

# Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism Society

(BRITISH COLUMBIA DIVISION)

TELEPHONE EXPRESS 2991

645 WEST BROADWAY

Vancouver 9, B.C.

January 31, 1957

Dr. A.T. Jousse,  
66 Willowbank Boulevard  
Toronto 12, Ontario

Dear Dr. Jousse:

The Board of Directors wish me to express to you their deep appreciation of the excellent report you have submitted on the need for a course of training in physical and occupational therapy and of your very practical recommendations for meeting that need in British Columbia. Members of the special committee organized to study the implementation of your report realize the tremendous amount of work and thought which preceded its writing and were very favourably impressed by the suggestions contained therein and the manner of its presentation.

This committee is meeting with the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine on February 7th and we hope that additional members from other agencies in the community will be added in order that broad plans for future action may be laid to implement the ideas which you have given us. As we expect you will be interested, we shall be happy to keep you informed of the developments.

Again thanking you for coming to British Columbia and for the service you have rendered on our behalf.

Yours very truly,



Arthur J. Andrews,  
President, B. C. Division

Do not return.

SUMMARY OF REPORT BY DR. A. T. JOUSSE TO THE DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF  
MEDICINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA ON THE NEED FOR A COURSE  
OF TRAINING IN PHYSICAL AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AND OF A PLAN OF  
MEETING THE NEED.

This report is particularly concerned with the supply of professionally trained persons who serve as physical and occupational therapists in hospitals, in clinics, in rehabilitation centres, in home service enterprises and elsewhere as the need develops. The report deals with:

1. the need for a school of physical and occupational therapy,
2. its location,
3. the method of financing such a school,
4. the necessary personnel, and
5. the clinical facilities available.

1. The Need for a School of Physical and Occupational Therapy

The ratio of therapists to population in Canada is one to every 18,000 as compared to one to every 6,000 in Great Britain. If Canada had such a ratio, we should need at least three times as many therapists as at present.

In British Columbia, where there are 189 registered physical therapists, not all of whom are practising, only 27 are Canadian trained. Most of the therapists are located in Vancouver, the major centre of population. A substantial demand exists in the interior, many trained persons being unwilling to leave the metropolitan area. Wherever there is a school in Canada there is no great shortage in that immediate area.

The shortage of occupational therapists, although not documented, is of the same order, and the number in training in Canada is less than the number of physical therapists and does not begin to meet the need even in the neighbourhood of the schools in the East.

It is evident that there is a pressing need for physical and occupational therapists in British Columbia, and that the only manner in which this need can be met is by establishing a school in the province. Such a school should produce dual trained persons able to render a comprehensive service.

2. The Location and Type of School.

With the evolution of the team approach to the treatment and rehabilitation of the disabled, it has become of prime importance that all who are engaged in this enterprise should share a common experience around the bedside of the patient on whose behalf the effort is being made. Much of the teaching is to be obtained from sources common to medicine and nursing-- basic training in anatomy, physiology, psychology, sociology, in addition to clinical instruction.

This type of training is provided at the University and within the Faculty of Medicine. It is therefore recommended that a school be established within the Faculty of Medicine which will make provision for the training of physical and occupational therapists. This school should be developed into an institute or department of rehabilitation, to ensure that subsequently others concerned with rehabilitation are brought into contact during their training with this common experience and indoctrination which is fundamental to the production of sound professional workers.

A course of training extending over three years with senior matriculation as an entrance requirement has successfully provided excellent therapists over the years. This course of training will lead to a diploma rather than a degree, and will meet the need in terms of numbers and of the varied types of young people required in this profession.

One major problem which must be solved is that of providing facilities for teaching physiology and anatomy. The facilities of these two departments, in terms of space and teaching personnel, are presently strained to the limit. It will be necessary to obtain an additional full-time teacher for each of these departments. Additional space on the campus must also be found, for laboratory work and for classes in the various special skills necessary to the course. A building of possibly 10,000 square feet, of a permanent or semi-permanent type, is a necessary requirement. The capital cost of such a structure may become greater with each year of delay.

### 3. Method of Financing the School.

The capital expenditure for a building of 10,000 square feet will require a fund-raising campaign. All available sources should be tapped--Government, industry, private citizens, citizen groups, and voluntary agencies. An attempt to estimate operating costs indicates that there may be an annual deficit of up to \$30,000. A sum of \$50,000 has already been promised to aid in this matter.

### 4. Personnel

- a) Director, who, ideally, will be a specialist in internal medicine with a Fellowship from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons and also certified as a specialist in physical medicine. Somewhat less academic standing might be acceptable in an applicant of the right personality and character. The director will be responsible to the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine.
- b) Instructors in physiology and anatomy.
- c) An instructor in each of physical therapy and occupational therapy for every 25 students in each year.
- d) Instructors in the various trades and crafts.

The teaching of chemistry, physics, psychology, sociology, and similar courses can be arranged with the respective University departments. Medical and surgical lectures and demonstrations may be given by the director or arranged on a fee-per-lecture basis.

### 5. Clinical Facilities.

In Greater Vancouver there are at present the following clinical programmes which should provide for practical training of physical and occupational therapy students:-

- |                                                     |                                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| a) Vancouver General Hospital                       | physical therapy, Physiatrist.                              |
| b) Department of Veterans' Affairs<br>(Shaughnessy) | physical and occupational therapy,<br>physiatrist           |
| c) Workmen's Compensation Board                     | physical and occupational therapy,<br>physiatrist           |
| d) Western Rehabilitation Centre                    | physical, occupational, and<br>speech therapy; physiatrists |
| e) Canadian Arthritis & Rheumatism<br>Society       | physical and occupational therapy                           |
| f) Cerebral Palsy                                   | physical, occupational and<br>speech therapy                |
| g) Essondale                                        | occupational therapy                                        |
| h) Health Centre for Children                       | paediatric physical and<br>occupational therapy             |

and others not able to be visited.

### Summary

The medical profession must provide services which will ameliorate chronic illness and disability. To achieve these goals, the profession requires the assistance of certain professional groups of which the

physical and occupational therapists are of special importance. It seems clear that until training facilities are provided in British Columbia an acute shortage will continue to exist.

The competent therapist must be well versed in the sciences of anatomy, physiology, psychology, physics, and chemistry. In addition she must acquire a sound understanding of the nature of the disease and its effect on the human mind and body.

Such teaching can be obtained only at the University and in the Medical School; hence the need for establishing a school within the University and under the aegis of the Faculty of Medicine, the director of the course to be responsible to the Dean of Medicine. Thus can a start be made on an institute of rehabilitation which will serve to bring together all those who are concerned with and who have a contribution to make to the treatment and rehabilitation of the sick and disabled. An early start is imperative, as it will require three years from enrolment to turn out the first therapists.

#### Recommendations.

1. The first step is the selection of a director, qualified to establish and direct the school.
2. The school must be at the University under the aegis of the Faculty of Medicine.
3. The programme of training for therapists must be capable of expansion into an institute of rehabilitation to provide a common training and indoctrination for all who actively participate in treatment and rehabilitation of the sick and disabled. The director of the school to be director of this institute of rehabilitation as well.
4. The physical plant to be constructed in accordance with University planning and located on the campus. It should add to the total University facilities and would thus serve to relieve present pressures on space and would not jeopardize present courses of instruction. It should be a permanent or semi-permanent structure capable of future modification to serve other purposes.
5. The operating costs of the course to be assumed by an agency outside of the University for a period of at least five years to ensure that it be well launched; the capital costs for buildings to be met by a drive for funds carried out by an interested group of citizens who will draw on private and public sources of funds.
6. An additional member of the staff must be obtained for each of the departments of anatomy and physiology, the salaries to be a charge against the school of physical and occupational therapy.
7. The existing clinical facilities are potentially excellent for teaching but must be developed and integrated into the teaching programme by the director.