

THE DEAF CHILD'S ADVOCATE

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Exploiting the Deaf

For those who know it, it appears paradoxical but true that the deafened, while often exploited, seem to lend themselves readily to exploitation.

Not comprehending that the loss in acuity of hearing may be due to many causes or a combination of causes, they seek relief wherever aid is tendered them, whether or not the help offered has a scientific or even a rational basis. Recovery of the function of hearing is sought in the application of heat, light and electrical contrivances. Did those to whom these quack remedies are offered but know the way an ear must function to hear normally, they would resent the insult to their intelligence which these proffered "cures" present.

There is no state of mind so pathetic and deplorable as that which ensues when, money expended, and eventually disappointed, these deafened persons finally come to the realization of the truth of the matter. In addition to being deafened, they usually become discouraged as well. The tragedy resides in the fact that in the interval during which these exploited people are being fooled, exceedingly valuable time is lost to them before exact diagnosis is made and an actual summation of the factors in their ear condition is undertaken, so that whatever medicine has to offer may be given to them.

Those who have the observation and the care of deafened persons in their charge should know that public advertisements of cures and miracle working recoveries of lost hearing are mostly untrue; and those who declare that they effect these so-called cures are not among the reputable practitioners of medicine. *Fundamentally the ear is divided into three parts; the external portion; the sound collecting apparatus, the middle ear, which is the sound transmitting mechanism, and the internal ear, which is the sound receiving and perceiving ap-*

paratus. To these must be added the auditory nerve, the nerve of hearing, which carries the impulse taken up in the three portions of the ear to the brain for intelligent interpretation and comprehension. For normal hearing, all these elemental factors must be normal.

Various Types of Deafness

The second fundamental factor which every one concerned with hearing acuity must apprehend is that there are various types of deafness. The type is determined by the element that is "out of gear" or, in other words, does not function normally.

There is a certain type of deafness in which heredity plays a distinct role. This type runs in families and in collateral branches of a family. It often has its onset in an acute sickness. There are forms of deafness which follow the deficiency diseases which, like rickets in childhood, show a dysfunction, that is, disordered functioning in the calcium balance in the body, evidenced particularly in the bones, including the bones of the ear. There are types of deafness in which the nerve of hearing, the acoustic nerve, is either partially or completely destroyed. There are cases in which the middle ear at one time had been the seat of an infection which, when it finally healed, left behind it scar tissue and adhesions that impede the smooth, efficient working of the transmitting machinery of the middle ear. And last, because of repeated colds and other infections in the nose, the sinuses, the throat or the tubes to the ear, there is a type of deafness which has been designated as catarrhal. Here the mucous membrane of the middle ear becomes thickened and hinders proper function of the transmitting apparatus. From this mere outline of some of the typical varieties of deaf ears, can any one who thinks on a problem at all conceive

that any one advocated method of cure could favorably influence all these types, to say nothing of a combination of them? Would it not be the part of wisdom for a person afflicted with a loss of hearing to have it established as definitely as possible just what condition his own case presents before he permits himself to be exploited by one or the other of the advertised cures for deafness?

Operations and So-called Cures Mostly Ineffective

There are operations recommended to cure deafness. To date, none of these has proved successful. Patients have unoffending, healthy, normal tonsils removed to cure deafness, and this too has proved unsuccessful. It is impossible to estimate the number of operations undertaken on the structures of the nose with the idea that deafness will be cured thereby. As a matter of fact, these too are unsuccessful. Elaborate electrical apparatus, noise producing apparatus, have been devised. They are being used daily and are sometimes applied without even the searching examinations necessary for a proper diagnosis. This type of cure has brought only disappointment and failure to the afflicted. Such measures as the instillation of oils and the application of the X-rays do not have any therapeutic value as cures for deafness.

What, then, shall be said to those afflicted? First, find a competent ear specialist, and have an exact diagnosis made of the condition. Then discuss with him the value of treatment and what is to be expected of it. Establish the irrevocable losses, and accept them.

Artificial Hearing Aids Helpful

In the use of artificial hearing aids there is some help. These not only pierce the sphere of silence and bring sounds to the hearing organ, but by their stimulating effect of the sound waves that they carry they improve hearing. There is a belief current that the use of

hearing aids dooms the wearer to eventual total deafness. This is not the fact for, on the contrary, they help the wearer keep alive whatever acoustic nerve activity is still possessed; and by an indirect means of re-education of the auditory nerve and its apparatus they tend to improve on what is left of the hearing.

Lipreading a Valuable Aid

Finally, once it is established that a given individual has an irreparable loss of hearing, it is much better to spend time and money acquiring the accomplishment of lip reading than to waste these important things in attempting cures that cannot, under the circumstances, help or even mitigate the situation. Once this accomplishment is learned it is astonishing how well a deafened individual can get along in the day's routine.

It is clear then that the first step in the alleviation of deafness is to seek aid in responsible quarters. He who blatantly cries his wares has need of advertising, for were it otherwise, his cures would advertise themselves to all.

When diagnosis has been made and substantiated, do not attempt the impossible and feed the coffers of quacks and irregular cultists who hold out "cures" and are neither by education nor by medical study and equipment in position to make a diagnosis of what is wrong with the case, much less cure it. If you have nasal or throat trouble and there is a family history of deafness, have the condition under competent medical supervision and treatment. Look askance at advocated operations which profess to cure losses in hearing. Use hearing aids as you would eye-glasses, when they are needed and when you obtain better results with them than without them. If you can hear better with hearing aids they should be used. Avoid the application of oils and X-rays to the ears. No one of competent authority has yet shown

how these can make a dead nerve alive or make a middle ear apparatus which is in dysfunction function properly.

—By S. J. Kopetzky, M.D.
(*Hygiea*)

THE DEAFENED AND THE WAR

When things run smoothly, it does not take much effort and circumspection to run the machinery of state and of the community. During exceptional times, the resources of the nation and the ingenuity of the citizens are taxed to the utmost. Every ounce of energy is needed to combat the enemies within and without our country. The forces of justice and righteousness are expected to be utilized and strengthened for the good of all by all the people.

Among these people are many who are handicapped and who are anxious to do all they can to help the cause. The deafened are no exception. It has been known for a long time that there are about 400 occupations in which the deafened can render signal services.

It is pleasing to note that the *Automotive News* of June 8, 1942, says that the Oldsmobile dealers in Pittsburgh area have already started working on a plan of training the deafened as service mechanics and that the results have been very satisfactory. The government, it is stated, contributes to the employer during their first six months of training, that the employer's only obligation is to train the man and that there have, definitely, been no complaints about the deafened.

It must be a great satisfaction for the deafened to know that they can do their share to help the nation when our very existence is threatened. May the deafened continue to contribute in this battle for a better future when security, humanitarian principles and happiness will prevail again.

—Dr. Emil Amberg
(*The Rainbow*)

BUSLOAD OF SAGINAW FRIENDS VISIT THE INSTITUTE

Besides our good Ladies' Aid Societies of Philadelphia Ave., Christ Lutheran Church and Iroquois Ave., Christ Lutheran Church of Detroit, the Ladies' Aid of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, and other friends of Saginaw visited our Institute recently. Our Saginaw friends chartered a bus for the occasion. The excursion from Saginaw



A bus load of visitors from Saginaw, all good Friends of Our Institute

naw was arranged by Mrs. H. R. Martini and Mrs. E. Nuechterlein.

Mrs. Martini writes, "We had a very pleasant return trip Wednesday, arriving here at 7:00, all agreeing that we had spent a most pleasant and profitable day with 'you and your family.'"

"We feel that our trip will interest many more to visit you. Enclosed the clipping from last night's paper.

"In behalf of our party, we again thank you and your faculty for their time and kindness shown us while in your midst and may God continue to bless your efforts."

Mrs. Nuechterlein penned the following words, "In behalf of the Bethlehem Ladies' Aid Society, I wish to express my sincerest appreciation for all the kindness you and the faculty showed us, during our visit yesterday at the Institute. The visit was beneficial to all of us. We never realized before that we really have such a fine school for the deaf. The demonstrations in the different classrooms, and the various methods used in teaching the deaf were most interesting. I wish more Ladies' Aids would sponsor trips to the Institute and

see for themselves, the wonderful work you are doing.

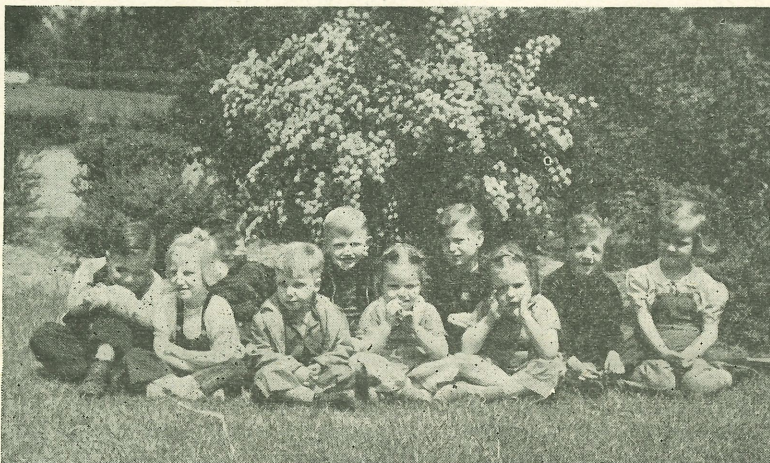
"May God give you his richest blessings, and continue to bless your efforts in this fine Institute."

Mrs. J. Buchdahl of the Ladies' Aid Society of Christ Church in a letter comments as follows: "The Ladies' Aid Society of The Iroquois Ave. Christ Lutheran Church wish to thank you and your staff for the delicious lunch and trip through your institution.

Most of us had never attended a demonstration of this sort and were very much impressed with the wonderful work you are performing, and we wish you God's blessings in all your future work."

MEMORIAL GIFTS ARE GOD-PLEASING

We are very happy to state that our Memorial Gift receipts are on the incline. Such offerings, be they large or small, indicate definitely that the living faith of our Christians is ever eager to manifest itself in deeds of love for the less fortunate brethren of Christ, as a



A group of Our Babies taken just before they left us for a happy vacation period at home

few excerpts of letters recently received in our office will show:

Rosedale Gardens,
Plymouth, Mich.

Enclosed you will find a check for \$300.00 for the purchase of a multiple hearing aid for one of your class rooms, as I know that you need them in every room. This was a gift to me, and I am giving it to the Institute in Memory of My Dear Mother for Mother's Day. May the good Lord bless and prosper our School for the Deaf in every way. —Mrs. F. H. B.

Glencoe, Minn.

Enclosed please find \$2.00 in cash as a contribution to your worthy cause. Everyone's support is much needed in this effort, I know. —Mrs. F. C. T.

Detroit, Michigan

Enclosed please find a check for \$225.00 placed as a Memorial of our Father's Birthday, May 7, 1942 —William Hopf, by his children.

—G. H.

Detroit, Michigan

Inclosed is a cashier check for \$100 which we would like to place in the fund for the purchase of another hearing aid for the children at the school. This gift is placed by my father, sister and myself in memory of my mother, Mrs. William Schroeder, for her birthday, which was yesterday, April 21. She was a member of the Deaf Mute Ladies' Aid Society for more than 30 years, also holding an office for part of that time. She died at Christmas time, and this donation is made in fulfillment of a wish she voiced repeatedly.

May the Lord continue to bless the good work the Institute and the Ladies' Aid are doing. —L. S.

Terra Bella, Calif.

Enclosed find a check for \$100. Accept this as a contribution from me for the wonderful work which you are doing in the interest of deaf children. May the Lord continue to bless the work of the Institute for the Deaf! Sincerely yours,

Editor's Note—This is the second gift of like amount from this our dear California friend.

LAY UP TREASURE IN HEAVEN

A rich lady dreamed that she went to heaven, and there saw a mansion being built. "Whom is that for?" she asked of the guide.

"For your gardener."

"But he lives in the tiniest cottage on earth, with barely room for his family. He might live bet-

er if he did not give so much to the miserable poor folks."

Farther on she saw a tiny cottage being built. "And whom is that for?" she asked.

"That is for you."

"But I have lived in a mansion on earth. I would not know how to live in a cottage."

The words she heard in reply were full of meaning: "The Master Builder is doing his best with the material that is being sent up."

Then she awoke, resolving to lay up treasure in heaven. —Sel.

THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR OF THE LUTHERAN INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF OPENS

WEDNESDAY AFTER LABOR DAY, SEPT. 9th, 1942

The purpose of the Institute is to give deaf and hard of hearing children a proper secular and religious education and training.

The courses comprise the teaching of the English language, arithmetic, hygiene, art, penmanship, geography, history, and the teaching of the chief Bible doctrines preparatory for confirmation and communicant Church membership. The school employs the oral method of instruction, teaching speech and lip-reading to all deaf capable of learning it.

The Institute is open to all healthy deaf and hard of hearing children whose parents desire a truly Christian education and training for them in home-like environment.

Application blanks and further information may be obtained by writing to Superintendent J. A. Klein, 6861 Nevada Ave., Detroit, Michigan.

KIWANIANS OUR GUESTS

Again it was our great pleasure to have the good friends of our deaf children, the members of the Northeast Detroit Kiwanis Club and their wives, with us as our guests. And this year again as in many former years, these good people not only entertained our children with a very interesting motion picture, but also left us a goodly sum of money to be expended for things necessary to bring joy and happiness into the lives of our deaf children. It may also be of interest to our readers to know that this same club each year supplies eyeglasses to all such of our indigent children as need them. We

are indeed most grateful for everything that this unselfish organization has done to promote the welfare of the deaf child.

This and That

School Year Ends

With our annual festival on June 14th, the 1941-1942 school term came to an end. All pupils were happy to go home to their parents and other loved ones for a pleasant period of rest and enjoyment. We hope that all but the graduates will be with us again in September.

Miss Dayss Became Mrs. Vogel

During the Easter holidays one of our teachers, Miss Elsa Dayss, went to Massachusetts. While there she was married to her soldier sweetheart and then returned to us as Mrs. Vogel. Since her return Mrs. Vogel has received a radiogram stating that her dear husband had arrived safely in Australia. May the Lord grant him a safe return to our American shores after a victorious conclusion of the war.

Children Enjoy Motion Pictures

At the close of the school year the Aural Guild through Mrs.

Michigan, all former pupils of our school. Evelyn was graduated from High School and intends to enter Gallouet College in September.—Christel has completed her first year in Gallouet College. During the vacation period she is earning herself some pin money by working in a factory which is making the overseas caps for our soldiers. — Anna completed the 10th grade in a High School for hearing students. She likes her studies and is getting along fine. — Dorothy completed the 9th grade in High School. She found all subjects comparatively easy but at first had some difficulty in reading her teacher's lips. William is continuing his High School work in Fulton, Mo. June and Doris are at home assisting their mothers at homemaking. Doris wants a job so she can earn some money. Doris, Anna, and William attended our annual festival and visited with us for several days. We are always glad to hear from former students of our school because we continue to be deeply interested in them.

Our Kindergarten

The children in the picture of the Kindergarten are left to right: Linda Ray Moore of Arkansas, Kenneth Carter of Detroit, Monica Gable of Fort Wayne, Ind., Miss Elsie Forsberg, the teacher, Patricia Beadles of Houston, Texas, Beverly Kropp and Barbara Brauer of Chicago, Ill. By feeling the vibrations on the teacher's face and by observing the movements of the teacher's organs of speech Patricia is learning to speak words. Beverly has read the words from the teacher's lips and has written them on the blackboard.—To see these little tots fold their little hands in prayer and say their first prayer words is indeed an experience which we wish that you, dear readers, through whose generous gifts this God-pleasing



Photo by Windhorst Studios

Our Kindergarteners are Eager to Learn

Teachers Leaving

Four of our good teachers will not be with us when school reopens in September. They are Miss Nancy Lundwall, Miss Edith Fauth, Miss Eleanor Aumann, and Miss Cora Gade. Miss Lundwall intends to take up other work than teaching. Miss Fauth has accepted a position in the Maryland State School for the Deaf, and Miss Aumann will teach in the Detroit Day School for the Deaf. For Miss Gade the wedding bells rang in June. She became the happy bride of Mr. Petersen, son of the Rev. H. W. Petersen of Buffalo, N. Y. We wish all four former workers the Lord's richest blessings in their respective chosen duties.

New Teachers

Four graduates of Washington University and Central Institute for the Deaf in St. Louis, Mo., will fill the vacancies on our teaching staff. They are the Misses Martha Grabert, Linelle Hamilton, Sara Kellams, and Ruth Thomann. We hope that these new members will enjoy their work in our school.

Chas. Kern, its president, entertained our pupils with motion pictures. The films depicted war pictures, Mickey Mouse, and beautiful scenes in Mexico. After the showing of the pictures, all pupils, the household staff and teachers enjoyed ginger ale and cookies, gifts of the Aural Guild.—Many thanks to you, members of the Aural Guild, for your deeds of kindness.

Former Pupil Graduates with Honors

Evelyn Thate, who was graduated from the 8th grade and confirmed in our school several years ago, was graduated this year from the High School Department of the Kansas State School for the Deaf. She was the valedictorian at the graduation exercises. Congratulations, Evelyn, your Lutheran School is proud of you.

Welcome Letters

Recently we received letters from Evelyn Thate of Downs, Kansas, Dorothy Wenner of Cleveland, Christel Erdman of Chicago, Anna Nissen of Grant Park, Ill., Wm. Noel of Moberly, Mo., June Habermehl and Doris Dowling of

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