

ESSENTIAL STEPS IN A PROGRAM OF CRIPPLED CHILDREN WORK

The following steps apply only to a community where there is no existing agency for crippled children work. Where there is such an agency, the steps should be modified in accordance with local circumstances.

1. The Survey

The first step is a local survey to determine the number of crippled children in the community. Information on the necessity for a survey, how to organize it, and how to get proper publicity is given in Pamphlet No. 40.

2. The Clinic

The second step is the organization of a clinic or a series of them to determine what needs to be done in individual cases. Information on this phase of the program is contained in Pamphlet No. 40.

3. Follow-up Work

The third step is that of following up on the conditions revealed by the clinic, which includes consideration of the following phases:

1. Classification of cases.
2. Treatment of those curable or improvable.
3. Providing of orthopedic appliances.

4. Convalescent or after-care.
5. Placement of cases in boarding homes, local institutions, etc.
6. Education (general)
 - (a) In convalescent schools
 - (b) In special classes in public schools
 - (c) Bedside instruction for "shut-ins"
7. Vocational training
8. Vocational placement
9. Transportation

4. Formation of Local, State or Provincial Societies

When a good start has been made in crippled children work locally, the need for and the efficacy of the work having been proved, an effort should be made to enlist general community cooperation in the formation of a local society for crippled children work, this ultimately combining with other similar societies to form a state or provincial society to work for government legislation in the interests of crippled children. The work of prevention, difficult for a Rotary club to handle, can very readily be taken up by such a society. (This phase of the work is treated in Pamphlet No. 40.)

NOTE: In the strain and stress of war activity there may be a tendency in some communities to forget, or at least to neglect, the important work of rehabilitating the crippled child. The war will present the problem of caring for those who are maimed for life. To this burden should not be added those who can be saved for a life of usefulness if corrective measures are applied in time. This year, more than ever, it is important that each community seek out its crippled children and try to develop a plan for conserving these human resources.