

April 4, 1950

April 22, 1950

April 28, 1950

## Dr. Berman To Give Talk

Miss Mary Coleman, director of the Visiting Nurse Association of Staten Island, informed members of the South Shore Committee of the association at a meeting yesterday afternoon, that Dr. George Berman, head of the Willowbrook State School, will address the group April 21 in the Staten Island Health Center, St. George.

The committee met in Mrs. Joseph Fislser's home at 79 Hopping avenue, Tottenville.

Following Miss Coleman's talk, addresses were delivered by two visiting nurses, Miss Noella Cawley and Mrs. Marion Nelson.

A sewing session was followed by the serving of tea by Mrs. Fislser. The next meeting will be June 5 in Mrs. Ralph Blomeley's home at 4927 Arthur Kill road, Richmond Valley.

## Mental Illness Curable, Says School Head

### Willowbrook Director Tells VNA Benefits of Psychiatric Treatment

"Psychiatry is dynamic. It is constantly moving ahead, and offer much hope for the mentally ill."

Such was the good word expressed last night by Dr. Harold H. Berman, director of Willowbrook State School, at an open meeting of the Visiting Nurse Association of Staten Island.

In tracing the advances made by psychiatry in recent years, Dr. Berman stated that mental illness is curable, "depending on the effort spent in curing it."

Speaking in the Health Center, 61 Stuyvesant place, St. George, Dr. Berman declared, "Psychiatry is in every person's life, every minute of the day, although he may not be aware of it."

### Stigma Exaggerated

Charging that the stigma of mental illness is greatly exaggerated, Dr. Berman described new methods of treatment and the varied success obtained from psycho-therapy. One new method he mentioned was the injection of ether into veins in the place of shock treatment.

The speaker stressed the point that the family doctor must be imbued with the possibilities of psychiatry. Teachers and clergy, he added, also can help the patient by understanding what psychiatry is and what it can do. Courts, he continued, particularly domestic relations courts, can use psychiatry to great advantage.

Dr. Berman also stressed the need for police, social workers and nurses to receive instruction along psychiatric lines.

Dr. Berman cited some mental health figures, including the prediction that two out of every 100 babies will be born mentally defective. This assumption was based on national figures over a period of years.

## Dr. Bigelow Makes Visit to Willowbrook

### State Health Head Outlines Policies; 1,011 now in School

The policy of the state Department of Mental Hygiene was outlined by Commissioner Newton J. T. Bigelow, M.D., yesterday at an organization meeting of the Board of Visitors of Willowbrook State School at the institution.

Attending the meeting were Mrs. Jacqueline S. Lyons, former Judge C. Ernest Smith, Frank A. Pavis and J. Joyce Klinger.

Major John A. Warner, Mrs. Ogden L. Mills, and Fareed N. Kiawie, other members, were unable to attend. Major Warner sailed for Europe earlier in the month.

### 1,011 Now at School

Dr. Harold H. Berman, in outlining the history of the school for the newly-appointed board, said that on the first day of the opening of the institution there were only 20 patients admitted, while now the census is 1,011.

From April 1 last year until March 31 this year 609 patients have been admitted, the doctor said. About 350 of these patients were babies, according to Dr. Berman.

The board represents the public interests in the school and was appointed to make inspections and reports to the governor and the Mental Hygiene Department.