REPORT OF WORK OF THE TIDE OVER LEAGUE

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The work of the Tide Over League is of two distinct groups which interweave in ways productive of mutual helpfulness. (1) The League’s tide over work; (2) The League’s School of Applied Arts.

Our tide over work consists of sending to home patients—self-respecting men and women—handwork suitable for them to do in their present physical condition. These patients are convalescent cases and special types of chronic cases helped until sufficiently well to be put in touch with more remunerative employment. Post-operative, orthopedic, heart, nerve-exhaustion, etc. (No infectious cases are taken, as we feel that such sick people should be helped in individual separate groups.)

The kinds of work selected for our patients depend partly upon what their past experience has fitted them to do most easily, and partly upon their immediate therapeutic need. The fact that a sick person requires frequent change of employment is kept in mind and, much fatigue being avoided by a variety in the kinds of employment given him, the patient is able to work more hours a day than he could work at any one form of industry and so to earn more money per day.

Our patients have no outlay in materials, or risk-of-sale as when a person shut away from the everyday life of the world tries to make articles entirely on her own initiative and sell them at an "exchange." The League home-patients are paid by the piece immediately upon the completion of each article. Whenever physically able to do so, these home-patients them-

1 Read at the Fifth Annual Meeting of the National Society for the Promotion of Occupational Therapy (now the American Occupational Therapy Association), held in Baltimore, Md., October 20–22, 1921.
selves bring their finished articles to the "workshop," and take
home new materials and designs. Some stay for a few hours and
work, for we find the experience of working with others is most
beneficial, both in improving technique and in diverting a pa-
tient's mind from her own troubles.

A third group of patients come to the "workshop" two or
three days a week, or every day, gradually increasing their
number of working hours until they are able to work a full day
regularly for several consecutive weeks, thereby proving their
physical ability to hold a position.

At present the chief industries of our sick people are hand-
weaving of original textiles for artistic but practical, and there­
fore salable, articles; the making up of these articles; French
leather work; basketry; and colonial rug making. Much team-
work makes possible skilled labor in each part of a piece of work.

Another group to whom our teachers are sent is of sick people
who are able to pay for their instruction and who weave and do
other forms of craft work entirely for the therapeutic value of
such work. Some of these well-to-do patients also come to the
"workshop" for lessons.

Our School of Applied Arts is a year-round school with six
week late summer intermission. Here the aim is to give
thorough personal instruction in handicrafts. We have de-
veloped our methods of teaching slowly, adding new courses in
each subject as a demand for more advanced instruction arose.
Our courses in occupational therapy are based on practical ex­
perience combined with the study of such therapeutic use of
handwork as has proved most successful in our country and in
Europe. We feel that he who recommends the graduates of his
school as directors of industrial departments in hospitals, san­
toriums, camps, or schools must study his pupils from many
standpoints, and his pupils must be given an opportunity of
expressing their individual personalities while still students.
Many artists come to our school in order to study special crafts.
The attractive designs of these pupils stimulate the interest of
those who have had less experience.

Our students of occupational therapy are given an opportunity
of teaching the new workers among our patients. This teaching which is carefully supervised we feel is of decided value as preparation for later practice-teaching in the wards of hospital; and to our League patients as they come and go day by day, the normal atmosphere of a "workshop" filled with eager students is most helpful. When upon recovery from illness, some handicap makes it impossible for a patient to return to her old work, she is given an opportunity, if she has shown ability as a craftsman or teacher, of "working her way" through such courses in our school as may fit her for future self-support.

While the giving of industrial work for its financial or therapeutic value, and our School, are the chief duties of the Tide Over League, much time and thought are devoted to keeping in touch with our "cases" after they no longer need financial help, and in sharing with people who come to us from many parts of the United States the experience we have gained in the seven years during which we have been developing the work of our Tide Over League. We are now helping eight hundred people a year, and teaching in our School of Applied Arts one hundred students.

When you are in Boston will you not come to our rooms here at 296 Boylston Street, and give us the encouragement of your personal interest in occupational therapy? The atmosphere of our League "workshop" is definitely one of health, and visitors are most cordially welcome.