

# "In Need of Special Care"

"In need of special care" is a BBC television film about the Camphill Movement, first founded in 1939 by Dr. König and a small group of refugees from Vienna. Their school in Aberdeen was the first of many, and, contrary to the present trend, admits children suffering from a wide range of disabilities.

The breaking of barriers in the realm of man's intellect, the expanding horizon of technology and the achievements of science show the immense potential of man's mind. Alongside all this there is the quiet insistent voice of children and young people whose minds and personalities take a different course and do not develop in what is regarded as a normal way.

They call for special understanding and care. They need treatment and schooling and therapy and a social setting in which also their mind can reach wider horizons and their soul be filled with purpose and joy. Their cry is a silent one that reaches deep into the conscience of their fellow-human-beings, for they too must have a purpose in their lives—however distorted their bodies and inarticulate their minds.

## A DIFFERENT WORLD

When one goes amongst children and adults who need special care because they are mentally not able to keep up with modern society, a different world opens up—which can make one question again, "What is man?" and "How can the best in him shine out?"

No life is without its pain and disappointment, but through this the deeper meanings can perhaps be revealed. The feature of the Camphill Schools and Villages, formed and guided by the late Karl König on methods learned from Rudolf Steiner, is the urgent search for an understanding of the latent possibilities within children who otherwise need institutional care.

It is not glory, but a humble endeavour to find therapy, schooling methods, outlets of work and forms of social living.

## THE T.V. TEAM

The pioneer Camphill School in Scotland has been made the subject of a study in depth by a T.V. team, where the question was posed, "If one brings different types of handicapped children together, how do they help or hinder each other?" The same team then turned its attention to the first community of the Camphill Village Trust, where handicapped adults live a social and productive life.

In South Africa, too, the Camphill Movement has tried to establish centres for people in need of special care. The Rudolf Steiner School (now called "Camphill School") at Hermanus, is well-known; there is also Cresset House, near Johannesburg, and a Camphill Village for adults has been established a few years ago on a farm not far from Cape Town, in the direction of Malmes-

These films are being shown in various centres in South Africa, together with exhibits of photographs of the work done in this country, in the hope of encouraging greater interest in the problem of the mentally handicapped.

## RHODES

The film is to be presented at Rhodes University next Wednesday evening (details of which appear in the leader advertisements of this newspaper), and it has been sponsored to be screened at Rhodes by the Psychology Society and the Social Science Society at the University, and in conjunction with the Mental Health Society in Grahamstown.