



## HELP FOR SPASTIC CHILDREN

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in use and eight will be needed shortly. Another innovation is the use of magnetised letter blocks on steel plates to aid in spelling and writing. The programme for school work is just as intensive as for a normal child. Each one is educated to the fullest extent of his learning capacity and although some of the children may not make much progress, others show quite brilliant intelligence.

Then there is the speech therapist. Hers is an important task, because some of the children are unable to talk when they first attend the Centre. Others can

only mumble a sort of gibberish "baby" talk. Constant daily practice under the direction of the therapist is needed before hobbled tongues are set free and clear speech accomplished. The joy of these kiddies is boundless when they can express themselves and make their thoughts and feelings and wants known, after years of being walled in and frustrated by the misery of silence.

The non-technical work at the Centre is done by the mothers and by voluntary helpers. A roster system is worked out to enable each mother to attend the Centre for two days a week. They do the washing and cleaning and fetching and carrying, the cooking of a hot two-course mid-day meal for the children—in fact everything to allow the skilled workers to give undivided attention to their tasks.

## The Financial Side

Besides their actual work at the Centre, the mothers also toil hard to raise funds. All the facilities detailed above are provided free. Not one penny is paid to the Centre in fees. No matter what their income group may be, no child is allowed to suffer because of its parents' financial position. Except for the teachers and speech therapist, who are paid by the Education Department, the whole of the Centre's expenses are met by funds raised by the work of the parents and by charity.

So New Zealand mothers who have spastic children may take heart. There must be about 1,200 of you. Perhaps it lies in your own hands to give your children their chance. Eighty Australian mothers are showing the way.

(Editor's Note: Spastic cases in New Zealand are treated at the Wilson Home for Crippled Children in Auckland. The Government has plans for improving and extending treatment.)

## SHORTWAVE HIGHLIGHTS

ISTENERS to the BBC's General Overseas Service next week will hear a varied programme, which includes one well-known artist who recently toured New Zealand—the pianist Solomon, who will be heard at 9.0 p.m. on Thursday. Reception from the London stations is best at night, during this time of the year, as will have been noticed in the recent broadcast of the Royal Wedding. Stations, Frequencies, Wavelengths and Times of Transmission: GSD, 11.75 mc/s., 25.49 metres (4.0-9.0 p.m.); GSO, 15.18, 19.76 (4.0 p.m.-3.0 a.m.); GRA, 17.715, 16.93 (5.30-10.0 p.m.); GSV, 17.81, 16.84 (5.30-9.0 p.m.); GSV, 17.81, 16.84 (10.0 p.m.-3.0 a.m.).

Headlines in the programmes for the week December 7-13: Football Results, 6.30 p.m., Sunday; As the Commentator Saw It (Australia v. Ireland), 6.45 p.m., Sunday; Women's Talk, 10.15 p.m., Sunday; Service from St. Paul's Cathedral, 10.30 p.m., Sunday; World of Work, 10.0 p.m., Monday; Music of the Regiments, 9.0 p.m., Tuesday; Plain English ("Words in Action"), 10.0 p.m., Tuesday; The Television Service (feature programmes), 4.30 p.m., Wednesday; Twenty Questions, 9.0 p.m., Wednesday; Science and Everyday Life, 10.0 p.m., Wednesday; Football Fixtures, 6.30 p.m., Thursday; Cultural Talk, 10.0, p.m., Thursday; Stranger Than Fiction, 11.45 p.m., Thursday; Talk on Music (The Concerto for piano and orchestra), 10.0 p.m., Saturday.

