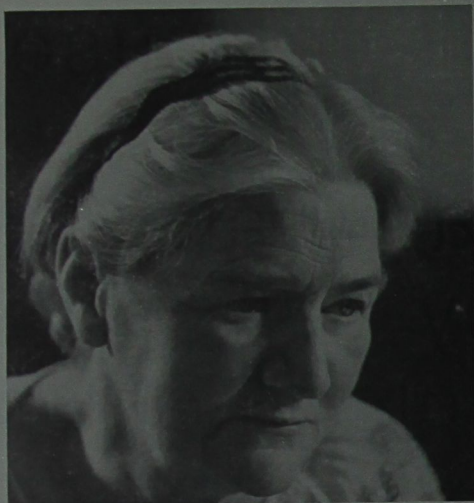


# The Dorset House School of Occupational Therapy Re-development and Extension Plans



The original Dorset House at Bristol



DM/4/3 fol 1v

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Although the best has been made of the huts, they are cramped and inefficient. With the call for the extension of its services, the school must provide itself with a permanent home in which to carry on its permanent task.



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## To . . .

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An excellent site is available in the grounds of the hostel, Harberton House, Headington.

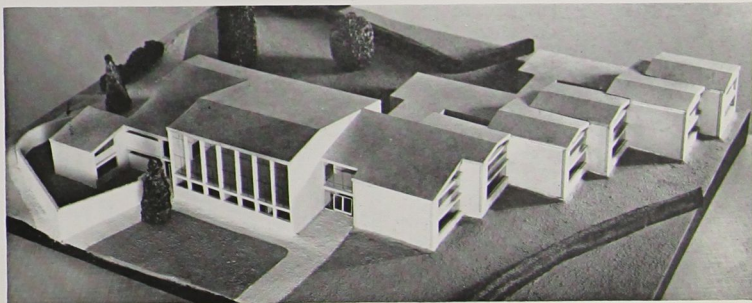


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## Permanent Buildings 1964

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Detailed plans for the erection of buildings, of which this is the model, have been drawn up. They will provide facilities for expansion and experiment, and for pre- and post-graduate training.



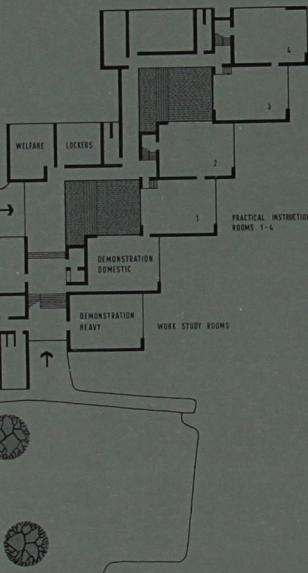
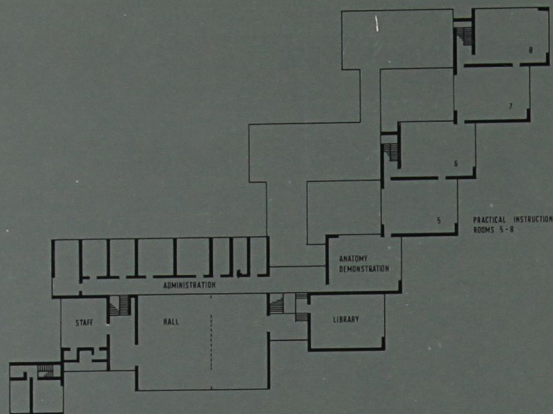
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Plan for New Buildings



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---

## Statement by the Chairman

of the Dorset House School of Occupational Therapy Development Fund

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When asked to become Chairman of the Dorset House School Development Fund I decided that before asking the public to join with members and friends of the school in subscribing to its development fund I must find out for myself what occupational therapy really meant and what was the quality of the training given to the students. I was concerned also to find out in what directions progress was likely to occur. The following are my impressions. I have visited the school, and seen the training given, and hospitals and clinics.

This assessment has been made quite independently of the school authorities, to whom I have presented this as a report of my own impressions.

The school appeals for funds to make its co-operation and connection with hospitals all over the country and overseas more fruitful in the relief of the sufferings of mankind.

---

Students trained at Dorset House are among the pioneers in a revolutionary change in the treatment of mental and physical disorders. Through recent advances in medical science one organic disease after another is being stamped out, and hospitals for infectious diseases are being rapidly emptied.

There are three branches of medicine in which progress has, until quite recently, been slower. But now equally dramatic advances are beginning in the hospitals devoted to their treatment.

(1) Psychiatric disease is often more distressing to patients and their families than physical. A mental patient does not adjust his conduct to his environment in the normal way; he has lost the ability to fit in mentally and emotionally with it. The occupational therapist helps to lead the patient back to normal mental and emotional reactions, by means of activities which, step by step, call for an increasing measure of co-operative effort.

(2) In orthopaedic conditions, though the intelligence may be affected little or not at all, the physical breakdown may be almost complete, as in cases of paralysis following poliomyelitis. When the surgeon and his auxiliaries have restored some degree of physical activity, the occupational therapist makes the restored powers useful to the patient. Moreover, in the course of prolonged treatment, the patient may have lost heart so that his will to improve has to be strengthened.

(3) Old age obviously cannot be cured, but senility can be arrested when, as often happens, the patient is simply getting out of touch with his environment, while the community in which he lives is organised, not for the old and infirm, but for the young and active. He needs, but has lost, the feeling of security and

---

## Copy of Letter from Dr. G. E. Godber, C.B.,

Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Health, London, W.1

## to Sir Douglas Veale, C.B.E., D.C.L.

Chairman of the Dorset House School Development Fund Committee

---

15th March 1961

Dear Veale,

It was very useful to hear from yourself, Sir Hugh Casson and Miss Macdonald, when you visited the Ministry on 2nd March, of the way your minds are running with regard to the future of the Dorset House School of Occupational Therapy.

We know of course that the huts at the Churchill in which the School is accommodated at present have only a limited life ahead of them, and clearly you will want to look to the future. We recognise that the School, particularly in view of its history, wishes to preserve its independence and that you are therefore contemplating the erection of permanent premises.

Although, as I explained, this is not a project for which we can give any financial support, we do welcome your proposal. The continued provision of trained occupational therapists is important to the hospital service and we shall be glad to know how your plans progress.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) G. E. Godber



# The Dorset House School of Occupational Therapy Development Fund

## FORM OF COVENANT

I \_\_\_\_\_  
(Block Letters)

of \_\_\_\_\_

hereby covenant with the Casson Trustees that for a period of.....years from the (1) .....day of.....196 or during my lifetime, whichever period shall be the shorter, I will pay annually (2) to the said Trustees monthly for the benefit of the Dorset House School Development Fund such a sum as will, after the deduction of Income Tax at the standard rate for the time being in force, result in the net sum of £..... (3) being received by that Fund, such a sum being paid out from my general fund of taxed income so that I shall receive no personal or private benefit in either of the said periods from the said sum or any part thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and seal this..... day of.....196 .

### SIGNED SEALED AND DELIVERED

by the said \_\_\_\_\_  
(Block Letters)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

in the presence of:

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

### NOTES

- (1) The date of payment to be inserted here must be later than the date on which the Covenant is signed.
- (2) Please delete whichever is not applicable.
- (3) The amount to be entered here is that which will actually be sent each year or month, as the case may be.

*N.B. When completed this form should be sent to The Secretary, Dorset House School Development Fund, Churchill Hospital, Headington, Oxford.*

# The Dorset House School of Occupational Therapy Development Fund

## BANKER'S ORDER

To *(name and address of Donor's Bank)* \_\_\_\_\_

On receipt of this order please pay the sum of £.....to  
Barclays Bank, Ltd., Headington, Oxford, for the account of the Casson Trustees  
for the purposes of the Dorset House School Development Fund and there-  
after make like payments on the.....day of (1) .....in  
each of the following.....years, each month for.....years

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ 2d. \_\_\_\_\_  
Stamp

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



# The Dorset House School of Occupational Therapy Development Fund

## DONATIONS UNDER DEED OF COVENANT

Those who pay income tax at the standard rate of 7/9d. in the £ can, without additional cost to themselves, greatly increase the value of their contributions by undertaking to make regular payments over a period of not less than seven years. The signature of a Deed of Covenant enables the School to reclaim the tax which has already been paid on the amount of the contribution.

The following table shows clearly how the amount of an annual donation by covenant is augmented by more than half as much again when the recoverable tax is taken into consideration.

Annual Gift	Monthly Gift	Amount of tax recoverable	Gross Annual Value	Gross Value in 7 years
£	£	£	£	£
500		316	816	5714
250		158	408	2857
100	8	63	163	1142
50	4	31	81	571
25	2	16	41	285
10	1	6	16	114
6	10/-	4	10	70

(The above figures have been rounded off.)

Those who do not pay tax at the rate of 7/9d. in the £ are advised not to enter into a covenant; they may like to consider instead, perhaps the possibility of making a regular payment by means of a Banker's Order. Even quite small sums so given achieve very appreciable proportions over a period of seven years.

Annual Gift	Monthly Gift	Weekly Gift	Total in 7 years
£	£	£	£
52	4. 6. 8	1. 0. 0	364
26	2. 3. 4	10. 6	182
13	1. 1. 8	5. 0	91
6.10.0	10 10	2. 6	45.10.0





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## To Permanent Buildings - 1964

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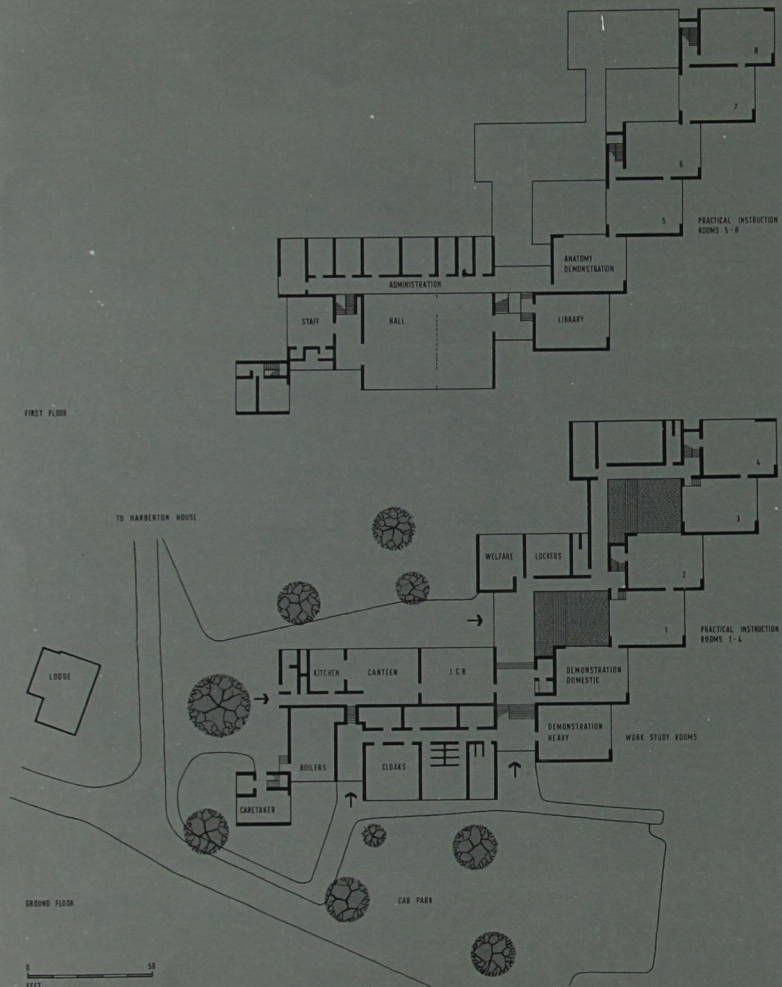


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# The Dorset House School of Occupational Therapy

CHURCHILL HOSPITAL OXFORD

A pictorial review of its difficult working conditions, and of what has been achieved in spite of these.

## WE WISH

To help more students

To reach even higher standards of training

To meet present and future needs

## WE NEED

More space, improved facilities, better buildings



In spite of the cold – the coke – and only outdoor access to all departments – of cement floors – (many cracking because of tree roots below) – hideous stoves –



and a continued fight to keep damp from coming through the brick bases of the walls of the huts –



such as this one which is used for physical recreation and also convertible into a lecture room –

We have managed to equip:



A main lecture room.



A library (already far too small), with a specialist press-cutting section.

## Workshops for practical teaching:



The Demonstration Hut—(this is a corner of the section where students are taught to help patients to become as independent as possible in their general activities of daily living.)



The Art Hut—(showing the result of group work in the wall panel.)



## Heavy Workshops:



The metal and basketry workshop. A metalwork class in progress.



The woodwork shop.

# There are also other specially equipped sections

(not illustrated), for instruction in:

Anatomy and Physiology, and all medical subjects

Work Study

Mechanics

Study of the rehabilitation of the housewife and of children

and

Block and Screen Printing

Dressmaking

Embroidery

Leatherwork

Lettering

Mechanical Drawing

Printing

Puppetry

Stool and Chair Seating etc. etc.

We have, too, a Welfare Department,

Common rooms, and a Canteen.



Above: One of the Common Rooms    Below: The Canteen



*More money could, of course, be spent on these premises – but we feel, now, that we should put our main investment into new ones.*

---

# The functions and achievement of the Dorset House School of Occupational Therapy

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While no extravagant claims should be made, it can be fairly stated that:—

1. The Dorset House School of Occupational Therapy (founded in 1930) was the first school in Great Britain, and one, then, of only four in the world, one being in Canada and two in the U.S.A.
2. The first demonstrations in occupational therapy in the *physical field*—in a general, orthopædic and a children's hospital, and in a T.B. sanatorium—were carried out, voluntarily, from Dorset House. In all cases the work was afterwards absorbed into the services of the hospital and paid staff appointed.
3. Dorset House was, for a number of years, the only source of supply of trained personnel for work in the rapidly expanding *psychological field*.
4. After study sponsored by the Pilgrim and York Trusts a *Curative Workshop* for outpatients was opened. Here the value of occupational therapy in the rehabilitation of the patient in domestic, industrial or other type of work was demonstrated. It was this background of experience which brought the request from the Government, in 1940, for Dorset House to undertake the training of all occupational therapists for the Emergency Medical Service, and to advise the War Office on use of this form of treatment.
5. It was an ex-Dorset House student who developed the first outstanding industrial occupational therapy department at Farnham Park Recuperative Centre, a part of the Slough Industrial Health Service.



6. It was ex-Dorset House students who led the experiments in developing devices for, and re-training of the disabled in, Activities of Daily Living including the re-training of the disabled housewife, thus providing them with new ways of retaining their independence.
7. The occupational therapists who, under medical direction at the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, Oxford, have been responsible for planning, and are now running, the Disabled Living Research Unit, were trained at Dorset House.
8. It was Dorset House graduates who started occupational therapy in the Geriatric Hospital at Cowley Road, Oxford. This, with its adjunct, the Day Hospital, has world renown. The first patients brought to the department in 1947 had not left their wards, and in some cases, their beds, for 10 to 15 years!
9. It was a Dorset House graduate who, in a London Hospital, helped, under medical direction, to develop the Functional Assessment Unit, mainly for the aged (many of 85 and over). Here they were advised on methods of managing to live in the only homes they could hope to have, often in the most squalid conditions.
10. It was Dorset House students who made a survey, in Oxford and in their home towns, of public buildings—churches, theatres, cinemas, restaurants and cloakrooms—on behalf of the disabled. Steps were counted, doors measured, etc. and cloakrooms located.
11. It was Dorset House graduates who took a lead in establishing, under medical direction, the first psychiatric occupational therapy units for disturbed children. In these it is hoped that a serious prophylactic contribution is being made to problems of delinquency and mal-adjustment.
12. Ex-Dorset House trainees have written, or collaborated with doctors in writing, all the specific publications in England on occupational therapy.

13. The graduates of Dorset House have opened three schools in this country, and one in each of the following, S. Africa, Australia, France, New Zealand, Germany and the Argentine, while others have shared in developing training and treatment in other countries. The School has always acted as a centre for pre- and post-graduate training for international personnel, and places for its Teachers' Training courses are much sought after. Its services to Greece have been recognised by the presentation of the Golden Cross of the Greek Red Cross, a rare award.
14. Three important surveys have been, or are being, carried out by Dorset House Staff:—
  - a) A survey of certain therapeutic services, their development and inter-relationship and their place in the social framework. The examination of these factors on recruitment, selection and training of personnel.
  - b) A survey of over 20 Psychiatric Hospitals and Units in England, to discover the future function of occupational therapy in view of recent developments emerging from the passing of the Mental Health Act.
  - c) (Still in progress.) Investigation of the most valuable occupations for use in occupational therapy, and the influence of this in training and treatment.
15. Occupational therapists are required to contribute to assessment of work ability after disability. The latest pioneer experiment of this school is the introduction of a specially adapted Work Study Course covering an introduction to the following—
  - I Principles and methods of Method and Motion Study as used in Industry.
  - II The problems of work measurement, job breakdown, rating scales and bonus schemes.
  - III New methods of training manual operatives to a skilled performance in the minimum time.This will be applied in the rehabilitation of the patients, and in improving the training and work of occupational therapists themselves, in hospitals and other centres.



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# Importance and value of Occupational Therapy

(From the point of view of a specialist who has used this treatment for his patients and has a wide knowledge of its full possibilities)

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The restoration of good health (physical and mental) after illness or injury has become an extremely important aspect of modern medicine.

There is no doubt that the speed and degree of recovery varies enormously from one person to another and many are disabled for periods which are quite unnecessary and are harmful to the individual and to his environment.

Supervised activity directed with intelligence, understanding and special knowledge is often the key to this problem, for appropriate physical activity provides what is often the most important way of achieving a proper and early cure.

This requires the special organisation and training of personnel, which the Dorset House School provides. The activity of the occupational therapist is often not very dramatic, but to those who see the occupational therapy department at work—the patients and the doctors—it has become a most important influence on reducing the duration of disability and often of avoiding the development of chronic invalidism.

During the war there was a special centre in Oxford for those with head injuries, and it was soon discovered that vigorous activity (mental-physical-productive) was the key to early recovery. The old ideas of silent dark rooms were completely given up and a wonderful record of efficient rehabilitation was established. Occupational therapy was an essential influence in this, and we believe that the Dorset House School should receive all the support we can give.

*The Story of the*  
DORSET HOUSE SCHOOL  
*of*  
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

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1930 — 1949

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*For private circulation only*



*The Story of the*  
DORSET HOUSE SCHOOL  
*of*  
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

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1930—1949

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## FOREWORD

*THIS BOOKLET* is the joint production of several old friends of Dorset House. I have been asked to write a foreword to explain why it has been published.

The Dorset House School of Occupational Therapy is the outcome of an idea, and new students joining it need to understand that idea and to realize their part in co-operating with its development.

When I first qualified as a doctor I decided that, from my hospital experience, I would take up psychological medicine, and went to one of the best mental hospitals as a clinical assistant. I had been used enough to busy people when I was house-property managing under Octavia Hill, and to ill people in bed when I was a medical student, but I found it very difficult to get used to the atmosphere of bored idleness in the day rooms at the mental hospital. Then, one Monday morning, when I arrived at the women's wards, I found the atmosphere had completely changed and realized that preparations for Christmas decorations had begun. The ward sisters had produced coloured tissue paper and bare branches, and all the patients were working happily in groups making flowers and leaves and using all their artistic talents with real interest and pleasure. I knew from that moment that such occupation was an integral part of treatment and must be provided.

A few weeks later I moved on to a job at Holloway Sanatorium, Virginia Water, where there was a tradition of many forms of occupation that had been handed on from its early days. The games, entertainments, competitions and the annual sports and craft exhibitions acted as stimuli to many patients during the whole year. Among those who were well enough to organize their own needlework and embroidery there was excellent occupation encouraged by the nurses, but it was all voluntary and no work was regularly prescribed by the medical officers.

My first real introduction to Occupational Therapy came from a description by Dr. David Henderson (now Sir David Henderson) of the small department he had opened at Gart Naval Hospital, Glasgow, which I was able later to visit.

#### DORSET HOUSE SCHOOL

The first large department I saw was in America at Bloomingdale Hospital, New York, which I visited on a holiday about 1926. It had a beautiful Craft House, built in hospital grounds, with large rooms for printing, book-binding, metal work, weaving, pottery and a variety of other forms of employment. There was a large gymnasium nearby with a team of games instructors. The patients left their wards at stated times for 'work'. A few days later I visited the Boston School of Occupational Therapy, and the idea of an English School was implanted in my mind.

I searched out all of the same type of work in England that I could find. The patients in Dr. Jane Walker's Sanatorium at Nayland were making jewellery and were doing other crafts and she would have started a school herself if funds had been available. Dr. Helen Boyle's patients at the Lady Chichester Hospital, Brighton, were weaving. Each patient at Dr. Crichton Miller's Home at Harrow had an individual time-table for the whole day. It was long after this that I realized the splendid work that Sir Robert Jones had done in his big workshops at Shepherd's Bush during the 1914-18 war.

Occupational Therapy began to be organized at Virginia Water soon after my holiday in America. Miss K. Phillips who had retired from the post of Chief Inspector of L.C.C. Infant Schools came first, to hold regular classes in embroidery. There were no trained Occupational Therapists available, but Miss Allen, who had worked with mental defective patients, started full-time work with a few looms, and very soon needed more help, so Miss Tebbit was added to her staff for a few months. Miss Tebbit obtained a scholarship at the Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy, and came back to Dorset House in 1929.

In the meantime, I left Virginia Water to start a residential Clinic at Dorset House on Clifton Down, Bristol, with the firm determination to work out all the ideas as to treatment that had been growing in my mind. One of these was the full-time planned day for all patients, and from this grew the Dorset House School of Occupational Therapy. In my early lectures to students, I was specially interested in pointing out that all stimuli that reached the brain result in instinctive or in voluntary action. This may occur immediately, but if thwarted the mental energy is stored and the urge to action becomes involved and combined in sentiments that later become the motives of



## DORSET HOUSE SCHOOL

organized activities. There were plenty of these motives stored up in me, and it has taken all my activities since 1929 till now to express them.

The aim of Dorset House was to form a community where every individual was encouraged to feel that she had a real object; for a patient the object was to get well and to go out to a worth-while life; for a member of the staff it was to serve others with all the talents she possessed; for a student, to develop all her capacities for her life as an Occupational Therapist and to find the individual job that only she could do. Such objects demand ideals before they can be developed and many of us have found that just so far as we make the fulfilment of the Lord's Prayer our aim and object, so do we find that the Kingdom of God is come among us.

Between 1929, the year of the opening of Dorset House, and 1941, when we were bombed out of Bristol, about 800 patients had been resident at the clinic. This booklet will tell you some of the work that the house was enabled to do.

When, owing to war conditions, Dorset House in Clifton closed, the nursing home moved to Clevedon and I moved with it and carried on here. The Emergency Medical Services had arranged to use the Allendale Curative Workshop for the treatment of war casualties, but when Bristol had to be treated as a danger area all the service patients were sent elsewhere.

After a very anxious period of uncertainty as to its future, the Ministry of Health borrowed the school for the war period, and it was invited to Barnsley Hall, Bromsgrove.

Miss Macdonald, who had been one of the School's most talented students, was appointed Principal in 1938 and had already shown her genius for administration. With the help of her staff, Miss MacCaul, Miss Harris, and Miss Oldnall, and its few students, all full of purpose, loyalty and enterprise, she was able to guide the School through its many vicissitudes, from Bristol to Bromsgrove, from Bromsgrove to Oxford. Its debt and gratitude to Dr. Andrew Shepherd, Medical Superintendent of Barnsley Hall, Bromsgrove, will always remain. His hospitality and wise guidance provided for the School a security that contributed in great part to its growth from the ten Bristol students to which it had dwindled to the hundred who regretfully left him for Oxford in 1946.

#### DORSET HOUSE SCHOOL

*In its darkest hour the school was given a grant of £600 from the Lord Mayor of London's Air Raid Fund, which helped it in re-establishing itself in Oxford when the war was over.*

*There have been many others whose help has been and still is invaluable, especially Sir Geoffrey Peto, who watched over the School when the war nearly wrecked its work and who became Chairman of the Advisory Committee, and is now Chairman of the Governors of the School and of the Trust that has been formed to hold Harberton House for it.*

*St. Margaret's  
Walton,  
Clevedon, Som.*

ELIZABETH CASSON  
*Medical Director  
Dorset House School of  
Occupational Therapy.*



DR. ELIZABETH CASSON



## PROFILE

ELIZABETH CASSON, M.D., D.P.M.

**D**R. ELIZABETH CASSON has always shewn a tendency to surprise her friends by cheerfully undertaking seemingly impossible tasks against apparently hopeless odds. Those who knew her when she was at work under Miss Octavia Hill in Estate Management, managing house property in Southwark, were quite sure she had found her *métier* and that she and Miss Joan Sutherland and some of Miss Hill's other stalwart helpers were inseparables and fixed for life. But not so; what Elizabeth Casson had learnt in South London was that it was the Londoners themselves as well as their tenements that needed 'first aid', and she surprised her friends at the age of thirty by working for her matriculation and then becoming a qualified practitioner in medicine and surgery, ultimately achieving the distinction of being the first woman to gain the degree of Doctor of Medicine of the University of Bristol.

Her first appointment in medicine was at the West Herts Hospital at Hemel Hempsted during the first war—a most valuable experience gained under what one may call conditions of high pressure and tension. Thereafter, though she had shown that she had the 'hands' and the aptitude of a surgeon, she surprised everyone again by electing to specialize in the treatment of nervous and mental disorders and joining Dr. Moore's resident staff at the Royal Holloway Sanatorium, Virginia Water. It was there that she not only proceeded to her doctorate but also gained the much coveted distinction of election to the company of Gaskell Prize-winners.

Her attachment to Bristol, where she had graduated, and to Clifton Hill House, where she had resided under Miss Staveley, led her in due course to set up her own establishment at Dorset House on the Clifton Downs, where, with other forms of medical treatment, she organized and developed a school of occupational therapy. That she succeeded at Clifton as she had

#### DORSET HOUSE SCHOOL

succeeded at Virginia Water, at Hemel Hempsted and under Miss Octavia Hill, we all of us know. The subsequent history of her school, and her long tenure of the office of Honorary Consultant at the Bristol General Hospital speak for themselves.

Dr. Casson comes of an interesting family. Her father, Thomas Casson, is the subject of a leading article in a recent number of *The Organ* (October, 1948), written in appreciation of his outstanding influence on modern developments in organ-building. Her brother, Sir Lewis Casson, the actor, is, of course well known. There was a Casson great-grandmother in Napoleonic times, who organized community meals and slate-quarrying for the villagers of Festiniog when the industry was at a standstill during the blockade, and further back still was another ancestor after Dr. Casson's own heart—'Wonderful Walker'—of Seathwaite-in-Dudden, who was curate there, in the eighteenth century, for seventy years. He kept school in his church on week-days, and spun at his wheel and taught all his own family to weave.

This passing reference to Dr. Casson's kith and kin and the stock from which she comes must needs be brief, though it is important because she herself is both proud of it and interested in it. A characteristic trait that must at some time have impressed her friends and acquaintances is her capacity for extending and keeping intact her circle of associates. She has not forgotten and does not forget any.

Such in brief are some impressions of an onlooker who, during forty-five years, has watched the inspired growth of Dr. Casson's work.

A.W.R.

## PART I

THIS history of Dorset House as a School of Occupational Therapy is inseparable from the history of Dorset House as a Nursing Home for the treatment of patients suffering from neurotic and psychotic disorders. In the summer of 1929 Dr. Casson appointed Miss Constance Tebbit, then training in Philadelphia, as Principal of the School. Miss Tebbit worked strenuously in the United States to gather material for use in training, returning to England for Christmas, 1929. The School actually opened within the Nursing Home on New Year's Day, 1930, with Dr. Casson as its Medical Director.

In the first three years Dorset House was not only a Nursing Home and Training School for Occupational Therapists, it was an enterprise, and an experiment and a thrilling adventure for those most closely concerned with it. To be part of it, whether as Medical Director, Nurse, Kitchen Maid, Secretary, Student or Principal, meant being part of a vital and living whole, and knowing that one had a contribution to make to the well-being of that whole. Behind it all was the dynamic quality in the work which Dr. Casson inspired and of which she was the centre.

During these first three years the bulk of clinical experience was psychological, the reason for this being two-fold. The demand for trained Occupational Therapists was for those equipped for Mental Hospital work, and at the same time it was far easier to provide facilities for this type of experience. The physical aspects of Occupational Therapy were never lost sight of, and during 1930 an embryonic Occupational Therapy department to demonstrate the use of this treatment for physical cases was opened at the Bristol General Hospital, though the work was confined to ward work and the patients treated were mostly heart cases. Most of the students' clinical practice was obtained with Dr. Casson's own patients and at this time the occupational treatment and training departments of Dorset House, and school, were intimately related to one another. The students' experience of Occupational Therapy included



#### DORSET HOUSE SCHOOL

such varied activities as netball, country dancing, theatre and bridge parties, gardening and picnics, in addition to crafts.

The School's premises were always expanding, from part of one room to two, and from two to half a house. All early Dorset House Occupational Therapy staff and students will have vivid memories associated with their first residential quarters, 'The Garage', with its primitive approach and early English facilities for ablution!

In the beginning Dr. Casson gave the lectures on Anatomy, Physiology, and medical subjects herself, whilst Miss Tebbit taught the occupations and Theory of Occupational Therapy, ran the O.T. Department, and supervised the students' work!

In addition to the work undertaken at the Bristol General Hospital some students helped with the running of Extension Guide Companies at Frenchay Sanatorium and at Winford Orthopaedic Hospital, thus gaining further experience in handling physical cases, and in particular occupying children with activities other than crafts.

By this time Miss Goscombe had become Senior Assistant to Miss Tebbit, Miss Becky Lummis had come from America to join the Staff of the Department and Miss Albons from Sweden. Miss Vera Barber had also joined the Occupational Therapy staff and become its expert in all forms of needlecraft and dress-making, and later, in weaving and spinning.

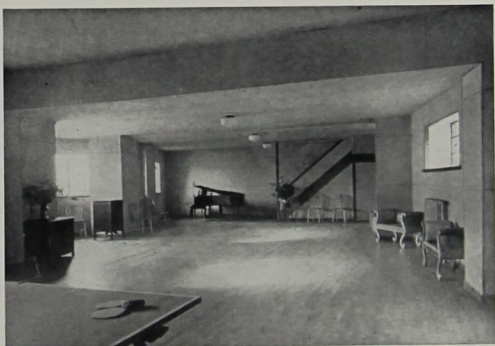
In July, 1932, the British Medical Association held its Centenary meetings in London and Dorset House was asked to put on an 'Exhibit of Occupational Therapy'. This was the first major recognition of progress and the publicity thus given was a tremendous stimulus to interest in Occupational Therapy.

In 1933 Dr. Casson, Miss Tebbit and members of the Occupational Therapy staff and students were invited to join the visit of the Royal Medico-Psychological Society to Santpoorte, near Haarlem, Holland. This visit really marks the end of the first phase in the development of the Dorset House School of Occupational Therapy. In April, 1933, Miss Tebbit ceased to be Principal of the School and upon her appointment as Occupational Therapist to the County Mental Hospital, Chester, became instead Director of Mental Hospital Practice. At



DORSET HOUSE, CLIFTON, BRISTOL.

VIEW FROM PROMENADE



DORSET HOUSE, CLIFTON, BRISTOL.

THE HALL



DORSET HOUSE, CLIFTON, BRISTOL.

OCCUPATION ROOM

(MISS TEBBIT STANDING SECOND FROM RIGHT)



DORSET HOUSE, CLIFTON, BRISTOL.

THE POTTERY



## DORSET HOUSE SCHOOL

Chester Dr. Hamilton Grills gave continuous support and encouragement to the department and help and stimulation to the staff and students. Students were now able to gain hospital practice in a wider field. Miss Tebbit soon needed a trained Occupational Therapist's assistance, in addition to the members of the nursing staff who were helping the department, and another Dorset House graduate, Mrs. N. I. R. Clarke, was appointed to the staff at Chester. Mrs. Clarke was thus able to preserve the continuity of hospital practice for Dorset House students when Miss Tebbit left in November, 1934, upon her marriage. Miss Constance Tebbit became Mrs. Glyn Owens, and is now Principal of the Liverpool School of Occupational Therapy.

## PART II

AFTER Miss Tebbit's appointment to Chester, Miss Goscombe took charge of the School, and, assisted by Miss Becky Lummis, ran the Occupational Therapy Departments in Dorset House and the hospitals. Miss Lummis had later to return to America and this was the occasion for the production of a pantomime written by some patients as a tribute to her. Miss Goscombe and Miss Tebbit had a genius for devising 'combined operations' for staff, patients and students, and this was one of several original plays which were characteristic of Dorset House at the time, and to which the patients contributed as much as the staff and students.

In the April of 1934 Miss Goscombe married Mr. Owen Reed, Dr. Casson's nephew, and a new Principal had to be sought.

The School of Occupational Therapy at Philadelphia at which Miss Tebbit had trained, and had later sent us Miss Lummis, now further strengthened the bond with Dorset House by sending Miss Martha Jackson, to be Head of the Dorset House Occupational Therapy Department and School, and Miss Dahl to assist her. They found great building activities in progress, for Mr. Hugh Casson had re-designed the students' living quarters and his cousin, Mr. Peter Man, and a friend were carrying out his plans.

The number of students was increasing and in spite of the extended buildings, it was clear that the School was still outgrowing its accommodation. In the September of 1934 there was an intake of eight new students, among them Miss Mary Macdonald, who had followed the development of Occupational Therapy with interest for a number of years and who had covered much of the syllabus before she came.

The summer of 1935 brought further development. The formation of an Association of Occupational Therapists was mooted (as it had been by others before) and Miss Macdonald and Miss Plater called a meeting of their student group to discuss the matter. The students agreed to write to all the

## DORSET HOUSE SCHOOL

qualified Occupational Therapists for their comments and support. Dr. Casson offered hospitality, and a first meeting was held at Dorset House, a second being arranged in Liverpool. Mrs. Owens became the first chairman of the group and Miss Macdonald the first secretary. Plans were made for the circularization of Occupational Therapists of other hospitals and trainings, and for an inaugural meeting to be held in the Spring of 1936. In this way Dorset House had the privilege of making an initial contribution towards the beginning of the Association.

No account of the Dorset House School could be complete without reference to Miss Joy Blew Jones, who took the Margaret Morris exercises. She also introduced Pottery to the School, and Mr. Holland of the Clevedon Pottery was most generous in his help. Miss Bennett, one of the first students, had become a member of staff and, with her animation and keenness, helped to keep the tradition of Dorset House going, while Miss Jackson and Miss Dahl settled in and took their bearings. Miss Martha Jackson was with the School for four years, but Miss Dahl had to return to America sooner. They were both unsparing of themselves. Dorset House is much indebted to them for so courageously coming to take over the growing school, and particular gratitude is due to Miss Jackson for staying until Miss Macdonald returned from America in 1938 to be her successor.

The intensive study of Occupational Therapy in the United States and Canada, which Miss Macdonald had carried out after being awarded grants from the Pilgrim and York Trusts, showed her how the profession was developing in the two countries. In her travels she visited all training schools and a number of occupational therapy departments in a great variety of hospitals and rehabilitation centres. From this tour she returned greatly helped and inspired and ready to tackle the future developments that Dr. Casson had planned for the school and treatment work at Bristol.





Dorset House -  
The Casson Teaching Wing & Mary Macdonald House - etc.



### PART III

MISS JACKSON had to leave for America in August 1938, ten days before four of her students entered (successfully) for the first examination set by the Association of Occupational Therapists. Of this group, two graduates went to New Zealand and one to South Africa, where they have contributed a great deal to the training of students in these countries.

By the time Miss Macdonald took over her duties, these included the supervision of patients' occupational treatment in Dorset House itself and in several surrounding hospitals, and the care of the growing School, with its eighteen students. To this was added the planning and opening of the Allendale Curative Workshop for out-patients suffering from varying forms of physical disease or disability.

There was a big team of enthusiastic Occupational Therapists ready to help. These included Miss Kathleen Barber, who worked at Allendale, Miss Turner and Miss MacArthur, working partly in Dorset House and partly in the Bristol hospitals, and Miss Richardson, working at Ham Green Sanatorium and in the School. Mrs. Owen Reed, during a long visit to Bristol, was also able to give some much appreciated help.

The first forty cases at the Allendale Curative Workshop were given free treatment and records were kept of their progress.\* Dr. Weissenberg, a physical medicine expert from Vienna, who was also an occupational therapy student, analysed occupations and their therapeutic application, and demonstrated to the students.

Then came the war. Until France fell, Bristol was little affected. Dr. Casson felt, however, that as the 1914-18 war had precipitated the establishment of Occupational Therapy in Canada and America, so, in this war, the importance of Occupational Therapy might become better recognized here. Representatives of the Services and of the Ministry of Health

\* A paper was published by Dr. Casson in the *Lancet* (1 November, 1941, page 516) giving an account of the experiment.





HARBERTON HOUSE, OXFORD.

SCHOOL HOSTEL



DORSET HOUSE SCHOOL, OXFORD.

RECREATIONAL CLASS OUT OF DOORS



DORSET HOUSE SCHOOL, BARNSLEY HALL, BROMSGROVE.  
WEAVING AND SPINNING CLASSES OUT OF DOORS



DORSET HOUSE SCHOOL, OXFORD.

WEAVING



DORSET HOUSE SCHOOL, OXFORD.

METALWORK DEMONSTRATION



## DORSET HOUSE SCHOOL

paid several visits to Dorset House and the Allendale Curative Workshop. All showed great interest, particularly in the wood-work, gardening and heavy basketry.

Dr. Casson was suddenly asked if the Dorset House School would train large numbers of Occupational Therapists for hospitals all over the country and some for abroad.

Then France fell. Blitzes came and for a time Occupational Therapy went literally into the cellars. Finally, Bristol became an impossible place in which to run a nursing home or train students. Patients were dispersed—a few being taken to Clevedon with Dr. Casson. The School which dwindled to ten gallant and tenacious students struggled on for some weeks. Ultimately the students had to be sent home and taught by correspondence, while new premises were sought. Finances were at their lowest ebb—(everything had always gone into the expansion of the work)—and the School was on the verge of closing. A temporary loan from a legacy, then a generous gift from the Lord Mayor's Air Raid Distress Fund, coupled with the offer of premises by the Ministry of Health—saved the School.

After many disappointments, Dr. Shepherd of Barnsley Hall Hospital, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, came to the rescue by a warm-hearted and generous invitation to accept hospitality in his emergency hospital, and his Committee and the Ministry of Health strongly supported his offer. Miss Macdonald with Miss MacCaul, Miss Harris and Miss Oldnall (Dr. Casson's Secretary, who came to help with the re-establishment), and the ten students, were soon settled at Bromsgrove. The School cannot be grateful enough for the unfailing kindness and help received from everybody there during the five years' stay.

An excellent curative workshop was set up, as part of the unit, under the direction of Miss G. MacCaul, and became a very great inspiration in the rapid development and spread of Occupational Therapy in E.M.S. hospitals all over the country.

Owing to war conditions Dorset House was for a short time the only surviving School. It had a patients' treatment department attached, where through carefully prescribed and closely supervised occupations, improvement in patients' conditions

was giving demonstrable evidence of the value of Occupational Therapy. To the hospital and School came able and critical visitors from all parts of the world. This made all those connected with the experiment very much aware of, and somewhat fearful for, their responsibilities. They knew that the reports of these visitors would have a very real influence on important decisions taken in relation to the future of Occupational Therapy.

After much negotiation and at the request of the Ministry of Health, the School agreed to organize war-time training courses to ensure a rapid and reasonably adequate supply of workers for other hospitals. The candidates were selected and given courses in line with their previous qualifications—Nurses, Physiotherapists, and Craft Teachers were among the trainees for the more responsible grades. Candidates without previous qualifications were given a brief training to enable them to act as Auxiliaries to the more fully qualified workers. Students entered every quarter for a six months' course; the Association ran examinations four times a year, and a regular flow of workers moved out into the hospitals. These courses which started in 1941 were subsidized by the Ministry of Health. The first financial allocation for the experiment was small, but by 1943 the value of the work had been so well proved that it encouraged the Government to arrange a subsidy five times as large. This is a very real tribute to the hard work, in difficult conditions, with serious frustrations, and with the all too brief trainings, of the war-time candidates.

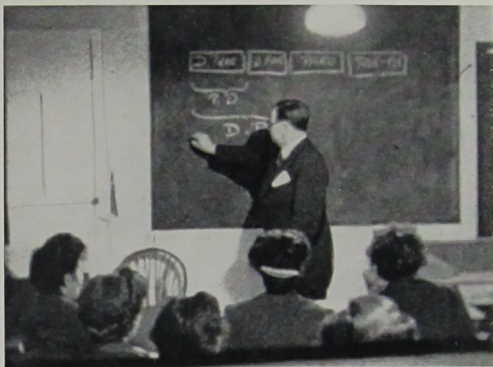
Altogether over 200 Ministry of Health candidates were trained, 75-80 of them having since returned to complete their diplomas. Meanwhile, the full 2½-year course (as it was then) was allowed to continue and there is no doubt that this acted as a binding thread of stability through the background of the very hectic shorter trainings. By 1945 the lists also showed that, since its beginning in 1930, the School had trained over 200 long-term candidates.

Mrs. Kuemmel had joined the School as Staff member and Miss Owen and Miss Kidston (with previous graduate qualifications) had joined as student staff, the two latter qualifying in

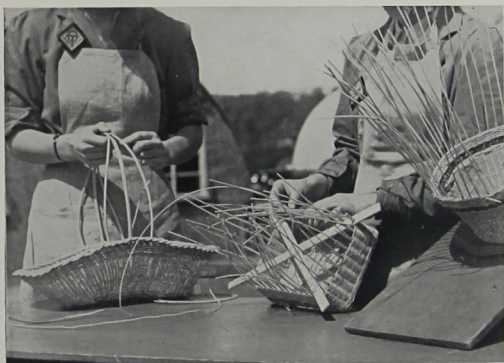


HER ROYAL HIGHNESS, THE PRINCESS ROYAL AND DR. ANDREW SHEPHERD, MEDICAL  
SUPERINTENDENT OF BARNSELY HALL EMERGENCY HOSPITAL, ON THE OCCASION OF  
THE ROYAL VISIT TO THE HOSPITAL AND SCHOOL





DORSET HOUSE SCHOOL, BARNSLEY HALL, BROMSGROVE. DR. SHEPHERD LECTURING



DORSET HOUSE SCHOOL, OXFORD. BASKETRY



KING'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL, LONDON, WHERE STUDENTS ATTEND FOR PART OF THEIR TRAINING. *Top photograph: STUDENTS HELPING PATIENTS IN THE LIGHTER WORKSHOP, and bottom photograph: THE HEAVY WORKSHOP*



Occupational Therapy later and making a continuing contribution towards the training of students. All the courses were carried out at a high pressure, students and staff working gallantly and until late hours. Some share was taken in hospital activities, and the Christmas parties in true Dorset House tradition, were much enjoyed breaks in the busy routine.

Dr. Casson paid the School frequent visits and, with the recovery of the finances of her nursing homes and the requisitioning of the empty premises (the original Dorset House) in Bristol, she continued her generosity and encouragement in experiment and expansion.

One of the highlights of the Bromsgrove days was the visit of the Princess Royal—which was a sequel to the Royal invitation Dr. Casson had received to tell Queen Mary about the Occupational Therapy work and to take tea with her at Badminton. Queen Mary has since graciously accepted an album of photographs of the School and workshops. Both Queen Mary and the Princess Royal showed keen interest in—and a wonderful understanding of—the work of Occupational Therapy.

The war ended and the Barnsley Hall Emergency Hospital at Bromsgrove was due to close down. After what seemed another un-ending search the School was lucky in finding spacious hutted premises in the grounds of the Churchill Hospital in a good position on the top of Headington Hill, Oxford, and Harberton House with its gardens, orchard and tennis courts as a very pleasant hostel for the younger students.

Oxford offers excellent facilities for training for, in addition to the much appreciated and kind help of University and Hospital authorities in arranging lectures, clinics and hospital practice, students have special access to Libraries, Museums, etc.

It was with regret that the School did not return to Bristol, but the enlarged School could not fit into its old quarters. The desirability of a more central position in the country was also apparent. The saddest part of the arrangement is the permanent separation of the School from Dr. Casson's nursing homes. She herself, however, often comes to Oxford.



#### DORSET HOUSE SCHOOL

The time had now come for the stabilization of the School to give it a permanent identity; and in 1948 a limited non-profit making company was formed to take it over. Dr. Casson remains the Medical Director and Vice-Chairman and Sir Geoffrey Peto is the Chairman of the Governors. The other Governors appointed at this time were Dr. H. Balme, Mr. Hugh Casson, Dr. F. S. Cooksey, Dr. John Johnson, Sir Percy Marsh, Mrs. Nugent Young and Dr. A. Shepherd.

In 1949 The United Oxford Hospitals Board were invited to nominate two Governors to represent the hospitals and the Ministry of Health. This invitation was accepted and Dr. R. G. McInnes and Mr. J. C. Scott were appointed.

The ending of this chapter of the history of the School is best described in Dr. Casson's own words, in a letter to the students, written after the first meeting of the Company:—

29th September, 1948

My dear Students,

I am writing to explain to you that, in order to strengthen the future stability of the work of the School, a non-profit making Company has been formed, to which I have handed over my responsibilities of ownership. The Members of the Advisory Committee have become Governors of the Dorset House School of Occupational Therapy Ltd., with Sir Geoffrey Peto as Chairman and myself as Vice-Chairman. I shall also still remain as Medical Director.

The School has never been run for profit and all belonging to it have shown that they are working as one body. Now that it is a Company I hope that each student will realize even more than before, her responsibility to the School. I know that the spirit of service will continue and grow so that we can be of real use to the patients, for whom we exist.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) E. CASSON

So, on July 1, 1948, the Dorset House School of Occupational Therapy started on another phase of its history, with 180 students on the roll.

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DORSET HOUSE SCHOOL

Finally in 1949, Dr. Casson created a Trust, the purpose of which is to continue her work in spreading and integrating Occupational Therapy. While the School remains in its present form, it is to be the primary beneficiary. Harberton House has been given to the Trust, and the School will continue to rent it on the former terms. Dr. Casson has appointed four Trustees—Mrs. Nugent Young, Sir Geoffrey Peto, Mr. Hugh Casson and Miss Macdonald. They are charged with the continuation of her work in the interests of the School and of Occupational Therapy.

A very great debt of gratitude is due to Dr. Casson for the contribution she has made to Occupational Therapy—and for the establishment of this Trust. It may be of interest to some to know that the Trust has been so formed as to be open to receive contributions and legacies from any others who might wish to contribute as well.

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This short history of the School has been written so that its readers can understand something of the spirit that has inspired its founders and all who have served the School in any capacity. It is hoped that all newcomers may find some way to enter into its spirit and to carry on its work and tradition.

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*Postscript 1951*

All old staff, students and friends of the School will be delighted to learn that Dr. Casson's name has appeared in the Birthday Honours list this year. The award of the O.B.E. to Dr. Casson is a tribute to her generosity and selfless work as founder of the School and of the Casson Trust.

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