## Willowbrook's War on Disease: a character of the characte

## Island Research Eradicating Measles

By JACK REYCRAFT

Ist of two articles.

In this country and manage, car damage or precision the dedicated work of a research group which is also on the road to taking the peril out of two other diseases—infectious hepatitis and German measles, which shares because the project, the state of two other diseases—infectious hepatitis and German measles.

By this fall, the description of two other diseases—infectious hepatitis and German measles.

By this fall, the description of the patients at Willowbrook 2 and every one of them was in a child whose parents hadn't given consent to vaccination.

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## Willowbrook Work Wiping Out Measles

director of the state institution.

At that time, Willowbrook was still sharing buildings with Hal-loran VA Hospital.

DR. BERMAN is happy at what has already been achieved, and sure further discoveries will be the disease, including 17 of the 19 in the control group — 90 per cent of them.

But not one of the 20 vaccinations are supported by the control group in the control gro

He is happy also because the He is happy also because the This was the first clear-cut defeat of measles and German trial demonstrating the effectivemeasles means prevention of any brain damage in children.

"We get seven or eight children a year because of brain damage from measles," he says. "This nibbles at the causes of mental deficiency."

Dr. John Enders of Harvard, who also won the Nobel Prize for isolating the polio virus in a test tube and thus paved the way for the Salk and Sabin vaccines.

I HEARD Dr. Enders talk about sibility of fever, he explains, and his vaccine," Dr. Krugman adds. says that the reaction is much "I realized Willowbrook would be like that of smallpox vaccination, an ideal place for its use. It had with about 15 per cent of those an local place for its use. It had with about 15 per cent of those been fairly well tested by then, and indications of its safety were apparent.

"We knew that if there is an Giles," he adds.

epidemic of measles in New York City, there should also be one at Willowbrook. We asked Dr. Enders for a small amount of vaccine, after obtaining the approval of Dr. Berman and State Department of Mental Hygiene.'

In February 1960, the parents of 40 children at Willowbrook gave consent to their vaccination. After taking blood sample to make sure the children had no immu-

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operation of Dr. Harold Berman,
director of the state institution

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Two months later, measles came into the building where the children were. Many unvaccinated got

ed children got the measles.

ness of the Enders vaccine, Dr. Krugman says.

SINCE THEN, every child en-tering Willowbrook is vaccinated, provided parents consent. Of the Brain damage is also one of the dangers to unborn children vaccinated, 32 got measles last whose mothers get German measles in the first three months of pregnancy.

I think we've eliminated measles from this institution with the new vaccine," Dr. Krugman says.

The vaccine was developed to the vaccine consists of live attenuated (weakened) measles virus. At present, Dr. Krugman says, a further weakened vaccine to the vaccine consists of live attenuated (weakened) measles virus. At present, Dr. Krugman says, a further weakened vaccine to the vaccine was developed to the vaccine w

is being developed.

Already, he adds, some 3,000 children at Willowbrook and at Bellevue have been treated with

the latter. With the first vaccine, an inoculation of gamma globulin was also given to cut down the pos-

DR. GILES says "wonderful cooperation" by the hospital's nursing staff in organization and manning of the projects have made them possible.

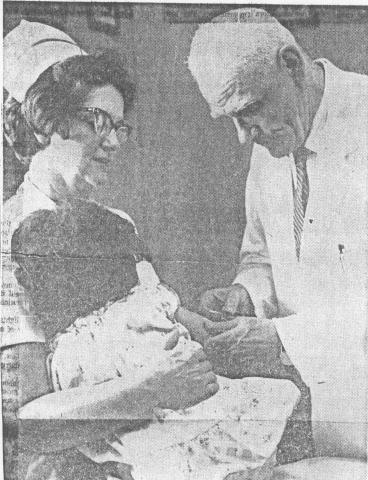
In May, Dr. Krugman told the U.S. Senate Appropriations.

Committee that encephalitis occurs once in every 1,000 cases of measles, and "many children who survive this catastrophe may suffer from severe irrever-

sible brain damage."
In other parts of the measles is a highly fatal disease, he added. In 1960, 85,000 infants died of it in India and 2,000 in Chile, and in many countries in Africa the mortality rate ranges

from 5 to 25 per cent.

The vaccine, the committee heard, was administered to 700,neard, was auministered to 700,-000 infants and children in Upper Volta, West Africa, last fall and winter by teams of doctors and nurses. Dr. Krugman forecast that this mass inoculation will prevent



IMMUNITY-Mrs. Rose Clark, an attendant, holds a young patient as Dr. Severine Kugajevsky administers the

measles vaccine which has practically eliminated the disease at Willowbrook State School.