
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”
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**Warm Springs, GA -
Foundation Thanksgiving Dinner**

At Thanksgiving Dinner of Georgia Warm Springs Foundation,
Warm Springs, Georgia, November 26, 1931

Extending the Work of the Foundation

p. 982

The Georgia Warm Springs Foundation has come to another milestone of progress. Several years ago a number of individuals in different parts of the country were giving grave consideration to a new and terrible scourge,—epidemics of infantile paralysis which for a number of years has spread through different parts of the Nation. As a part of the result of this interest, this Foundation came into being. It should be made very clear that even at its inception the whole basis of the work of the Foundation was on a broad and nation-wide scale.

First of all came, of course, the immediate objective, of developing these wonderful springs into a center for the treatment of children and adults who had been unfortunate enough to contract infantile paralysis. We all know that that first purpose has been splendidly launched and put on a permanent basis under the leadership of Dr. Hubbard and his fine staff of assistants. When we think of the handful of patients who came here under the most trying conditions in 1927, it is amazing to realize the great development both of the plant and the treatment to the point where today we have the capacity for taking care of over a hundred patients at all times under the most favorable conditions of living and of medical care.

But even in the first days of the Foundation there was an equally important purpose,—a purpose which went far beyond the possibility of treating several hundred victims of infantile paralysis here at Warm Springs. We who understand the even greater objective realize that not hundreds but literally thousands of children and others are laid low by infantile paralysis every year that passes. I need only cite the simple fact of over 6500 new cases of infantile paralysis in New York State during the single year 1931. The Foundation owes a debt to these cases as well as to those who are able to come to Warm Springs. That is why it has become clear that the time has arrived for setting up in permanent form the second objective of the Foundation,—an extension service to reach thousands of other people.

As a matter of simple arithmetic we are confident that through this extension service we can do much to help great numbers of people every year throughout the country.

Who is best fitted to undertake this great task? It was obvious to all of the Trustees that the man who had had a great experience along this very line when for many years he was in charge of the Orthopedic work of the New York State Department of Health was ideally fitted for the new task. In addition to this he was the man who had built up Warm Springs itself, he was the man who understood what we call the Warm Springs spirit, he was the man who had had the widest kind of acquaintance with infantile paralysis throughout the country. That is why we have asked Dr. Hubbard to undertake this great new work. His association with Warm Springs is not only continuing but becomes of even greater importance to humanity in general. He will continue to have his headquarters and his home here and from here he will go out on trips to areas of epidemics, to consult with State and County and City Commissioners of Health, to advise with hospitals in regard to better medical treatments, to consult with physicians in all parts of the land and in general to spread abroad the gospel of Warm Springs that infantile paralysis can and will be conquered.

That is a task which fires the imagination. The great usefulness of Dr. Hubbard will be added to by his contact during these next years not with several hundred patients each year but literally with several thousand. We wish him every possible success in his new task. We realize the success he will have and we are glad to know that he will often still be with us at Warm Springs in the days to come.

As you know, the medical work at Warm Springs itself will be taken over next week by Dr. Michael Hoke of Atlanta, a doctor of Orthopedics who is known throughout the Nation as one of the outstanding leaders in this field. When all of you come to know Dr. Hoke, as I know him, you will understand his broad sympathy, his warm heart and his great ability. The Warm Springs spirit of mutual coöperation and of happiness is going to continue and we should all be happy and grateful that the Foundation finds itself in the position of being able to round out its program of usefulness.