

**GAME-THERAPY AND ROLE-PLAY**

# NEW BOOK ON MULTIPLY DAMAGED CHILDREN

From among children born alive, 2-4 per cent on average are born with some kind of damage. This means 2.5-3 million children from 0-6 years of age, in Europe alone.

So runs part of the introduction to a new book in English by Erzsebet Tunyogi called *Therapeutic Games*. The figures above are difficult to comprehend, but on a visit to the kindergarten where Dr Tunyogi works with some of these damaged children I learnt more about their need for enormous devotion, care and attention. She started by speaking about her background:

'I worked and completed my studies with the world-famous Pető Institute (founded in the 1930s by Professor András Pető who gave the world Conductive Education for disabled children) before moving on to the In-

fant and Children's Department of the Polyclinic. From the first time I saw multiply damaged spastic children I did not feel pity for them, but rather I was sure that they could be rehabilitated to play a real role in society.'

After many hours of practical and theoretical study she gradually came to the realization of the vital importance of therapeutic games in working with these children. As she put it, she did not want to remove a child from one important part of its natural environment, play, and instead try to 'train' rather than stimulate the child. Her experience told her that within the action of play, damaged children's motor, mental, visual and auditory senses should be worked on together and in coordination.

Dr Tunyogi showed the toys

**E. TUNYOGI**  
**Therapeutic Games**

Conducting the development of multiply damaged children aged 0-6

or "tools" that she and her nurse-teachers use in their planned games and role-plays. Hand-made (she has so far been unsuccessful in finding a company to manufacture them) with brightly coloured designs, each has been designed along strictly scientific guidelines.

Results of her work and of the children's development are processed by computer, and new research programmes are being developed. Dr. Tunyogi said. And the games are not only made of wood and paper — computer programmes are also being used to test visual and audio coordination.

The work and time have been enormous; the results are remarkable. "My aim is to rehabilitate at least 60 to 80 pc of multiply damaged spastic children into independent people and to improve the condition of the remaining 20 to 40 pc to the highest level obtainable..." she says. She added that several of her children now attend larger primary schools, something that they all get a taste of anyway as her kindergarten is actually part of a primary school.

The book came out of the need to publicize her unique system of treatment for these children in order to spread her teaching methods, and hopefully to attract some foreign interest in the school. Budgetary measure are forcing the council to cut its grant, and families will have to bear the burden. Additional help has come from the **SOROS** Foundation of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, which sponsored one of her groups for a year.

Finally, Dr. Tunyogi told me that of the many fulfilling aspects of her work one of the greatest was the knowledge that all 'her' children will remember their childhood not as one of frustration, but as times of happiness and stimulation through the games that led them to an active role in society.

James Stewart

\* *Therapeutic Games, Conducting the development of multiply damaged children aged 0-6.* Published 1990, April, GRAFOIMPEX, YU-41000 Zagreb, Brecenskoga 4, Yugoslavia.

## Taxi driver bites cop

**Johannesburg (AFP)** — An enraged taxi driver, incensed that his vehicle was about to be towed away, bit a traffic policeman so badly "it looked as if a lion had mauled him", a traffic department spokesman said.

Marius le Grange, 20, ordered a tow truck to remove a minibus

taxi blocking a city centre junction, but was attacked by the driver who ripped the winch off the truck in an effort to drive the taxi away while it was still hooked up. The taxi driver escaped after the incident, but police impounded his vehicle. Le Grange was taken to hospital.

A 1920 ROLLS ROYCE SILVER GHOST which is competing in the London to Peking Car Challenge makes its way over Westminster bridge. The 8,000-mile rally retraces the 1907 journey from London to Peking and will last a gruelling 56 days

INTERFOTO MTI EPA



been, so to speak, skeletons in the cupboard from a long time ago.



**CANCER (June 22-July 22):** Well, in all things there are ups followed by downs. The last two weeks can have been spectacular for Cancers, but this week will confront you with a problem that hits "out of the blue". You may well find that you are coming into a period where you will be involved with great financial outlays, and an even greater expenditure of time. You should be prepared.



**LEO (July 23-August 23):** The end of the week may be your chance to break from the mould, workwise, as some important news is foreseen mid-week. Friday seems to be the vital day, so do not let the week tail off but keep working, possibly through the

you are well aware now of where you want to be going.



**SCORPIO (October 24-November 22):** The stars are looking most favourably on Scorpios again, and it is your luck that a meeting this week, maybe early on Monday or Tuesday morning, can lead to interesting and pleasurable pursuits. Love matters are likely to be good, and for those flirtatious Scorpios you may find you are irresistible to the opposite sex.



**SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21):** There seems to be a most damaging aspect this week for Sagittarians and the results can have repercussions throughout your life. You should exercise caution in business dealings and in your private life, but in the end you may have to work hard at



**PISCES (February 21-March 20):** The stars say that you will still be knocking your head against a brick wall unless you prepare your business matters more carefully, and plan ahead for all eventualities. Emotionally there may be a problem with your loved one on Friday, but the weekend looks good for 'making up'.

**DAILY NEWS—**  
**NEUESTE NACHRICHTEN**  
English and German language daily newspaper  
Editor-in-chief  
**DR JÁNOS DOBSA**  
Editorial and Publishing Offices:  
Budapest I., Fém u. 5/7  
Postal address: Budapest.