

PSYCHIATRY

Need Music Therapists

► THERE ARE more positions for trained music therapists in America's hospitals today than there are qualified persons to fill them.

Dr. Roy L. Underwood, director of fine arts and head of the music department at Michigan State College, first university department in the United States to offer the music therapy degree, reports continued success of music therapy in medicine and psychiatry. High standards demanded of the therapist, and, in some cases, starting salaries that are lower than are offered in other professions, contribute to the shortage.

While a number of general hospitals today are employing musicians, mental hospitals remain the major employer. "With more than 600 neuro-psychiatric institutions in the United States, it will be many years before the saturation point is reached," Dr. Underwood predicted.

The successful therapist is frequently one who has faced the problem of choosing between a musical career, teaching, or a career as a nurse or doctor. The music therapist is able to combine these ambitions most successfully in one profession.

Music, Dr. Underwood emphasized, is not a cure in itself. But it can provide enjoyment, self-expression, an outlet for the emotions and a feeling of accomplishment. It is especially helpful, too, in treatment for those with inferiority problems.

In some cases of the physically handicapped, playing a musical instrument can help to develop stricken muscles and a sense of rhythm.

"The music therapist actually is a kind of musical pharmacist," Dr. Underwood said. "The psychiatrist, physician or psychologist prescribes, while the therapist prepares 'ingredients' called for in a particular case. Music is part of the therapeutic team and part of the total treatment."

Music and the playing of musical instruments have been used effectively with the deaf and blind, those afflicted with cerebral palsy, poliomyelitis, cardiac difficulties, orthopedic handicaps, or speech disorders, and with pre-psychotic children.

Music also is being used effectively in hospitals for orthopedic and tuberculosis patients, during local and spinal anesthesia, and preceding general anesthesia.

Since the four-year course was introduced at Michigan State in 1944, approximately 20 students have graduated and are now on duty in hospitals over the country. Seventeen are enrolled in the curriculum today.

The therapist's academic training includes the study of music, psychology, sociology and physical education. When the course work is completed, the student must spend six months' internship in a neuro-psychiatric hospital before the degree is granted. Starting salaries for the graduate therapist range at present between \$3,500 and \$4,000.

Personal qualifications for students in-

clude high scholastic standing, musicianship and sound musical training, excellent health and emotional stability. In addition to individual work with patients, the music therapist must be able to organize different types of music groups, play the piano by ear, perform music for different religious services and even repair broken musical instruments.

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GEOLOGY

Volcano's Rumbles Alarm New Zealanders

► MT. NGAURUHOE, 7,515 feet high in the center of New Zealand's north island, has been rumbling so loudly that faraway residents thought the noise was coming from an extinct volcano 80 miles away.

Mt. Ngauruhoe has been very active for many years, but residents near the extinct volcano Mt. Egmont, 8,260 feet high, became alarmed by the noise of subterranean rumblings and decided the mountain had come to life after six centuries of slumber.

Geologists and geophysicists have now reported that the rumblings were the noise of explosive outbursts in Ngauruhoe.

They believe the sounds were carried into the upper atmosphere and then refracted downwards in sufficient strength to be heard near Egmont, where they rattled windows and shook street lamps.

Similar noises were reported at the coastal city of Wanganui, also about 80 miles from Ngauruhoe.

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MEDICINE

New Child Disease: Bobby Pin in Kidney

► EXISTENCE OF a new ailment of small children is reported by Dr. Duncan Macaulay of the University of Manchester and Dr. Thomas Moore, consultant surgeon to the Duchess of York Hospital for Babies in Manchester, England.

Bobby pin in the kidney might be the name for the new ailment, though the Manchester doctors do not give it a specific name.

They discovered its existence when a three-year-old boy was admitted to the hospital with symptoms of what seemed to be acute kidney disease. This diagnosis seemed especially likely as the little boy had been ailing for about a month with enlarged neck glands and discharging left ear.

X-ray pictures showed a foreign body in the abdomen close to the first part of the small intestines and also close to the kidney.

The doctors operated and found the bobby pin passing from the intestine to the upper part of the kidney through a short passage it apparently had made between the

two organs. The bobby pin was removed and the child recovered.

The parents, interviewed after the X-rays showed a foreign body, remembered that about four months before the little boy had "announced one day that he had swallowed a hair-grip." Hair-grips and kirbigrips are known in America as bobby pins.

When told he would have to go to the doctor, the child promptly denied having swallowed anything and as he seemed well for the next few days, the matter was forgotten.

In their report to the *British Medical Journal* (Jan. 22), the doctors state this is the fifth case on record of a child having swallowed a bobby pin which perforated the intestine and lodged in the kidney. In all the cases, there were no signs at first. Then later, kidney symptoms developed.

Toddlers are so prone to put things in their mouths that the Manchester doctors advise fellow physicians to suspect a swallowed foreign body in children of this age who have symptoms that are not easy to diagnose.

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METEOROLOGY

Russians Build Stations On Drifting Ice Floes

► THE RUSSIANS have established two weather stations on drifting ice floes in the central Arctic.

Known as North Pole-3 and North Pole-4, the Russians claim that for the first time these stations make it possible to analyze the Arctic weather and substantiate weather forecasts for the entire Soviet Union.

Describing life on the ice floes, the Reds state that there are two types of dwellings, prefabricated cottages on skids and tents. The tents "are made of many layers of fabrics stitched together with warm interlinings" and capable of providing warmth even when the temperature outside drops to 40 degrees below zero Fahrenheit.

"The stations have helicopters, tractors and cross country motorcars at their disposal," they report, as well as "gas heating, electric light, radio and even telephone communications."

Communication with the island's personnel, described as "outstanding scientists and experienced polar explorers who have spent more than one winter in the Arctic," is maintained by radio and aircraft.

Although there was no mention of when the drifting islands were manned, nor how big they are, the Russians stated that the "wintering" parties were landed by polar planes together with the tons of material and technical equipment.

The report of the establishment of the two ice island weather stations was made in *Vokz* (Nov. 12, 1954), the bulletin of the U.S.S.R. Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries.

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Thirty-five million families in the U. S. own at least one automobile.