

History of Physiotherapy Foundation

## Physiotherapy in perspective, 50 years past - present.



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### The Klappsche war procedure

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Physiotherapy has a long history . First in 1889 there was a group of gymnastics teachers and remedial gymnastics masseurs who organized themselves in the Netherlands in the 'Society for the Practicing of Remedial Gymnastics'1 . The period after 1889 has been written in various history books and we would like to look back in time at a single point with you2 .



There are still a lot of physiotherapists working who, for example, can tell you in detail about the compulsory teaching material about the "DasKlappscheKriechverfahren". Let 's take a closer look at this.

The hilarious word "DasKlappsche Kriechverfahren" alone and the accompanying photo indicate what physiotherapists had to master. What can be gained from this approach?

First of all, we must see this approach in the perspective of that time. Prof. Rudolf Klapp, surgeon at the University Clinic in Berlin, was strongly opposed to the aggressive surgical approach of surgery and the passive approach to corsets. In 1905 he developed a practice method as an alternative.

His method became a standard approach for idiopathic scoliosis and M. Scheuerman. The fact that the method fell into oblivion was partly due to the almost militaristic way of training. See photo 1. In Germany, however, the method resurfaces in the University Clinic in Munich, where the method is re-introduced in 20073 . In the Netherlands, it remains silent around the exercise methods for scoliosis in this regard.

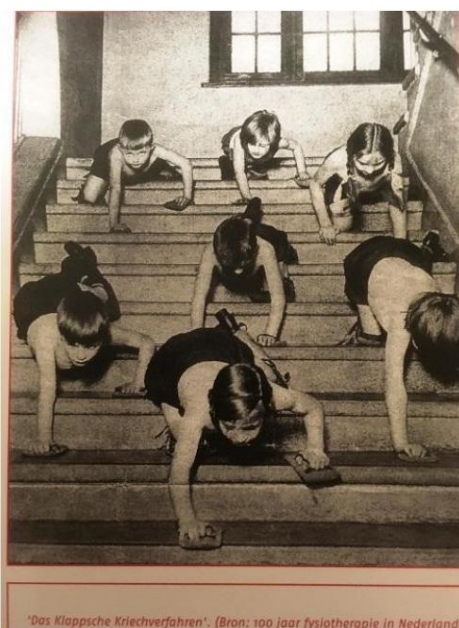


Photo 1. The Klappsche war procedure

In 2017, Tom Schlösser, orthopedic surgeon, will be awarded his doctorate for Idiopathic Adolescent Scoliosis and he concludes that as yet no adequate causal treatment is available and no precautionary measures are possible4 . Although the etiology as labeled 'multifactorial', Schlösser notes that only aggressive conservative or surgical treatments are possible4 . Exercise therapy as a method no longer appears in the dissertation.

We can learn from history that Dr. Klapp, the remedial gymnastics and later physiotherapy, gave a platform for exercise to play a role in the approach to Skoliosis, although the implementation of the method was debatable. However, physiotherapy dropped out

in the further development of a treatment method; as recently shown in Schlösser's dissertation, perhaps rightly so, or have we missed opportunities here?

If you don't know its history.....

## References

1 Genootschapterbepraktijkvandeheilgymnastic, 1989. HeilgymnasticBibliotheek, Amsterdam.

2. Bas Leijssenaar. Physiotherapy in the Netherlands 1965-present. History of Physiotherapy Foundation. Amersfoort 2011. ISBN 9789076285009.

3. SusanneHirsch: KlappschesKriechenheute-esklappt !: An efficient treatment method has just been discovered. Richard Pflaum, Munich and 2007. [ISBN 978-3-7905-0953-3](#).

4. Tom Locks. Idiopathic Adolescent Scoliosis. Proefschrift. Utrecht, 2017.