

Setting Up Mental Research

The state is wasting no time in preparing for the Research Institute in Mental Retardation slated for the South Beach area.

Construction of the institute isn't scheduled to get under way until the spring of next year, but the Department of Mental Hygiene has chosen its director.

Dr. George A. Jervis, currently director of psychiatric research at Letchworth Village, will be the chief.

This will not be just another institute. It is expected to be the first of its kind in the world providing a comprehensive mental retardation research program in the basic sciences.

Dr. Jervis seems eminently qualified for the assignment. A pioneer in mental retardation research, he has been engaged in a broad range of specific and general areas in this field.

His appointment at this stage, more than a year before the beginning of construction, indicates the state plans to assemble a capable and highly proficient staff.

Except for those who find employment there, the institute will have little impact on the Island. But the researchers may have a great impact on all our society. Only the surface has been scratched on mental retardation. There is still a tremendous amount to be learned. With this institute, the state seems determined to speed the answers. It will have heartfelt encouragement from the public.