

The "Centro de Rehabilitacion Para Ninos Lisiados" ~~xxxx~~ in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic is a small, crowded 'outpatient' clinic for crippled children ~~upto~~ 14 years of age. ~~or younger~~. Since 1963, the ~~Centro de Rehabilitacion Para Ninos Lisiados~~ <sup>number</sup> of patients has grown to a present-day 2,246. It is ~~still~~ growing ~~at~~ at a rate of 125 new cases per month.

Any number of problems have hindered the ~~maximum performance~~ of the overworked staff members from doing the best possible for their many patients. However, a series of contributions made ~~recently~~ during recent months by various world and private organizations will make possible the expansion of the only rehabilitation center in the republic. Among the contributors have been the Dominican Association for the Rehabilitation of Crippled Children; the United Nations with technical assistance; the International Society for the Disabled; the Papal Nuncio with funds for ~~new~~ a new, larger building; and the ~~Inter-American Peace Force and USFORDOMREP~~ with equipment for the ~~new building~~ <sup>USFORDOMREP soldiers</sup> ~~Center~~. This equipment included crutches, chairs, beds, mirrors, and so forth. It was bought with ~~fund raised by~~ a two thousand dollar donation from GI's stationed in the Dominican Republic as part of the IAPF. The purchases were made in the United States and ~~in~~ the US military ~~arranged for~~ free delivery, ~~to the Dominican Republic~~.

The present location of the Center is in a 20-square meter room in a crowded residential area. In this one room are examination booths, offices, ~~and~~ the gym required for special physical therapy. The staff consists of one full-time Doctor-director, Dr. Alfredo Contreras; two Physical Therapists, ~~(one of whom is the Boston-born wife of a Dominican neurologist)~~; one part-time doctor; two ~~orthopedic~~ <sup>orthopedic</sup> part-time orthopedic consultants.

A United Nations employee is currently engaged in ~~teaching seven Dominicans~~ the design and construction of braces, <sup>shoes etc.</sup> ~~for individual needs.~~ The instructor, Mr. Olaf Hansen of Denmark, is a Prosthetist and Orthotist and

will spend a total of 18 months on his project. His shop also helps out in another way in that physically handicapped persons are ~~taught~~ trained for Most of the clinic's cases come from three primary sources: 1) the 1962 polio epidemic; 2) cerebral palsy, ~~most~~ <sup>85%</sup> of which are very retarded, ~~and~~ <sup>15%</sup> ~~are~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~there~~ ~~which are~~ 'custodial cases' requiring constant care; and 3), deformities of the legs. The latter is due to intestinal worms, lack of vitamins, and other nutritional problems, and improper or no pre-natal care ~~of~~ <sup>by</sup> the mother. 60% of the Center's new cases fall within the 'deformities of the leg' category<sup>x</sup> and it is because of this that the brace project is highly important. Hopeful plans are to have all the patients properly braced within <sup>has a</sup> a couple of years.

Though the Center's ~~mix~~ limited number of qualified personnel versus the number of patients, it's workers have attacked ~~another~~ <sup>two other</sup> ~~problems~~ *Problems of major consideration* of ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~few~~ <sup>the</sup> qualified personnel.

One of these is the illiteracy of their patients; the other, the lack of Physical Therapists.

The first problem has its roots in the traditional manner of ~~treating~~ <sup>treating</sup> ~~the education of a~~ physically disabled Dominican child. (upto) recent ~~any sort of treatment or education for a Dominican crippled child.~~ In the past, ~~such a child was considered a~~ <sup>loss</sup> such a child was considered a ~~waste~~ and was Most of today's patients in the clinic do not know how to read or write. given no educational opportunities. To counteract this situation, the Center is beginning a school to be run by a government-paid teacher ~~in the center~~.

The lack of qualified physical therapists will also be attacked via a school. This one will be run by the Center and the teachers will be the professionals already on the staff. The first class is to ~~be~~ have between 6 and 8 students who will study basic principles of physical therapy. Today, physical therapy given the ~~children~~ <sup>patients</sup> lasts about ten minutes. It should be at least an hour.

illnesses and the crowded conditions has also forced the Center to limit patients to one checkup every three months. This should be ~~more often~~ <sup>more often</sup> and will be on completion of the \$20,000 building which is expected in October of this year.