

Written by Gerda Lilie Pappenheimer

Born June 11, 1904

Died December 1, 1959

1942

Dear Dr. Saxe:

Mr. Mandel told me that he spoke to you about my case. I would like to give you herewith the history of my sickness.

In the spring of 1938 I noticed a weakness and numbness in my right hand which disappeared after a few weeks. Then the same symptoms appeared in my lower left arm and also went away in a short time. After that my left leg began to get weak and I was only able to drag it along. My doctor diagnosed it as rheumatism and advised me to take hot sitz-baths with Epsom salts and massage. As there was no improvement, I went in July 1938 to the Jewish Memorial Hospital, New York, where my sickness was diagnosed as Multiple Sclerosis. I was treated there with Anti-typhoid injections but without results. The fever only rose to about 103. The doctors then advised me to try a neurological Hospital for further treatment.

In September 1938 I entered the Neurological Institute, New York. After the examinations and tests the doctors there doubted the diagnosis of the Jewish Memorial Hospital, but suspected a tumor pressing on the spinal cord. I was operated on in October 1938 by Dr. Stouki (I don't know if I spelled the name correctly.) He did not find a tumor and after 7 weeks

I was discharged. At that time I was still able to walk, but soon after, I had to use a cane. My legs began to get always weaker and by the fall of 1939 I began using a wheelchair because I lost my balance and fell several times. I could still walk a few steps by holding onto something on both sides.

By June 1940 I was unable to stand by myself.

In August 1940 I entered the Montefiore Hospital, Bronx, New York, in the hope of getting some help. The doctors there verified the Multiple Sclerosis diagnosis. They couldn't do anything for me as no cure for M.S. has been found so far.

So far the sickness has not affected my speech, hearing, eyes, arms or hands, but has weakened my bladder. I keep myself active in my home as much as possible and still do my own cooking, baking and sewing, etc.

I am 38 years old, married, have 2 children ages  $13\frac{1}{2}$  and 12 years.

Mr. Mandel has told me how wonderfully you helped a patient to walk again. If you think you can do something for me I would be only too glad to come and see you. Please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

Gerda Pappenheimer