

May 9, 1951

May 12, 1951

# Willowbrook Census Grows 500 in Month

## 2,800 Patients Being Treated At State School

Twenty-eight hundred patients, 700 more than were being treated in March, are now being cared for in Willowbrook State School, Dr. Harold Berman, director, disclosed today.

The total reflected an increase of more than 500 since the closedown of Halloran VA Hospital April 1 to make way for a vast expansion program at the Department of Mental Hygiene facility for the mentally retarded.

With 3,800 eventually to be treated at the institution, Willowbrook has but to increase its patients census by 1,000 to reach that point. It is expected Willowbrook will be in full operation by the end of the summer.

Work meanwhile continued in readying buildings returned to state jurisdiction last month. Dr. Berman said the job of preparing the huge medical-surgical building is moving along "on schedule," that the eight-floor building pro-

ably will not be in full operation until September.

Some parts of the building, however, are already in-use. The mental hygiene official said a dental and an immunization clinic is already in operation, and an X-ray room on the eighth floor is ready for use. State officials are currently studying blueprints preparatory to installing new X-ray equipment in the building.

Building 1, Halloran's headquarters for years, is still being prepared for use as the main administration building of Willowbrook. The offices of Dr. Berman and other administrative officers will soon be transferred to this building from Building 3.

Buildings 27 and 29, turned over to Willowbrook even before Halloran's official closing, are the only other former VA buildings now in use.

These are being used to house mental patients transferred to Willowbrook from the old Sampson Naval Training Base, Geneva, N. Y., which had been used as a mental facility by the Mental Hygiene Department.

## Three Island Hospitals Have Open House Today

Willowbrook State School and Richmond Memorial Hospital were scheduled to be open today to visitors from 2 to 4 P. M. in celebration of Hospital Day, but a program will be skipped this year in St. Vincent's because of the unusually high patient census.

Staten Island Hospital listed a double celebration, National Hospital Day and the 90th anniversary of its own founding as the old S.R. Smith Infirmary. From 2 to 5 P. M., visitors were scheduled to be shown through the institution in tours planned by Vernon Stutzman, administrator.

**WILLOWBROOK** State School will be open tomorrow to visitors from 2 to 4 o'clock tomorrow afternoon. Every half-hour, tours will be conducted to the school, babies' building, the new hospital building, being reconditioned, operating room, treatment and diagnostic clinics. Guests also will be shown the recreation system, rehabilitation center, shops, laundry and bakery. In charge of the day's program are Miss Florence Goodfield, chief nurse, and Miss Elizabeth M. Smith of the social service department.

May 14, 1951

**WILLOWBROOK** State School approximately 50 visitors showed up to be conducted on a tour of the institution's facilities. They saw several of the former Halloran VA Hospital facilities that have already been converted to use by the school. Miss Florence Goodfield, chief nurse, and Miss Elizabeth M. Smith of the social service department, were in charge of the program. The school will give a repeat performance of Saturday's open house May 24, when a group of delegates to the 74th annual convention of the American Association on Men-

tal Deficiency will pay the institution a visit.