



ROTARY ROUNDABOUT



Diary of a Rotary Doctor



Rotarian John Clegg is an orthopaedic surgeon who has worked annually for the last 13 years in a polio camp in rural India. This is his story.

The camp usually starts with an opening ceremony involving Rotarians, hospital staff and patients' families, with the outpatient clinic beginning shortly after.

Large numbers of patients wait to be assessed and seen in quick succession, and those suitable for operation are prepared for theatre. Up to 200 patients may be seen over the three days of the camp.

The operating theatres are adequate, and the hospital facilities are to a good standard. Hospital staff are enthusiastic and quick to learn. They work very hard throughout the day, and after the operations

have finished they prepare for the next day. The project could not take place without them.

Post operatively, the patients are observed for 24 hours before being discharged to travel home by a variety of transport.

Dr Clegg says that he has had tremendous financial and moral support from Rotary clubs in the area. Each camp costs about £3,000, half of which is provided by UK Rotary clubs, and half by two Rotary clubs in Mumbai.

In addition, it has been possible to include junior orthopaedic trainees from the UK. They gain experience working in a different environment, operating under the direct supervision of consultants on a variety of patients, while experiencing life and travel in rural India.

All who take part get tremendous satisfaction from helping patients who are usually very poor and who would otherwise have been unable to afford the cost of treatment. The doctors taking part cover the cost of airfares personally, but once in India, Rotary hospitality takes care of the rest.

The Rotary Club of Hart "Service above Self"

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Tel 01252 842411
Rotary Club of Hart