

Addendum: Comments on Prostheses for Bilateral Amputation of Lower Extremity

By MARION S. KESSLER, C. P., *Manager of the Hanger Co. Facility, Boston, Massachusetts*

We would like to report that the Hanger Facility in Boston has delivered prostheses and followed through on twelve cases of this type during the past two years. These twelve patients fell in the age group between forty and seventy-eight. Types of prostheses included double below-knee, a below-knee and coupled with above-knee prosthesis, and a double above knee prosthesis. We did not attempt to fit this older age group with prostheses equipped with knee joints. However, all patients under the age of fifty were successfully fitted with conventional prostheses and were rehabilitated. I personally feel that all healthy bilateral amputees without flexion contracture should be given a chance to try a conventional prosthesis.

We have fitted some older patients with pylons, some with ankle joints and others without (stationery). Although it is not as easy to train a patient on pylons without ankle joints, once they have learned to use the pylons they seem to walk as well without joints as with. It is our opinion that either is satisfactory. We also feel that any amputee over the age of 65 should have a mental test as well as a physical to determine their ability to accept pylons cosmetically.

CRIPPLED CHILD CONVENTION

Nationally recognized authorities in rehabilitation and prominent personalities from almost every field of endeavor will participate in the 1958 convention of the National Society for Crippled Children and Adults, Nov. 16-20 at the Statler Hotel, Dallas, Texas.

Dean W. Roberts, M.D., executive director of the Easter Seal Society, predicts that the annual meeting will be one of the most informative conventions in the National Society's 37 years of service to crippled children and adults.

Four nationally known doctors will be cited for their outstanding contributions in the field of cerebral palsy, at the annual meeting. They are Drs. George G. Deaver, professor of physical medicine at New York's Bellevue Hospital; Leslie B. Hohman, professor of psychiatry at Duke University Medical School, Durham, N.C.; Winthrop M. Phelps, medical director of the Children's Rehabilitation Institute, Reisterstown, Md.; and Meyer A. Perlstein, chief of the Children's Neurological Service, Cook County Hospital, Chicago.

Nicholson J. Eastman, M.D., past-president of the American Academy for Cerebral Palsy, chief of obstetrics at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, will speak to professional rehabilitation workers attending the convention.

The keynote address will be given by Ben Wooten, President of the First National Bank of Dallas, who is vitally interested in the welfare of crippled children and adults. Kenneth Porter, of Phoenix, a successful management consultant, will tell how he outwitted his severe handicap to become a contributing member of society. He is also serving as treasurer of the Maricopa County Society for Crippled Children and Adults in Phoenix.

OALMA will have an exhibit on "Progress in the Limb and Brace Field". The Hedgecock Artificial Limb and Brace Company will have a display and other OALMA members are expected to be represented.