REPORT FROM MARYLAND

To the American Occupational Therapy Association:

I beg leave to submit, for your consideration, a report upon the occupational therapy activities existing in the State of Maryland. During the past year occupational therapy has been introduced in two of our general hospitals, University of Maryland and the Hebrew Hospital. The work is enthusiastically supported by the hospital staffs, and it has been found most interesting and of real benefit to the patients who continually express their gratitude for being given something to do to ward off "ennui and nerves."

The Maryland Tuberculosis Sanatorium has not as yet started occupational therapy, but a building is under construction for this purpose, and when it is completed, occupational therapy will be introduced.

In most of the private sanatoriums, where the number of patients under treatment is small, there are no occupational therapy departments organized as such, the patients having no regular work assigned them, but work voluntarily and for their own benefit, with the regular nurses of the sanatorium to superintend and supervise.

The appended reports from the directors of occupational therapy in the various hospitals and institutions in the state, give detailed information desired.

Respectfully submitted,

BERTHA B. MENNINGER.

THE HEBREW HOSPITAL

Ruth G. Blaustein, Director of Occupational Therapy

Occupational therapy was introduced into the Hebrew Hospital, February, 1921, at the request of the director of medical social service.

1 Read at the sixth annual meeting of the American Occupational Therapy Association held at Atlantic City, September 25 to 29, 1922.
At this time 2 workers started on the wards, medical, surgical and children, spending one afternoon a week at the hospital. Because of the effectiveness of the work a schedule of twice a week was arranged. It was, therefore, necessary to get more aides actively interested. At present there are 5 aides, all of whom are volunteers. The patients are taught basket-making of all kinds and varied shapes—using both reed and raffia. Rugs made of rags and bags of twine have been crocheted and a few incidental things have been made by the children. A bedside loom has also been used. This fall plans are being made to teach the patients a larger variety of articles, as it is found this creates more interest.

It is rather hard to give the exact number of patients that have been interested in the work as they are transient. The old ones leaving and new ones taking their places daily, and as the work was very simply organized, detailed records have not been kept. But judging from the number of beds in the wards and including a number of private patients for whom the doctors have requested instruction, there have been more than one hundred and fifty patients occupied at different times. This means that between two and three hundred articles have been made. They are disposed of in two different ways. (1) The patient keeps the finished product, paying only for the actual cost of the material used, or (2) the articles are kept by the hospital until they have accumulated to a number large enough to warrant a sale. Two sales have been conducted at the hospital, one in the spring and one in the fall of the year, at which sufficient money was realized to buy material for continuing the work, this being the only financial support.

The physicians at this hospital have agreed that the therapeutic value of this work has been of tremendous benefit to the patients reached and from time to time the private patients at the hospital have been given instruction. Not only has the work been of benefit to the patient while in the hospital, but in many instances has been carried back to the homes and interest sustained, especially has this been of benefit in the cardiac and other diseases which require long periods of convalescent care and where the activities had to be limited. In such cases baskets and other handwork filled a big need and helped to pass the time which otherwise may have been unendurably long.
The entire hospital is under the supervision of the United States Veterans Bureau, and each department has its chief and aides.

There are at present about 292 patients in this hospital and 8 aides and 1 special man employee in the occupational therapy department and 5 teachers in the Educational Department. The value of occupation as a therapeutic agent in the treatment of the patients at this hospital is very thoroughly recognized, and stress is laid on the good the Educational Department is accomplishing. Many of the so-called out patients are attending the school. Mathematics seems to be the most popular study and there surely is no better way to get a man's mind off his own troubles than to have some other problem to work out, and to know there are competent teachers to help him when necessary. Those of foreign race seem to prefer to study the English language and American history, which of course has a double benefit, in helping the patient fix his attention and creating a healthy interest, also tends to make him a better citizen of the United States. Typewriting and stenography also is taught and a radio outfit is being installed. The individual enrollment of the school averages 109 and many of the men take up more than one branch of study.

For those who are not studiously inclined the crafts shop offers many attractions.

Occupational therapy here is on a prescription basis, and the work is carried on in the mental, tuberculosis, medical and surgical wards. Instruction is given in basketry, weaving, chair caning and such occupations, and a great deal of general shop work.

The patient usually makes two articles, one of which is given to the hospital, the other he keeps. The sales are taken care of by the Daughters of 1812, two large sales being usually held at Christmas and Easter.

The training that the children have while in the Kernan Hospital consists of assigning them to the grade to which they belong in the public school. They attend school from 9:30 to 12:30 daily, except
Saturday and Sunday, of course. This teacher is assigned by the City of Baltimore School Board. The industrial teacher is employed by the Orthopaedic Guild. Occupational therapy must be planned to a certain extent dependent upon the child’s physical disability and innate knack for a certain type of work. They are taught wood-carving, leather tooling, brass work, jewelry craft, painting, drawing, embroidery, weaving, plain sewing, dress-making and scroll saw work. There are no voluntary workers. The finished work is disposed of usually to friends and friends of the patients. The child receives two-thirds and the hospital retains one-third for materials. The industrial work is done in the afternoon.

CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL SCHOOL

At the Children’s Hospital School the children are taught several crafts, basketry, weaving, knitting and all kinds of needle work, and are instructed by a social service worker, who is salaried by the hospital. The occupational therapy department is maintained by what is known as a “base fund.” The academic instructions carries the children as far as the fifth grade.

UNITED STATES VETERANS BUREAU SCHOOL IN DISTRICT No. 4, EVERGREEN, GUILFORD, SCHOOL FOR BLIND SOLDIERS

This is a vocational school for blind soldiers. Here they receive the regular academic instruction and general hand training for the blind, and some crafts, carpentry and weaving, etc.

The work and maintenance is entirely in charge of the United States Veterans Bureau.

In the Occupational Therapy Department the men receive instruction in the handwork for pre-vocational training and its purpose is to prepare the blind man for a more acute touch to be used in Braille and typing. The training includes weaving, or netting, hammocks, tennis nets, fish nets, dip nets, knotting belts and bags, novelty work, cretonne covered boxes, portfolios, desk pads and standing writing files. Book binding, loose leaf, note covers, sewed and hand machine bound note books, scrap books and envelope files. The department also includes carpentry and basketry, and there are at present 8 instructors.
MARYLAND SCHOOL AND WORKSHOP FOR THE BLIND
J. F. Bledsoe, Superintendent

The affairs of this school are administered by a superintendent and an efficient corps of officers and teachers carefully selected for their adaptability to their different tasks.

The school is designed for the education of blind children and offers unusual advantages throughout the primary, grammar and high school courses in literary, musical and physical education.

Work in behalf of the Adult Blind:

This work is conducted under the direction of the school under the name “Maryland Workshop for the Blind.” It is vocational and is located at 601 N. Fulton Ave. Instruction is given daily to 150 blind men and women, who come to the shop, in the following branches: Chair-caning, basketry, hammock weaving, mop-making, reading and writing by touch (Braille system), typewriting, music (brass band), rug weaving, knitting and crocheting, piano tuning and repairing.

The state appropriates $17,000 per annum and Baltimore City $8000 per annum, but it is necessary to obtain funds from other sources in order to care for and equip with trades those already in the shop and give an opportunity to a large waiting list. There are five teachers and ten assistants employed in giving instruction. The small articles made are disposed of through exhibits, fairs, department stores and in the display rooms of the workshop.

There is also an up-to-date broom shop which gives employment to 30 additional blind men. These brooms are sold wholesale. The operation of the broom shop practically mean independence for this number of blind men.

The home teachers visit the homes of grown blind people. They inspire confidence and teach them to do things with their hands. Some are aged and infirm, and yet their lives are very much brightened by the periodic visits of the home teachers. Others must have this preliminary training to give them confidence before taking up work of a more strenuous character in the central shop, as well as receiving instruction in reading, writing and the simple manual arts.

The work is maintained from a fund donated to the school by a former graduate.

HENRY PHIPPS PSYCHIATRIC CLINIC, JOHNS HOPKINS HOSPITAL

The clinic accommodates 85 patients, most of whom receive instruction.
There are 3 instructors, also a part-time recreational worker holding classes in folk dancing and playground work. Basketry, leather tooling, book-binding, woodcraft, needlework, weaving, watercolor and oil painting, clay modeling and chair caning are taught. All bases and wood forms are made in the carpenter shop by the patients.

If the patient cares to keep the article he or she has made, they are charged the cost of the material only and the work left at the hospital is disposed of by sales, that are advertised locally in the hospital and by cards sent to friends. The department practically pays for itself.

Sheppard and Enoch Pratt Hospital

There are 125 patients at this hospital.

In a building, popularly known as the Casino, are held classes in basket work, chair caning, designing and decorating, weaving, book binding, printing, and novelty work. There is also an upholstery shop, which does a tremendous amount of work for the hospital. There is also a shop for metal work and jewelry for men and women. The instructing staff in all the work consists of a director, 4 occupational therapists, 2 recreation aides, 2 men, 1 whole time and 1 half time.

The Recreation and Occupational Therapy Department in addition to the entertainments for the patients, takes care of the entertainment for the whole hospital and employees, including dances, movies, and dramatics. One of the recreation aides is also a musical aide.

The patients take about two or three of what articles they make and the rest are disposed of by private sales and one large sale.

Bay View Hospital, Insane Department

Dr. H. Goldsmith, Physician-in-Chief; Miss B. B. Menninger, Occupational Instructor

Two hundred and ninety-four patients, male and female, remained in the hospital on January 1, 1922. Industrially, our patients are practically the backbone of all the work around the institution. The farmer and gardener use our men throughout the year and most of the laundry workers are insane patients. Gangs of men in charge of attendants are used at the power house also.

In the sewing room quite a few patients worked steadily throughout the year, making 3240 new articles and repairing 2915 pieces of clothing for the department.
Forty-two dozen brooms and four dozen whisk brooms were made by a male patient, also 628 ears of sweet corn were raised in the garden.

The Women's Occupational Department has averaged 20 to 25 patients daily in its classes, there being 1 instructor, salaried by the Supervisors of City Charities, who are the governing body of Bay View Hospital.

The patients are instructed in all kinds of needle-work, basketry, sealing wax beads, painting with dissolved sealing wax, Apache bead work, rug weaving, raffia weaving, tied and dyed work. Our braid weave rugs are among the most popular articles we make. They are made from new materials and the selvage ends are utilized in making the old colonial hooked rugs. All waste clothing is cleaned and then braided by the female patients and made into rugs, which are used on the ward and add quite a colorful note.

All articles made in the occupational department are sold to visitors to the hospital and the money derived from these sales is turned in to the City Comptroller. The department is maintained from the expense fund, used for the general maintenance of Bay View Hospital.

Recreation is also recognized as affording relief to disordered minds, and games both indoors and out, are provided. We have dances once a week in summer in the pavilion on the lawn. In the winter dances and motion pictures are given weekly. Parties and treats are arranged for all the patients, among the best liked treats is pickled pigs' feet and water melon. Tea parties and other social affairs are also given in the occupational department. A fund for this purpose is in care of the physician-in-chief. Thus in every possible way, body and mind are employed and efforts are made to draw the patients into the activities of normal life and excite their interest in the changing scenes around them, thereby enhancing their chances of recovery.

**Springfield State Hospital, Sykesville, Maryland**

**Dr. J. Clement Clark, Superintendent**

Not having had a teacher since the War, and owing to the shortage of nurses; occupational therapy treatment at Springfield State Hospital has not been carried on as in former years. A great deal of work, however, is done by the patients on the wards, housekeeping and mending clothing, under the direction of the nurses.

A large number are employed in the laundry, canning house, and sewing room. Crocheting and making fancy articles is still carried on by
individual patients and the work sold to visitors, the patients getting a part of the proceeds when the hospital furnishes the materials. Some of the patients buy their materials, sell the article and keep the money.

The largest number of patients employed in any one department is at the cannery, about 40 women patients being employed there daily during the canning season.

The broad fields around the institution afford employment for a large number of male patients in farm and garden work. Large numbers of male patients in this institution have been employed in the various industrial shops; in road making, grading, and quarrying; in fact, an average of 60 per cent of the patients are employed in some useful occupation.

**Spring Grove State Hospital**

Although not employing an occupational therapy director, a lot of work is done at Spring Grove, and is carried on by the nurses and patients. It consists mostly of outside work, printing, cobblerly, and willow work. In connection with Spring Grove is Foster Clinic which is maintained for ex-service men and in charge of United States Veterans Bureau, with Mr. LaClare and several assistants to carry on the occupational therapy.

**Crownsville State Hospital**

Crownsville, a state institution for the colored insane, does a vast amount of work carried on by patients and nurses, and their chief production is willow furniture.

**Rosewood State Training School**

Rosewood is the only state institution for feebleminded children in Maryland. There is a school and a carpenter shop. The children also make baskets, do all sorts of needle work, and make vast quantities of bobbin lace.

**Laurel Sanatorium, Laurel, Maryland**

*Jesse C. Coggins and Cornelius Deweese, Medical Directors*

While not employing a definite line of craft work, the nurses have been instructing in a general way, and a great many patients instruct the others especially in needlework.

Arrangements have been made to have an occupational teacher take charge of the department between October 1 and 15.