

Halloran Evacuates All but 34 Patients

650 Employees Still Remain at VA Facility

There were only 34 patients in Halloran VA Hospital today, but 650 staff employees were still stationed there, awaiting transfers, transportation to other installations or just "sitting out" separation notices.

Officials pointed out, however, that while next Thursday has been set as the deadline for evacuation of all patients, it is not the deadline for the clearing out of personnel, many of whom may stay on through February or even longer.

A spokesman at Halloran said that of the 650 employees there, about 400 will be transferred to other VA installations in the metropolitan area and as far-distant as Albany. About 250, mostly of "non-skilled" status, have turned down transfer offers and will either resign or "sit out" their 30-day separation notices.

Must Take Jobs

"Our records indicate," the spokesman said, "that roughly 90 per cent of our medical and technical help has been saved for the VA, having accepted offers to work elsewhere."
Included in the number of per-

sons still at Halloran are 132 nurses, 50 of whom will be transferred over the weekend to hospitals in Brooklyn, Bronx, Manchester, N. H., Framingham, Mass., and Albany.

Officials said the big facility will not be completely emptied by the VA until March 31, according to agreement with New York State, the VA must "physically vacate" the hospital so that it can be returned for use by Willowbrook State School, a mental hygiene facility.

To Shut Down

Staying on after the last patient leaves will be carpenters, laborers and others, including clerical workers who will close down Halloran's voluminous records.

The patients still at Halloran are 21 paraplegics, soon to be sent to Kingsbridge VA Hospital, Bronx, three medical and ten surgical cases. Three of the latter will be transferred to the VA hospital at White River Junction, Vt., and the remainder will be discharged after treatment.

All but ten of the 132 nurses at Halloran are being assigned, the hospital spokesman said, to VA installations requested by them. The remaining ten are awaiting word from the VA's nursing division as to whether they can yet be assigned to hospitals or their choice.