

Largely through Dr. Hattie's efforts there is a prospect of the establishment of a clinic for the feeble-minded in connection with the Halifax Dispensary, and it is hoped that the Medical School of Dalhousie University will support this project.

TO PROMOTE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

A National Association for the Promotion of Occupational Therapy has been organized in the United States indicating that the movement has grown to proportions which need the stimulus of national contact. The association has agreed upon a platform of principles which express the object and purposes of occupational therapy and the results expected to be produced through its development as follows:

- (1) Occupational Therapy is a method of treating the sick or injured by means of instruction and employment in productive occupation.
- (2) The objects sought are to rouse interest, courage and confidence: to exercise mind and body in healthy activity: to overcome functional disability: and to re-establish capacity for industrial and social usefulness.
- (3) In applying Occupational Therapy, system and precision are as important as in other forms of treatment.
- (4) The treatment should be administered under constant medical advice and supervision, and correlated with the other treatment of the patient.
- (5) The treatment should, in each case, be specifically directed to the individual needs.
- (6) Though some patients do best alone, employment in groups is usually advisable because it provides exercise in social adaptation and the stimulating influence of example and comment.
- (7) The occupation selected should be within the range of the patient's estimated interests and capability.
- (8) As the patient's strength and capability increase, the type and extent of occupation should be regulated and graded accordingly.
- (9) The only reliable measure of the value of the treatment is the effect on the patient.
- (10) Inferior workmanship, or employment in an occupation which would be trivial for the healthy, may be attended with the greatest benefit to the sick or injured. Standards worthy of entirely normal persons must be maintained for proper mental stimulation.
- (11) The production of a well-made, useful and attractive article, or the accomplishment of a useful talk, requires healthy exercise of mind and body, gives the greatest satisfaction, and thus produces the most beneficial effects.