

## OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY—IN A MENTAL HOSPITAL\*

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IT is unnecessary for me, at the outset of my remarks to-day, to emphasize the degree of scientific and public attention that is now being given to the subject of Occupational Therapy as a measure of treatment, curative or palliative, to those afflicted with mental disease. Already in the United States, to further its development and advancement, the National Society for the Promotion of Occupational Therapy has been created. This organization will meet in convention next week in Philadelphia and I have been honoured by an invitation to address its members.

The reason of this renewed concern in the care of the mentally afflicted is not far to seek. The great war from which we have just emerged has quickened our life interest in every direction, in science not less than commerce. Moreover the gratifying results obtained through the effects of Occupational Therapy in the treatment of the soldiers suffering from the horrors and hardships of war (and here may I be permitted to mention with pride the high stage of efficiency reached by our Canadian Medical men in its application), these results, I say, have acted as a great stimulus to all those immediately interested in the problem of mental disease, to apply this form of treatment at least as a partial solution of its many difficulties.

In a word, until the pathologists have thrown more light on the causation of les psychoses périodiques ou manie-dépressive, démence précoce ou schizophrénia, as Kréplin now seems to style it, and other forms of acute mental disturbance, it is the best light we have to follow and I have no doubt that even after more precise pathological or bacteriological findings have been disclosed, Occupational Therapy will still prove a powerful adjuvant in the treatment of these diseases.

Whilst it is the duty of those in charge of this work in every country to bring about the results just mentioned, there is also an economic side to be considered. Placing (as a conservative estimate) our annual expenditure for the insane in Canada at the present moment at four million dollars, we will, in the next twenty years have expended at the

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