

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1965

# Bid City Hospitals Aid Gouverneur

A suggestion to move some of the mentally retarded children in Gouverneur Hospital into the pediatrics wards of city and voluntary hospitals was made today by the executive director of the Assn. for the Help of Retarded Children.

"I don't know if the space is available but if only a handful of these children could be moved, it would be well worth the effort," Dr. William A. Fraenkel said.

He believes the plan—which has been "mulling over" the last few days—could achieve several worthwhile objectives.

## Sees Better Deal

"It would give the children a better deal, it would give the parents a break, and it would expose doctors, nurses and therapists to the problems of retardation," Dr. Fraenkel said.

The first and most immediate benefit, he said, would be to take the children out of "that rotten old building" (Gouverneur).

"We have to realize that primarily these are children who need basic nursing and pediatric care. The schooling and training programs that are necessary would come later."

In emphasizing that the retarded child is "different," it is often overlooked that, first and foremost, "this is a child who needs help," Dr. Fraenkel said.

## Staff Shortages Cited

Moving some of the children into general hospitals would add to the number of medical people working in the field of mental retardation, he said.

"We're a long way from solving the problem of staff shortages in institutions," Dr. Fraenkel said. "We have to use those people who are available as best we can. And it would

be good for the specialists to get some training in another area."

Parents of mentally retarded children would benefit from Dr. Fraenkel's plan in several ways.

## Points Out Benefits

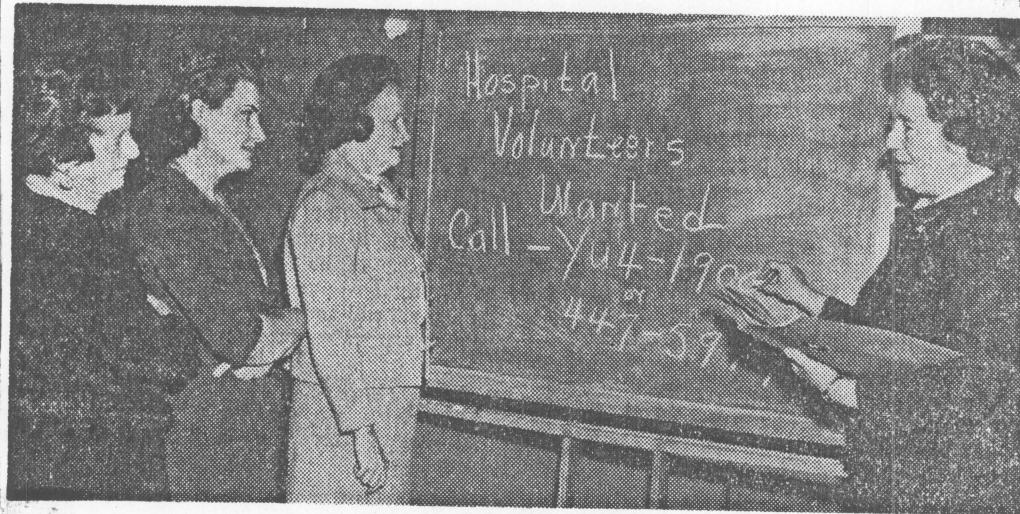
"By spreading these children through the five boroughs, we would be helping them—not only by making it easier for them to visit their children—but in letting them know that they can get help in the community without going to a special place.

"It would also show them that other children have other handicaps—that their child is not as different as they think."

Dr. Fraenkel has not formally proposed his suggestion yet but said he plans to in the near future.

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1965

# Call for Volunteers



Members of the Richmond County Coordinating Committee of the United Hospital Fund of New York use a blackboard in Richmond Memorial Hospital to sketch poster ideas in connection with the agency's drive for hospital volunteers. Candidates will receive a free general orientation course in hospital volunteer work. Left to right are Mrs. Fletcher Wells of Staten Island Hospital; Mrs. Jack Hammond of Willowbrook State School; Mrs. Thomas R. Harlan of St. Vincent's Hospital, chairman of the coordinating committee, and Mrs. Ambrose L. Gillon of Richmond Memorial Hospital, chairman of the orientation committee.

S.I. Advance Photo by John Peduto