

## Petitions Being Taken For SGA, Honor Council

Petitions were opened for candidates for SGA offices and the two Honor Councils for next year at the SGA meeting held January 17.

The SGA Board of Elections will be responsible for the reviewing of all petitions to see that the prospective candidates are qualified. This board will also set the dates for the closing of the petitions and the election, itself.

Requirements for SGA offices are:

1. All candidates must have two or more preceding semesters at RPI, except candidates for treasurer.

2. Candidates must have a "C" Average.

3. The president and vice-president must be juniors at the times of their elections.

4. The secretary must be a sophomore at the time of the election.

5. The treasurer must be a freshman when he is elected.

The men and women's Honor Councils are each made up of seven regular members and three alternates.

The junior and sophomore class will each elect three candidates and one alternate to each council. The freshman class will elect one candidate and one alternate to each council. All candidates must be members of their class organizations.

In announcing the opening of the petitions, Baxter Duffy, SGA president, urged students to think carefully about the candidates which they nominate.

(Continued on p. 3)

## SGA Treasurer's Post Filled By Anne Huffman

Anne Huffman was elected to fill the unexpired term of Stan Bregman as treasurer of the SGA at the organization's meeting on January 17.

Miss Huffman has served as sophomore class representative to the SGA this year. This position, which she vacated to accept the office of treasurer, will be filled by an election held within the sophomore class. Prior to this appointment Miss Huffman was active in the freshman class.



ANNE HUFFMAN

## Fifty Students Will Receive Degrees From RPI January 31



Dean Henry H. Hibbs crowning Jean Edmonston, "Queen of Basketball." Miss Edmonston was chosen Queen by RPI's Monogram Club. The ceremony took place during Dean's Night at the Central Y. Miss Edmonston is shown on the right. STORY ON PAGE 7.

## Every Student Must Register February 1, 2

Every student has to register either February 1 or 2, including business students, Mrs. Ann Heller, assistant registrar announced.

Students who register February 3 will be classified as "late registrants" and fined \$5.00.

Business administration majors who completed their schedules for the second semester are also required to register Mrs. Heller stated.

## RPI Presented \$100 To Buy Welfare Books

### Wigwam Buyers Contact Editor Before Leaving

Any student who is leaving school at the end of the first semester, or during the second semester, and has paid for his yearbook, is asked to contact Jack Roach, editor of the Wigwam, as soon as possible.

Yearbooks will be forwarded to those leaving if addresses are submitted, Roach says.

All those who have not paid for their yearbooks are urgently requested to see Carson Overton and submit the payment immediately. Those who have made a partial payment will have to forfeit that amount unless the balance is paid.

Only those students who have ordered Wigwams will get them, since there will be no oversupply this year.

### CHORUS REHEARSALS

There will be chorus rehearsals Tuesday Morning, January 30 at 10 o'clock in Ad. O and at 6:30 p.m., January 30 at the Women's club on Franklin Street.

Fifty students will receive degrees from RPI when Commencement exercises are held January 31 at Pace Memorial church at 8:00 p.m., the registrars office announced.

Four students will receive certificates.

Invocation will be given by the Rev. J. F. White, of Pace Memorial church.

The February graduates, families and guests will hear the baccalaureate address by Dr. Howard H. Davis, RPI faculty member.

Degrees will be conferred by Dean H. H. Hibbs, following Dr. Davis' speech.

Music will be furnished by the School of Music and the chorus.

Listed below are the members of the February graduating class of 1951:

Anluse Brand, Gladys M. Chandler, Frank X. Duffy, Arnold H. Eldridge, Virginia Elizabeth Eubank, Vincent Francis Fallon, Edsel Lee Haney, Doris LaVerne Jones, Mayme S. Lawrence, and Dorothy Ann Lewis.

Also, Catharine Vaughan Lively, John Francis Mount, Antonette Mullinay, Ralph L. Nagler, Mary McCraw Nelson, Dorothea Jane Morton, Joan Patterson, Farley Moyley, Richard Ahern, William Henry Beasley, Jr., Raymond Edgar Brown and Garland Clifton Canada.

Also, Arthur Thomas Elgin, III, Benjamin F. Eppes, Jr., Joseph P. Francis, D. Oakley Harrison, Robert Brooks Henry, Martha L. Jeter, Edward William Kelley, Clarence Samuel Lassiter, Julian A. Latimer, Jr., Charles Stuart Legum, Ralph N. Lynch, John A. Mapp, John H. Missert, Percy Oliver Owens, Jr. and Ralph Lester Small.

Also, George M. Tureman, Jr., Calvin Herfert Vaughan, William Earl Willis, William A. Fontaine, Jr., Barbara Jane Allen, James de Puy Enderly, Anne Elizabeth Lueders, John deVeaux Riddick, George John Schutte, Martha Ann Clayton, Leslie O. Long, Jr., James C. Whitlow and Henry L. Rothschild.

(Continued on p. 3)

### A Worthy Honor

The Occupational Therapy department is one of the branches of RPI that most effectively combines academic learning with professional experience. To be sure there are others here, too, that are well worthy of commendation.

The OT department is featured on pages four and five of this issue and we feel it's appropriate to dedicate this space to it. We will not attempt to delve behind the scenes, but will offer a brief editorial comment.

RPI's reputation largely rests upon its graduates. Brilliant men of the world are many times asked, "Where did you get your education?" Graduates are continual agencies of good will for any college.

Of course, graduates must be recognised as an authority with sound educational background. And to become authorities students must attend a college that will give them a sound educational footing.

The OT department of RPI comes into this classification. Its students are among the most diligent. They are among the best equipped to face life. Their work is among the most needed in society. The department is the envy of the nation. Its fame spreads far and wide and with it goes the fame of the college.

The department's greatness lay not only with the students but also with the faculty and the Administration. The college has always endeavored to obtain the best instructors and these instructors have always endeavored to extend their knowledge to the students.

There are many other things we would like to say, but for lack of space we must stop. After reading the material on pages four and five no student could form any opinion other than the one we formed--that the OT department is a credit to RPI. And that's something to cherish.

### Honor: One's Greatest Asset

(The following editorial is the essence of a letter to the editor written by Fred Sloan, Freshman class representative to the Honor Council--Ed.)

The Honor Council continually urges all students to exercise caution in relation to cheating during this examination period. Each student is reminded of the honor pledge that was signed at registration in September. By signing this pledge, the student assumed the duty and moral obligation of maintaining honor during the semester. The seriousness of this obligation cannot be overemphasized. Disregard for the Honor Code and deliberate cheating on tests, assignments or exams is a violation punishable by DISHONORABLE DISMISSAL FROM COLLEGE.

College students have an obligation to society--to obtain an education in preparation for respectable positions in the community. Cheating now will only result in the student later finding himself an incompetent in a specialized world.

The Honor Council is not a police force, but mainly a judicial body to pass judgement on violators. The students themselves must strive for absolute honesty.

# Proscript

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### German Club Ends Season With Dance

"The German Club completed a successful semester January 13, with their third annual winter dinner dance," Phil Pafford, president, stated at the close of the last meeting.

The dance was held in the Hotel Richmond Winter Garden and featured the music of Ronnie Bartlett's quintet. Plans are now underway for next semester, including the 2nd annual minstrel show.

The German club membership drive for the Spring semester will be held from Monday, February 5, through Monday, February 19. Membership is open to all regularly enrolled male students.

The next meeting will be held on February 5th, 2:30 p.m. in Ad 100.

### Cello Recital Is Posponed To Later Date

The cello recital to be given by David Garvin will be held on February 13, instead of February 6, as was previously announced.

Mr. Garvin, cellist, will present this recital at the Woman's club auditorium here in Richmond. It will be his first performance since joining RPI faculty.

He will be assisted by Constance Palmerlee, pianist and accompanist.

Further details will be announced later.

### DE Teachers Have Returned From Convention

Two instructors from the school of Distributive Education recently returned from the National Retail Dry Goods Association Convention in New York city.

Miss Louise Bernard, Director of DE, and Mrs. Jane T. Travis, Resident Administrative Assistant, represented RPI at the 40th annual NRPGA convention attended by approximately 4,500 representatives from department, chain and specialty stores.

Besides the program, the theme of which was "Retailing During an Emergency Period," displays of all types were presented by manufacturers whose products would in any way relate to dry goods retailing. Chief among the displays were those by chemical and fabric companies stressing new fabrics.

### Senior Class Is Praised

Editor, the PROSCRIPT:

I would like to express the gratitude and appreciation on behalf of the student body to the senior class for the gift of six long playing dinner music records. This spirit of trying to better the conditions of our school is a noteworthy example of good college citizenship. I am sure that all students who use the cafeteria will be fully conscious of this extremely thoughtful gift and will be very grateful to the senior class.

Baxter Duffy,  
SGA President

Editor: the PROSCRIPT:

Your practice of listing new books in the Library is certainly an excellent one. I am too busy to keep looking in the library for the latest additions, so your list enables me to get books which otherwise would slip past me.

This is just one more evidence of the valuable service the PROSCRIPT renders to RPI.

Margaret L. Johnson

Letters to the PROSCRIPT are welcomed.

### Journalism Students Hear Richmond Managing Editor

By Cornelia Wellman

Students who are planning newspaper careers must be able to do more than just write, John H. Colburn, managing editor of the Richmond Times-Dispatch told a group of RPI Journalism and advertising majors in an address January 18.

Effective news reporting demands a lot of clear thinking and judgement. Reporters must also be able to analyze situations and faithfully reproduce the news just as it happens he said.

Colburn advised students to get a start on a small newspaper where they will learn all phases of news reporting before they try to obtain a job on a metropolitan newspaper. This procedure usually works better than being broken-in on a large paper, Colburn told the group.

The American newspaper is still a public service institution. Production costs of a newspaper run to hundreds of dollars for each page; therefore, the product is much more valuable than the cost which people pay for the paper, he said. Aside from the news service, the newspaper serves as a "showcase for goods to sell and exchange." Through the use of AP and UP wire services, news from all over the world is brought to the public within a few hours of the time it actually happens. Colburn told the students that in one case, news from the Korean front reached the Times-Dispatch ten minutes after it happened.

The modern newspaper should be a "mirror of day to day events. It must reflect truthfully everything that goes on," he stated. In treating the news, Colburn warned students against infringing on libel laws. British newspapers usually have a staff of law-

### NEW DRAFT LAW AFFECTS STUDENTS


Washington -- A student who gets a draft notice will be allowed to volunteer for the Armed Service of his choice, the Defense department recently announced.

As is the practice now, he won't be called to duty until the end of the school year.

Under the old plan, the student getting a draft call, automatically was destined for the Army.

As a result, the Defense department said, numbers of them dropped out of school to volunteer and get their choice.

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# Library Books Will Be Due January 30

All library books are due Tuesday, January 30. There will be a 5 cent a day fine on 2 week books, A 10 cent a day fine on 3 day books and for over-night books there will be a charge of 50 cents a night, on all books not returned before that date, Miss Rosamond McCannless, Librarian, announced.

All library possession checked out by the faculty and staff members are now due. If faculty members wish to use books the second semester, they may re-check it, provided that they bring it to the library.

No person can re-check a book unless they actually bring it to the desk and let the circulating assistant compare it with the card in the file.

All faculty members are requested to return their books as soon as possible.

# Newman Club Is Seeking New Members

At an executive meeting of the Newman club, January 16, president Jack Kernan announced that the club membership drive will open on February 5th. Gerry Lemmers will head the drive for new members.

Charles Decker was appointed SGA representative to replace Ed Kelley who resigns in February.

Because of examinations, the next meeting of the club will not be held until Wednesday, February 7.

# CONCERT PLANNED MARCH 2

The fourth in a series of six concerts by the Richmond String Quartet, will be presented March 2, at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond.

The quartet is sponsored by the Richmond Chamber Music Society and directed by Volney Shepard, head of the School of Music at RPI.

The program details are not available at the present time, Mr. Shepard said.

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# U. S. Air Force Team To Answer RPI Questions

Juniors and seniors interested in officer opportunities in the U.S. Air Force will have a chance to find out all the answers right here on the campus. A United States Air Force aviation cadet selection team will be here from February 19 to February 23 in the lobby of the library.

According to Major B. M. Campbell, who is making arrangements for the team, this visit is one of the many being made to accredited college campuses this year by U.S. Air Force officers to provide college graduates with information on Air Force officer training. The selection team will be ready not only to answer all questions but also is equipped to process any RPI men who qualify.

Major Campbell stated that there are three courses of training being offered to qualified men.

1. Aviation cadet pilot training consisting of one year of intensive schooling in all phases of aviation. Cadets receive \$105 per month during training and upon graduation are awarded commissions as second lieutenants. Ordered to active duty as flying officers, these men earn pay and allowances amounting to almost \$5000 per year.

2. Aviation cadet navigator training consists of a year's schooling in the latest techniques of radar navigation. Cadets receive \$105 per month during training and upon graduation are awarded commissions as second lieutenants. Ordered to active duty as flying officers, these men earn pay and allowances amounting to almost \$5000 per year also.

3. Air Force officer candidate school consists of six months of training in administrative and technical subjects. Students - men or women - receive pay equal to that of a staff sergeant. Graduates are awarded commissions as second lieutenants and receive all pay and allowances due that rank.

Cadets and students who do not complete any of the three courses are returned to civilian life.

# Recreation Club To Plan Outing

The Recreation club will hold an "important" meeting February 5 at 7:30 p.m. in Ad 25 to discuss plans for an outing, Don Robertson, president announced.

Tentative plans have been set by the club to have a cook-out at a near by camp February 14 from 5:00 until 10:30

# Senior Class Presents Gift To Cafeteria

The senior class has presented the RPI dining hall with six long-playing records of dinner music.

Carson Overton, president said that, "The 1951 class has presented these records in the interest of the student body. I hope this will establish a precedent for other graduating classes to contribute small gifts to the school throughout the years."

The music is piped in from long-playing records in the music building. Speakers in the cafeteria are wired to the phonographs to bring the sounds into the dining hall.

# RPI Instructor Among Passers Of CPA Exam

Miss M. V. Slusher, accounting instructor at RPI is among the candidates successfully passing the Certified Public Accountant's examination held recently in Richmond.

Miss Slusher received both her B.S. and M.S. degrees from VPI where she later became an instructor from 1942 until 1947. Her teaching experience also includes that of commerce department head, St. Marys College of Notre Dame, and Dumbarton College of Holy Cross College. Miss Slusher came to RPI from the University of Akron, Ohio in September 1949.

# ART MODELS ASKED TO CHECK SCHEDULES

All students who posed for art classes this semester see Gwen Garren as soon as possible after registration to check schedules.

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# Recalled Vets On GI Bill Avert Trouble By Seeing VA

Veterans recalled to active military duty while they are receiving benefit payments from Veterans Administration can save themselves and the Government a lot of trouble by notifying VA immediately of their recall.

These benefit payments include GI Bill or Public Law 16 subsistence allowances and compensation for service-connected disabilities.

The law does not permit a veteran to receive such VA payments once he goes back into uniform.

If a veteran receives such a payment covering any period after he has entered active duty, he should return it to the VA office which has his records. Otherwise, it will remain as an overpayment against him until disposed of.

The notification to VA of recall to active duty should include the veteran's "C" (claims) number, his complete name and address, the amount of the VA payment, what it's for, and the date he is to go back into service.

The veteran should send this notice to the VA office handling his records.

# PETITIONS (from p. 1)

nated for office. SGA officers should have the ability to work out their problems sensibly. The possibility and probability of the candidates' returning to school next fall should also be considered, he said. If an officer of the SGA does not return to school, the position may be filled by rotation of membership or by special appointment. Either system usually proves unsatisfactory, Duffy said.

# RPI Presented \$100 To Buy Welfare Books

(from p. 1)

morial bookplate was placed in each.

Below is the list of books chosen by Dean Hibb's committee and donated by Mrs. Emmanuel Silver. (Story on page 1.)

Torgerson, Studying children; Barker, Child behavior and development; Hurlock, Modern ways with children; Crow, Mental hygiene in school and home life; Bailey, Studying children in school and Forest, Early years at school.

Hildreth, Child growth through education; Allen, Psychotherapy with children; Fenichel, The psychoanalytic theory of neurosis; Gesell, The first five years of life; Witmer, Psychiatric interviews with children; Thurston, Concerning juvenile delinquency.

Kvaraceus, Juvenile delinquency and the school; Child Therapy, a casework symposium; Family Service Association of America; Stern, The handicapped child; Ziman, Jealousy in children; Gesell, Child development; Havinghurst, Adolescent character and personality; Plant, The envelope, a study of the impact of the world upon the child; Hurlock, Child development; Dunbar, Your child's mind and body.

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# RPI Is First Southern School To Offer Curriculum In OT

Richmond Professional Institute, the first school south of Philadelphia to offer courses in occupational therapy, retained its southern leadership in that field when it became a fully accredited school in 1943.

Fourteen months after the first classes in occupational therapy met at RPI the school met the approval of the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals of the American Medical Association.

The addition of this department to RPI was the outgrowth of an idea which Dean Henry H. Hibbs, Jr. had since 1932. It was not until 1942, however, that he saw the realization of his dream. During the fall and winter of 1941-42, Dr. Hibbs held numerous conferences with the State Board of Education and with many of Richmond's leading members of the medical profession concerning the establishment of the department at RPI.

Finally, through the influence of the Richmond medical profession, the State Board of Education made an appropriation of \$5,000 for the establishment of a department of occupational therapy at RPI. Miss Sue Plummer Hurt, OTR, a graduate of the Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy, who had returned to Richmond and was in charge of that work at the Crippled Children's Hospital was appointed head of this new department at RPI.

As soon as the Board of Education's decision was reached, Miss Hurt set about organizing the courses to be offered by her department to conform with the standards set up by the American Occupational Therapy Association. Conformity to these standards led to acceptance by the American Medical Association.

The foresight and thorough job done by Miss Hurt in establishing this course on a firm foundation have primarily been responsible for its present growth and popularity.

The courses required for occupational therapy students included biological sciences, medical subjects, principles and practices of occupational therapy, therapeutic occupations and therapeutic recreation.

Because the OT deals exclusively with the ill and convalescent during the entire working day and over long periods of time, the personality and health requirements for the prospective occupational therapist follow those of the national organization which are as rigid as the age and



Richard Young, RPI student, in clinical training at McGuire, demonstrates to Theresa St. John, advanced standing student, the adaptations which can be made on an ordinary loom for therapeutic purposes, while Mary Ann Hargrove, journalism student, looks on.

educational requirements. The therapist must be objective, with a keen interest in others and a sincere desire to be of help. Tolerance, patience, tact, enthusiasms, resourcefulness, creative interests and, an inquiring experimental point of view are also extremely important. He must also be interested in and enjoy the study of medical subjects.

It is most important that the occupational therapist have a high degree of physical and mental health.

When registration for the 1942-43 session was completed, it was found that six students had registered for occupational therapy, and the new school set about trying its wings. Students in the department presented round-table discussions, invited members of the medical and allied professions to speak to them and donned the official occupational therapist uniforms which they had designed especially for their school for use in clinical work.

Through the co-operation of the school the Virginia Occupational Therapy Association was born in 1942. The school and the association then began working together to promote the development of the profession in Virginia.

The Va. O.T. Assoc. has grown steadily and today has approximately 35 members, many of whom are RPI graduates.

Each succeeding class increased in size.

In Sept. 1949, there were 50 students enrolled on the campus, and 9 students were

in clinical training. In Sept. 1950, 85 students were enrolled in the school, with 24 in clinical training, a total of 109 students, almost doubling this enrollment in one year. With the increase of facilities at RPI the increased interest and publicity in OT and the greater demands in the present emergency, it is estimated that in Sept. 1951 there will be approximately 150 students on the campus with approximately 60 students in clinical training.

## OT Careers Offer Wide Possibilities

A career in Occupational Therapy provides the therapist not only an opportunity for service, satisfaction, and security but offers a stimulus rarely found in other fields.

World War II illustrated not only what Occupational Therapy could do, but increased the demand for trained workers to such a great extent that it was impossible to meet this demand, due to the lack of schools. Nineteen new schools have been developed since 1940, but these schools cannot yet meet the demand.

In the four major fields of Occupational Therapy, i.e., psychiatric, orthopedic, tuberculosis, and pediatric, if all the trained occupational therapists were concentrated in any one of these four fields, the estimated needs could not be met. There are about 3500 OTRs in the country, of which only about 2600 are actively working. There are 6000 known job vacancies.

## Tubercular Rehabilitation Being Assisted By OT's

By Jimmy Duke

In the treatment of tuberculosis, rest is one of the main requisites for recovery. At McGuire Veterans Hospital occupational therapy students from RPI learn what type activity is best suited for this type of patient.

Working with experienced occupational therapists they learn that activities which stimulate the patients mind, yet make him content to stay in bed, are required. They help the patient adjust himself to a long period of hospitalization and train him to keep within his capacity.

The scope of activity is medically prescribed, as is always the case in any kind of OT work. Different programs must be worked out for individuals in the various stages of illness.

For the very sick, who can have no physical activity, reading, listening to the radio, looking at pictures, and guessing games help keep the mind occupied.

For the bed patient who can have slight activity, there is light hand work, inactive games, and puzzles.

In the case where the patient has strengthened his resist-

The OT Department can now boast of 118 graduates scattered throughout the 48 states, and several in foreign countries.

Miss Messick hopes to be able to have a 10th anniversary reunion of graduates in 1952, if the world situation permits.

ance to a greater degree, there is the work shop. There the patient is given light, or heavy tasks to test his endurance. While working on the various projects, the patient is under the watchful eye of the occupational therapist graduate as well as student.

In the course of training at McGuire, the student occupational therapist will give instructions and assist with instruction of patient in many forms of arts and skills. They will assist in the making of jewelry, weaving, ceramics, leather carving, and the lacing of handbags, wallets, and key cases.

Occupational therapists have been working with the tubercular patients for many years, and the experiences of these many years has proven that occupational therapy does promote recovery from tuberculosis by substituting supervised occupation for activities that are often destructive; by creating mental activities and interests for people deprived of useful occupations, by increasing the voluntary stay in the sanatorium, and establishing work tolerance.

Beginning with this issue, the Proscript is inaugurating a series of articles dealing with various departments of RPI in the hopes that students will become more acquainted with the college and develop a keener sense of pride for RPI. The OT department is featured this week. The next departmental issue will appear late in February.

The American Psychiatric Association estimates that in order to meet the need of the psychiatric field, we would have to have approximately 15,000 occupational therapists. To meet the need in crippled children's work throughout the country would require about 10,000. There are job opportunities throughout the country and opportunities in any one of the four fields which seems to meet the individual's preference.

Training to become a registered occupational therapist requires three or four years in an accredited school. RPI continues to offer one of the few certificate courses in this field, which makes it possible for a person to complete the training in four years beyond high school. In order to receive a degree and a professional certificate five years are required. For a person who has a B.S. degree, the course may be completed in one ac-

ademic year immediately followed by nine months of clinical training. The Richmond Professional Institute was one of three schools chosen among twenty-five to offer a special accelerated course in Occupational Therapy. The first such course began in September and the academic position of this will be completed the end of this semester. The prerequisites for this course are of necessity, much higher. The New York State Department of Mental Hygiene felt this course so important that they have given scholarships to ten students for complete training, and hope to do the same for a similar group next year.

RPI has the only School of OT in the Southeastern part of the U.S.

Physics 102, General Physics, for RPI students, will be given to students who have not had the first semester course





Occupational Therapy students receive further instructions in the use of ceramics under the able direction of McGuire therapists. They are from left to right, Alice Nelson, Junior, RPI, and Miss Jane Fogelsonger, advanced standing student at RPI.

# Miss Elizabeth Messick, OT Director Is Pioneer In Occupational Therapy

By Joy Reynolds

To the majority of us here at RPI who know her, Miss H. Elizabeth Messick is an interesting instructor and a capable director of the School of Occupational Therapy. But not many of us realize that this small, brisk woman is a well-known pioneer in the development of OT.

Hailing from the Eastern Shore of Maryland, Miss Messick received her OT training at Maryland Institute and Sheppard Pratt Hospital. She later did extra work at Johns-Hopkins University and Hospital and the Medical Center in New York city, taking her post graduate course in OT at Walter Reed general hospital in Washington, D. C.

"In the past twenty years of work in Occupational Therapy, I have held a variety of interesting jobs," commented Miss Messick, and right she was.

In 1939, she left her first job at Walter Reed Hospital to establish the first program of Occupational Therapy in the Crippled Children's Clinic of the District of Columbia Health department. Later she was appointed chief of Occupational Therapy, Recreation and Education of the D. C. Health department. In 1944, she was "released" to the Army and assigned to the Office of the Surgeon General as assistant Chief of the Occupational Therapy branch. Later she was appointed chief of the branch and held that position until March 1949, when she left to take her present position as Director of

# OT Demonstrates Its Value In Treatment Of Mentally Ill

By Joy Reynolds

Occupational Therapy has demonstrated its value through many centuries of use in the treatment of the mentally ill, its history being almost synonymous with that of psychology.

For 150 years, OT has been in constant use as a restoration of mental health. Shock therapy and hydro-therapy have had periods of importance and then have died down only to be revived later, but OT has always played a major role in the treatment of psychiatric patients.

"Until a few years ago, the lay public thought of the men-

tally ill as those confined to state or private institutions, out of touch with reality," Miss H. Elizabeth Messick, Director of Occupational Therapy at RPI said.

"But today we know that there are many degrees of what may be called mental illness, and that many people in our society recognize symptoms early enough to accept guidance and help in reevaluating their lives in order to make a better adjustment", she added.

**Sick and Injured**

In treatment of the sick and injured, regardless of their disability, the fact remains that they are incapacitated, placing them in the capacity of having something done for them.

Occupational Therapy is the one treatment in which the patient from the beginning of his introduction to the treatment is an active participant. This is the beginning of the patient's doing something for himself. The psychological effect of active participations is the first step in the basis of the foundation on which occupational therapy is built.

The National Mental Health Act has made it possible for state mental health groups through clinics to do a greater job of reaching people who

are frustrated with personal problems.

**New Approach**

This is gradually bringing into existence the need for a new and different approach which OT will have in its contribution to mental health programs.

"It is my feeling", concluded Miss Messick, that we in schools as well as hospitals have to change our concepts to deal effectively with the more acute patients, and that OT should be making greater contributions than it is to the research work in this field."

The greatest single handicap to Occupational Therapy in the psychiatric field is the shortage of trained personnel. If all of the trained occupational therapists were working with mental patients exclusively, we would still have less than half the number needed to do this job alone.

# OT Helpful To Wounded In Both Wars

There is a very great need for more trained people in the field of occupational therapy. Occupational therapy was used extensively in World War I and World War II and proved of such great value in hastening the recovery of our wounded service men and women that there is today an ever increasing demand for trained therapists in civilian hospitals, rehabilitation centers and cura-

(Continued on page 6)

has found them to be a help in dealing with patients, since the development of hobbies leading to occupations is one of the bases of OT.

As soon as she has time, after wrestling the problems of RPI students, Miss Messick has her eye on a new hobby-collecting street car and bus tokens from all over the world.

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From February 19th To February 23rd (See page 3)




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# Occupational Therapy Provides Help For Sick And Disabled

Occupational therapy is the science of employing creative and manual, educational and recreational activities in a restorative program for the sick, injured, and disabled. It is employed in the rehabilitation programs of many different types of hospitals. General medical and surgical, tuberculosis, mental and orthopedic patients are benefitted through occupational therapy, as well as the blind, the deaf, the aged, and other handicapped persons.

Treatment methods have no limits except the limitations of the patients disability.

**OT HELPFUL** (from p. 5) tive workshops, as well as Army, Navy, veteran's and public health hospitals throughout this country and overseas.

The United States Army realized the great contribution that occupational therapy made by commissioning its members in a newly created corps. This adds professional security and stability.

Salaries, hours or work, and working conditions are expected good in this profession. Type of position and locale influence salaries in occupational therapy. Forty hours is an average work week. An average beginning salary is approximately \$2800.00 per year, and this school is constantly receiving requests for therapists to fill jobs, many of which are in the southern area.

Any student interested in getting additional information about this profession can do so by seeing or writing Miss Elizabeth Messick, in Room 38 of the Administration Building.

aptitudes, and interests. All treatment is centered around the patients physical and mental needs.

Occupational therapy students here at RPI are required to take 39 hours of science such as anatomy, physiology, neurology, psychiatry and sociology. In addition to this, there are clinical subjects covering general medical and surgical conditions, orthopedic, tuberculosis, and cardiac diseases. The remaining

part of the students activity is used for technical training in arts and crafts, educational subjects, and recreational activities.

Following the period of theoretical and technical training, a minimum of nine months of hospital practice is required. Schedules are arranged to include experience in children's orthopedic, general, mental and tuberculosis hospitals. Lectures are given by doctors in the various fields

in which the students' are working.

Sociology is an important course to the OT student at RPI. It is studied to give an understanding of the role of environment. Languages are helpful, especially when work-

ing with people of other lands or different backgrounds.

Cultural subjects such as literature or art appreciation are important because a broad cultural background is necessary when working with a broad


(Continued on p. 8)

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# SPORTS



## Grace Dorey Leads '50-'51 Cheerleaders; Squad Includes Two Tar Heel Boys



The 1950-51 RPI cheerleaders: Kneeling, Grace Dorey. Standing (L-R) Jimmy Ring, Ruth Wyatt, Eleanor Zeahmer, Joan Powell, Joyce Walsh, and Erving Covert.

Grace Dorey, a junior from Richmond and former basketball star for Varina High school, has been chosen to lead the 1950-51 Green Devil cheerleading squad. Dorey entered RPI in 1948 and ever since has been affiliated with some phase of sports, playing hockey and basketball, WAA member, and varsity cheerleading. She is majoring in Physical Education.

The only other local girl on the squad is Joyce Walsh, a freshman majoring in Commercial Art from Richmond.

The remaining three girls all hail from above the Mason-Dixon line. Eleanor Zeahmer, a Distributive Education major from Huntingdon, Penn.; Ruth Ann Wyatt, a Washington, D.C. sophomore majoring in Occupational Therapy, and Joan Powell, of Johnson City, New York. Powell is a Pre-Social work sophomore.

### Carolina Places Two on Squad

For the first time in the history of RPI sports, there are men on the cheerleading squad. This year there are two men with the squad—both freshmen from North Carolina.

They are Erving Covert, a Interior Decoration major from Sanford, North Carolina, and Jimmy Ring from Lexington, North Carolina, a Commercial Art major.

The meeting of the senior class scheduled for January 25 will not be held, Carson Overton, class president, said. This meeting was called off due to exams. Phil Pafford, will collect dues February 1.

## Sports Go 'Round

By Jim Fisher

Devil Dribbels: Coach Allen says he will call for a new deal during the exam period. Faced with a player drought preceding the exams, Allen plans to replenish the Green's stock for the last half of the season. The Devils have had to arrange a limited practice schedule so as not to conflict with examinations and newcomers are invited to work out with the Allenmen at the sessions...The remaining portion of the agenda will aid Allen's reconstruction program. Of the 10 games left to play, only three are away, NACA Skyhawks, Bridgewater, and Langley Field. The Skyhawks will open the Devils' second half campaign February 3. Bridgewater, the local's February 6 opponent, routed Gallaudet 96 to 57 last Saturday for their first win of the season...Followers of the Devils on their recent Tidewater trip reported that Bill Kimball played his best ball of the year on the two game jaunt. For those who didn't make the trip the "Redhead" did a repeat performance in the Medical College game. He came into his own under the boards, clearing the back bank time and again.

(Continued on p. 8)

## Femme Sports Feature

By Jay Howeth

This is going to be an in-between exams and sports sort of thing. The femmes lost their first basketball tussle but maybe the following bouts will see an improvement.

Now for the Modern Dance Department. First of all, I'm sorry Martha that somebody didn't print your name as was written, Ganzert. Then too, I'm sorry that a couple of lines were eliminated from my copy, making it sound like your department was giving the Art Student's League Carnival. You were supposed to have deserved a lot of credit for your unpublished work and I merely mentioned that the Modern Dance Department was to perform at the carnival. Look what happened. Somebody sure fouled up and I want you to know it wasn't I. I make enough mistakes in my own right.



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## Jean Edmonston Chosen 1950-51 Basketball Queen

Jean Edmonston, a freshman from Asheville, North Carolina, was chosen recently by the Monogram Club as the 1950-51 Basketball Queen of RPI. Miss Edmonston is a 19 year old Occupational Therapy major.

Miss Edmonston was chosen from a group of girls representing each dormitory on the RPI campus and one off-campus girl representing the day students. She lives in the Lafayette Dormitory and was elected jointly by the Monogram club and the current Green Devil basketball team.

Dean Henry H. Hibbs crowned Miss Edmonston 'Queen' during 'Dean's Night' ceremonies on January 16th at the Central YMCA during the game between the Medical College of Virginia and the Green Devils.

### MCV Downs Local Quint

The Medical College of Virginia's Doctors continued there long winning campaign against the Devils on January 16 coming out on the long end of a 86 to 64 score. The game was played on the Central YMCA's hardwood.

Clarence Hichs, MCV center, took high scoring honors of the tilt with 28 points followed by teammate Sharp with 25.

Bobby Tester and Leo Allen led the Devils with 21.

## Girls Defeated By Bridgewater College 36 to 20

Bridgewater basketball team immediately took the lead in a game with RPI's girl's varsity on January 17 to rack up a final score of 36 to 30.

RPI's scoring forwards were Mathis with 8 points; Johnson, 6; McRorie, 6; and Nussman, 2.



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# OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

(from p. 6)  
range of people.

Another phase of the occupational therapists training is the study of skills. These fall into two main groups: The manual skills such as crafts, industrial procedures or typing, and the creative skills such as painting. In their study of skills the students learn something about plastics, metal working, mechanical drawing, leather carving, draftsmanship, and how to use power machinery. All these things are studied in their simpler forms, but they enable students to stimulate real working conditions for patients.

The department of occupational therapy at RPI places students in each of the four major work areas of OT. These areas are: Orthopedic O T, or aiding people with physical injuries; tuberculosis O T, or working with tuberculosis patients; pediatric O T, or working with children, and psychiatric O T. After the student has become a registered therapist, he or she will learn about each field, and will spend two or three months

working in each field doing clinical experience.

The profession of occupational therapy is only 30 years old, is growing rapidly and expanding into more and more hospitals and specialized fields.

Realizing the part the occupational therapist plays in a patient's recovery from diseases or injury is a gratifying experience and more than compensates for the time and effort put forth.



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# SPORTS GO ROUND (from p. 7)

In many quarters the "Red-head" is considered the best cage prospect to come onto the Shafer scene in quite a while and now that he apparently has relaxed, "Rapid" Bob will have a much-needed com-

rade under the boards...Both Bedinger and Tester are in position to top "Booby" Lane's record 234 point season. The Farmville Flash has 152 points in 10 games thus far while running-mate Tester has bucketed 34 in 11 games. Either could shatter Lane's mark.

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