

# First of Its Kind in The World



JOSEPHINE FORBES, left, instructor in occupational therapy, examines the work of students | Colette Rouleau, Nicole St. Arnaud and Nicole Trempe.



MRS. JACQUELINE JEFFRIES, physiotherapist on loan from the University of Toronto, demonstrates a point to the class.

## French-language Therapy School In Its Third Month at U. of M.

By OLIVE DICKASON

The world's first School of Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy for French-language students has finished its second month of existence at the University of Montreal. The school, which is the brain-child of Dr. Gustave Gingras, its director, opened Dec. 1.

"The need for French-language therapists is so great it is pathetic," Dr. Gingras said yesterday. "Out of 600 practising physiotherapists and occupational therapists in Canada, only a small handful speak French."

Not even in France is there such a school, Dr. Gingras continued.

### Growing Importance

"The growing importance of this field makes it more important than ever that French-speaking therapists be trained," the doctor said. "As things stand now, there are only two or three in Canada with university diplomas."

Dr. Gingras has launched his school with a group of 11 students. He has recruited his

teaching staff from the University of Toronto and from as far away as British Columbia; and as for quarters, the school is getting along as best it can in overcrowded rooms until the new hospital wing



DR. GINGRAS

of the University of Montreal is completed.

"We are just making do as best we can, but the spirit of the students and the teachers is just wonderful," Dr. Gingras said.

### Enthusiastic

The teachers and students are, if anything, as enthusiastic as their director. Mrs. Jacqueline Jeffries, a lecturer at the University of Toronto in physiotherapy, comes down once a month to lend a hand; Marie-Luise Brossmer came over directly from Germany on invitation to join the school's staff, also in physiotherapy; Mrs. Kay Brady, who is an assistant in physiotherapy, is a Montrealer and a graduate of McGill; Josephine Forbes, who instructs in occupational therapy, comes from British Columbia and is believed to be the only woman in Canada with a bachelor of science degree and a degree in occupational therapy.

"With such a staff to start off

with, we are in a good way to really go places," Dr. Gingras observed. "When we get better established in our own quarters, we will be able to expand both staff and students."

He hopes to have a body of about 80 students by the time the present class graduates two years from now. The course is a three year one.

"One of the problems we have to consider is finding qualified students to enter our school," Dr. Gingras continued. "They must have their high school matriculation in science, which not many French-speaking girls have at present."

The school, incidentally, accepts only girl students, for the good and simple reason that under Quebec law only women can become therapists, just as only women can become nurses. While the school's purpose is to serve the French-language community, its courses are bilingual, and arrangements are being made for examinations to be written in either English or French.

Dr. Gingras doesn't confine himself to the school, however. This week he went off to Venezuela in his capacity as consultant to the United Nations for physical medicine and rehabilitation.

"Everywhere there is a growing realization of the importance of rehabilitation," he observed, "and that it is one thing to heal a patient but quite another thing to refit him for a useful life."

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