



CLASS CO-SPONSORS — Dr. Harold H. Berman, director of Willowbrook State School, and Malcolm Smith, administrator of Richmond Memorial Hospital, study plans for state-sponsored class for practical nurses at meeting in hospital. Left to right are standing, Mrs. Ruth Knott, director of nurses; Smith, and Miss Mary Kelly, principal of the new school. Seated are Dr. Berman and William E. Gerke, Jr., hospital board president.

State, Richmond Memorial Sponsor Class for Nurses

A state-sponsored class for practical nurses, a first in Department of Mental Hygiene history, opens Monday at Willowbrook State School.

The class will comprise 27 women from all over the state,

including eight Islanders, who are presently employed as attendants at state schools for mental deficiencies.

The training program is co-sponsored by Richmond Memorial Hospital where most of the clinical

training will take place during the one-year training period.

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THE GOAL is to return these women to positions of higher responsibility in medical institutions where personnel shortages exist.

The students will spend their first month in the classroom at Willowbrook. After that they will travel to the South Shore hospital daily for their practical work for the following eight months. Then the classroom and practical work return to the state school.

Malcolm Smith, Richmond Memorial administrator, discussed the program as an educational program to aid the community.

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SMITH SAID he felt that in years to come, some who will be trained here will work on the Island which will be a definite advantage to the community. He added that the hospital was undertaking the program as a community service.

Dr. Harold Berman, director of Willowbrook, pointed out that this is the third training program now under way at the institution.

The principal of the practical nurses' school will be Miss Mary Kelly. She'll have an assistant principal and three instructors.