

The First World Conference on Gifted Children

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Over the last few years the needs of outstanding children have begun to be widely considered with a view to enriching the whole curriculum in their normal education. The National Association for Gifted Children has become more and more engaged in advising parents, teachers and students how best to cope with these children. The daily postbag has increased several fold and letters have come both from home and abroad showing that Authorities and Head Teachers have differing attitudes and also that some countries are apathetic and make no provision for this problem.

It was therefore decided to hold the first World Conference on Gifted Children so that there could be an exchange of ideas and experiences by people influential in the fields of medicine, education, psychology and sociology. The three main objectives of the Conference are: To focus world attention on gifted children and their valuable potential contribution to the benefit of mankind. To explore the nature of their talents and resultant problems in childhood and adolescence. To create a 'climate' of acceptance of gifted children, not as a privileged elite, but as an invaluable global asset.

The Conference is being held in London at the Royal College of Surgeons and King's College from 8-12th September. The theme

is "Looking to their Future" and the message from the Secretary of State for Education and Science begins "In recent years we have seen an increasing focusing of attention on the needs and problems of the individual child. I see it as being one of the fundamental aims of education to assist all to fulfil their potential. Being especially gifted has its problems and we need to see that those gifted children in our midst are identified early in life and given the help, encouragement and challenge they need to make the most of their abilities, for their own sakes and for that of the community. This is not an elitist concept, certainly as far as we in the United Kingdom are concerned. Indeed, in the case of some gifted children who display problems which arise directly from their giftedness, it can perhaps be seen as compensatory."

His points have been taken up in the subjects chosen by the main speakers. To name only a few, Professor George Parkyn, who for many years has been one of New Zealand's best known writers on this subject, covers Identification and Evaluation, Professor John Casey and Dr. Nancy Quisenberry of Illinois University speak on "What does recent research say about giftedness in early childhood?", Professor James Gallagher deals with Special Curricula, Pro-

fessor Harry Passow with *Fostering Creativity*, Dr. Pamela Mason with *Emotional Disturbances*, The Director of Tribal Education in Iran with the gifted children of Nomads, and Professor Paul Torrance studies the future of gifted children.

Two afternoons are allotted to important discussion groups. The following subjects are offered under leaders specially chosen for their interests: Physical Handicaps, Creativity, Mathematics, Counselling, Music and Research.

As it is essential to include the needs of younger gifted children there will be an exhibition of Toys, Games and Puzzles with full explanation and advice available. We hope to show some items which have not been on display before.

On the Tuesday evening there is a Concert by gifted young musicians of various countries. This will be organised by Yfrah Neaman, the distinguished international violinist. He has for many years devoted his time to encouraging and guiding young gifted musicians. He holds international master classes in London and overseas and represents the U.K. on the juries of major international competitions.

The emblem of the Conference, and we hope for future such Conferences in different countries, represents one of those highly able children who are perplexed by their own brilliance and are not sufficiently helped in finding the way to full realization. The children in our maze can be boys or girls, black or white, rich or poor. This does not matter. What does matter is that the first World Conference on his or her needs should succeed through having a wide representation of those determined to discover more means of healthy developing talent from early childhood onwards.

(For a full programme of the Conference, a leaflet about the work of the National Association for Gifted Children and a complimentary News Letter please write to Director, N.A.G.A., 27 John Adam Street, London WC2N 6HX).

La lère Conférence mondiale sur les enfants surdoués se tiendra au *Royal College of Surgeons* et au *King's College*, à Londres, du 8 au 12 septembre 1975. Elle aura pour thème: "Songeons à leur avenir", et aura trois objectifs: attirer l'attention du monde entier sur les enfants surdoués et les grands services qu'ils pourraient rendre à l'humanité; découvrir la nature de leurs dons exceptionnels et examiner les problèmes qui en découlent dans l'enfance et l'adolescence; créer un climat de compréhension à l'égard des "petits génies", en sorte qu'on les considère non comme une élite privilégiée, mais comme un atout majeur de la race humaine.

Prendront notamment la parole: le professeur G. Parkyn, (Détermination et évaluation des aptitudes), le professeur J. Casey et le dr N. Quisenberry (Travaux de recherche récents), le professeur J. Gallagher (Programmes d'études spéciaux), le professeur H. Passow (Favoriser la créativité), le dr P. Mason (Troubles émotionnels), le professeur P. Torrance (Les enfants surdoués et leur avenir).

De jeunes musiciens prodiges donneront un concert. Pour tous renseignements supplémentaires concernant soit la Conférence, soit les activités de l'Association nationale des enfants surdoués, prière de s'adresser au: Director, N.A.G.C., 27 John Adam Street, Londres WC2N 6HX.

La Primera Conferencia Mundial sobre niños dotados de talento se celebrará en el *Royal College of Surgeons* y *King's College*, Londres, del 8 al 12 de septiembre 1975 y su tema será "Mirando a su futuro". Los tres fines principales de la conferencia son: Atraer la atención sobre los niños dotados de talento y su valiosa y posible contribución para beneficio de la humanidad, explorar la naturaleza de sus dotes y los problemas que de ellas surgen en la infancia y la adolescencia, y por último, crear una atmósfera en que se acepte a estos niños, no como a un grupo privilegiado, sino como una muy valiosa contribución global.

Entre los conferenciantes se incluyen el Profesor G. Parkyn, (Identificación y Evaluación), el Profesor Casey y el Dr. N. Q. (Investigaciones recientes), el Professor Gallagher (Curricula especiales), el profesor H. Passow (Desarrollo de la Creatividad), el Dr. P. Mason (Trastornos emocionales) y el Profesor P. Torrance (Futuro de los niños de talento).

Habrà un concierto ofrecido por jóvenes músicos. Para más detalles sobre la Conferencia o el trabajo de la Asociación Nacional, dirijanse al Director, N.A.G.C., 27 John Adam Street, London WC2N 6HX.