



Admired Enemy

► WOLVES, from the beginning of man's existence, have been among the most difficult and dangerous of the wild beasts with which he has had to contend. Yet everywhere men have held up wolves (perhaps idealized wolves) as patterns for themselves. Wolf totems are frequent among primitive tribes; Rome was founded on a wolf-nurse legend; in our Army today is a Timber Wolf division, and soldiers who pass the most exacting of commando tests are dubbed Wolf Scouts.

Mankind has certainly had plenty of opportunity to become acquainted with wolves, for the original range of these grim, gray predators covered practically all of North America, most of Asia and the whole of Europe, Stanley P. Young and Edward A. Goldman point out in an authoritative new book, *The Wolves of North America*. A she-wolf may or may not have suckled Romulus and Remus, but wherever the human race was born it is practically certain that there were wolves near its cradle—more likely as would-be abductors than as volunteer nurses.

Stone Age men, with their primitive

weapons and weak social organizations, were no great menace to wolves; the two species could live side by side, and there was food enough for both. But as human culture advanced and human numbers multiplied, the wolf's food-animals were decimated or driven off by the spread of farming and livestock herding. Wolf raids on sheepfolds and cattle pastures became intolerable, and the wolves had to go. They were swept from western Europe and the more civilized parts of Asia several centuries ago, and their American brethren followed them down the unreturning trail as rapidly as this continent became well settled.

Naturally, wolves survived longest where the country was roughest, discouraging human settlement and at the same time affording shelter both to the wolves and their normal prey. Thus, we have records of wolves still existing in the Adirondacks and in the mountains

of Pennsylvania until about the middle of the nineteenth century, and until two or three decades earlier than that among the steep hills of southern Ohio. There are gray wolves still, though in greatly diminished numbers, over a wide range of timber and range country in the mountainous West, and red wolves in a block of territory including most of Arkansas and parts of Texas and Louisiana. But from most of the haunts of man, old Lobo has vanished.

Ironically, the coyote or prairie wolf survives and even increases where the big timber wolf has been stamped out. That may be due, at least in part, to the fact that the coyote is merely a sneak-thief, a "snapper-up of unconsidered trifles," and not a bold robber who takes more valuable things by violence. The one is a mere nuisance: we may curse him but we are apt to tolerate him. The other is a menace, and we kill him.

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MEDICINE

Polio Treatment

► THIS TIME of year brings to parents the annual worry over infantile paralysis. The worry is not likely to be less in view of a recent unfavorable report on the Kenny treatment for the disease.

The report was made by a group of specialists in orthopedic surgery appointed by the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons and the American Orthopedic Association. During the past two years they visited 16 clinics in six cities and examined 740 patients, about 650 of whom had been treated by Miss Kenny's method.

From what they saw, they conclude that the difference between the Kenny treatment and "orthodox" treatment in the number of patients helped to recover without paralysis is not so great

as Miss Kenny has stated; that even starting the Kenny treatment very early does not prevent or minimize the degree of permanent paralysis; that continuous hot packs for all patients with minimal evidence of "spasm" is of questionable value and an unnecessary waste of manpower and hospital beds.

The committee reported seeing several cases in which paralysis progressed after the Kenny treatment had been started and pointed out that some features of the Kenny treatment, such as muscle reeducation, have been known and used for many years. The committee also disagreed with Miss Kenny on the use of braces and respirators. It acknowledged that the wide publicity given the Kenny method has stimulated doctors generally to reevaluate known methods of treating the disease and to treat it more effectively.

Although the members of this committee disagree with Miss Kenny and do not favor her treatment, a number of other authorities believe it is valuable. Further study may settle the problem, or may develop specific methods for preventing or curing the disease. Meanwhile, if your child is attacked by infantile paralysis the best thing you can do is to get a good doctor and rely on his advice about treatment.

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