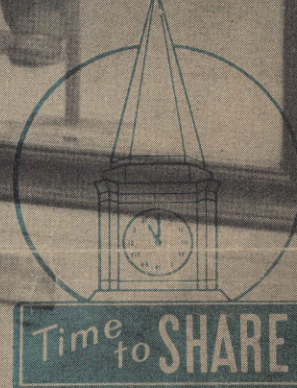




One Great Hour of Sharing  
1953

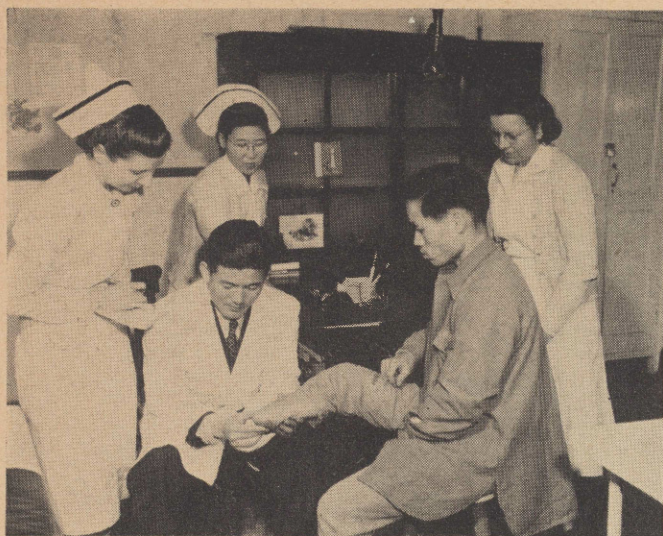


# NEW ARMS and LEGS for KOREANS

By John Underwood

Photographs by Raymond C. Provost

▲ Learning to walk again, a Korean amputee takes his first steps after being fitted with a prosthetic leg at Severance Hospital, Seoul, Korea. By watching through the mirror, he can follow his progress until the supporting parallel bars are no longer needed. In this photograph and those on the accompanying pages, Lee Hyung Nong, a rehabilitated amputee employed at the Hospital, demonstrates how Koreans similarly handicapped are receiving prosthetic limbs in a unique missionary project. (Continued)



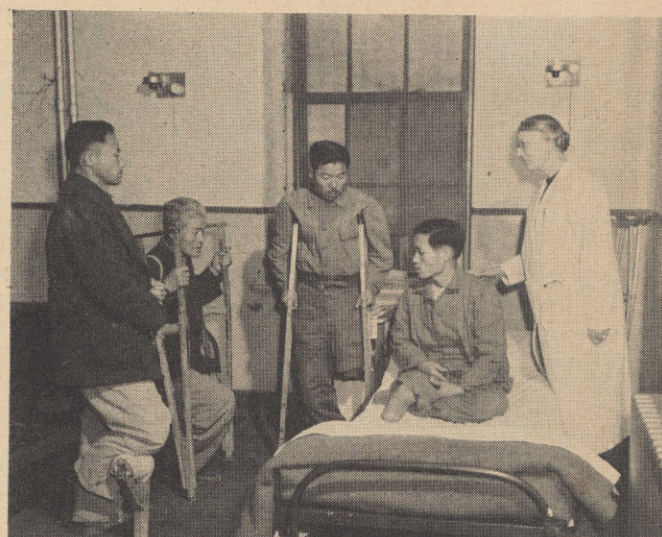
**PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION** in clinic determines whether surgery is needed before fitting prosthetic leg. Mrs. Nadine Robinson (*left*), a volunteer nurse, takes notes for doctor.



**PRIOR TO SURGERY**, amputee watches mutely as Korean and American nurses make last-minute preparations. Crutch on which he hobbled to hospital leans against wall behind him.



**IN OPERATION** doctor reshapes muscles and bone in squared-off stump into conical form, which is necessary for comfortable fit of artificial leg and for limp-free walking.



**VISITORS** call following operation. Dr. Florence Murray, United Church of Canada missionary, encourages man with padded knee rest (*left*) to have it replaced with new limb.



**EXERCISES** strengthen muscles that extend leg, make it possible for amputee to take normal steps with help of prosthetic limb. Assisting him is Methodist nurse Thelma Maw.



**PRACTICE IN WALKING** is gained by accompanying volunteer Bible teacher in tour of children's ward where youthful amputees are rehabilitated with funds from UN First Corps.

## At Severance Hospital, the amputees get new limbs and learn to use them

LAST summer a group of American missionaries arrived in Pusan, Korea, to undertake a dramatic assignment. Their job was to demonstrate to Korean amputees—of whom there are reportedly thirty thousand—that they could become useful citizens once more. At the Third ROK Army Hospital, the team of specially trained men and women set about manufacturing prosthetic limbs, fitting them, and assisting the grateful Korean veterans to learn how to use the new arms and legs. Makeshift materials, such as discarded aluminum gasoline tanks of airplanes, frequently had to be used. However, Koreans soon mastered the techniques of producing and adjusting prosthetic limbs so that the group of Americans was able to leave the care of military amputees in their hands.

The team of missionaries then determined to establish similar facilities for civilian amputees who up to that time had received little attention. Indeed they were considered fortunate if their wounds healed to enable them to hobble out and swell the ever-growing ranks of beggars. Severance Hospital at Seoul, an institution supported by four Protestant denominations, was elected for the new project. Opened in 1913, principally by Presbyterian U.S.A. money and missionaries, Severance Union Medical College and Hospital had been heavily damaged in the fighting. Sixty-five per cent of the buildings were destroyed; all were damaged. There was—and still is—no dormitory space for students attending the recently reopened school of medicine, the only institution of higher medical education in Seoul. When the amputee project began in the fall, the first patients were being received in the wards following a partial reconstruction. Funds for completely rebuilding the hospital are yet to be accumulated by the four churches which originally established Severance: the Methodist Church, the United Church of Canada, the Presbyterian Church U.S., and the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.

To finance the amputee project, fifteen thousand dollars was allocated from the 1952 One Great Hour of Sharing collection and made available to the missionary team through Church World Service. This year twenty thousand dollars will be set aside from the One Great Hour offering on March 8 to enable this unique project to continue supplying Korean civilians with prosthetic limbs. Recently, the men of the First Army Corps in Korea donated seventy-one thousand dollars, which they specified for use by the seven-member team in the rehabilitation of amputee children. terian missionary, Dr. Reuben A. Torrey, who lost an arm while serving in China during World War II. When the entire group arrives in Korea—one is still in the United States preparing for the job—the team will include Dr. Paul S. Crane, a surgeon at the Southern Presbyterian Hospital in Chongju; Mrs. Edward Adams, R.N., wife of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.'s field representative in Korea; Miss Thelma Maw, R.N., a physiotherapist; Miss Louise Skarin, R.N., who is completing language studies in this country; Dean Schowengerdt, young Methodist missionary; and Paul Kingsbury, thirty-one-year-old Presbyterian missionary. The latter two spent last summer at the Institute for Crippled and Disabled in New York City learning how to make prosthetic limbs.

To date nearly a dozen Koreans have received new arms or legs at the project. Others have had limbs they made themselves repaired or replaced. Forty are ward patients following remedial surgery on stumps which will soon be fitted with new limbs. It is estimated that when hoped-for funds arrive at the Hospital, the ten amputees, who each month are returned to a more nor- (Continued on next page)



IN LIMB SHOP Presbyterian missionary Paul Kingsbury shows a Korean woodworker correct techniques for shaping the wooden socket of an A-K (above the knee) artificial leg.



FINAL FITTING for new leg takes place in limb shop. Prosthesis is held in place by light waist belt and leather thigh piece laced over stump cushioned by soft wool sock.



**SAYING GOODBYE** to Methodist nurse Florence Piper, rehabilitated amputee prepares to bicycle home, thanks to his new leg.

mal civilian life, can be increased to fifty.

Typical of the amputees who have received at Severance new hope together with a new leg is Pak Tai Sik, a thirty-seven-year-old peasant farmer. The lower part of Pak's foot was lopped off by a shell fragment, while he was working with a labor battalion at the front. A quick flight by helicopter to the hospital saved his life, but after that he was on his own.

Obviously, the Army labor battalion couldn't use a cripple. Farming was impossible. There was nothing left for him to do but to sell matches on the street,

thereby joining the beggars and vagrants. In this way Pak eked out his living—selling matches and hoping for people to give him money without wanting matches. Then one day a fellow street vendor said, "Why don't you go to Severance about that leg? They're giving new ones away down there." The stump didn't hurt much these days; nevertheless he was eager to see whether he could actually get a new leg. Was it possible that he would be able to farm again?

This was the story Pak told attendants at the Hospital, and this was his question. Could he farm again? At the time

the answer was noncommittal. Now, several months later, it is certain that when he becomes accustomed to his prosthetic leg he can return to his former occupation.

Part of the success story of Pak's new leg is found in the patient encouragement afforded by rehabilitated amputees like Mr. Lee who are employed as assistants at the project. And of course the most important part—without which Pak would have no new leg—is the money given by church people in America whom he will never see but to whom he will always be grateful.