ject of "Surgery 100 Years Ago." Professor Kelly sketched the social atmosphere in which the surgeon of those days lived, the interests of intelligent men of his time, and the course of his career before he reached the staff of the infirmary or dispensary. He alluded at some little length to the two great surgeons of the end of the eighteenth century, Henry Park and Edward Alanson, who were famous as pioneers in the excision of joints and in the perfection of amputation technique respectively. Alanson was also to be remembered for his advocacy of country hospitals, iron bedsteads, clean linen, and open windows. To these two men, with a third surgeon called Lyon, came the idea of forming a reading club about 1770, and from this seed through many vicissitudes there came to full fruition ultimately the Liverpool Medical Institution. Most entertaining were Professor Kelly's references to the medical literature of 100 years ago. His extracts from the *Lancet* gave a telling picture of the hard-hitting methods of medical controversy in those days, and incidentally threw a strong light on the fearless policy of the Editor in exposing practices that brought discredit on the profession no matter what the standing of those whom it might be necessary to attack.

The warm appreciation of his audience was expressed by Dr. Stallybrass and Mr. G. C. E. Simpson, ex-presidents of the Institution. Before the end of the meeting the honorary treasurer, Dr. Arthur Gemmell, made an appeal for subscriptions to a Centenary Fund to provide for heavy capital expenditure which town planning might soon make necessary. A sum of £5,000 was aimed at, donations towards which would be very welcome from all friends of the Institution.

In the evening there was a banquet at the Adelphi Hotel, attended by many distinguished guests representative of all forms of public service on Merseyside, as well as by some 200 members. More than one of the excellent speeches which followed the banquet emphasized the need for closer and more active co-operation between voluntary and municipal medical services in securing adequate and efficient treatment of the sick.

Library of Orthopaedic Literature

Tuesday, June 1, saw the conclusion of the celebrations. In the afternoon Mr. Rowley Bristow, President of the British Orthopaedic Association, was invited to declare open a room in the Institution which has been entirely replanned as a library of orthopaedic literature "In memory of Hugh Owen Thomas and Robert Jones, the Founders of Orthopaedic Surgery." The impetus for this was provided by a collection of books on orthopaedics which was received in response to the Sir Robert Jones' Memorial Appeal. The new library is intended to gather from all corners of the world new works on the subject as they appear. By making such works available to succeeding generations interested in this specialty it is hoped to provide a permanent memorial to these two great sons of Liverpool in real harmony with their genius. Interesting reminiscences were given by Mr. T. R. W. Armour and Mr. Thurstan Holland of the days when orthopaedic surgery, as we now know it, was first being tried out in Owen Thomas's house, No. 11, Nelson Street, and Mr. Thurstan Holland revealed how it was only by the generosity and constant encouragement of Sir Robert Jones that he ever began the practice of radiology.

Later in the afternoon Mr. Rowley Bristow delivered the triennial Hugh Owen Thomas Memorial Lecture on "Fractures—Some Principles Restated." These principles, he said, might be briefly stated to be first reduction, second fixation pending union, and third protection during consolidation. Almost of equal importance, however, was attention to the injuries of soft parts which always accompanied a fracture, by exercise designed to prevent muscular atrophy during the period of fixation. Lack of care in this direction led to the dictum that inability after fracture was sometimes due not to the bony injury but to the treatment given. Examples were quoted of

fractures where this care of the soft tissues was all-important, and x-ray slides illustrated special types of difficulty in reduction, as well as the prevention and treatment of secondary displacements. Mr. Bristow declared himself a whole-hearted believer in closed manipulative reduction in all but a few cases. He expressed a preference for the use of skeletal traction in all difficult cases in the lower limbs. In fractures of the neck of the femur he favoured pinning by the Sven Johanssen technique. He was accorded a hearty vote of thanks.

In the evening a most enjoyable reception was given by the Lord Mayor at the Town Hall to members and their guests, a very practical expression of the sympathy and interest he had shown throughout the proceedings.

THE ARRIVAL OF THE BASQUE CHILDREN AT THE PORT OF SOUTHAMPTON

BY

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The arrival of the Spanish liner s.s. *Habana* on Saturday, May 22, at Southampton, with 4,056 refugee children on board from Bilbao, was an event of national interest and historical importance as the first occasion that a shipload of refugees has arrived in Great Britain. During the great war the Belgians who sought refuge in this country came in small parties. It is therefore of public health interest to record the procedure adopted by the Southampton Port Medical Service in dealing with this vessel and the disembarkation of the children to the camp that had been prepared for their reception at North Stoneham, on the outskirts of Southampton.

The first official notification of the vessel's departure from Bilbao was received during the morning of Friday, May 21, when the expected time of arrival was given as late on Saturday. Conferences had therefore to be arranged on the Friday and on Saturday morning with the immigration and customs authorities, the National Committee for Spanish Relief, the Southern Railway, and the shipping agents to discuss various details connected with the vessel's arrival.

On Saturday morning a wireless message from the vessel was received giving the state of health on board, and this message indicated that the children were suffering from severe sea-sickness. In accordance with Section 6 of the Port Sanitary Regulations, 1933, the master of a foreign-going ship is obliged to notify by wireless, either direct or through his agents, to the port sanitary authority of an approved port the presence of any condition requiring their attention, and this message must be received not more than twelve and not less than four hours before the ship arrives in the port sanitary district. Instructions were given to the pilot to anchor off Fawley in Southampton Water, and there await the arrival of the port medical officer.

At 5 p.m. on the Saturday the *Habana*, escorted by a British destroyer, was signalled off the Needles, and on receipt of this information the port sanitary staff, accompanied by customs and immigration officials, left the docks in the port sanitary launch to board her as arranged. Another launch followed with supplies of milk, glucose, meat extracts, and medical requisites.

Conditions on Board s.s. "Habana"

It was an extraordinary spectacle to see a vessel normally capable of carrying between 400 and 500 passengers steaming up Southampton Water with every inch of her decks covered with human beings. Even more extraordinary were the conditions found on board.

Children all herded together in the public rooms, in the alleyways, and on all the decks. Some were lying rolled in blankets, others running about the ship screaming, and a few, cool and complacent, appeared to accept the circumstances of their arrival in a strange land, having been parted from their parents, without any emotion. It was with some difficulty that we were able to reach the ship's hospital to see a boy of 12 who, later the same evening, was removed by launch and ambulance to the borough hospital for an operation on a strangulated testicle.

After consultation with the two English doctors who had made the selection and carried out a detailed examination of the children before embarkation and who had travelled in the ship from Bilbao, we were satisfied that no infection of a major character existed on board, and therefore modified practice was granted to the ship, permitting her to proceed to an inner mooring station next morning for a detailed medical inspection.

Suitable accommodation had to be found for the purpose of carrying this out, and this was no easy matter with so many persons on board. It was, however, decided to use the two main saloons, which were roped off to provide two entrances, and one exit on to the main gangway. Details as to the situation of the medical officers' examining cubicles and the provision of screens and other equipment were matters that had also to be considered on this occasion.

After lying off Fawley for the night the *Habana* steamed up Southampton Water to Berth 106 in the New Docks at 8 a.m. on the Sunday. Hundreds of the public, with Press representatives and photographers, had collected along the quay, but no person without an official pass issued by the port sanitary department was permitted to approach Berth 106 or go on board. The names and addresses of all who were given these official passes were recorded, in order that the health authorities throughout the country might keep them under a surveillance in the event of any major infection being discovered among the persons on the ship.

Medical Inspection

The gangway was fixed and the medical, nursing, and sanitary personnel of the department proceeded on board. Accompanying the children there was one female adult to approximately every twenty children. It was therefore thought expedient to arrange for these adults to be examined before we commenced on the inspection of the children, in order that they might be instructed to marshal the children in groups of twenty, so far as possible according to age and sex.

The saloons were then cleared of all except those taking part in the medical and immigration inspection, and within half an hour the children were lined up in queues and the inspection commenced. Nine medical officers of the department, each in a separate screened cubicle, took up their positions in the line of the queue. A health visitor assisted each doctor by stripping the children to the waist. In examining each child special attention was paid to the eyes for trachoma, the head for ringworm, lice, or nits, and the skin for rashes and lice. The heart and lungs were also tested in detail to decide on those fit to live under canvas.

On completion of the examination each child was dressed by a health visitor and passed on in the queue to a sanitary inspector, who stamped the identification card attached to each child, indicating that he or she had been medically examined. In addition he also tied a coloured tape on the child's left wrist, which served as a code as to destination. White tape indicated "clean," and allowed the child to proceed direct to camp; red tape indicated "verminous," and the wearer was sent to the Corporation baths for de-lousing; blue was for "infectious or contagious" conditions and for entry to the isolation hospital or other institution. Blue-and-white tapes were

used for any other condition requiring general hospital treatment.

After the medical inspection was completed each child was passed on to the immigration officer, who stamped the disk officially; the children then proceeded down the main gangway, at the foot of which sanitary inspectors and health visitors collected them into groups according to the colour of the tapes and arranged for their immediate disposal in the following ways: clean children went direct by motor omnibuses to the camp; verminous children were taken in lorries to the Corporation baths for de-lousing; and the hospital cases were transported by the Corporation ambulances to the appropriate institutions.

General Physique of Children

The medical officers were surprised to find that a large majority of children showed no marked sign of malnutrition, although most of them had for months lived in Bilbao on fish and black bread and had spent the days and many nights herded together in bomb-proof shelters. The Public Medical Service in this particular province of Spain, according to the information obtained from the two English medical officers, is of a very high standard. Many of the children were thin, but the general impression gained, especially before they stripped, was that they were, generally speaking, an alert, intelligent group of children, who compared favourably in physique with our own children. The clothing as a rule was very good, and when that of the verminous ones was taken away from them for disinfection many of them wept. At the Corporation baths we were allowed to use forty of the slipper baths, and with the assistance of many voluntary and willing helpers, together with twelve barbers, 712 of the children were de-loused and fitted with complete sets of clothing, the latter being supplied by the Spanish Relief Committee.

At 7 p.m. on the Sunday medical inspection ceased for the day, the medical staff having worked continuously for ten hours and having dealt with 3,278 children. On the following morning the remainder were examined, the task being completed by 11 a.m.

My department received very great assistance from many voluntary workers and from the National Committee for Spanish Relief in providing transport, etc. It was only by the co-operation and hard work of all concerned that we were able to accomplish what, I believe, is a record in the annals of the Port Medical Service—the detailed examination of 4,056 children in twelve hours.

Public opinion appears to be somewhat divided about the acceptance of these children, but I think the only answer is, "What would we think if our own children were subjected to similar privation and danger?"

The Save the Children Fund, which as originator of the Declaration of Geneva (Child Welfare Charter of the League of Nations) has a special concern for the welfare of children and young people, passed a resolution at its Council meeting on April 22 welcoming the Factories Bill, 1937, in so far as it represents an advance on existing conditions affecting children and young persons. "The Council desires, however, to place on record the conviction that the Bill will fail to reflect the humane and enlightened public opinion of the day unless it is so amended as to ensure that no child shall be employed in a factory before the age of 15; that no child or young person shall in any circumstances be permitted to work more than forty hours a week; that no overtime be permitted in the case of any young person under 18 years of age; that holidays with pay be assured to all children and young persons; that the hour of leaving work may be sufficiently early to enable children and young persons to take advantage of available opportunities for education and recreation; and that the clause providing that the Home Secretary may suspend Part II of the Bill (dealing with safety) until 1940, be eliminated."