

December 19, 1946

To Members of the Maryland Occupational Therapy Society:

On December 12th I was asked to represent Maryland Occupational Therapy Society at a joint meeting of the Legislative Committees of the American Physiotherapy Association and the American Occupational Therapy Association to consider certain problems which concern both groups. The experience of many state groups with civil service throughout the country has led to recognition of the fact that the only sure method of maintaining professional standards is through legislation.

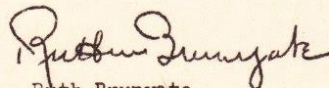
The Maryland Physiotherapy Association has been working on this problem for some time and is ready to move. On December 17th I represented occupational therapy at a meeting of a Maryland group headed by an advisory committee of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty. It is the strong feeling of this group that immediate steps should be taken to amend the Medical Practise Act to recognize Physical Medicine which term includes occupational therapy and physiotherapy.

The problem is a national one as indicated in the News Letter, November 1946 and Delegate's Report, August 1946. Maryland is in a position to take the lead in solving the problem since the Maryland Medical and Chirurgical Faculty is willing to assist and has assumed the initiative as it considers the amendment to include Physical Medicine.

The Maryland occupational therapists should feel fortunate in having the medical group assume the initiative in recognizing occupational therapy as an important adjunct to the medical profession.

This has been discussed with members of your Executive Committee and action is being taken with their backing.

At the January meeting this problem will be considered in detail and we hope for your wholehearted support of this important step.



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