

## Campaign To Begin In Polk Co. Soon

Pointing out that the 1944 epidemic of infantile paralysis was the second worst outbreak of the disease in its history in the United States, the committee chairman of the 1945 polio campaign in this county, issued a statement today in which he emphasized the "need to reinforce our lines of defense against this insidious enemy of childhood."

The annual fund appeal is being conducted this year from Jan. 14th to 31st in celebration of the President's Birthday, and, as in the past, most of the funds will be used to combat polio in this state.

Although North Carolina had one of its worst epidemics of infantile paralysis during the past year, the death rate from the dread disease was the lowest ever recorded, solely because the funds to provide the best possible medical aid and equipment were immediately available, the chairman pointed out.

This record proves again that quick hospitalization of victims is imperative and the campaign this year will be pointed towards funds to support adequate hospital facilities to serve the growing number of persons stricken each year, the chairman said.

"Since no one knows where, or how hard, polio may strike in 1945, we must again be ready to meet the attack wherever it comes."

Through November 21 of this past year, 848 cases of infantile paralysis had been reported to the State Board of Health since before the epidemic last summer. Of this number 618 patients have received treatment at the Hickory Polio Emergency Hospital, the Gastonia Orthopedic Hospital and the Charlotte Memorial Hospital. 435 were treated at Hickory.

Only 13 deaths were reported at these three hospitals, making

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the lowest death rate ever recorded for an infantile paralysis epidemic.

Eighty-three percent of the hospitalized cases reported, will return to normal or near-normal health, as a result of early and modern treatment, while only 17 percent will retain some paralysis.

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