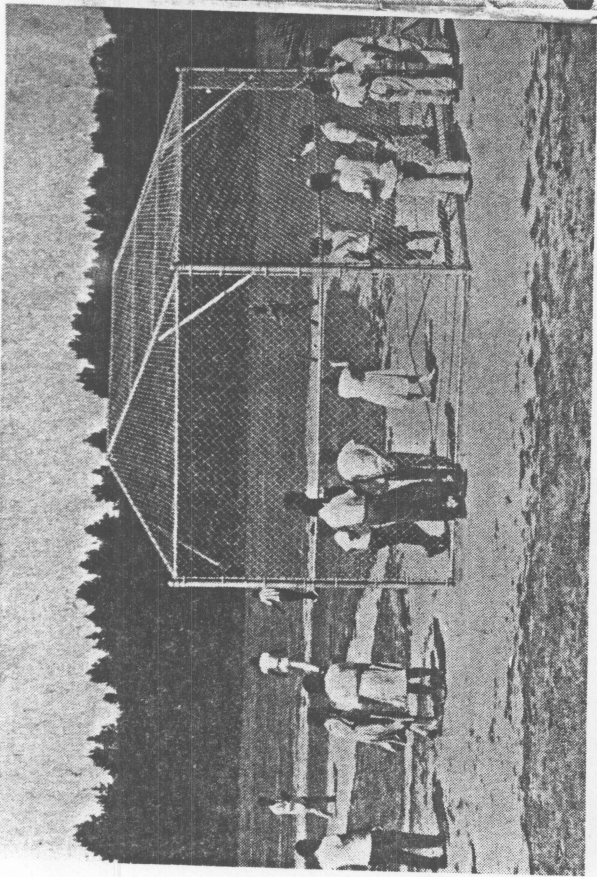
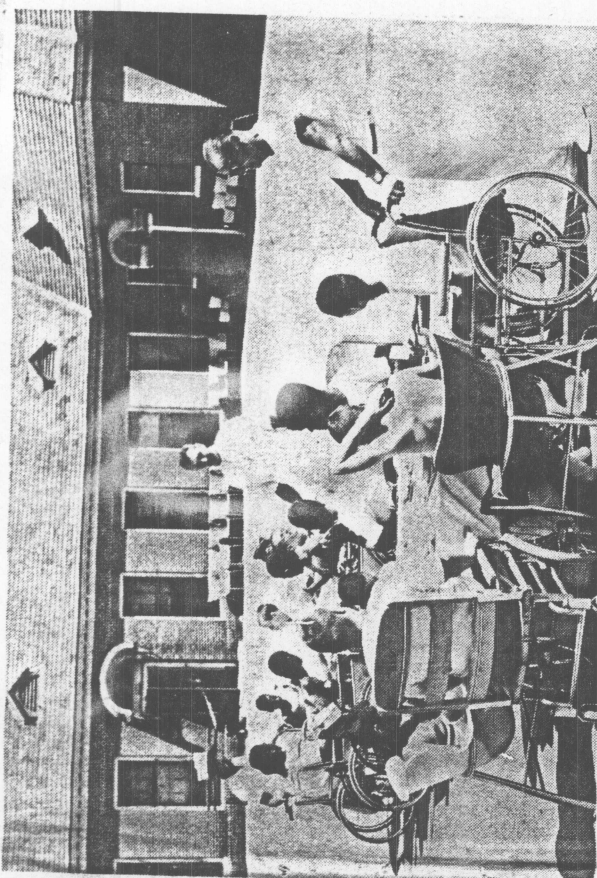


S. J. ROSS



Youngsters scoot after a ground ball slammed by the girl in the batter's cage. Good weather that allows patients to get outside eases the overcrowded conditions of the school immeasurably.



A group of handicapped patients are fed outdoors in the courtyard adjoining their building. Some, incapable of the use of their arms, must be fed individually by attendants.

Some Progress Being Made at Crowded Institution

By MARK WISSNER
(END OF FOUR ARTICLES)

Touring the buildings at Willoughby State School on a recent afternoon, the institution's director, Dr. Jack Hammond, remarked to a visitor:

"You see they're all outside. That's the way it should be.

"The staff has had to change its ideas. It used to be that a child who would sit was the good child."

Many of the wards (four to a building) were empty. Inevitably, there were some children left behind. They were ill.

The same was true in wards of the baby building.

INEVITABLY too, there were attendants at work cleaning children, dressing them, making beds.

One ward hadn't been emptied. The children were sprawled around in attitudes that

seemed strange and uncomfortable. Some slept on chairs.

"They look like they're tranquilized," Hammond, a big man with a soft voice, said.

"How come these girls aren't outside on a day like this?"

"We did have them out all morning and they're tired," an attendant answered.

"We're pooped," one of the youngsters said and this provoked a burst of laughter.

Hammond said that he's applied for a federal grant for an experimental project that would give intensive care to 35 youngsters.

"The cost," he said, "would be \$100,000 over and above the cost here. Can you imagine what the cost would be for 6,000 patients?"

Some parents have failed to come to terms with what their child's capabilities

are. Some make unrealistic demands, or have unrealistic attitudes, based on the faulty premise that more help, more specialists can work wonders.

But often, what represents a remarkable accomplishment for a severely retarded child, like toilet training, gives only slight satisfaction to a parent who expects the child to be reading.

Dr. Hammond said the situation at the time of the visit

was not representative of normal circumstances. The school's population had been diminished by 500 or 600 youngsters who were visiting home.

THERE WERE 40 Staten Island college students working for the summer in various capacities. They would have groups of children outside in play areas on would be patiently teaching small groups of youngsters.

Dr. Hammond does not minimize the school's problems. But he thinks progress has been made in many areas.

"If I could fill my open positions and with good people, I think we could begin to see the light," he said.

S. J. ROSS PHOTOS BY HARRY G. SCHWARTZ