

DR. HAROLD H. BERMAN

is diagnosed as an individual and treated as such.

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WHEN DR. BERMAN was sent to Staten Island in 1949 from St. Lawrence State Hospital in Ogdensburg, he walked into "a bedlam; a war between the state and federal authorities; state and federal employes, and state and federal interests."

From that bedlam, and after settling the transfer of the property (Holloran VA Hospital during the war years), Dr. Berman and his small staff began a massive training and recruiting program.

After initial problems were ironed out, he recalls, funds were made available and the facilities for Willowbrook grew from a few buildings to its present complex of 51 structures of various sizes.

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FROM HIS second floor office in Building No. 1 Harold H. Berman, with eyes closed, can tell you the exact location of each building, what is going on inside and any other information you might want.

He knows everything about the self-sustaining facility. Most of the 2,000 workers who share an annual \$8 million payroll know Dr. Berman. But he is not satisfied.

Dr. Berman carried on his battle with Albany to change the name of the institution until he announced his retirement. "School is a misnomer," he says. "To conceal a mentally retarded child centuries ago a parent would say he was at 'school.' But Willowbrook is a hospital."

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DR. BERMAN insists that only under a medical man's guidance can progress be made in this field. "We had to educate medical men in the beginning, and now we are educating the public. But still, parents feel that mental retardation is a curse from God as retribution for past illness or is the fault of a mate."

From this outlook, he says, guilt feelings, depression and other emotional problems develop. "A doctor would classify a patient as a 'dopi' if a child was slow. Dopi means discharged to other public institution."

But while 3 per cent of births

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