EXPERIENCES WITH EX-SERVICE MEN IN A GENERAL HOSPITAL

DOROTHY D. ROUSE
United States Public Health Hospital, Minneapolis, Minnesota

We have been fortunate in the aides assigned to us, as each one is a specialist along some line as well as a good all-round craft aide.

Our psychiatrist is vitally interested in occupational therapy and one day a week discusses the new patients for whom he wishes it given, as well as the improvement or decline of old ones—and recommends changes in the work accordingly. All results are written in the doctor's patient report. Many are the cases where occupational therapy was the only treatment prescribed.

All tuberculosis and stomach patients work on a very rigid prescription basis only, and with this we often have most trouble, in that they can not see what an hour more work will do. Our surgical cases are most interesting, and here we see results of occupational therapy sooner, perhaps, than in any other type. Many orthopedic and nerve injury patients come directly to the shops—where possible from the physio department—and such crafts are given as will further continue the treatment just received.

About the first of the year an orchestra and classes in music were started—all the instruments being furnished by a legion post—which had an average of seven members. They played for the dances where possible and gave open air concerts for the men confined to their beds. The wind instruments were played by orthopedic cases and a case of dementia praecox played the drum. Mental cases, unable to be reached in any other way,

1 Read at sixth annual meeting of the American Occupational Therapy Association, held at Atlantic City, New Jersey, September 25 to 29, 1922.
would come and listen to the orchestra and go away with a feeling of pride that one of the boys in his ward played in the orchestra and would come to the shops, which they conceded was the important thing in the hospital.