

Advance, April 23, 1971

it cures and the various tests that are done at the school that would cost more if done outside of it.

In addition to the variety of medical services which the clinic supplies to the school, it serves as a counseling service for parents in examining chromosomes of affected children on Staten Island.

To point up its success, the clinic cites several cases of rehabilitation:

One of the patients is now in college.

OWNS HOME NOW

A boy admitted when he was 10 years old was treated for two years, graduated in 1964, is living in a Staten Island community and owns his own home.

Of those who had an intelligence level of 61 points, which is considered a moron:

A boy admitted at the age of nine, one of four siblings in the school, was discharged in the custody of his brother and is now working.

A boy admitted at the age of 14 was treated for a year and is now capable of self-support.

After six months of treatment another boy is now earning \$75 a week.

Dr. Penn does not claim to have been totally successful in rehabilitating cases. But those mentioned are among the lowest IQ level at Willowbrook and have made enormous progress due to treatment.

He also is certain that there will always be someone to take issue with the program and question its validity, but then again he feels that the 45 per

cent cured by Dr. Reiss speaks for itself.

If Dr. Reiss could get 45 per cent results where the state program gets seven to 10 per cent results, what his clinic could possibly do for the mentally retarded patient could be astounding, he feels.

Not only is the clinic of value as far as this research goes, but it provides medical services to the home in many other ways too.

Financial data itself shows that the group of 27 doctors and researchers who will be laid off on Monday is saving the state and the community money, he said.

The cost of maintaining a patient at Willowbrook is \$3,600 a year and much less (if anything) once outside the facility.

Not only that, but the types of tests run on patients at Willowbrook would cost \$60,000 a year if done commercially, and are included in the clinic's budget at present. When the clinic closes the tests will have to be done commercially, Dr. Penn said. So that when all the costs are computed, the clinic actually saves the state money rather than have it conduct many vital services from outside the home.

Dr. Penn and his associates said that they will meet with State Sen. John J. Marchi to try to win his support to keep the clinic open.