

Health Society Names Aide

Dr. Jack Hammond, director of Willowbrook State School, was named a consultant to the Staten Island Mental Health Society at a meeting last night in the West Brighton center.

In accepting the role, Dr. Hammond described Staten Island as a "pioneer community in the development of community mental health services."

Expansion of the West Brighton center is progressing well, it was reported. The society hopes to utilize the additional area soon after Jan. 1.

Dr. Paul Hoch's Contribution

To THE EDITOR:

Those of us interested in the improvement of community services were saddened by the untimely death of New York State's able Commissioner of Mental Hygiene, Dr. Paul H. Hoch.

Much has been said of Dr. Hoch's interest in medical research, and his skillful handling of a complex administrative task. We feel there should be similar emphasis on his advocacy of the development of mental health facilities that are readily accessible in the community. Such facilities can, in some cases, offer an alternative to lengthy hospitalization in a distant institution.

While Dr. Hoch was persistent in seeking local services, he was realistic in demanding adequate professional personnel and financing for them. He was courageous as well, for these community services were not always popular with established local interests.

Dr. Hoch set a high standard of excellence for his successor to match.

GORDON E. BROWN,
Executive Director, State Charities

Aid Association.
New York, Dec. 11, 1964.