

Prefabs for State School Due by August

Construction of prefabricated buildings, housing 300 patients, will be completed at jammied Willowbrook State School in August, it was announced yesterday.

Dr. Jack Hammond, director, reported on the Island facility's progress over the past 18 months at a meeting of the South Shore Rotary Club in the Tavern on the Green, New Dorp.

The portable buildings were authorized by Gov. Rockefeller last November, about the time Sen. Robert F. Kennedy claimed the state's mental institutions are overcrowded

and understaffed. Dr. Hammond mentioned the establishment of a diagnostic and counseling center to screen and evaluate applicants and of a personnel office.

ACCORDING TO Dr. Hammond, the 5,867-patient institution, which employs 2,485 persons, has added a pediatrician and a director of physical medicine and rehabilitation; set up a training affiliation in pediatric neurology with the New York University School of Medicine and enlarged the Willowbrook Practical Nursing School.

Some 900 patients were transferred out of Willowbrook during 1964 and 1965, said Dr. Hammond, and the school has a definite commitment for a child psychology residency with the Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn.

It is also in the process of preparing programs in cooperation with the Institute for Basic Research in Mental Retardation being built nearby.

Dr. Hammond said there is a projected reduction to 4,000 patients during the next five years, to relieve the overcrowding.

Since July 1964, he said, the

school has been allocated 333 new positions, including 84 teachers, occupational therapists, recreational therapists and physiotherapists authorized last October by the governor. The \$13 million budget allocated to Willowbrook includes money for salaries, operating expenditures, and maintenance. Construction and modernization costs are extra.