

Advance, April 21, 1950

... will be available for paraplegics, general medical and surgical cases and one pavilion will be set aside for tuberculosis patients.

Neuropsychiatric cases will be transferred to the Peekskill VA Hospital, which is now under construction and should be available next month.

**868 Employees to Stay**

Officials expect the retention of 868 employees. As of yesterday, there were 1,339. The difference will be reassigned to Fort Hamilton or Peekskill hospitals and officials expect "the normal attrition" of those who leave the field.

It now appears that the VA will retain building No. 2, the main building with 580 beds and X-ray and other technical equipment; buildings Nos. 25, 27 and 29, which contain some 260 beds; building No. 32, the nurses home; present buildings for supplies, garage, shops and research; all temporary buildings and part of the structures now used for living quarters.

The VA will have to release buildings 18 through 23 which include wards for tuberculosis and neuropsychiatric cases and the mess hall. The building containing the auditorium is also a possible casualty.

Dewey made his public announcement after he met with Edward A. Ruppell, county Republican chief-tain; George W. Gatz, member of the GOP county committee; Leo D'A. Balbach, 2nd District commander of the American Legion; Frank A. Pavis and J. Joyce Klingler, members of the board of visitors at Willowbrook State School, and Assemblyman Frank J. McMullen of Brooklyn, whose district includes the new Fort Hamilton Hospital.

**Satisfactory, Says Dewey**

The governor said that he was happy that a "satisfactory agreement" had been reached between the state Department of Mental Hygiene and the VA. He noted that facilities will be provided for veteran-patients and for mentally defective children, for whom beds "are urgently needed."

The bed space provided under the new lease is only slightly less than the current patient census at Halloran. The census yesterday was 771, a decline of 536 since the VA announced last month that the state had refused to renew its lease.

A spokesman for the hospital said the decline in the number of patients could be attributed to three reasons—the transfer of small numbers of patients to Fort Hamilton, the ban on admission and the daily discharge of well veterans. Normally the turnover at the hospital is 20 to 25 patients a day.

Reaction to the pact was generally favorable.

Veterans Administrator Carl F. Gray Jr. said that since the state has an obligation to the children this is "a satisfactory solution to the problem."

**Ruppell Statement**

Ruppell yesterday issued the following statement:

"The governor's action marks the culmination of many weeks of effort I have expended in an effort to retain Halloran Hospital on Staten Island