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# Graduates to Become Occupational Therapists

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# Graduates to Become

# Occupational Therapists

*Gertrud Ortgies explains army plans for training apprentice technicians in occupational therapy*

**O**CCUPATIONAL therapy has stepped into the spotlight since the war and is becoming an increasingly popular field of work. The importance of occupational therapists in restoring men's minds and bodies has become more apparent during this war and as a result, the government's war emergency course of occupational therapy has been organized.

The general plan of training is based on a 4-month curriculum of medical subjects and theory and application of occupational therapy. This is followed

in arts and crafts or industrial arts may be substituted for a year of the required education. If the student does not have 4 years of college credit her training course will be longer.

Phillipa Hawgood, '44, is taking occupational therapy training at Plymouth Shore Camp, Port Clinton, Ohio, and Marilyn Williams, '44, will go to the University of Southern California for her training the first part of next year. Zelma Shafer, Ex. '46, and Dorothy Isaacson, Ex. '46, also have entered this field but they will have a longer period of training before they can be registered as occupational therapists.

Other schools included in this war emergency course are the Boston School of Occupational Therapy, Boston; Milwaukee-Downer College, Milwaukee; Mills



*Keeping patients engaged in physical and mental activities is the basis for wartime planning of occupational therapy*

by 8 months of clinical practice as an apprentice technician in designated army hospitals. After successfully completing the course, graduates are eligible to be examined and registered as occupational therapists. They may then be appointed to general army hospitals.

Tuition is paid by the government. Students are employed during the first 4 months on a civil service status as student occupational therapists at an annual salary of \$1440. For the next 8 months they are apprentice technicians and receive a salary of \$1620 a year. After an occupational therapist is selected for army hospital service her salary is increased to \$1800 a year plus \$390 a year overtime.

Qualifications for entry into this 12-month program include a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university. At least 20 semester hours in art or home economics and a knowledge of at least three manual skills are required. Basic psychology, physics and biology also are necessary. Teaching experience



*Comfortable and attractive government rest homes are being used to aid in the restoration of war veterans to normal civilian life*

College, Oakland, Calif.; Richmond Professional Institute of the College of William and Mary, Richmond; University of Illinois, Urbana; and Columbia University, New York City.

Occupational therapy has turned from the idea of just keeping the patient busy to a more comprehensive use of arts and crafts. The objective of modern occupational therapy is to employ the patient in purposeful activities which will benefit him both physically and mentally.

Attempts in applying these principles during the first World War led to rug and basket making. Now it is realized that the projects must be suited to each patient's characteristics. The scope of occupational therapy includes craft design, fine arts and physical training.

Painting a picture or weaving a wall hanging may renew a returned serviceman's zest for life, restore his self-confidence and re-establish his desire and capacity for social usefulness as a civilian.