

Willowbrook

Employees Plan Show

The Willowbrook Troubadours, composed of employees of Willowbrook State School, will present a musical, "Once upon a Ship," June 28, 29 and 30 at 8 P.M. in the school auditorium.

The book for the show was written by Ronald Kerr of the recreation department and the lyrics by Vincent Lombardi of the education department. A program of songs, some of which are being prepared for the patients of the school, will be presented during the show.

Stetson Island Advance
Friday - June 15, 1956

English MD

To Visit State School

A top English mental hygiene expert will compare notes on the treatment of mental retardation Tuesday with officials at Willowbrook State School.

The visitor, Dr. David H. Thomas, superintendent of the Cell Barnes Hospital, St. Albans, England, making a tour under auspices of the World Health Organization, will confer with Dr. Harold H. Berman, Willowbrook's director and other officials.

School and college officials together with representatives of municipal and private health organizations have been invited to attend an open discussion at the school at 2:30 P.M. Tuesday.

Stetson Island Advance
Saturday - June 16, 1956

Mental Health

Program at State School

An open house program in conjunction with Mental Health Week will be held tomorrow from 1 to 4 P.M. at Willowbrook State School.

The event, to which the public is invited, will feature selections by the school's band, a tour of the academic school, shops and buildings and a panel discussion on mental health matters in the school auditorium.

"One of the best ways," Dr. Harold H. Berman, director, said, "to gain greater understanding of the mental health problem can be through a visit to such a facility as Willowbrook School."

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Visitor Points Duty to Retarded

"The community must be educated to care for the retarded child," declared Dr. David H. Thomas, superintendent of the Cell Barnes Hospital, St. Albans, England, on a visit yesterday to Willowbrook State School.

Dr. Thomas spoke in the auditorium before an audience of school and college officials, representatives of municipal and private health organizations, the school's staff and members of the community.

Speaking on the differences in the care and treatment of "retardates" in England from methods used in America, Dr. Thomas stated that what are called institutions and schools here are called hospitals in England, where they are smaller and feared more closely to the needs of the community.

The community works with the retarded child through social service agencies and social workers, including psychiatrists before the child is sent to a hospital, he said, except those with an IQ of over 50, who are not

sent unless there is a social problem involved.

Those in the over 50 IQ bracket are given the benefit of special resources of community operation, starting with special training in public schools at the end of which they are placed in industrial positions, according to Dr. Thomas.

Declaring that "it is the community which is at fault, not the child, when he has failed despite these resources," Dr. Thomas mentioned that those with IQ's of 25-50 are placed in community-supported workshops, and the community is responsible for finding jobs for them.

"This sort of system has re-

duced juvenile delinquency almost to non-existence," Dr. Thomas asserted due to the fact that 2 to 3 per cent of all employed Englishmen are physically or mentally handicapped.

On American institutions, Dr. Thomas was noncommittal, but stated that he enjoyed seeing them operate on different problems on a larger scale than those in England. He was led on a tour of Willowbrook by Dr. Harold H. Berman, director of the school, and other officials.



VISITOR.—Dr. David H. Thomas, left, superintendent of Cell Barnes Hospital, England, inspects an electric cerebral stimulator held by Dr. Harold H. Berman, director of Willowbrook State School, as Miss Florence Goodfield, chief nurse at the institution, looks on.