

January 16, 1952

January 28, 1952

Willowbrook Operations Described

Dr. Harold Berman, director of the Willowbrook State School, described the operation and problems of the school in treating mental deficiency in children yesterday afternoon at a meeting of the Woman's Auxiliary to the Richmond County Medical Society in Richmond Memorial Hospital.

He stressed the importance of how the members, as doctors' wives, can help remove the stigma which has been attached to mental deficiency by helping others understand the problem.

The speaker gave a brief history of the subject, and pointed out that it wasn't until 1946 that the state stepped in to help afflicted children under five years of age. This was one of the reasons the Island school was built.

Though such cases can't be cured, many patients can be trained to fill jobs which will return them to a place in society, he said. Dr. Berman announced that the state has been asked for more building appropriations because many requests for treatment have been refused for lack of facilities.

THE AUXILIARY held a business session prior to the talk. March 17 was set for the annual bridge party to benefit the nurses' scholarship fund. It will be held at 2 P. M. in the Meurot Club, under the direction of Mrs. Henry Brigin.

A report on the civil defense committee was given by the co-chairmen, Mrs. Walter Heldmann and Mrs. Herbert Schoen. They announced that the defense exhibit which was displayed in the St. George ferry terminal last month will be shown in various store windows throughout the Island.

Mrs. Leif Jensen, registration chairman of the State Medical Auxiliary, announced that the annual convention will be held in the Hotel Statler, Manhattan, May 11 to 16. Members were urged to attend the Staten Island Hospital charity ball Feb. 11 in the Rolladium, New Dorp, by Mrs. Joseph Worthen, past president.

Willowbrook School Band Presents 18 Selections

Approximately 200 persons attended a concert by the Willowbrook State School band in the auditorium of Building 3, the former Red Cross building, yesterday.

The group of children and young adults, ranging in age from 12 years to the early 20s, all hospital patients, played 18 selections under the baton of Vincent Lombardi.

The band, which was organized about seven months ago, played for about an hour.

February 12, 1952

Psychiatrists to Examine Willowbrook School Youth

S.I. Advance 2/12/52

County Judge Thomas J. Walsh has signed an order, on an application by District Attorney Sidney O. Simonson, naming two psychiatrists to examine a 16-year-old inmate of the Willowbrook State School, who, according to the school's director, is dangerous to the safety of other inmates there and members of the institution's staff.

Simonson asked for the appointment of examining doctors in response to a request placed before him by Dr. H. H. Berman, director of Willowbrook State School. The name of the mentally defective patient was withheld by the district attorney.

The application was brought before Judge Walsh under the state Mental Hygiene Law. He named Dr. Samuel Reback and Dr. George L. Trefousse, St. George psychiatrists, to make the examination.

May be Transferred

The doctors will make a report based upon their examination, which will be performed in the presence of the district attorney, to the court. The judge then will decide whether or not the patient should be transferred from Willowbrook to an institution for defective delinquents.

Dr. Berman said in his communi-

cation to District Attorney Simonson that it has been found necessary to keep the patient under restraint and that he has assaulted other patients in the school and attendants.

Psychiatrists to Examine Young Willowbrook Patient

A 16-year-old Willowbrook State School patient will be examined Tuesday by two psychiatrists to determine whether or not he is dangerous to the safety of other inmates and members of the staff at the institution.

The examination will be carried out in accordance with an order issued by Judge Thomas J. Walsh in County Court at the request of Dr. H. H. Berman, director of the school. In his request Dr. Berman said that the boy whose name has been withheld, has been unruly.

Judge Walsh designated Dr. Samuel Reback and Dr. George L. Trefousse, psychiatrists, to conduct the examination. They will do this Tuesday in the presence of Assistant District Attorney Kermit J. Casscells.