

June 14, 1954

1,500 Hear Story of Work For Retarded

More than 1,500 persons gathered in the auditorium of Building 3 at Willowbrook State School yesterday afternoon to hear the story of the Benevolent Society for Retarded Children and its work at the school.

More than \$50,000 has been contributed by the society to the school since 1948, Irving Redler, vice-president of the society, announced.

Dr. Harold H. Berman, director of the school, told the guests about progress in research into the causes of retardation in children.

Other speakers were William Heisler, president of the society; Frank Pavis, members of the school's board of visitors, and Mrs. Bertha Dickerman, chairman of medical research for the society.

A concert was presented by the school band, directed by Vincent and Joseph Lombardi. Max Gordon was chairman for the program.

June 12, 1954

Society to Sponsor Willowbrook Program

An all-day program to acquaint the public with its work will be sponsored by the Benevolent Society for Retarded Children tomorrow, beginning at 10 A.M., in the auditorium of Building 3 at Willowbrook State School.

On display in the auditorium will be samples of the equipment contributed by the society to the school and the children. These include band instruments, therapeutic walkers, stretchers, tricycles, television sets, tape recorders, educational and occupational therapy equipment and other items, according to William Heisler, president of the society.

Exercises will be conducted in the auditorium at 3:30 P.M. with the all-day program scheduled to end at 5 P.M.

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From Editorial page of Staten
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This editorial was the result of pamphlet entitled "New Program For Community Mental Health Services which was sent to S.I. Advance by Dr. H.H. Berman

Mental Health Aid At Community Level

A working start has been made by the state in establishment of the Community Mental Health Service in the Department of Mental Hygiene.

This has been made possible by the Community Mental Health Service Act passed earlier this year by the Legislature after being introduced by Staten Island Assemblyman Lucio F. Russo.

The new community program provides for the creation of local mental health boards and the establishment of local mental health services with state aid. These services may include psychiatric clinics, psychiatric facilities in general hospitals, rehabilitation of recuperating mental patients, and consultant and educational services to schools, courts, health and welfare agencies.

New York City should investigate the possibility of creating mental health boards in each of its five counties. Certainly, only through large-scale cooperative activity at the community level can any progress be made toward the prevention of mental illness and the reduction of an increasing mental hospital population.