

STATEN ISLAND, N. Y., MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1954

## Willowbrook Director Honored at Luncheon

Dr. Harold H. Berman, director of Willowbrook State School, was honored Saturday at the fifth annual luncheon of the Benevolent Society for Retarded Children in the Waldorf Astoria Hotel.

Attending the luncheon were more than 2,000 persons, including about 100 employes of the school.

William Heisler, president of the society, presented to Dr. Berman a plaque in "appreciation for his encouragement, wise counsel and unselfish devotion to our children."

In accepting the plaque, Dr. Berman said: "I feel I am just a symbol for almost 1,000 people who make up the staff of Willowbrook State School. If we have instilled in you this feeling, our heartfelt thanks."

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PRESENTING musical selections was the Willowbrook Boys Band, making its first appearance in its new uniforms. Directing were Vincent Lombardi and Joseph Lombardi, school musical instructors.

Singing were Mrs. Edna Mulligan and Miss Margaret Desiderato, school employes; a girls' quartet and members of the band.

Dr. Berman, who gave the principal address, declared that "miraculous progress has been made" in treating retarded children.

He said: "Our main efforts must be directed toward socialization, training, education and the control of burdensome symptoms such as nutrition, dietary problems, convulsive disorders, skin rashes and the prevention and control of the main contagious children's diseases."

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"BUT BEYOND this point, there are the many research and medical problems which must be continued, and can be continued only under medical supervision . . . Our attention must be centered upon preventing medical deficiency.

" . . . Our outlook is changing. We used to look for the genes and chromosomes, and look back in the family history and try to obtain a pedigree. We are still doing this, but we are, more importantly, trying to find out if anything happened to the mother. . . . We must look forward to keeping the mother's health free from disease, in good nutrition and free from emotional stress. These are some of the findings which come out of an institution like Willowbrook."

Representatives of Willowbrook introduced by Heisler were Dr. Frank B. Glasser, assistant director, and Mrs. Glasser; Dr. Martin Lazar, assistant director, and Mrs. Lazar; Dr. Milton Jacobs, supervising psychiatrist, and Mrs. Jacobs.

C. Ernest Smith, president of the board of visitors, and Mrs. Smith; Frank Pavis, board member, and Mrs. Pavis. C. Edward Gideon, board member, and Mrs. Gideon, and the Rev. Edward J. Banks, Rabbi Jay R. Brickman and the Rev. Dr. A. W. Schattschneider, chaplains of the school.