

October 18, 1952

Letters from Readers

Letters to the editor should give writer's name and address. They should be limited in length to approximately 300 words and are subject to the usual restrictions for such letters.

State School Incident Draws Distant Reply

DEAR EDITOR:

It is with happy anticipation that I receive your paper, which my friends so generously forward to me. Usually its arrival stirs me to reminisce on past experiences on Staten Island, some happy, some sad. However, never were my emotions so aroused as recently when I read the inflamed inferences and unfair accounts of the recent employe incident at the Willowbrook State School. I agree that the publicity directed against the administrators and the staff, is greatly exaggerated and that these false impressions should be corrected by stepping up the wheels of good constructive publicity immediately.

I express with Mr. Ernest C. Smith and the others my absolute confidence in the integrity, ability and sincerity of every physician and employe of the school. Was it not Dr. Glasser, the assistant ad-

ministrative director of the school who placed the original complaint? Surely, you must be aware that the administrators of the school knew what it would mean but they chose the right course at any cost even in jeopardy of their prestige and excellent reputation.

Like men of integrity and sincerity of purpose they did not consider themselves nor anyone except the children and that a culprit must be punished for bringing more injury to those children than has already been bestowed on them, through no fault of their own.

• • •

When I consider the handful of women who were volunteers at the school, and the crying need for more causes me to stop and realize the thousands who failed in their responsibilities and duty to humanity. Yes, it is appalling.

Of course, I agree that it is not quite as glamorous as being a club hostess or a Gray Lady but be-

lieve me it is more gratifying even though many of the children are unable to express in articulate terms their appreciation.

I heard it said, that these children are just "dead wood" and should be eliminated and our taxes diverted. Why?

Also, it should be known that these children are not just anybody's children. These are the children from the metropolitan area, ours, and those of our neighbors.

May I end by saying that all directors and employes of institutions do not give up as much of their personal comfort and show as much love and affection by their deeds as those of the Willowbrook State School. It is with much sympathy for them and the love of the children that originally prompted me to write to you my personal appeal for your favor.

MARCELLE M. VILLANI,
Casablanca,
French Morocco.

October 22, 1952

October 24, 1952

Willowbrook Doctor To Address Chapter

A talk on personality will be given tomorrow night to members of Staten Island Chapter, B'nai B'rith, at a meeting in the Jewish Community Center.

The talk will be given by Dr. Milton Jacobs, psychiatrist on the staff of Willowbrook State School. A short business session is also scheduled. Lodge B'nai B'rith, the men's group will provide refreshments.

Psychiatrist Discusses Personality Building

A talk on factors that go into the building of personality was given last night by Dr. Milton Jacobs, psychiatrist of Willowbrook State School at a meeting of Staten Island Chapter, B'nai B'rith.

At a session in the Jewish Community Center the members were told the different forces of environment and heredity that form children's character and personality.

A report was given on a recent all-day conference of the Metropolitan Council of B'nai B'rith in the Astor Hotel, Manhattan.

Mrs. Lillian Gottlieb reported on a membership tea Nov. 12 in Mrs. Lillian Weissglass's home at 225 Forest avenue, West Brighton.

Donations were made to the Staten Island Community Chest, the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York, the Staten Island

Tuberculosis and Health Committee, the Jewish Welfare Board of New York and the Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations of New York.

A discussion session will be held Nov. 6 in Mrs. Emily Kahn's home at 555 Metropolitan avenue, West Brighton. The next chapter meeting will be Dec. 4 in the Jewish Community Center.