

March 17, 1950

V. A. Is Giving Halloran Back To State June 30

Withdrawing All Patients by June 1 From Hospital Intended for Children

Halloran Veterans' Hospital, in Willow Brook, Staten Island, which has been operated by the War Department and the Veterans' Administration since it was built in 1941, will be evacuated June 1 and returned to the New York State Mental Hygiene Department on June 30, the Veterans' Administration announced yesterday.

The hospital was originally built by the state as the Willow Brook State School for Mentally Deficient Children, but was leased to the War Department as soon as it was completed. After the war the Veterans' Administration continued to use part of the buildings, and the remainder are used by the state as a school for mentally defective children mainly from the New York area.

The hospital now has 1,307 patients, but no new patients are being admitted. If any remain on June 1 they will be transferred to other Veterans' Administration hospitals at Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn; Kingsbridge, the Bronx; Peekskill and Batavia, N. Y.

When the whole group of buildings is made available to the Willowbrook school, it will have a capacity of 3,000 patients. Dr. Harold H. Berman is director of the school.

Governor Thomas E. Dewey recently named the first Board of Visitors for Willowbrook school and sent the nominations to the State Senate for confirmation. They are: John A. Warner, son-in-law of the late Governor Alfred E. Smith and former superintendent of the Division of State Police; J. Joyce Klinger, New York lawyer; C. Ernest Smith, lawyer and member of the board of trustees of Staten Island Hospital; Fareed N. Kiamie, president of the Kiamie Manufacturing Company, Inc.; Frank A. Pavis, manager of the Corporate Bond Department of the Charles E. Quincy Company, and Mrs. Jaqueline S. Lyons, former Office of Price Administration official.