

The bicycle jigsaw to restore motion to injured legs, and jobs requiring such heavy equipment as metal work and printing, must wait until the patient is able to be up and around.

Although the teaching of major skills to the patients is not a major objective, frequently the men discover through their work abilities and talents which they never dreamed they possessed. Many hobbies have been developed and new lines of work first begun in this way.

Outgrowth of Last War

Occupational therapy is an outgrowth of the last war. From his post in France, General Pershing requested 200 "reconstruction aids" to keep the minds of the patients off their illnesses. After a short 12-week course in crafts and diversional type recreational work, these aids were assigned to Army hospitals.

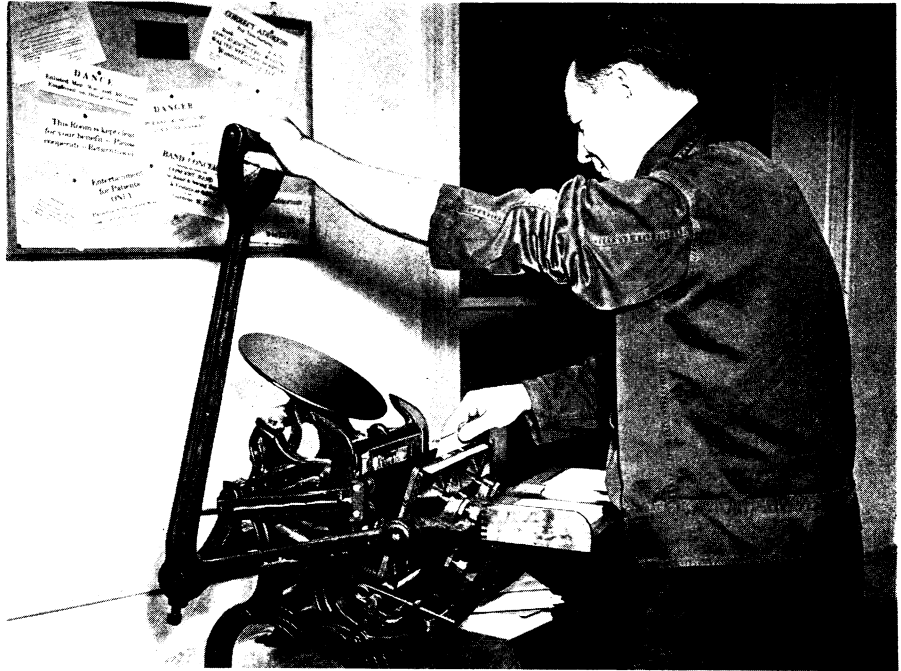
Today more comprehensive courses are offered, accredited schools giving a three to five-year course to girls interested in doing things with their hands and having a real desire to help persons suffering from physical or mental illness.

In both the Army and Navy, occupational therapy is one phase of the reconditioning and rehabilitation program. Occupational therapists serve the Army as civilians; in the Navy they are commissioned in the WAVES. Because there is a shortage of trained personnel, accelerated programs have been instituted in both branches of the service.

Students from approved schools who have mastered the theory of occupational therapy may receive their clinical training as officers in Naval hospitals, reports Lt. (j. g.) Lois Brownell, occupational therapy adviser to the Medical Department. Enlisted men and women of the Navy Hospital Corps can qualify after a three-month hospital course in theory and practice as assistants to occupational therapy officers.

An intensive war emergency course has been authorized by the War Department under the Civil Service Commission, states Mrs. Winifred Kahmann, chief of the Occupational Therapy branch of the Army. The course offers college graduates with special qualifications four months of medical subjects and theory of occupational therapy, followed by eight months of clinical practice in an Army hospital, all at government expense.

Tact, initiative, interest in medical studies and an adaptable personality are all needed for a person to be successful in this line of work. With all the resources of the hospital at his disposal as well as



ARM USEFUL AGAIN—Printing signs and record cards on the printing press at Walter Reed General Hospital aids the soldier to regain the use of his arm and fingers, a bullet having shattered the bone from his left elbow to wrist.

a well-equipped therapy shop, it is up to the occupational therapist to devise ways of getting the patient to fill the

doctor's prescription while doing something that holds his interest.

Science News Letter, April 7, 1945

RESEARCH

Researches Summarized

➤ RESEARCHES on a hundred far-flung fronts, with quicker victory and pleasanter peacetime life as twin goals, are summarized in the annual report of the Mellon Institute, handed to his board of trustees by Director E. R. Weidlein. The Institute's hundred-fold scientific activity is no mere figure of speech: to be quite exact, 101 research tasks are on the schedule; 94 of them actively pursued during the fiscal year just closed, and seven that have had to be suspended for the duration.

Direct contributions to the war effort, in addition to the researches on shells and rockets, include some exciting new synthetic lubricants, on which some details have to be withheld for security reasons. One of them seems to be a member of the group known as the silicones, that, like oils, are organic compounds containing carbon, but differ in that silicon atoms are substituted for part of the carbon atoms. Other synthetic lubricants are

more conventional in their makeup, but are unusual in that they do not become too "thick" in high-altitude cold or too "thin" in tropic heat, so that they can be used in such critical mechanisms as aviation gauges and flyers' wrist watches.

Other new things, useful now for war and even more useful soon in peace, include magnesium alloys, a synthetic "sand" made of ethyl silicate for making molds for fine castings, an unusual plastic material known as vinyl naphthalene, and new kinds of finely pulverized metal for use in powder metallurgy. The latter include manganese, steel and copper powders.

Research items of direct usefulness in the home include textiles with stress on the cost-of-living angle, other textiles with improved water-repellent properties, a new insecticide that may become a competitor for DDT in its deadliness to flies, and strained green soybeans for the baby.

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