

D.A. Probes Death At Willowbrook

Police today are probing the circumstances of the death of a severely-retarded 10-year-old Willowbrook patient who died yesterday from burns suffered in a scalding shower bath.

The youngster, John K. Taylor, a patient at the state school for nine years, suffered burns on 80 per cent of his body sometime Thursday.

He died at 4 a.m. yesterday and the matter was not reported to police until nine hours later.

Assistant District Attorney Ralph Diorio, along with top Island police officials, conducted an investigation of the incident behind locked doors at Willowbrook yesterday.

They conferred with Dr. Jack Hammond, director of Willowbrook, and employees at the

giant institution were called in for questioning.

DISTRICT Attorney John M. Braisted said that preliminary indications are that the child's death was accidental but that the facts will be presented to the grand jury.

Police said that the attendant present at the time of the scalding apparently made an effort to conceal the incident from her superiors until the boy died, but there was no accounting for why information of the death was not reported to police sooner.

The burns that covered the undersized, 40-pound retardate's body were discovered only at 5:45 p.m. Thursday while a cut on the child's head was being treated. There was no explanation of

how the child received the gash.

According to Braisted, an 18-year-old female attendant was bathing the youngster when the shower suddenly began to blast out scalding water. She was apparently unaware of the change.

THE ATTENDANT was identified by police as Dorothy Bryson, 18. No address was given. No disciplinary action is being taken against her by the hospital, it was reported.

Described by authorities at the school as a "low-functioning retardate," the Taylor boy could walk, but could not talk or feed himself.

He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Taylor, of Nyack, N.Y. His father is an instructor at Nyack Missionary College.

Retarded Youth, 10, Dies Of Burns on Staten Island

A 10-year-old boy patient of the Willowbrook School for Retarded Children on Staten Island died at 4 A.M. yesterday of burns that covered 80% of his body.

The child, John K. Taylor, a patient at the school for nine years, was a brown-haired, small youth, under 40 pounds, described as a "low-functioning retardate." He could walk but not talk or feed himself.

Dr. Jack Hammond, director of

the hospital, said, "We have no statement at the present time."

Detectives of the St. George precinct were investigating, but no details were available.

It was while the child was having a cut sutured at the hospital clinic on the school grounds at 5:45 P.M. Thursday that the burns were discovered.

Parents of the child, Mr. and Mrs. John Taylor, were reportedly en route here from Michigan.