

Clara Thompson

Clara Thompson was admitted to Women's Ward 5 at Friends Hospital on January 15, 1922.¹

She was "sick in bed" from her arrival at the hospital until late February. While the casebook gives little detail about her activities during this time, recording only that she was sick and taking medicine, Clara's journey through multiple wards at the Hospital gives an indication about her mental condition. On January 24, Clara was transferred to Sec A, one of the most crowded wards in the hospital. The most problematic patients were interned in Sec A, where many patients were kept in restraints or seclusion 24 hours a day. After only eight days in Sec A, Clara was moved to Ward 3, where she slowly recovered from her illness.

As Clara got better, she became more active. Initially, her only activity in Ward 3 was reading, which took little energy. Clara then also took on needlework, and by early March, Clara was going on daily walks with an attendant. She also attended Sabbath services and art and gymnastics classes.

On April 5, Clara was transferred to Ward 2, signifying her continued progress in recovery. Though not all female patients were discharged from Ward 2, most were, and the women living in Ward 2 often enjoyed increased freedoms, such as unattended walks and visits home or into the city. In Ward 2 Clara often went horseback riding and attended Sabbath services regularly. Besides horseback riding, Clara was very active during her time in Ward 2, where she also continued with reading, needlework, gymnastics and art classes. On June 21, 1922, Clara was discharged from Friends Hospital after a 6 month stay.

¹ All following information, unless otherwise noted, is from Daily Record Book, 1919-1921, MC-1261, Item 116, Friends Hospital Records, Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections, Haverford, Pennsylvania.

January 1922

- Admitted to women's ward five on January 15, 1922
- Sick in bed + meds jan 15-23
- Transferred to sec A jan 24
- Continued to be sick + meds through end of the month
- Receives two visitors while in sec A

February 1922

- Sick in bed + meds february 1
- February 2 transferred to ward 3
- In ward 3 sick in bed until feb 22
- Medicine, special diet
- Reading, and then as she gets better, needlework
- Visitors

March 1922

- Settles into daily routine, of reading, walks with attendants, needlework, art class
- Lots of visitors
- Attends sabbath services

April 1922

- Reading, medicine, art class
- Gymnastics, church
- April 5: transferred to ward 2
- Mainly art class, walks w/attendants, medicine in Ward 2
- Needlework
- Near of the month horseback riding
- Attends sabbath services

May 1922

- Daily: occupied in ward, needlework, walk w attendants
- Very busy, also does: gymnastics, art class, riding, indoor + outdoor games
- Visitors
- Sabbath services

June 1922

- needle work, occupied in ward daily
- Mix of previous activities
- Sabbath services
- Visitors
- June 21 1922 discharged