

MRS. MARIE HORVATH of the Mental Health Week observances at the Island Institute. Traditionally, award recipients also are cited at a luncheon in Albany, attended by the governor and the state commissioner of the Department of Mental Hygiene.



Mrs. Marie Horvath

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Garden Therapy Project Begun by Federation

"We have all no doubt experienced the exhilarating effect of entering a particularly attractive garden, the wonderful feeling of walking in the country, or through a forest, or the delight of viewing a lovely flower arrangement," explains Mrs. Lindsay Andrews, chairman of the Staten Island Federation of Garden Clubs' special garden therapy program at Willowbrook State School.

"Garden therapy," she added, "is dedicated to bringing a little part of the great beauty of nature to those unable to enjoy it to the fullest." Many of the Island's garden clubs already have undertaken similar projects in the hospitals and schools in the borough. But this is the first, such project undertaken by the Federation.

Every mother cries a little when her children first go to school, and the parting is all the more difficult when the child is to live at the school, as is the case at Willowbrook. To create a warmer atmosphere, and make the rooms seem less austere, particularly the visiting rooms the garden club began displaying flower arrangements.

THIS spring, when the federation officially undertook the project, other garden clubs also began decorating the buildings. Each group took a different unit.



TO BRING JOY—Mrs. Adolf Gundlach, left, and Mrs. Lindsay Andrews prepare arrangements for the reception rooms at Willowbrook State School. The project of decorating the buildings was recently adopted by the Staten Island Federation of Garden Clubs.

Dr. Irving Jacobs, assistant director of Willowbrook, is coordinating the program for the club, at the time which housed children one to five years old. New additions to the list include the South Shore Garden Club and Richmond County Garden Club.