



Heading the symposium on birth defects were (l-r) Dr. Gary Myers, Edith McGuckin, Jean Kubiak, Dr. Arthur Salisbury and Dr. James Frisk.

## St. James Hosts Symposium

Hornell—One hundred and ten persons attended a day-long symposium on birth defects held recently at St. James Mercy Hospital School of Nursing. The event was cosponsored by the Steuben County chapter of the National Foundation—March of Dimes and St. James Mercy Hospital.

The symposium emphasized prevention and treatment of birth defects. Medical authorities discussed the delivery of medical care, research, and public health education.

Mrs. Edith McGuckin, director of public relations of St. James, education chairman of the Steuben County Chapter of the March of Dimes, and coordinator of the program, welcomed the group and introduced the speakers.

Dr. Arthur J. Salisbury, director of medical services, the National Foundation—March of Dimes, discussed the latest findings in Sickle Cell Anemia, a hereditary blood disease, and Toxoplasmosis, a parasitic infection which causes birth defects in pregnant women.

Dr. Gary Meyers, director of the birth defects center, Strong Memorial Hospital, discussed the "Workings of a Treatment Center." He also described various tests given to infants who are suspected of having birth defects.

Dr. James Nicholas Frisk, medical director of the birth defects center St. Joseph's Hospital, Elmira, spoke on the "Specific Aspects of a Birth Defect Center." He defined a birth defect as "any structural or me-

tabolic disorder present at birth, whether genetically determined or present as a result of environmental influence during embryonic or fetal life." He explained eligibility for referral to the center which functions to provide complete evaluation and possible program for care of children with single or multiple birth defects.

During the day, question and answer periods were held. The films, "Is It Enough," and "In Touch with Life" were shown. Brochures and professional education material were provided by the local March of Dimes chapter.

Sister Mary Rene, administrator of St. James Mercy Hospital, welcomed the group.

Members of the planning committee included, Dr. Eldred Stevens, chairman of the Steuben County March of Dimes medical advisory board and director of the State crippled children's program at Bath; Sister Mary Scholastica, RSM, director of In-service education, St. James; Mrs. Frank Hornbeck, chairman of the Steuben March of Dimes; Jack Mahoney, executive secretary of the Steuben March of Dimes; Jean Kubiak of the Public Health Nursing Service and Mrs. McGuckin.



### Meeting of Minds

From left to right: Mrs. Lucy Austin, director of the Wayland Child Development Center; Father George Wyatt of the Human Development Office and Miss Sally Bill, a teacher at the center, discuss a learning aid with one of the 12 children that have been attending the center every day since its open house celebration, April 9.

## Dead Man's Letter Reveals Strong Faith

Ferndale, Mich. — (RNS) — A United Methodist layman, who died in February had counseled his friends not to pray for his recovery from illness because it might damage their faith if he did not survive.

At a memorial service for the late George Wells at First United Methodist church here, the Rev. Joseph T. Edwards read a letter Mr. Wells had written to a member of his Sunday School class which had been praying for his recovery.

In the letter, recently reprinted in the (United Methodist) Michigan Advocate, the 56-year-old layman said:

"It occurs to me there is not only power in prayer, but danger as well. Numerous friends brought me articles about faith and the fact that if I would simply and absolutely trust God He would make me well.

"I know that these dear friends did not realize that such a state-

ment carries with it the implication that if you do not recover, your faith was too weak, you simply did not trust God enough.

"I have complete faith in the ability of God to perform a miracle and cause me to jump up and start running once again, if He chose to do so."

Mr. Wells added, however, that he saw no reason why God should perform a miracle on him since others were "far more deserving."

Therefore, he told the student, "you must be prepared for the probability that your prayers for my recovery will be denied and if it be so, you must not let this shake your faith."

### Hornell Area Notes

Wayland — The Rosary Society of St. Joseph's Parish will hold a spaghetti dinner Saturday night, April 29.

### The Authentic Kennedy Presidential Rocker



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