

48

SPEECH BY THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH, MR. A.J. BRAGA, AT THE OPENING OF THE CHARITY BAZAAR OF THE BRITISH EUROPEAN ASSOC. (WOMEN'S SECTION) AT 11 A.M. ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 1957.

It is usual when one is asked to perform an official or demi-official act such as opening a bazaar, to express pleasure in accepting the invitation. Today I wish not only to express my genuine pleasure at accepting your invitation, but also to say the pleasure is heightened by the nature of the cause for which this bazaar has been organized - namely to help in improving the health of the children of Singapore.

Today's bazaar is the culminating point in the drive of the Women's Section of the British European Association of Malaya to raise funds for the Convalescent Home of the Singapore Children's Society at Tanah Merah Besar. I am fully aware that this Home is doing most valuable work in restoring to health these children from poorer homes who could not otherwise hope for the benefits of convalescence under skilled care and in surroundings most conducive to their recovery.

At all times the alleviation of sickness and distress is a most worthy cause, but especially is this so when directed to the care of those too young to help themselves.

My Ministry is entrusted with the general care of the health of the people of Singapore. Its work is dependent upon the resources available to the Government, and I freely admit that while much has been done, much still remains to be accomplished. But, however well a Government Department may organise its work in the field of the prevention and cure of sickness and injury, there is still great need for the efforts and assistance of those voluntary organizations which devote themselves so nobly to dealing with special cases and special aspects of curative work.

The direct interest of the public spirited members of your Association in the Convalescent Home indeed indicates that you truly appreciate the needs of Singapore, and I am most grateful to you for all your efforts. For my part I can assure you that I shall be glad to assist the Convalescent Home in such ways as may lie within my power.

I wish the Women's Section of the British European Association every success in their efforts for the Convalescent Home and I associate myself with the appeal just made - that when the Bazaar is open, to spend until it hurts!

I have now much pleasure in declaring the Bazaar open.

AUGUST 24, 1957.

(Time issued 1000 hours).