

## Additions Planned at State School

### State School Experiments In Care Told

*Staten Island Advance*  
*April 10, 1956*

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 determine specific causes and so lay groundwork for a program of prevention.

Committee reports were given by Mrs. Natalie Saltzman and Mrs. Marion Nelson. Miss Mary Kelly, instructor of nursing, was hostess.

### Willowbrook Guild Arranges Auction

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

The 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, chairman, Mrs. Tillie Gilman, Mrs. Eleanor Mazzeo, Mrs. Myra Larson, John Gilman, Mrs. Alma Ortega, Mrs. Louise Sabino, Mrs. Lillian Palmer and Mrs. Sophie

*n. d.*

### 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 readying plans to build additions 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 Halloran General Hospital. The catwalks now are used by patients to reach a central dining room.

THE NEW construction appropriation is over and above more than \$5,000,000 set aside for the erection of six patient ward buildings and a central kitchen, a 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 "no idea" 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, 550 toddlers, 1,850 above toddler age and under 18, and 1,240 patients who are 18 or older.

Willowbrook officials say the facility's payroll during the current fiscal year will be close to \$300,000 above last year, or \$3,901,123, and provides for a staff increase of 100. There now are 1,265 employees at Willowbrook.

Reappropriated for Willowbrook by the Mental Hygiene Department is \$750,000 for construction of an addition to its present laundry plant. This is to handle increased needs when the major building program, with its concurrent patient enrollment increase, is completed.