

Retarded Youngsters Ready Dance Recital

By RICHARD OWEN

For the first time in the history of treating retarded children, a group of these youngsters will perform dances in public at the sixth annual luncheon of the Benevolent Society for Retarded Children at the Hotel Waldorf-Astoria, Nov. 12.

Dr. Harold Berman, director of Willowbrook State School on Staten Island for which the society is raising funds, has not only organized dancing classes, but has fostered a 40-piece boys band which will also play at the luncheon.

The experiment of teaching children, many unable to read, to play musical instruments has proved revolutionary in the treatment of retarded children and has aroused widespread comment in medical circles.

Society Pays Bill

The cost of supplying the instruments and uniforms, buying TV sets, radios and phonographs, and providing toys for the youngsters at Christmas, is underwritten by the society, which depends on contributions.

Last year they raised \$25,000 for the children. This year, because of the increase in children being admitted to Willowbrook, the society will need more funds.

Guest speaker at the luncheon will be Dr. Arthur W. Penze, deputy commissioner of New York

Child Aid Unit Slates Drive

The Association for the Help of Retarded Children has issued an urgent call for volunteers to aid in its annual national campaign, Nov. 13 to 23. The AHRC, 323 Fourth Ave., will conduct a three-day outdoor fund drive Nov. 14 to 16 and a door-to-door Thanksgiving March the evening of Nov. 15. Volunteers were requested to contact the association by mail or phone GRamercy 3-4875.

State's Department of Mental Hygiene. He will be introduced by Mrs. Bertha Dickerman, president of the Benevolent Society.

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State School Band Preps for Concert

Willowbrook State School's band is hard at work in preparation for its annual stint at the Waldorf.

The children, members of the school's 60-piece unit, are rehearsing for their appearance at the annual luncheon Saturday of the Benevolent Society for Retarded Children in the big Manhattan hotel.

The band, under direction of

Vincent Lombardi, the school's musical director, will appear in bright, new uniforms, gifts of the employes of the Willowbrook facility, which is operated by the state Department of Mental Hygiene.

The luncheon meeting will open the Benevolent Society's new fund drive for the benefit of children of the school and to aid in research projects for the treatment of the mentally retarded.

A speaker at the luncheon will be Dr. Harold Berman, director of Willowbrook. Officials of the mental hygiene department in Albany are scheduled to attend.