

REPORT
OF THE
Charity Hospital
OF LOUISIANA
AT NEW ORLEANS



July 1st, 1943 to June 30th, 1944

REPORT OF KENNY UNIT

July 1, 1943 to June 30, 1944

The establishing and successful operation of the Kenny Unit for treating poliomyelitis cases (Infantile Paralysis) occurring in the State of Louisiana is an ideal example of how two state departments can function beneficially and constructively without duplicating activities in solving a particular problem.

This Unit operates jointly with the Crippled Children Services of the Louisiana State Board of Health and the Charity Hospital of New Orleans, in cooperation with the Tulane University Medical School, Louisiana State University Medical Center, and the Orleans Chapter of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, Incorporated.

Isolation

Patients admitted are treated under strict isolated conditions. A special technique is employed in virus destruction of all body discharges from cases coming under the care of this institution.

From a public health aspect, communities throughout the state are also protected, in that acute cases are accepted for treatment, thereby removing a potential source of contamination.

Orthopedic-Pediatric Service

It is felt that treatment started early, or in the acute stage of poliomyelitis, tends to offer the greatest amount of benefit to the patient. Therefore, a "setup" to meet this situation is in operation.

The pediatric staff is responsible for diagnosis and general pediatric care of each patient, whereas the orthopedic staff orders the necessary type of treatment, only after the diagnosis has been rendered. The discharging of cases is the responsibility of the orthopedic surgeon.

After the patient is discharged "follow-up" work is done through the various orthopedic clinics conducted by the Crippled Children Services of the Louisiana State Board of Health which are conveniently located throughout the six areas in the State of Louisiana.

Nursing Service

The nursing phase in this Unit is a highly specialized type, in that the general nursing care of the patient must be primarily considered, as well as the necessary function of applying the heat therapy as conducted in the Kenny method.

The nurse is responsible to the orthopedic and pediatric staff in carrying out their instructions. Prior to acceptance of this responsibility she must be properly instructed and trained.

Physiotherapy Service

The physical therapy phase in the Kenny Unit is well organized to render the necessary service in aiding the patient to receive the maximum amount of benefit from this type of treatment. Proper positions to rest in bed to prevent deformities, exercise and muscle training of all patients are the activities in which the physio-therapist is engaged. She is responsible for carrying out the instructions of the orthopedic surgeon.

Special School Service

There is in operation at the Kenny Unit an accredited school with classes for both elementary and high school courses. All school age children who are patients have the opportunity of attending school and will receive full credit for the work completed during their stay in the hospital. This is a unique school in that the teacher must adjust her classes to coincide with the regular scheduled treatment period. The teacher and necessary school supplies are furnished by the Orleans Parish School Board.

Medical Social Service

The Crippled Children Services maintains its own social service department. This department determines eligibility for care under the Crippled Children Program. It assists in making adjustments in the home prior to and following hospitalization. It aids the patient and parents to meet problems confronting them, due to illness.

Teaching Activity

The various phases of treatment and epidemiology of poliomyelitis are taught to medical students at this Unit, as well as post-graduate work for specializing physicians, by the orthopedic and pediatric departments of Tulane University Medical School and Louisiana State University Medical Center. Student nurses and affiliates of Charity Hospital are assigned to the Kenny Unit service as a part of their general training.

Entertainment

It is the custom at the Kenny Unit to supply various types of entertainment in the form of parties, motion picture shows, musical programs, and performances by professional entertainers. Birth days of patients and the observance of various holidays are occasions for parties. The necessary funds for these parties are supplied by interested donors.

CASES HANDLED KENNY UNIT
From January 15, 1943 through June 30, 1944

Diagnosis	Number Cases Admitted	Number Cases Discharged	Number Cases Deserted	Total Hospital Days	Average Hospital Days	Maximum Hospital Days	Minimum Hospital Days	Deaths	Number Cases Admitted Prior to 6/30/44 Yet in Hospital
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.....	77	54	5	6,832	88.7	318	15	0	23
Subacute Anterior Poliomyelitis.....	5	5	0	315	63.0	153	24	0	0
Chronic Anterior Poliomyelitis.....	5	5	0	225	45.0	91	16	0	0
Abortive Type Poliomyelitis.....	6	6	0	104	17.3	27	11	0	0
Bulbar Type Poliomyelitis.....	10	10	0	234	23.4	42	1	3	0
Guillain-Barre' Syndrome.....	2	2	0	240	120.0	120	80	0	0
Suspected Poliomyelitis.....	18	18	0	167	9.2	30	1	0	0
Total.....	123	100	5	8,117	77	--	--	3	23

BRANCH J. AYMOND, M. D.
 Director, Kenny Unit
 Chief, Crippled Children Services
 Louisiana State Board of Health



One of the entertainments for the benefit of the patients in the Kenny Unit.