



The Dorset House School
of Occupational Therapy
Oxford

Prospectus

THE DORSET HOUSE SCHOOL OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
58 LONDON ROAD
HEADINGTON
OXFORD
OX3 7PE
Telephone Oxford 62831

Recognised by—

The Occupational Therapists Registration Board of the
Council for the Professions Supplementary to Medicine
The World Federation of Occupational Therapists
The College of Occupational Therapists Ltd.

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Mrs. M. McCallum, B.C.P.E., M.C.S.P.
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J. Mercer, Ph.D., B.Sc., Ac.Dip.Ed.
J. Talbot, M.C.
Lady Williams

PRINCIPAL

Miss J. D. Edwards, M.Sc., B.O.T., T.Dip.C.O.T.

VICE-PRINCIPAL

Miss J. M. Freston, T.Dip.C.O.T.

BURSAR

H. L. Dennison, M.A.
From September 1986:
Lieutenant Commander B. A. Davies, D.M.S., R.N.

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Dwight House The Entrance Courtyard

H.C.

Introduction

DORSET House, the oldest occupational therapy training school in the country, prepares students for the Diploma examinations of the College of Occupational Therapists. Founded in Bristol in 1930, by Dr. Elizabeth Casson, the pioneer of the training of Occupational Therapists in this country, it was, in the last war, invited to the Midlands to run the Ministry of Health's special training courses for the Emergency Medical Service, the experimental forerunner of the National Health Service.

In 1946 the School settled in Oxford, and is grateful to the "Town and Gown" of that city for the welcome given, and the consistent interest shown in its work.

The School became a non-profit making company in 1948. It provides a complete training for Occupational Therapists for work in all types of Hospitals and Rehabilitation Centres, and makes a special point of having highly qualified tutors and instructors. It is fortunate in being helped by specialist lecturers, who are members of the University and Hospital staffs, and in having access to Oxford hospitals, libraries and museums, and to the Oxford Polytechnic.

Occupational therapy is a form of treatment which is concerned with people who are physically and/or mentally sick and are disabled either temporarily or permanently. The professionally qualified occupational

therapist involves the patients in activities designed to promote the restoration and maximum use of function with the aim of helping such people to meet the demands of their working, social and domestic environment, and to participate in life in its fullest sense.

Much of the practice is carried out in hospitals in the National Health Service or in Social Service departments, but there is also work in various other fields such as schools for the handicapped.

State Registration is obligatory for those employed as occupational therapists by the National Health Service.

Posts overseas may be offered to those with experience. Dorset House has a long association with pioneering ventures abroad in occupational therapy.

Scope, Therapeutic and Rehabilitative, in cases of:

Psychiatric disorders and mental handicap.

Physical illness and residual disability.

Occupational Therapy is practised in hospitals and rehabilitation centres, and in patients' homes. It includes work with people of all ages, particularly the elderly.

Qualifications for an Occupational Therapist:

Tact, good judgment, integrity, and a mature outlook.
Initiative and enterprise.
A real interest in people.
Organising and executive ability.
Serious interest in medical treatment.
Ability to work as a member of the treatment team.

Teaching facilities and Accommodation

The School is fortunate in having premises especially adapted and designed for theoretical and practical work. There is a well-stocked library, good lecturing facilities, and appropriately-equipped workshops.

The Training Course

The course covers the study of:

- I. *The Body and Mind in Normal Health*
Human Biology.
Behavioural Sciences, i.e. Psychology and Sociology.
- II. *Deviations from Health by Deficiency, Disease and Trauma*
Medicine, Neurology, Orthopaedics and Psychiatry.
- III. *Occupational Therapy for Medical, Orthopaedic and Psychiatric Disabilities*

- IV. *Organisation and Administration*
Structure and function of statutory and other organisations
Departmental organisation
Patients' records
Stock control and book-keeping
Organisation of industrial work

- V. *Treatment Techniques*
The management of patients
The use of equipment for treatment
Basic techniques for self-care and independence
Work and craft activities
Group activities
Domestic activities
Orthotics

- VI. *Clinical Experience*
Three terms of clinical practice are undertaken in hospitals, rehabilitation centres and social service departments. This may be in Oxford, London, Southampton or other parts of the country.

Conditions of Admission to the Course

An adequate standard of theoretical examination capacity is necessary in applicants for training. Personal qualities as well as academic attainment are taken into consideration.

Each application for admission is treated on its own merits and in relation to other applications received. Compliance with the Conditions of Admission to the Course does not in itself entitle any candidate to admission.

The minimum entry requirements are six different subjects in the G.C.E. or the equivalent (e.g. C.S.E. Grade I). Two G.C.E. subjects must be passed at 'A' level. Only grades 'A' to 'C' are acceptable for 'O' level subjects, taken from Summer 1975 onwards.

Please also note that:—

- 1) A pass in English Language and a science preferably Biology or Human Biology are compulsory.
- 2) At least 4 'O' level subjects must have been passed at one sitting.
- 3) One of the 'A' level subjects must be an academic subject.

In exceptional circumstances consideration may be given to applicants with other qualifications or experience.

There is no particular age limit for the course, but students under 18 are not normally accepted for training and candidates over 35 are rarely accepted. Married women, particularly those with young school-age children, are rarely able to undertake the course because of its full-time programme and much of the clinical practice requires the student to live outside the Oxford area.

A valid adult standard Certificate in First Aid is required, awarded by a recognised authority, preferably before the start of the course, or during the first term. The St. John Ambulance Brigade "Public First Aid Course" or the British Red Cross Society "Standard First Aid Course" is at the appropriate level.

In addition candidates accepted for training should come to the course with a knowledge of domestic tasks learnt and/or practised in the home, in order to be able to help, later, with the rehabilitation process for those returning to independent living.

Welfare

The School employs a full-time Welfare Officer who cares for the general comfort, health and well-being of the students.

Residence

Accommodation is available in the school hostel and two houses for two-thirds of the first year students.

Other students reside in lodgings. Because requirements and conditions vary considerably, the School Authorities cannot be responsible for allocating these, but the Welfare Officer will help students in finding accommodation and advise on its suitability.

Length of Course—Three years.

Students enter for training in September of each year.

Professional Prospects

For many years the demand for occupational therapists has exceeded the number qualified each year. Posts are not guaranteed, but up to the present time those who have qualified from this School have experienced little difficulty in obtaining employment.

Cost of the Course

The Department of Health and Social Security (D.H.S.S.) provides bursaries for student occupational therapists, which are similar to the Further Education awards made by Local Education Authorities. The bursary includes the payment of tuition, examination

and certain other fees, and a maintenance allowance calculated by reference to parental circumstances.

All students normally resident in England and Wales and accepted for training will receive a bursary. The School provides the D.H.S.S. with the necessary information about this and students should not apply personally.

Intending students who are normally resident in Scotland or Northern Ireland should apply for information concerning grant aid to:

- a) Scottish Education Department,
Awards Branch,
Haymarket House,
Clifton Terrace,
Edinburgh EH12 5DT.

- b) Department of Health & Social Services,
Personnel 7,
Room 1015, Dundonald House,
Upper Newtownards Road,
Belfast BT4 3SF.

The attached leaflet gives an estimate of the likely cost of the three-year course.

A small number of students from countries outside the United Kingdom are accepted for training.



Dorset House -
The Casson Teaching Wing & May Macdonald House - H.C.

Conditions of Acceptance

The exercise of the profession of occupational therapy calls for certain special qualities of character and temperament and makes persistent demands upon the physical and mental resources of the practitioner. Therefore, no student is accepted without a personal interview which is offered by appointment only to selected candidates who can fulfil the conditions outlined on page 5, after the receipt of the appropriate application form from the Clearing House. (If the standards required have not been fulfilled at the time of applying, plans should be given which show prospects of these being achieved.)

Two occupational therapy departments, one treating physical patients and one treating psychiatric patients, should be visited before interview. The School will be glad to give introductions for these visits, if necessary. Before commencement of the course, candidates will also be required to spend one week of observation in an occupational therapy department of their own choice.

The first three months are viewed as a period in which both the School and the student can decide upon his/her ability and suitability for the profession. During this time, and at any time thereafter, the School Authorities reserve the right to terminate the training of a student if it is considered that he/she does not meet the personal, or academic, standards required.

Applications

Candidates wishing to obtain admission to the School should apply through the Occupational Therapy Training Clearing House, a form for which is enclosed at the back of this prospectus. The address is as follows:

College of Occupational Therapists,
Occupational Therapy Training Clearing House,
20, Rede Place,
London, W2 4TU.

Drawings by Sir Hugh Casson

Conditions of Acceptance

The student of the profession of occupational therapy shall be certain general qualities of character and temperament and make personal contacts with the physical and mental health of the profession. Therefore, no student is admitted without a written promise which is signed by applicants only to accepted candidates who will fulfil the conditions outlined on page 2, after the receipt of the appropriate application form from the Training House of the standards required here and upon fulfilment of the rules of applying, which could be given which those principles of these being achieved.

Two occupational therapy departments are training physical subjects and one training occupational therapy subjects in the training house. The student will be given training in accordance with the rules of the profession. Before commencement of the course, candidates will be required to apply for the name of their occupational therapy department of their own choice.

The first three years are spent in the study of the subject with the student and the student will spend the first two years and a half in the profession during the first and second year. Therefore, the student will receive the first three years of the subject in a form which will be given to the student in accordance with the rules of the profession.

Appointments

Candidates wishing to obtain admission to the School should apply through the Occupational Therapy Training House, a member which is a member of the body of the profession. The arrangement is as follows:

Office of the Occupational Therapy
Occupational Therapy Training House
25, Hyde Park
London W2 1JZ



