

THE BRAIN HAS INFINITE RESOURCES

David's treatment is based on artificially imposing on the damaged brain the patterns of movement (crawling, creeping, etc.) that the brain cannot reproduce itself. Associated with these damaged areas, or levels, are speech, vision, manual dexterity. In David's case, he was first "patterned" several times daily by the center staff-that is, a team of therapists for several minutes moved his arms and legs and head. In a matter of weeks, an undamaged part of David's brain got the message, took over the work of the damaged part and made it possible for him to move his arms and legs.

At home, he spent months crawling; this set the stage for the next level of reeducation-creeping. Now the brain has been educated enough, for him to be on the threshold of walking. At each stage, he regains more of his capacity for speech, sight and control.

The germ of this revolutionary form of therapy was conceived many years ago by Dr. Temple Fay of Philadelphia; it was developed and improved by a team headed by a brilliant young physical therapist, Glenn Doman, director of the Rehabilitation Center. Greater success has been realized by this method than by any other than the center has used. It differs from all methods in that it treats the injured area, the brain and not the symptoms of the injury, spastic limbs and slurred speech. It does not use braces or wheelchairs or other traditionally employed devices. It works on the assumption that, when some of the brain cells are damaged, all is not lost-since there are roughly 30 billion cells, and all of them educable.

It is doubtful if David's treatment could have been carried out at home, had not many members of the community volunteered to rotate in patterning his movements six times a day, seven days a week. They have provided an overwhelming example of man's instinct for helping his fellow man.

Produced by Chandler Brossard in July 31, 1962 ISSUE OF LOOK MAGAZINE.
Photographed by MATT HERRON

This article is not the David in "Fighting for David."