

"March of Dimes" Brings to Mind the Story of the Kenney Method of Treating Poliomyelitis

Early Use of Physical Therapy in Kenney Method Is Said by Medical Men To Be Secret of Success; March of Dimes Drive Now in Progress Provides Funds to Combat Spread of Disease

Just four and a half years ago—in 1940—a distinct change in our treatment of infantile paralysis was introduced, one that has since caught the public's attention because of its human drama. This was, of course, the method of treating infantile paralysis victims which was evolved by Sister Kenny the Australian nurse.

Many have misunderstood the nature of the Kenney treatment, and have thought it a cure for infantile paralysis. That is not true, and Sister Kenny makes no such claim. There is no cure for this crippling disease. The medical profession is still in the dark as to how to prevent it. It cannot control its spread. No one yet knows by what method this virus is carried from one victim to another. In a day when we are masters of typhoid, smallpox, and diphtheria—infantile paralysis is still a riddle, prowling our country at will.

What Sister Kenny has contributed, however—and it is a very real contribution—is a method for treating victims already stricken by infantile paralysis; a method that in the opinion of many American doctors reduces the crippling after-effects of the disease.

There is a real interest in the history of the Kenney method in this country, and the National Foundation for infantile paralysis played an all-important part in evaluating this technique and in making it available to every infantile paralysis victim.

Sister Kenny went to the offices of the National Foundation one day in May, 1940, because she knew that the job of the National Foundation was to examine and study every new bit of knowledge that could possibly hasten the conquest of infantile paralysis. Present that day, were Sister Kenny, the president of the National Foundation and its medical director, Sister Kenny told her she had first developed her method. Thirty years ago, as a young nurse in the Australian bush country without medical assistance she had to care for a child stricken with infantile paralysis. Instead of immobilizing her patient's paralyzed limbs in casts or splints, she worked out a method of easing the pain and tightness in the muscles by frequent applications of heat—strips of woolen material were wrung out of steaming hot water. As the pain subsided she followed this with passive exercise until the patient himself could move his limbs. She felt that in many cases, this treatment had prevented many of the crippling after-effects of the disease.

Sister Kenny was anxious that the national foundation subject her method to scientific check, and so was the National Foundation. A few weeks later, when the University of Minnesota asked the National Foundation to support a program to study the Kenney method, it readily made a grant to that institution to enable Sister Kenny to demonstrate her method, and to give the doctors at Minneapolis a chance to see her work. For the next six or seven months, Sister Kenny treated infantile paralysis patients in Minneapolis.

In January of 1941, the National Foundation received a preliminary report from the doctors at the university. They were strongly impressed by what they had seen. To be sure, the number of cases studied had been few—too few to justify definite conclusions, but the physicians supervising this study felt that the patients treated had made far better recoveries than was usual in their experience. They recommended further study.

There was one fact, not widely known, that made these doctors cautious in their judgment. And that was the fact that over 50 per cent of all infantile paralysis cases seemingly recover by themselves, without any special form of treatment! "How do we know," these doctors asked, "that many of these cases Sister Kenny has treated might not have been among those that would have recovered spontaneously? Obviously no one could answer that question, but medical science and the National Foundation had to take that factor into account.

The caution of these doctors making their first study of the Kenney method was justified on other grounds, too. They had seen many hopeful methods for treating infantile paralysis tried before—methods which failed to stand up under scientific test. Before they gave the Kenney method their full approval, they had to be sure.

That is why in 1941, the National Foundation made a second grant to the University of Minnesota to make further studies of the Kenney method. Nearly 100 patients were treated the following year. In December of 1941 the medical men of the university made a second report. After consideration of this report the medical advisory committee of the National Foundation declared:

"It is the opinion of this committee that during the early stages

of infantile paralysis the length of time during which pain and tenderness are present is greatly reduced, and contractures caused by muscle shortening during this period are prevented by the Kenney method. The general physical condition of the patient receiving this treatment," said the committee, "seems to be better than that of patients treated by some of the other methods during a comparable period."

It was on the basis of this report that National Foundation for infantile paralysis felt justified in opening the throttle and going full steam ahead to make this Kenney method of treating infantile paralysis available everywhere in the land. A plan was immediately set up to instruct and train doctors, nurses and physical therapy technicians. Sister Kenny herself was to help in the teaching at the University of Minnesota.

How well this has worked was clearly demonstrated during the epidemics of 1943 when 12,401 cases were reported. The doctors of the whole nation had learned something of the work; many were intimately acquainted with it. Physical therapy technicians and nurses had been trained to do the work. From the epidemic areas of the West, the Central States and the East came a flood of requests from physicians for more technicians and more nurses to give this treatment.

Here was proof of the endorsement of the method by American medicine! Patients could be treated from coast to coast. Private physicians, clinics, hospitals and departments of health called for more skilled workers. The supply was limited by the demands placed on this country by war; yet there were enough to do a good job.

Up to the present time, a total of 900 persons have received this training at the University of Minnesota alone, and have been graduated with approval and certification of Sister Kenny.

All of this has been tremendously costly—a cost borne entirely by the National Foundation. To date, \$1,070,000 has been given by the National Foundation to the University of Minnesota alone, to further the evaluation and teaching of the Kenney method. Every sum this university has ever requested has been granted in full by the National Foundation.

But the task of teaching the number of technicians needed to serve the whole country was too great for any one school. So the National Foundation opened other centers. Institutions in California, Illinois, Indiana, Georgia, Pennsylvania and New York took up the teaching of the Kenney method. In addition to the money given to the University of Minnesota, \$140,000 has been granted to the other schools. These grants were made to schools connected with or operated by medical teaching centers. Eight medical colleges and one hospital devoted solely to treating infantile paralysis and to training professional people took up the burden of making the special skills and knowledge available to all doctors, nurses and physical therapy technicians. There was no quarrel here between American medicine and new methods of alleviating suffering and crippling from infantile paralysis!

The National Foundation has spent additional money on scholarships, wool for treatment, distribution of literature, exhibits and demonstrations—a total of \$301,000! In fact—and it is one worth remembering—in the past three years the National Foundation and its chapters have spent a total of over a half a million dollars for the study and teaching of the Kenney method! It is no exaggeration to state that in all the history of medicine few new theories have ever received such generous financial support from the people of any nation.

In addition to all of the foregoing, two five-year grants have been made recently by the National Foundation: one for \$175,000 to the University of Minnesota to study the physiological problems concerning the mechanism of infantile paralysis and methods of treatment; the other grant of \$150,000 was made to the University of Pennsylvania to establish a center for research and instruction in physical medicine. Both of these grants permit further evaluation and teaching of the Kenney method.

It is the dimes and dollars of the American people that have made this possible—the dimes and dollars they have contributed each year to the "march of dimes." And those dimes have done good work. Last year, the third greatest epidemic in the recorded history of the disease in the United States struck our country. Had it not been for the hundreds of doctors, nurses and technicians trained with the public's money and ready to administer the

Kenny method promptly, that epidemic might have resulted in a national disaster.

It is obvious, or course, that this newer type of treatment is far more costly, in money and personnel, than the older systems of handling polio victims. Heretofore, patients were usually immobilized in splints and plaster casts and could be cared for by a small staff of doctors, nurses and technicians. The physical therapy given usually consisted of a few hours of treatment a week—and that frequently was administered only late in the disease.

With the Kenney method, all that is different. Our medical men, in their own language, describe the Kenney method this way—"It is the early use of physical therapy, designed to prevent unnecessary deformities and to bring about the maximum function of such nerves and muscles as may have been spared by the disease process."

That means that each patient must have far more individual attention. Each case must have hot packs applied every hour or two for at least 12 hours of the day during the acute stages of the disease. At the same time the passive exercise and re-education of the patient's muscles must be started. Just consider the personnel required to provide such care under epidemic conditions! Consider, too, the soaring cost of such treatment!

Progress is being made in the fight against infantile paralysis. The Kenney method definitely represents an important step forward in treatment of this disease. But the fact that it isn't a cure and it isn't fully developed must be borne in mind.

There are some cases that can't be helped at the present time by any method of treatment, whether it be the Kenney method or any other. These are the victims whose nerve cells have been completely destroyed by the ravages of the disease. To them, motion in some muscles has been denied forever. It is because of these cases, particularly, that the research programs of the National Foundation, designed to find a way to prevent the disease, must go on.

Unfortunately, no one has yet been able to find a cure for infantile paralysis. Studies are constantly being pursued along this line by the National Foundation, but so far without result. There is no known drug or serum or vaccine to combat the virus that causes the disease. But, in the meantime, both the amount and kind of palliative treatment have been improved.

How such treatment methods can be best taught and made available to the people is a matter about which there is a difference of opinion. The establishment of a Kenney institute in Minneapolis as the only place where the Kenney method would be taught has been suggested. But of course, it's impossible to train all the Kenney technicians we require at any one place—in Minneapolis or elsewhere. And it would be equally impossible for any one person to supervise the various centers of teaching now supported by The National Foundation for infantile paralysis.

The ultimate aim is to make whatever is sound in the Kenney method a part of the curriculum of every medical, nursing and physical therapy school in the country—and that aim will be accomplished. No one institution can have a monopoly on the teaching of the Kenney method. While it is Sister Kenny's contribution to humanity, for humanity's sake it must be available to all.

This history of the Kenney method shows very clearly that the National Foundation stands ready to evaluate and test and make available every method of treatment that promises to loosen the grip that infantile paralysis has on our children. If, on the basis of tests made, a method is found effective, the full resources of The National Foundation will carry on the paralysis will be thrown behind it. The half million dollars of your money spent on the Kenney method to date certainly proves that.

The National Foundation for infantile paralysis is your Foundation—a Foundation dedicated to one purpose and one purpose only—final and complete conquest of infantile paralysis.

Until that conquest is made, the National Foundation will carry on the most ambitious research program ever marshalled against any disease. It will also continue to provide hospitalization and medical care, including the Kenney treatment, in every community to every infantile paralysis victim who needs it. And it will continue to evaluate and aid every new method that is brought to its attention.

It is the people of America who have made all that possible.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE
FOR SALE—LADY'S FUR Coat.—R. H. Parker, O'Neill. 31-1f.

I JUST SOLD TWO LARGE
ranches. Also sold 3 farms. I would like to sell your place.—R. H. Parker, O'Neill, Nebr. 16

HAVE MONEY to loan on farms and ranches and city property at 4½% interest.—R. H. Parker, O'Neill, Nebr. 8-1f

FOR SALE—ABOUT 140 bushel of good oats, 93 bushel of good rye and 100 bushel of gold corn on the cob.—Enquire at this Office.

NOW IS THE TIME FOR INSULATION, save fuel and be cooler in summer and warmer in winter. I have Balsam Wood and Zonolite. Come in and investigate.—Seth Noble. 11-1f

FOR SALE—A 2300 acre ranch, has 700 acres of hay meadow, balance in 3 pastures. Good buildings. Let me show it to you.—R. H. Parker, O'Neill, Nebr. 16

FOR SALE—Ear corn and oats and hay in stack. See R. H. Parker, O'Neill, Nebr.

MISCELLANEOUS
MONEY TO LOAN ON FARMS at 5 per cent. No commission.—L. G. Gillespie, O'Neill. 31-1f

OLDER CHILDREN IN NEED OF HOMES, SOCIETY REPORTS

Heart-breaking stories of kiddies digging in garbage cans for food in a land of plenty; mothers squandering allotments in taverns while children ship for themselves, featured reports of Nebraska Children's Home Society at the annual meet in Omaha last Wednesday evening.

Randall C. Biart, executive director reported that while the number of infants available for adoption has not increased since the war started there has been an upward surge in the number of older children in need of homes. Most of these cases are traceable directly to parental neglect, he said. Many cases involved working mothers.

The reports show that in 1944 the society provided 60,000 days care for children and handled 547 cases.

A. T. Hansen, Omaha lumberman, was named president; D. M. Ederly, vice president; H. B. Bugbee, secretary, and F. W. Thomas, treasurer.

Victory Homemakers

The Victory Homemakers met at the home of Mrs. George Pongratz on Thursday, Jan. 18, at 1 o'clock. Dinner was served by Mrs. George Pongratz and Mrs. Bernard Pongratz.

We began our meeting at 2 o'clock. Our lesson was on "Time Savers in Sewing" which was very interesting and helpful. We decided to donate \$10 for the infantile paralysis fund. Mrs. George Pongratz and Mrs. Joe Pongratz are the first to have their laprobes done for the wounded soldiers.

A birthday party was held for Mrs. Herman Dushatka and Mrs. Herman Janzing. They received many nice gifts.

Our March meeting will be at the home of Mrs. G. D. Janzing.

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EMMETT NEWS

Mrs. Walter Puckett and Mrs. Alex McConnell called on Mrs. C. E. Tenborg Tuesday afternoon.

The Victory Homemakers' club met with Mrs. George Pongratz Wednesday afternoon. All members were present.

Louina Kloppenborg returned to O'Neill Wednesday afternoon after spending a week at home entertaining the mumps.

Melvin Fox of Atkinson, Merle Foreman and Charles Fox, Jr., made a business trip to Norfolk Tuesday.

Mrs. I. S. Givens arrived home the latter part of the week after spending several months at San Bernardino, Calif.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Welsh of Chambers were business callers in Emmet Tuesday afternoon.

Mrs. Charles Prussia was a dinner guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Conrad and Mary Lou Tuesday evening.

Pfc. Edward Winkler arrived Wednesday from Fort Logan to spend an 18-day furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Winkler and family.

Miss Opal Fox is entertaining the mumps this week.

Cpl. Jimmie Freman spent a few days furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Foreman and family and other relatives and friends in this vicinity.

Mr. and Mrs. Cyril Peter of O'Neill spent Sunday at the home of Mrs. Peter's mother, Mrs. Joe Romold and family.

Mrs. Charles Prussia was given a surprise supper guest at the home of Mrs. Lloyd Johnson and family Wednesday evening.

Mrs. Jack Priester and son, Loran of the navy and daughter, Ota and Dorothy Schaffer of Humphrey spent the week-end at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Pongratz. Mrs. Priester and Mrs. Pongratz are sisters.

Leona Ferne Beckwith spent Saturday afternoon in O'Neill taking teacher's examinations.

Mrs. George Brainard returned home Sunday morning after spending a week visiting relatives and friends at Harvard.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Penry and children of Atkinson and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kloppenborg and family were dinner guests at the Joe Winkler home Sunday.

Vivian Johnson was an overnight guest of Mrs. Charles Prussia Wednesday night.

Merle Foreman left Wednesday night for Fort Leavenworth for a pre-induction examination. He returned Sunday morning.

Miss Waunita Anspach of O'Neill is spending a few days with Mary Lou Conrad.

Mrs. June Luben returned home Sunday morning after spending the week at McCook.

Mrs. Lloyd Johnson spent Monday afternoon with Mrs. Henry Benze.

Mrs. Dean Perry and children spent Sunday at the Frank Foreman home.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kloppenborg and daughter Ruby were visitors at the Charles Fox home Sunday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan O'Connell and children were callers at the Patrick Corrigan home Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Fox received word that their son, Staff Sgt. Wayne H. Fox is now stationed in France.

Mr. and Mrs. Dean Perry and family moved into the Mrs. De Liggy house the last of the week.

ALL OVER AGAIN?

Just returned from two years of combat service a soldier at the post received a card from his draft board informing him that his deferment had expired, but that if he

felt he was still engaged in an essential occupation, he might apply for an extension.

The best investment in the world: United States war bonds.

PENNEY'S

PRICED TO CLEAR!

Women's Winter Coats
All wool fabrics, colors black and brown. Also a few black curl. Sizes 38 to 44 only—
NOW— 12⁰⁰

Women's All Wool Suits
Neat, long-wearing fabrics. Color, cocoa brown only. Sizes 12-14-16—
NOW— 14⁰⁰

Girls' Winter Coats
Assorted colors of green, rust and tan. Sizes 7 to 12 only. Warmly lined—
NOW— 8⁰⁰

Boys' Sheep Skin Coats
Sizes 12 and 16 only. \$8⁰⁰
NOW
Men's, size 42 only. \$10⁰⁰
NOW

Men's Dress Hats
All-over stitched wool cloth hats suitable for Spring wear. Colors, blue, tan and grey—
NOW— 1.98

Items Just Received
Men's cotton ribbed Underwear, sizes 36 to 46, long sleeve \$1.33
Men's plaid Mackinaws, lined \$8.90
Men's Shirt and Pant Sets, heavy weight green herringbone **Shirt \$2.15, Pant \$2.29**
Men's 8-inch Boots, leather sole \$5.90
Men's Work Shoes, cord sole \$3.79
Men's Dress Pants, blue, brown \$4.98 to \$9.90
Men's House Slippers \$1.49
Men's blue poplin Work Shirts \$1.39

When Johnny Climbs Out of His Last Foxhole...



Some day Johnny, who is using his telephone training in the front lines, will climb out of his last foxhole and return to his job with the telephone company. When he does he will find a hearty welcome. His skill is needed and he is an honored personal friend.

About 60 telephone men and women have already returned and are at work with the Company. We are glad to have them. In meeting postwar telephone needs, we'll need their help and that of all the 1,300 others from this Company who are in military service.

Meeting peacetime telephone service needs will require not only the help of returning veterans but much material and millions of dollars of new capital which will have to come from people who are willing to invest their savings in the telephone business.

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