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NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL
Division of Medical Sciences
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COMMITTEE ON MEDICAL RESEARCH
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Office of Scientific Research and Development

Meeting of the Conference on Amputations
of the Subcommittee on Orthopedic Surgery
19 November, 1943.

Initial and Return to
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The meeting was called to order at 10:00 p.m. by Chairman P. D. Wilson. Others present were Drs. H. R. Conn, J. A. Key, and Guy Leadbetter; Dr. G. E. Bennett, ex-officio member and Chairman of the Subcommittee on Orthopedic Surgery; Dr. R. W. Johnson of the Committee on Convalescence and Rehabilitation; Drs. L. H. Weed, J. L. Caughey, P. S. Owen, G. A. Carden, and T. R. Forbes and Capt. E. H. Cushing for the National Research Council and the Committee on Medical Research; Col. Rex Dively and Leonard Petersen and Lt. Col. T. C. Thompson for the Army; Rear Adm. C. S. Stephenson, Cmdr. F. R. Bailey, and Lt. Cmdr. P. J. O'Connell for the Navy; Dr. B. F. Miller for the U.S. Public Health Service; Drs. E. J. Rose, H. C. White, and Martin Cooley for the Veterans Administration; Messrs. C. C. Haddan, A. G. Hanger, R. E. Huele, J. B. Kerrady, and F. O. Peterson for the American Limb Manufacturers Association; Dr. H. K. Volk for the Limb Makers Research Group of Michigan; Mr. M. F. Franklin.

Col. Dively presented two colored films made under his direction, the first showing a classical below knee amputation as done at Great Britain's central amputation center at Roehampton, where there have been 62,000 patients. The second film showed in detail the activities of a rehabilitation center.

Mr. Haddan presented a plan for the establishment of a development center for prosthetic appliances where the manufacturers could pool their individual patents and all share in the developments. It was Mr. Haddan's hope that such a center could be underwritten by one or possibly a number of organizations such as the Michigan Research Group, the Veterans Administration, the National Rehabilitation Association, the Army, the Navy, and civilian organizations such as Industrial Commissions. He called attention to the fact that in World War I the total number of amputees was in the neighborhood of 5,000 and that this number was exceeded almost monthly in the United States by the civilian statistics.

Dr. V. K. Volk of the Michigan Group told of the interest of Governor Kelly of Michigan in the amputation problem. Dr. Volk commented on the fact that there had not been a major improvement in prosthetic appliances in the past 25 years and said that he felt the problem was not one for small shops who were helpless by reason of a lack of personnel and funds to do experimental work. He also felt that the problem was national rather than one belonging to any single state or lone organization. He offered the thought that National Youth Association training shops contain adequate and available machinery which might perhaps be utilized. The general idea was that new ideas could be sent to the

shop for investigation and development and that the resulting patents be controlled by the United States Government for the use of all manufacturers. It was Dr. Volk's opinion that \$150,000 to \$200,000 would be necessary for the establishment and maintenance of a development center.

A question was asked as to what percentage of the total number of limb manufacturers would support the idea.

Mr. Haddan replied that limb manufacturers were already incorporated under the District of Columbia laws and that he felt their support would be practically unanimous.

Dr. Bennett stressed the fact that this cooperation would be necessary to make such an institution valuable, and he further emphasized the necessity of a national organization rather than one subsidized by individuals or by any special organization.

P. D. Wilson suggested that assistance for such a center might be secured under the National Rehabilitation Act.

C. C. Haddan then read a copy of a letter to General F. T. Hines, of the Veterans Administration, in regard to a training program for orthopedic mechanics. In brief, the course was to include four years of shop practice, together with a rather comprehensive program of didactic education, an outline of which had been prepared with the assistance of the Colorado School of Medicine. It was suggested that the course be approved by the Veterans Administration, the Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, and the Limb Manufacturers of America. The general discussion that followed was commendatory, but no definite action was taken.

The meeting was recessed for the lunch period.

Chairman Wilson reconvened the meeting at 1:00 p.m., and the morning discussions were briefly summarized by him. He called attention to the fact that two ideas had been presented: one, that a Research Institute should be established on a nation-wide scale; two, that a training program be established for orthopedic mechanics.

Dr. Wilson said that the Amputation Panel approved both proposals but emphasized the fact that we had no authority to do more than indicate such approval.

Drs. Wilson and Bennett thanked the limb manufacturers, as represented by Mr. Haddan, and the Michigan State Research Committee on Artificial Appliances as represented by Dr. Volk, for their courtesy in coming to Washington and outlining their activities.

M. M. Franklin of New York then presented a short talk on the value of dancing as a rehabilitation aid to amputatees.

At 2:00 p.m. the Panel went into executive session, at which time an invitation from Dr. Wodehouse, the Deputy Commissioner of Pensions of Canada, was read inviting the Amputation Panel to visit Ottawa and familiarize themselves with the program of the Dominion Government. It was moved by Key, and seconded by Leadbetter, that the invitation be accepted for mid-February, 1944. The motion was passed unanimously.

It was moved by Key and seconded by Leadbetter that the motion of 8 September to write an amputation manual be rescinded and that instead of a new publication any new material discovered or developed by the Panel be forwarded to General Norman T. Kirk for his consideration and possible inclusion in a new edition. The motion was passed unanimously.

It was moved by Leadbetter and seconded by Key that the Amputation Panel of the Subcommittee on Orthopedic Surgery of the National Research Council is cognizant of the need of special instruction on the problems of amputation and recommends that an educational film on amputations and the fitting of prostheses and the physical rehabilitation of amputees be made by the available facilities of the Army and the Navy, this film to be made available to the medical corps of the armed forces, the Veterans Administration, and civilian medical organizations. The motion was passed unanimously.

Chairman Wilson adjourned the meeting of the Amputation Panel at 4:00 p. m.

Chairman George E. Bennett of the Sub-Committee on Orthopedic Surgery of the National Research Council declared a quorum present, and it was moved by Leadbetter and seconded by Key that the action of the Amputation Panel be approved. The motion was passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Harold R. Conn
Temporary Secretary

