

# \$1,300,000 Additions Planned at State School

## Exit Patients'

## Catwalks to

## Dining Room

A new \$1,300,000 building program to decentralize Willowbrook State School's dining set-up and eliminate miles of obsolete wooden catwalks dating from World War II, now is in sight.

Officials at Willowbrook say the state department of mental hygiene is reading plans to add 100,000 sq. ft. to ten patient ward buildings at the facility so that patients may receive their meals in buildings in which they are quartered.

Eliminated will be the miles of catwalks, installed during World War II when Willowbrook served the Army as Halston General Hospital. The catwalks now are used by patients to reach a central dining room.

**THE NEW** construction appropriation is over and about more than \$5,000,000 set aside for the erection and a central ward building program which has been on the books since 1952. With a single patient ward building, patterned after those already existent at Willowbrook, now in construction, there is \$4,526,899 still to be spent on the erection of five other ward buildings and the kitchen.

The building now being erected is 70 per cent complete, and may be ready this summer. Willowbrook officials have "two ideas" when the state will go ahead with construction of remaining buildings under the program.

It is certain, however, that completion of the Willowbrook enlargement will boost the patient census to at least 5,200.

**OFFICIALS** say 4,340 patients, largest enrollment in the history of the mental hygiene facility, now are being treated and cared for.

Officials say the patient census takes in 700 infants, 530 toddlers, 1,350 above toddler age and under 18, and 1,240 patients who are 18 or older.

## State School Experiments In Care Told

A new experimental program in the treatment of mental diseases being conducted at the Willowbrook State School was outlined by Dr. Harold Berman, school director, to members of the health division of the Community Welfare Council yesterday at a luncheon meeting in the school.

A modern institution for mental defectives is no longer satisfied with a custodial care program, said Dr. Berman. The staff at Willowbrook is experimenting with new methods of treatment which in many cases are showing good results.

More research, he told the representatives, is needed to define specific causes and lay groundwork for a program of prevention. Committee reports were given by Mrs. Natalie Salzman and Mrs. Marion Nelson. Miss Mary Kelly, instructor of nursing, was in

## Willowbrook Guild Arranges Auction

The Protestant Altar Guild of the Willowbrook State School made plans last night for a Christmas auction May 11 in the school.

Rev. Dr. J. Murdock Palmer, Protestant chaplain at the school, gave a report on a recent confirmation class. Mrs. Florence Francis, president, presided.

Committee members for the auction are Mrs. Francis chairwoman, Mrs. Ethel Gilman, Mrs. Eleanor Marzco, Mrs. Myra Larson, John Gilman, Mrs. Alma O'Brien, Mrs. Louise Sabino, Mrs. Orlena Palmer and Mrs. Sophie Linton.

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