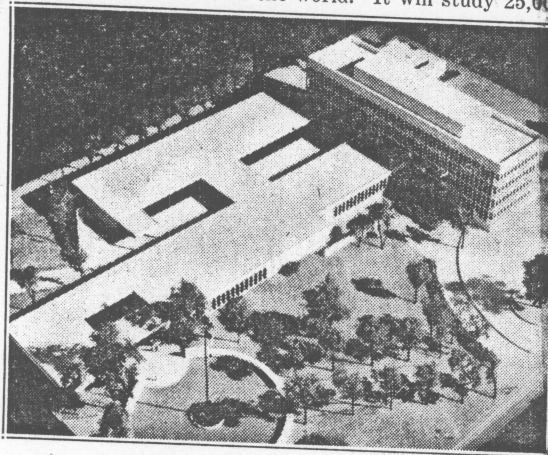


## Big Mental Health Facility Will Rise at Willowbrook

By FRANK McKEOWN

A major step in the mental health fight will be taken Dec. 1 when the State Department of Mental Hygiene begins construction of a \$7 million Institute for Basic Research in Mental Retardation in Willowbrook.

Commissioner Paul H. Hoch said the institute "will be the first of its kind in the world." It will study 25,000



Architectural rendering of new Institute for Basic Research in Mental Retardation to be built in Willowbrook.

persons under care and treatment in state schools plus many times that number who live in communities.

Research has developed methods of treatment in some cases where an early diagnosis is made. "Never has the promise been so great for practical as well as theoretical advance in this field," Hoch said.

### 8 Laboratories Included

The five-story building, to be built on state land near the Willowbrook State School, will include eight laboratories. Facilities will be suitable for many types of patients.

Dr. Hoch said that any damage to the brain can cause mental defect but the causes of most mental deficiency are unknown.

He added: "Recent advances in scientific technology have opened up many promising avenues for more fundamental approaches, and new discoveries have pro-

vided us with exciting leads, a whole group of them in the new chemistry of genetics."

The institute will bring together specialists in neurophysiology, endocrinology, biochemistry and allied fields.

The institute will have a staff of 250 under the direction of Dr. George A. Jarvis, presently associate clinical professor of psychiatry at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center and a member of the research staff at Letchworth Village.

There will be provision for clinical and educational projects, public meeting rooms, photographic laboratories and a maintenance shop.

### Examples of Success

Hoch gave as examples mental handicaps which were successfully diagnosed and treated cases of cretinism due to a hormone deficiency and the severe, often-deforming defects due to the mother having had German Measles.

"Advance waits on further research, particularly in the basic sciences," Hoch said. He predicted that the new institute, to be completed by June, 1966, will make giant strides in the study of retardation.