

(12) Novelty, variety, individuality, and utility of the products enhance the value of an occupation as a treatment measure.

(13) Quality, quantity, and salability of the products may prove beneficial by satisfying and stimulating the patient but should never be permitted to obscure the main purpose.

(14) Good craftsmanship, and ability to instruct are essential qualifications in the occupational therapist; understanding, sincere interest in the patient, and an optimistic, cheerful outlook and manner are equally essential.

(15) Patients under treatment by means of occupational therapy should also engage in recreational or play activities. It is advisable that gymnastics and calisthenics, which may be given for habit training, should be regarded as work. Social dancing and all recreational and play activities should be under the definite head of recreations.

FOR BETTER COMMITMENT LAWS.

The National Committee for Mental Hygiene appointed in December a Committee on Legislation, consisting of Doctor George M. Kline, Chairman of the Massachusetts Commission of Mental Diseases, Chairman, Doctor Charles W. Pilgrim of the New York State Hospital Commission; Doctor Owen Copp, Superintendent of the Pennsylvania Hospital; Doctor Frank P. Norbury of the Illinois Public Welfare Commission; and Major Frankwood E. Williams of the Surgeon General's Office, Washington. The object of the committee is to study the commitment laws of all the states and to suggest some standard forms for the observation, emergency commitment, temporary care and voluntary commitment of persons needing care and treatment because of mental disorder.

It has long been recognized that the commitment laws of many of the states are the expression of a misconception of the nature of mental disease. The individual suffering from mental disease is frequently treated like the lowest form of culprit. Under the guise of protecting his personal liberty, he is thrown into jails and lock-ups, and subjected to the humiliation of crowded court rooms. Happily, public sentiment on these methods is changing rapidly and commitment laws which will safeguard personal liberty and private property and at the same time insure the afflicted one adequate and scientific care and treatment are now demanded, especially in the more progressive states.

The Committee on Legislation has submitted the following suggestions to the state authorities:

OBSERVATION AND CARE.

If a person is found by two physicians qualified as examiners in insanity to be in such mental condition that his commitment to an