Francis and Kishan Powar, have already made the grade.

The problem of providing opportunities for every boy still looms large before us—and we are meeting it with your generous help.

When you pay for a boy's expenses or school fees or training, it goes beyond mere money-giving. There is a deep individual involvement, a sense of social commitment, a "per-

sonal" investment with recurring benefits. For this is one sure way to make your money buy happiness for others, and for yourself.

GIVE YOUR TIME

You can find a thousand ways to help. Best of all, you could help with your time. Come and visit any or all of our homes. The boys will be delighted to see you. And it does them a world of good to know that people really care about them.

If you can spare even an hour regularly to take up their homework, give them tuitions, teach them music or art or any useful pastime, you will have helped to make the boys feel they "belong".

DAILY NECESSITIES

The running expenses of such an organization can well be imagined—especially with the rising costs of daily necessities. Food, clothes, shoes, school books—these form part of our never-ending lists of needs.

In none of these could Snehasadan have too much help ! Every little bit eases the situation in our constant struggle.

IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER

The important thing to remember is that here are children no different from your own, who need a hand. And it is only a helping hand that Snehasadan asks from you.

WRITE OR RING

We—our boys—are looking forward to your help. Write to us : SNEHASADAN, ANDHERI EAST, BOMBAY 69. Or ring us up : 57 43 36.

NEWS AND NOTES

(Contd. from page 3)

many repeated during the recent flood havoc in Gujarat :

Kalia Jaga, a young coast guard from Gujarat, accompanied by his colleague Chhagan Shambharbhai was out rescuing marooned people. His old mother lay on death bed. At the time she was being cremated, Kalu was still on duty, busy rescuing many more mothers in a village Dhaturia, miles away from his home town.

* * * * *

The floods of Narmada had risen to the dangerous level of 41 feet in the villages Taria and Dhaturia on her banks. 36 persons of this village in a fond hope to save themselves and their cattle had climbed a small hill nearby. The water-level kept rising. Saiyad Haider, a coast guard who saw their predicament came to their rescue. He went there with his boat and rescued all the 36 persons and brought them to safety to the nearby village of Bhadbhoot.

* * * * *

The story of the father and the son who saved 200 lives at grave risk to their own is equally inspiring. They built a raft out of the floating trees and worked night and day to save the lives of marooned people in the floods of Narmada. It was while doing this work that the father got an injury in his foot. He was too busy then to take care of it, was struck with Tetanus, and when the flood waters having spent their fury, had started receding and the danger to the people over, the father succumbed to his injury and died.

* * * * *

This is the story of "Pashchim Express" (running between Delhi and Bombay on

Western Railway) that left Delhi on the afternoon of 5-9-70, with its usual number of passengers—men, women and children and a sprinkling of foreigners. The train that should have taken twenty six hours to reach Bombay took almost ninety hours. Caught in Narmada floods, it stood immobilised at the oil town of Ankleshwar. Till the morning of 9th September, when they reached Bombay, the passengers had nothing but water all around them and the water monotonously pounding on the roof of the train. But the story they had to narrate on their arrival in Bombay was not just that of ordeal and agony. It also was the story of ecstasy and human kindness.

Passengers, as usual, had just reclined on their seats, resigning to their fate. But one of the parents, pestered by his child, had no other alternative but to buy a cup of milk for one rupee. But that was the first and the last cup bought at that exorbitant price.

The local magistrate did not tolerate this. He gave a strict warning to all such vendors that, in case, they exploited the situation and troubled the passengers, they would be severely punished. In such trying circumstances, their duty was to help them.

But then what about food for 500 people? The people of Ankleshwar would not let anyone starve in their area. Wading through mud and slush a few volunteers of a social service organisation came to assess their needs.

But very soon followed a plentiful supply of freshly fried poories, chapattis and delicious vegetables to go with them. All the people were fed by this organisation for all the days and at no cost.

The railway officials did not lag behind in their share of work. The railway dining car had run out of the provisions. And according to one of the passengers, the dining car men who were initially diffident of rising to the occasion, were later on persuaded by the Station Master and other railway officials to provide for all who needed it. The water in the tanks of the railway compartments had run out. In no time, the railway authorities filled the tank with all the water in the station and later kept a steady supply of fresh water brought in lorries from the town.

The local Magistrate, who had earlier instilled the fear in the hearts of profiteers, even arranged for an ambulance to be stationed near the marooned train to take care of anyone who might fall ill. He also posted a number of armed guards to take care of the luggage of the passengers.

... and that was not all. Among the stranded was one who was due to sail from Bombay on the following day. The railway authorities, despite the communication difficulties, managed to help the passenger keep his schedule.

The passengers of that "Pashchim Express" would indeed remember the ordeal of three days that they underwent. But more than that, they would remember the touching care which was showered on them by all in Ankleshwar—the local inhabitants, the civil authorities and the railway officials. They have come out richer not only in their test of endurance, but also in their knowledge of human excellence that exists in places unknown to many.

Abandoned Children

(Contd. from page 9)

"I mentioned a Valentine's Day dance. When the boys told me they were going to have one, I suggested a 'couple affair'—where they dress up, the boy calls for the girl, everyone is on his best behavior, and there's an equal number of boys and girls. But they vetoed that.

"So—we had 54 boys and 100 girls. The boys stood around on the sidelines, poking each other. Nobody danced, except girls with girls. Nobody really had a good time.

"Still—how much harm was done by letting them go ahead on their own? The next time they'll probably have a couple affair, not because they're forced to, but because they've learned a lesson.

"You have to give young people a little room to move around in—not enough rope to hang themselves, just a longer tether and the opportunity to make a few mistakes".

If the notion of citizenship training in a rough, tough neighborhood seems somewhat high-flown, the answer is, again—it works. These boy-citizens have written their own Constitution, their own Penal Code, their own Bar Association By-Laws. The classic *Robert's Rules of Order* was too legalistic and involved for their needs, so the BBR Government Club wrote a Guide to *Parliamentary Procedure*. The introduction says, "If you can raise your hand, Parliamentary Procedure is easy. You will find yourself teaching others what is correct and what is wrong. Is it hard? It's as easy as talking to your friends."

Source: Around the System.

Development Programme

(Contd. from page 5)

(c) Dairy :

There is a great potential for dairy-farming in this area, which we hope to undertake in the near future. We will start with fodder development. Then we will undertake silage work, after which we will start our own cow-centre. Lastly we will undertake the cross-breeding programme. This year we hope to try for one silo-pit and 12 gas plants.

(d) Study Tours :

We arranged study tours for the benefit of progressive farmers. In 1969 we arranged such tours to (1) Uruli Kanchan

- (1) Administrator
- (2) Dairy Expert
- (3) Mechanic
- (4) Tractor driver
- (5) Operators for pumps, Rock drills and Threshing mills

Our Need :

This development was effected upto now through the enthusiastic efforts of members of Dnyana Prabodhinee working in an honorary capacity and the efforts of Rev. McLeod. The work has now progressed so much that it needs the services of a full-time paid staff. However, we have got stuck-up, at present, on account of shortage of funds.

We need to get financial support for the coming three years, during which period the Mechanical Factory, to be started at Shivapur, will be going, and will be able to pay

No.	Period	Pay	Total amount
		Rs.	Rs.
1	1 year	800 p.m.	9,600
1	1 year	400 p.m.	4,800
1	1 year	350 p.m.	4,200
1	1 year	200 p.m.	2,400
4	1 year	150 p.m.	7,200
Total Rs.			28,200

and (2) Jalna and Aurangabad Areas. These were very instructive and helped in forming a cadre of responsible peasants.

(11) Foreign Aid :

We started this development work in our own in 1957. Then the French gave us a generous grant. Presently Christian Aid, Britain has assured us to give funds for one tractor and a land rover. Action for Food Production Organisation has given us rock drills. The Community Aid Abroad, Australia promised us aid for the pump-hire scheme and for one more dam on the Shivganga river.

There are in a nut-shell the achievements of the Shivganga Valley Development Programme, upto August, 1970.

for the Valley Development Programme. If we get assistance, till that time, for employing the following personnel, we will be highly obliged (Please see Chart).

This means getting assistance of Rs. 30,000 per year, if possible, for three years.

The interested readers may please contact Dr. V. V. Pendse 514, Sadashiv Peth, Poona 30.

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GUILT COMPLEX?

The two most fashionable words today are "guilt complexes". Books are based on them. Plays exploit them. Psychiatrists and amateur analysts explore them. Yet what are guilt complexes but regrets ballooned by this pretentious label? There's an emotionally damaging finality about the term "guilt complex" that exhausts our energies, that leads to "what's done cannot be undone" defeatism, and that paralyzes action. Dwelling on pictures of ourselves that make us cringe, frightens us into timidity about exposing ourselves to new situations, to new relationships—in short, to life.

The time element of life is much like that of a live television show. If you don't keep moving, you blow the whole thing. Time used on mistakes past is stolen from the future. I'm not advocating the elimination of regrets, nor the relinquishment of responsibility for misconduct—merely the relegation of regrets to their proper perspective in our lives. When a wrong move is made, our reaction should be regret, but it shouldn't stop there. The next step should be an attempt to right the wrong and, finally, in any case we should dismiss it from our minds, recalling it only as a reminder of what not to do.

We should recognize that mistakes are vital to life in that they make for progress and the

development of knowledge. Had Dr. Salk permitted himself to brood over the errors of early efforts, he couldn't have continued the search for a vaccine without error, and there are innumerable instances where mistakes have opened the door to progress. We are not Dr. Salks, of course, nor are most of us engaged in earthshaking work, but the same principle applies to our lives: obsessions with regrets or guilt feelings rob us not only of time but of energy needed to work toward our goals. Not only that—if we persist in this misguided thinking, we are threatening our emotional health. Living with yesterday's regrets destroys our chances in today's business—the business of living.

"If only I had it to do over again," we groan, and honestly believe we would behave differently. Yet, given the chance, 99 out of 100 would plod the same path or dance to the same drum that beats out the rhythms of the moment. That's because the essential "you" does not change.

The passive man often suffers a guilt complex because he passed up opportunities or lost out on promotions. If he were given a shot at any one of them again, the result would be the same. How could it be otherwise? Caution is his key. Rather than regret this, he should realize that an aggressive go-getter could not be

reconciled with his gentle nature so adored by his wife and children. Were he to assume the qualities necessary for dominance, the ultimate conflict within himself might trigger a nervous breakdown.

On the other hand, the person at the top often feels guilt about the questionable maneuvering it took to get there and is certain he would go about it differently if he had a second chance. The truth is that he would relive those early years without deviation. His overwhelming drive, intensity, and obsession to be top man would propel him along the same paths. It is only when time has blurred the sharp outlines of these traits that guilt takes over and makes him positive he would live more soberly a second time around.

This is not to condone misbehaviour or indulgence in weakness, nor meant to anesthetize our consciences. On the contrary, they should be tuned up for instant combustion rather than sluggishly functioning only in retrospect.

You'd be surprised at the number of people burdened with regrets or guilt who believe that the loss of a job, a husband, a wife, health, or even life itself is their punishment for a past wrong. When misfortune strikes, many victims consider it futile to fight conditions which, in their minds, have been imposed for

(Contd. on page 5 col. 3)

Courtesy :

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