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Caregivers are elderly women

Dear Jo: There is a great deal of discussion about the frail elderly these days. Who are the frail elderly, and who cares for them? Mrs. T., Eastern Reader

Doar Mrs. T. The term "frail elderly" refers primarily to older people who are elisabled and unable to look after themselves. The majority live in the community. Who their caregivers are was the rubject of a report entitled "Care-givers of the Frail Elderly: A Na-tional Profile," based on the data from a national longterm care sur-vey.

from a national longterm care sur-vey. The major finding: More than one-third of the caregivers are over age 55 themselves. Along with being con-sidered in the "older" category, the caregivers rated their own health as poor to near-poor range. Other findings: The majority of caregivers are fornale; almost three-quarters of them live with the care Treepiperi, and 80 percent provide reare seven days a wes. As you can see, Mrs. T. the job of The caregiver is a difficult one. proved.

Dear Jo: My mother suffered a stroke last year, and since that time she has

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been in a nursing home. My reason for writing is to ask you why the staff at the nursing home insist that mother be placed in a chair and put through an exercise routine twice a day. My mother wants to stay in bed where she is confortable. I don't know why the staff go to all this trouble — as I doubt if she will ever walk ngain. Your comments, please. Miss K., Detroit,

Dear Miss K.: Even though it is doubtful that your mother ever will walk again, an exercise (rehabilitation) program is essential for her general well-being.

essential for her general weindenig. Post-stroke and other bedridden patients benefit in many ways from rehabilitation. Their joints remain flexible; pressure sorce are prevent-ed; muscle strength is maintained; the circulatory system is stimulated; and their mental outlook is im-remed

To improve your mother's health even further, you can encourage her to take an active part in her exercise program.

Readers can write to Jolayne Farrell at 11 Cynthia Crescent, Richmond Hill, Ontario LAE 1J3 (NEW ADDRESS).

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