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## Hits Retarded Cut

Although it claims important breakthroughs in the treatment of certain kinds of mental retardation, the Neuro-Endocrine Research unit at Willowbrook State School for the Retarded will be terminated on May 26, according to Dr. Nathar Penn, acting director of the unit.

"Of the patients who have been studied and treated in our wards, 45%, or 42 out of 92, are now discharged or are on community status. The comparative figure for the same type patient in the school now, with other programs, is 7 to 10%," Penn said.

### Can't Rebuild

The unit is a victim of state budget cuts. It was founded in 1956 by the late British-born doctor, Max Reiss, who was invited to the United States to explore a medical approach to treating retardation.

Once the 27-person unit is

broken up, it will be impossible to assemble it again because persons will seek other positions, Penn said.

"Probably nowhere in the country is there a research group which investigates a clinical, psychological or genetic approach to treating retarded patients as this unit does," Penn said.

Also, clinical tests which the unit performs for patients will cost \$60,000 a year if done commercially, he said, noting that the state's economy may cost it more than it saves.