

## 5,195 Patients Now at Willowbrook State School

# \$8 1/2 Million Expansion Program Nears Completion

**By ERWIN ENDRESS**

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infirmary buildings, considered the most modern of their type in the country. It includes a huge new kitchen and cafeteria. And the new kitchen plant will be put to use by the end of the year. They will help ease Veterans Administration hospital, laundry plant to serve the growing needs of the big Department of Mental Hygiene facility.

Erection of the buildings already has allowed for phenomenal growth. With three of the new infirmaries already oc-

cupied, 5,195 patients are being enrolled—been situated on Staten Island. And even then, it was Willowbrook today exceeds the number of patients cared for at Sea View Hospital in its peak years in the 1930's, when 3,000 persons were treated with tuberculosis.

It exceeds by far the number of patients—692—now on the rolls of the big U. S. Public Health Service Hospital, Clifton.

The number of patients at Willowbrook is eight times the combined total of beds in the borough's three voluntary hospitals.

There are more children at Willowbrook than there are in the borough's orphanages and institutions for the care of children, including huge Mount Love-Elton.

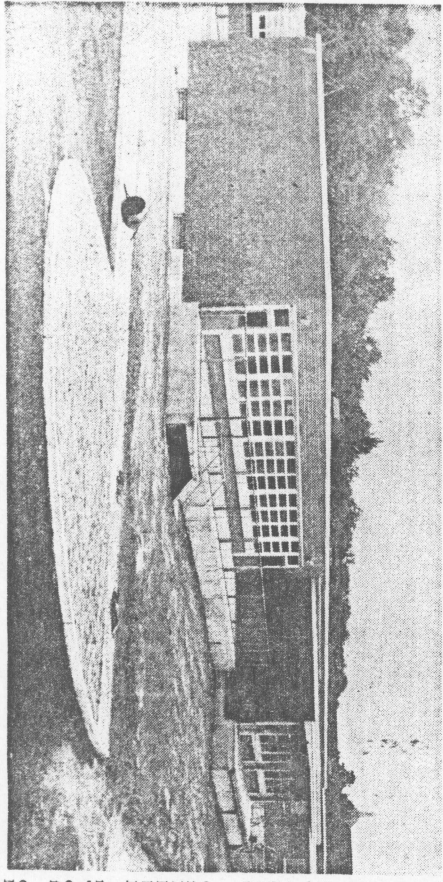
The number of children at Willowbrook mounts daily. Ten a week are brought there, and are arranged to go to 100 new patients a month. All are mental defectives.

THOSE institutionalized at a "hardship cases," the ones whose parents are unable to care for them at home, those who could not possibly cope and control a world ever mysteriously might be beaten down and destroyed in ordinary society.

It is to meet this need that a half million dollars spring from the pen of two other scientists, starting with two other scientists, that the institution has 1,741 enrollment increases. Even now, there are 1,781 jobs—43

IN A PAPER published last week, while Willowbrook grows, the scientists say there is no doubt that a breakthrough will occur. And it will be as revolutionary as the use of hormone does not provide "an important basis for instituting psychiatric therapy."

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**SYMBOL OF GROWTH**—Nearing completion, this of five assuring new growth in the enrollment of mentally retarded patients at the institution.



**CULINARY FORESIGHT**—With many more months to feed in the months ahead, Willowbrook State School has planning cooks ready in a big new kitchen to keep up with the institution's expansion and growth.

THAT THEY COME from the boroughs of New York City, babies from the teeny townships of Manhattan, from surburban homes in Queens, from the Flatbush brownstones, from the Bayside and from the Island.

The and from the Island. The new patients, over 50,000, come from the city, the county, from Nassau and Suffolk County.

But the head is shared by two other state institutions, Wassene, N. Y., State School, and Letchworth Village in Thelers, N. Y.

For every child who comes to Willowbrook, there are three to four to five more on a lengthening waiting list.

Dr. Harold H. Berman, Willowbrook's director, says there are more than 500,000 mentally retarded persons in New York State. Only 26,000 are in institutions.

The reason the vast expansion project has been undertaken at Willowbrook is clear, he points out: Three out of every 100 babies in New York State or any other state are born mentally defective.

They are not insane. They are "retard children" whose intelle-

untified. Obtaining skilled personnel who are qualified for jobs has been a traditional problem at Willowbrook.

There is an expanding research program at Willowbrook. Yet the use of the hormone does not control the causes of mental deficiency, although some appears to provide "an important basis for instituting psychiatric therapy."

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