COSTS OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AND ALLIED THERAPEUTIC ACTIVITIES

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It would appear from the program that it was my intention to exhaust the patience of my audience by presenting figures covering the cost of occupational therapy and other activities in all incorporated hospitals. When I undertook this task, I was prepared to present only the costs of occupation proper. Since then I have been asked to include figures covering physical education, diversion and entertainments. So you see what a siege you might have had to stand, but the facts and figures which I have to present for your consideration are limited to these activities in but one hospital, the one in which my interests have been centered for a number of years. These figures have been condensed largely to save time. Those interested in itemized details will find these in the superintendent's report for 1921 and in certain charts compiled and exhibited to serve this purpose.

At Bloomingdale Hospital the men and women's occupational departments are organized under individual directors and the accounts are kept separate. Without the following statement of the nature of the activities engaged in, the cost of occupational therapy would mean little.

Patients treated during the year 1921—men ..................... 177
Daily average attendance the year 1921—men ..................... 55.51

The therapeutic activities covered the following principal crafts: Basketry, brushmaking, chair caning, net making, weaving, cement casting, cement turning, blacksmithing, copper work, jewelry, tennis racket stringing, wood turning, carpentry, spoon forging and miscellaneous (including new and repair work) the total number of pieces made being 4857.
Books and pamphlets bound.......................... 8,516
Pieces of printing..................................... 317,363
Total.................................................... 330,736

The figures have been divided thus so that the total pieces might not be confusing.

The cost of supplies for the men's department for the year 1921 was.................... $2,072.75

The staff consisted of one director and five assistants.

Salary and maintenance........................................ $9,080.00
Making total cost of men's department.................. 11,152.75
Estimated value of articles furnished hospital was..... 6,482.90
Cash sales and patients' charges........................ 1,041.80
Work added to inspirational exhibit...................... 387.50
Total.................................................... $7,911.48

The net cost of the men's department was................ $3,241.27
The difference between cost charges made to patients and others and the market value of the work was........... 1,131.50
Making the total value of all work produced........... 9,042.98

A study of the relative costs of crafts used as occupation would produce some interesting facts. It is impossible to do more than suggest some of the items which must be considered, as a detailed study would require a whole treatise. These include cost of raw material, supervision, equipment, and value of product, all studied in relation to the class of patients to be employed giving due consideration to the end result, the therapeutic value. It is not possible to reduce the cost of occupation in any given craft to so much per patient per hour or day, and the value of such figures, if procurable, is doubtful. It should be borne in mind that the real per capita cost not only depends upon the cost of material, equipment and supervision but the technic planned and required by the designs employed. Properly designed occupational problems allotted with discretion may employ silver, gold and precious stones at less per capita cost per day than certain crafts generally considered most inexpensive.

In the women's occupation department the number of patients treated during the year.................. 254
The daily average attendance................................ 108
The therapeutic activities consisted of the following: Basketry, weaving, cardboard construction, block printing, drawing, designing, water color painting, modeling, jig saw toys, embroidery, fancy needle work, tatting, crochet, knitting, dressmaking, warp winding, cooking, leather tooling, typewriting, book binding and printing.

- The number of pieces of these made being: 9,533
- Miscellaneous (including new and repair work): 6,497
- Plain sewing and machine stitching: 4,782
- Making a total number of all pieces produced: 20,812
- The cost of supplies for the women's department was: $1,638.52

The staff consisted of one director and seven assistants

- Salary and maintenance: $6,600.00
- Making the total cost of the women's department: 8,238.52
- Estimate value of articles furnished hospital: 724.07
- Cash sales and patients' charges: 3,342.55
- Total: 4,066.62
- The net cost of the women's department was: 4,171.90
- The difference between charges made to patients and market value of work produced was: 5,863.10
- Making the total value of all work produced: 9,929.72

The physical education departments are organized under two directors; the staff of the men's department consisting of one director and two assistants, while the women's department numbers a director and four assistants. The cost of the two departments for 1921 was

- Salaries and maintenance: 10,296.00
- Supplies and equipment: 463.02
- Total cost of both departments: 10,759.02
- Patients treated during the year: 166 men and 228 women
- Daily average attendance: 67.5 men and 74.07 women

Beside the regular gymnasium classes the activities of the two departments consisted largely of the following games and sports: Golf, tennis, croquet, long walks, base ball, hockey, volleyball, captain ball, gym games, lawn bowling, hand ball, foot ball, shovel board, individual work, social dancing classes, skating, skiing, coasting, picnics, bowling, ping pong, pool and card games.
The total number of these activities with the
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\begin{align*}
\text{Men} & \quad 19,858 \\
\text{Women} & \quad 10,794
\end{align*}
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The amusements include holidays, dances and movies:

Six holiday celebrations with playlets \( \quad \$134.50 \)
Twelve special dances and one musicale \( \quad \$137.85 \)
Twelve movie shows \( \quad \$221.94 \)
Total cost of entertainment \( \quad \$494.29 \)

Patients' library

Librarian salary and maintenance \( \quad \$1,332.00 \)
New books and magazines \( \quad \$562.00 \)
Cost of department \( \quad \$1,894.00 \)
The total gross cost of these activities for 1921 was \( \quad \$32,528.58 \)
While the net cost was \( \quad \$20,445.20 \)
The net per capita cost for men's occupation was \( \quad 0.20 \)
The net per capita cost for women's occupation was \( \quad 0.16\frac{1}{2} \)
The net per capita cost for physical education, men and women \( \quad 0.24\frac{2}{3} \)

The per capita cost is based on the number of patients treated, not in the total hospital population, and is for 310 working days.

The patients' library service consists of a central library and seven branch libraries located on different halls, accessible to the patients.

During the year 3198 books were loaned to men patients and 2576 to the women patients. The library also served the employees of the hospital through the use of 2576 books. The librarian also took care of the medical library.