

CONNECTICUT OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SOCIETY

No. 2

NEWS LETTER

May, 1939

MEETINGS

PROGRESS OF O.T.

FINANCE

AMERICAN

O.T.
ASSOCIATION
Convention

TORONTO

Sept., 25-29, 1939

Save the date
and your money!

SPRING STATE MEETING

The Connecticut Occupational Therapy Society is privileged to hold a meeting and exhibit during the two-day convention of the Connecticut State Medical Society at the Hotel Taft, New Haven on May 25-26, 1939.

The Section on Occupational Therapy is as follows:

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, May 25

Hotel Taft, Room 121, Mezzanine Floor. 2:00 to 4:00 o'clock.

SPEAKERS: Miss Mary Merritt, O.T. Reg., Director Div. of O.T., Department of Hospitals, New York City.

Miss Viola Jones, O.T. Reg., Rehabilitation Secretary, Hartford Tuberculosis and Public Health Society.

Movie films and lantern slides will accompany Miss Merritt's talk on "Occupational Therapy as Prescribed Treatment in the Municipal Hospitals of New York City."

EXHIBIT: 10th Floor at entrance to Ball Room, May 25-26.

8th. Biennial Meeting
World War
Reconstruction Aides
New York City
July 6, 7, 8, 1939.

Miss Alton Vary,
President
U.S.V. Hospital No. 81
Bronx, N.Y.

Having just completed a three month's course at Bellevue Hospital, Miss Valliant writes:

AN OPPORTUNITY

Dand McNally's Guide to New York City lists under City Hospitals "Bellevue, foot of East 26th St. This is the most widely known Hospital in America. It is under the control of an unpaid Board of Trustees appointed by the Mayor. For many years it has been famous for the high medical and surgical skill of which it is the theater, its faculty embracing many of the leading physicians and surgeons of the city."

The lecture facilities available at Bellevue make it a highly desirable place for training students from accredited O.T. Schools.



Miss Nancy Valliant, O.T. Reg. President C.O.T.S., 1939 - 40 Philadelphia School of O. T. 1929; Post-Grad., Walter Reed Hosp., 1931 and Bellevue Hosp. 1939; Norristown State Hosp., Pa., 1929-30; Brattleboro Retreat, Vt., 1931-33; Penland Weavers, N.C., 1934; Children's Village, Hartford, 1934 to date.

The possibility of a three months post-graduate there offers an even greater opportunity. The detailed procedure in functional treatment is based on experience shown in O.T. records from years back. Fellow workers are able to be helpful in working out problems that are brought to them, as they are in a position to point out developments of scientific importance which add to the interpretation of O.T.

The graciousness with which the staff of therapists extends the hospitality of Bellevue make one feel that they are not only carrying on the traditions established there by Miss Merritt but are also happy to the breadth of vision she has given them.

The Family Doctor

T. M. Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN
Editor, Journal of the American Medical Association, and of Hygeia, the Health Magazine
When the World War ended in 1918 occupational treatment of disease came into its own. Since that time hundreds of young women from all over the United States, from England, and from Canada and from foreign countries have been trained in this work.



Fishbein

Today occupational therapy is recognized as a significant part of medical practice.

There are five recognized schools in the United States and Canada, including the one established in Boston in 1918 as a wartime measure; another in St. Louis; another in Philadelphia; one in Milwaukee, and one in Toronto.

Certain essentials for a good school of occupational therapy are recognized and there are minimum requirements for those who wish to study in such schools. Briefly, such schools are not operated for profit. They are controlled by public spirited men and women. They are frequently affiliated with colleges or universities. They have a competent teaching staff with good facilities. Any school of occupational therapy has a library with the standard textbooks and periodicals needed in this field and it is directed by a competent executive officer who is fitted by training and experience to lead the work.

Now, what does an occupational therapist do that makes the work so necessary to modern medicine? Actually occupational therapy is employed in all sorts of diseases such as arthritis, tuberculosis, heart disease, and recovery from all forms of paralysis. Occupational therapy is needed whenever a person is confined to bed for a fairly long period of time. Occupational therapy varies from the kind of work that can be carried on when the patient is flat on his back in bed to the work that is carried on by patients who move about and use all kinds of machinery. It may begin with such light work as basketry, weaving, braiding and drawing and move on to the building of looms, ornaments and furniture or power apparatus.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY TODAY

Viola L. Jones, O.T.Reg., Rehabilitation Secretary,
Hartford Tuberculosis and Public Health Society.

There is a great demand for occupational therapy today, to be used and thought of in its broader sense. Not only as a guide to other methods of treatment, not only as a help in making patient's stay in the hospital or sanatorium pleasanter, but also as a means of preparing the patient for his return to his community with some idea of what he can physically do and undertake. Upon discharge, patients should be given a referral to an agency or department that will help the patient carry out the plan started in the hospital.

The above can only be accomplished through coordinating our efforts and agencies in the community. We do not know enough about one another's problems and what each will do for the others. Doctors, nurses, social workers, school nurses are all interested in finding some place for their charges.

If the services are properly coordinated - all hospital services, including the medical staff, social workers, occupational therapists, outside agencies as vocational guidance, education plus the State Rehabilitation Department - all of which can be focused upon the disabled person, there is an excellent chance to put every disabled person back into a position he ought to have.

The Hartford Tuberculosis and Public Health Society is attempting to correlate a community wide program. As Holland Hudson, Director of Rehabilitation Services of the National Tuberculosis Association states it: "The rehabilitation of the tuberculous may be best achieved not as a separate and special service but as an integral part of the modern treatment of tuberculosis and a part of the intelligent development of any community program to control tuberculosis."

A Hartford statistical survey of all discharged cases of tuberculosis from 1933 through 1938, shows that of 441 discharged patients, 61 were discharged as able to carry on a full day's work, 158 were able to work only a few hours a day and 226 could not work at all. Under the State Rehabilitation program, the 61 persons are eligible either for training or employment, the 158 who can only work a few hours a day and the 226 who temporarily cannot work - what chances have they? We believe these patients should be given an opportunity to work in accord with their physical ability and their skills, doing medically supervised work. Patients given this opportunity will be brought closer to the goal we are all working for - that every disabled person should be given the maximum amount of physical restoration, the required training for the work he is best suited for, and a place in business or industry that will enable him to be a useful, self-respecting citizen.

PROGRESS

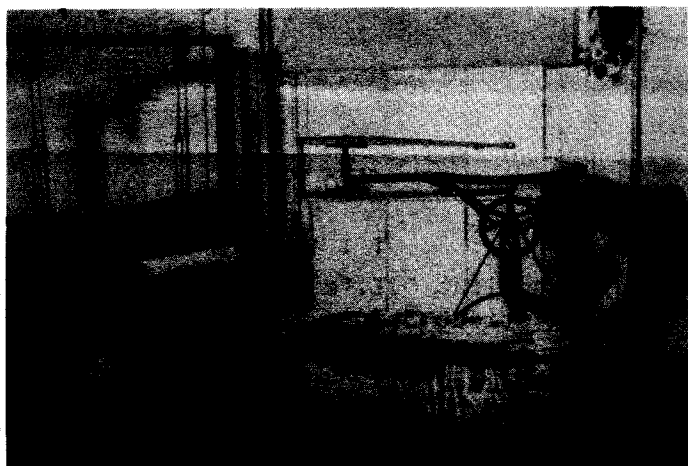
Vesta Alexander, O.T.Reg., Hartford Hospital

Eight years ago the Hartford General Hospital accepted the offer of its Woman's Auxiliary to assist in supporting an Occupational Therapy Department. The space given for the first workshop was on an unused ward away from patients needing the treatment.



For a long time our greatest need was a workshop conveniently located so that the professional staff could follow the patients receiving Occupational Therapy and also give more adequate space for the volunteer committee. Early this spring the Hospital Administration moved the department to our present central location where there are doors opening onto two main corridors.

Each year the department has had a report published in the Hartford Hospital Annual report. A pictorial and written scrapbook with records and statistics give a permanent history of the department. It is not the large number of patients treated that is most important but the scientific application of Occupational Therapy for the recovery of each individual patient. There are only two therapists in the department which means that the work is scattered over many



wards making it difficult to concentrate on specific types of illness where Occupational Therapy should be more definitely prescribed. Our statistics give an average of 86 patients a month, this includes patients carried over each month and the children. To treat this number without a central workshop a portable supply wagon was made to be used on men's wards and in addition, space was given near the Orthopedic and Surgical wards for a "treatment loom". Occupational Therapy is prescribed for ward and private patients by the doctor or interne. Besides the therapeutic cases on Neuro-Psychiatric and Orthopedic services this treatment is prescribed for hyperthyroids, cardiacs, medical and surgical diabetics, stomach ulcers and other acute illnesses on the Medical Service.

For a period of three years a therapist from the Hartford Hospital spent an average of three afternoons a week at the Avery Convalescent Hospital until the need increased to warrant a separate department to cover Avery and Wildwood Tuberculosis Sanatorium.

From the beginning the department has used the volunteer services of a committee from the Hartford Junior League, starting with two volunteers working one afternoon a week and increasing to the larger program of this year which includes a committee of 14 volunteers. There are three divisions in the Children's program. All therapeutic cases are prescribed by a doctor and treated by a therapist. The diversional work with convalescing children is carried on by the Junior League Committee under our supervision following a training course. This year the Educational work was started at many requests from the doctors and is done by two volunteers who teach school studies. Exhibits are loaned by the Children's Museum.

A course is given to the Senior Nurses to instruct them in the fundamental principles of Occupational Therapy as treatment.

Although the Hartford Hospital is not a training center for Occupational Therapy students, the department has from time to time been asked to take students from the Philadelphia and the Boston Schools of Occupational Therapy. This year the Hospital has been asked to take two students for a month between their first and second year at school.

Considerable time has been given in collecting material for a Hobby File, including activities and avocations. Realizing that it is not enough to just treat the diagnosis of the patient while in the hospital, consideration is given to mental and physical needs which will help to keep the patient well when discharged. Occupational Therapy has the opportunity to make suggestions and show the patient how to use some of the resources in the communities for recreation and leisure time activities after leaving the hospital.

Occupational Therapy is one of the newer treatments for General Hospital patients and takes its place with the Medical and Nursing service in the hospital.

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FINANCIAL REPORT - DECEMBER 5, '38 - MAY 1, '39.

<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Expenses</u>	
12/5/38 Balance	\$ 22.59	O.T.A. dues	\$ 86.00
Dues	198.00	Stationery & Multi'g	18.13
		Speaker, Stamford	10.00
		Bank charge, postage, Tel.	11.00
		Newsletter	22.50
			<u>147.63</u>
		Balance May 1, 1939	72.96
	<u>\$220.59</u>		<u>\$220.59</u>

Boston University School of Medicine has arranged a course in O.T. for medical students, compulsory in the 3rd year curriculum.

Civil Service examinations for O.T. in New York City Hospitals will be open this spring to graduate therapists living in Connecticut. Notices will be mailed as soon as the date is announced.

!!!! TRAGIC !!!!

- 27 Connecticut O.T.'s are in arrears in their National dues.
- 12 Connecticut O.T.'s are in arrears in their State dues.
- 20 Connecticut associate members are in arrears in their State dues.

!!!! PLEASE !!!!

This is the way our Treasurer feels about it.
Address Miss Bertha J. Piper, State Hospital, Newtown, Conn.