

# Director Sees Hope Ahead For Retarded

## 'Dynamic Program' Planned by State for Willowbrook School

A forward-looking, "dynamic program" far removed from simple custodial care of the mentally retarded was seen for Willowbrook State School by Dr. Harold Berman, the school's director, as he and five school aides were honored Saturday night for having given 25 years of state service.

Among the five who were honored with him were two married couples. They were Maurice Sipple, head stationary engineer, and his wife Lillian, chief laundry supervisor; Harry Gillette, maintenance foreman, and his wife Catherine, supervising attendant, and Michael McInerney senior maintenance supervisor.

Dr. Berman and the others were awarded service pins by former Judge C. Ernest Smith, president of the Board of Visitors, which is appointed by the governor.

### Public View Changes

In his response, Dr. Berman said that the history of Willowbrook State School has contributed to a change in the point of view and concept in treatment of mentally retarded children.

"The condition of handling the mentally retarded could, it would appear, be one of hopelessness but we dare not sit idle. We are trying to do something about it," said Dr. Berman.

He added that the fact that other institutions of the State Department of Mental Hygiene and Willowbrook's forward looking and scientific program is the "finest tribute that can be paid to it."

### Early View 'Desolate'

Dr. Berman said that when he came to Staten Island there was "little life and hope in a desolate place." He said that more than anything else a series of newspaper articles appearing in The Advance describing Willowbrook as "a place of people" provided the inspiration that Willowbrook needed to move forward.

Judge Smith, in praising Dr. Berman's work, said that he was internationally known as an authority in his field. He is a great doctor, a great scientist and a great fellow, commented Judge Smith.

Both Judge Smith and Dr. Berman heaped praise upon the others who were honored for their contribution to the state of New York. The arrangements committee for the affair, which was held at state school, was headed by Dr. Frank B. Glasser, assistant director.

# Staff Workers Honored



Dr. Harold Berman, director, and five employes of the Willowbrook State School who were honored for long service, have an informal chat during event. Left to right are Maurice Sipple, Mrs. Lillian Sipple, Dr. Berman, Mrs. Catherine Gillette, Harry Gillette and Michael McEnerney.

May 24, 1952

# Dr. Berman, Five Aides to Get 25-Year Pins at State School

Service pins commemorating 25 years of state service will be presented to six staff members of Willowbrook State School tonight at a dinner in building 46, of the school.

Those to be honored are Dr. Harold Berman, director of the school; Maurice Sipple, head stationary engineer; Lillian Sipple, head laundry supervisor; Harry Gillette, maintenance foreman; Catherine Gillette, supervising attendant and Michael McInerney, senior maintenance supervisor.

The awards will be presented by former Judge C. Ernest Smith, president of the Board of Visitors. The arrangements committee in-

cludes Dr. Frank B. Glasser, Miss Florence Goodfield, John J. Siano, Kenneth V. Borey, Fred Carroll and Mrs. Catherine Webb, who is handling publicity.

Following the dinner, an open house will be held for all employes of the school. Refreshments, dancing and entertainment will be provided.

Cliff Berman's Show