

U.S. DOCTORS PAY TRIBUTE

Next month an Australian bush nurse will complete a two-years demonstration of her own revolutionary treatment of infantile paralysis before the leaders of the American medical profession. Her case records will then be examined, and the judgment of the profession will be delivered.

ALREADY, however, Doctors Wallace H. Cole and Miland E. Knapp, who were assigned by the Minnesota University to supervise the test, have declared: "This method will be the basis of future treatment of infantile paralysis."

Dr. Cole added: "She saw what a lot of doctors haven't yet seen. . . . We applaud her results."

This now famous bush nurse is Sister Elizabeth Kenny, and the story of her fight against the "disease which leaves a child neither dead nor alive" goes back about 32 years.

One day in 1910 Dr. Aeneas John McDonnell, chief surgeon of Toowoomba General Hospital in Queensland, read a longish telegram and shook his head sadly.

Sister Elizabeth Kenny, graduate nurse, working alone in the bush country 100 miles away, needed advice in treating four children stricken by a strange disease whose symptoms she described.

Dr. McDonnell scribbled a reply: "Infantile paralysis . . . no known cure . . . do best you can."

A year later young Elizabeth Kenny, tall, robust, tanned, returned on leave from the lonely outlands where she served as visiting nurse, midwife, and counsellor to the sparsely settled families. Dr. McDonnell inquired anxiously about the polio cases.

"There were two more—worse than the first lot," said the young nurse. "But all six are well now."

"Splendid!" said the doctor. "How badly are the children crippled?"

"Why, they're not crippled! They're entirely normal."

Dr. McDonnell looked hard at Sister Kenny. Then he took her telegram from a file.

"These read like severe cases—some of them already in the paralytic stage," he said. "Good heavens, nurse, such

cases just don't recover as completely as that!"

"But they're all right," the nurse insisted.

"What did you do?" the surgeon demanded with mounting excitement.

"I used what I had—water, heat, blankets, and my own hands," the nurse said. "The children recovered."

Still incredulous, Dr. McDonnell hustled the nurse into the hospital. On one white bed lay a small boy, his legs strapped in splints, his face contorted from pain.

"Here is a new case," said the doctor. "You're in complete charge. Now show us what you did."

Doctors and nurses gathered around to watch this highly irregular procedure. Before they could protest, Sister Kenny had gently stripped the splints and bandages from the child's pale and aching limbs.

FIRST CASES CURED

Then she called for boiling water and a heavy blanket, and went to work. She tore the blanket into sections which she wrung out in hot water and packed around the aching limbs. As fast as these hot packs cooled, she replaced them.

To everyone's amazement, the little patient rallied. Within a few days all pain and soreness were gone from his legs. The pale, shrunken flesh took on new color and vitality.

Then Sister Kenny began moving the child's arms and legs and massaging the muscles. Eventually she encouraged the patient to try to move his own limbs. A few weeks later the boy romped about, as sturdy as ever before.

Thus, 32 years ago, Sister Kenny began her heroic one-woman war against the cruel ravages of poliomyelitis. Interrupted only by service in the first World War, she has devoted her

life to the one crusade, demonstrating to physicians, training other nurses in her methods, spreading her influence with missionary zeal.

The nurse practising the Kenny method does not replace the doctor, but works with him.

She does not cure the disease—medical science knows no cure for it. But she does make it easier to bear, and does cut down—often completely eliminates—after-effects.

In Australia her work is complete. Government funds sustain Elizabeth Kenny clinics in eight large hospitals strategically located throughout the Commonwealth. Hundreds of nurses take the two-year post-graduate course which fits them to use the Kenny method. The medical profession has accorded her recognition.

But she would not rest with these achievements. She had dedicated her life to extending her merciful work as widely as possible, and America was her goal.



Sister Kenny demonstrates muscular manipulation on a little patient in Minnesota General Hospital.