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**LEADING THE WAY**—Gov. Rockefeller breaks away from throng on steps to enter the administration building at Willowbrook State School, closely followed by the institution's director, Dr. Harold H. Berman.

## Doctors Study New Treatment

The hormone treatment which attracted Gov. Rockefeller's interest on his tour of Willowbrook State School is not described by research scientists at the institution as a major breakthrough in the search for a cure for mental retardation.

They claim, however, that the experiments were "significant and important."

They brought "remarkable results" in dealing with a specific type of mental deficiency, so much so that the experiments "appear to provide an important basis for instituting successful psychiatric therapy."

The findings, the doctors say, "are merely to be considered as leads for further research."

**DR. HAROLD H. BERMAN**, Willowbrook's director, in a paper published last spring in collaboration with Dr. Max Reiss, research director, and Dr. Kathryn E. Albert Gasorek, one of Willowbrook's top experts in mental retardation, described the experiments as "opening new avenues."

They first were conducted last year on 32 hospitalized mentally defective boys between nine and 15 years of age, all showing a lack of physical development characteristic of their sex.

All were described as neurotic, shy, withdrawn and "inaccessible," destined to be lifelong mental defectives.

All, for a period of nine months, were given intensive

treatment with chorionic gonadotrophic hormone in varying doses of from 100 units a day to 1,500 and, in some cases, 2,000 units per day.

**DURING** the first two months, the boys grew in height by an average of 1½ inches and, in three months, two inches. Weight increased by as much as 10 pounds.

In addition, the scientists reported, there were remarkable facial changes so that, after months of the treatment, the researchers reported "the facial stigmata of the dullard have nearly disappeared."

Most significant, however, were behavior changes. Gradually, the boys became less withdrawn, showed mounting maturity, became "social, sometimes aggressive."

In their summary, the scientists said there was "marked alteration of the mental status with improved accessibility to psychotherapy, school instruction and vocational training."

They added:

"Results thus far obtained bear out our theory that in a certain group of mentally defective boys where sexual retardation is one of the predominant features, its repair produces a state in which they are able to make better use of their limited capacities."