

The Basque Children's Hostel
Penstone House, Lancing

The hostel at Lancing seems to be well and happy.

The house itself is large and spacious, with big windows. It has been newly decorated, and the painting and distempering of the rooms has been done by the local Toc H who are interested in the children. The bedrooms have distempered walls of blue, cream and orange and look very gay.

There are 25 children, 22 girls and three little boys who chose to the girls' home and be with their sisters.

They look extremely well and seem happy. They have lots to eat and are in the open air a great deal, and can go down to the sea. They have lessons, and do a good deal of dancing and a lot of handwork.

The Warden and his wife seem very competent, and do some teaching as well as administration. There is a German girl who teaches, and two other señoritas. Of these, one is happy, but the other has been restless and wanting to get away and be with her sisters in Wakefield. However Sr Uranga after talking to her thinks that she will probably settle down and that it would be a mistake to do a change just now.

The difficulties of the home have been chiefly financial – there is to be a fresh appeal for funds from local people which it is hoped will bring in more money. Also Mrs Thorneycroft hopes to arrange for the children to give dancing displays which they have done once or twice with great success.

They also need materials for knitting etc. of which they do a great deal. Perhaps the National Joint Committee would help?

Report by Frida Stewart