

an obligation to care for Willowbrook's residents. She maintains that the school took steps to safeguard residents, but it cannot prevent or be held responsible for all accidents at the institution.

Adrienne appeared briefly yesterday at the courthouse before being returned to Willowbrook, where she is being kept in the school's medical building under a court order.

Among the allegations of Adrienne's parents is that she had been beaten and assaulted at the school. Her mother estimated she had suffered more than 100 injuries while at the institution.

Under cross-examination by Mrs. Gordon, Mrs. Howell said she never saw an attendant or a hospital employe assault a patient during the nine years she has been at the school.

Mrs. Howell, who had Adrienne in her ward from last October until February, told of one accident last January when she said Adrienne suffered an epileptic seizure and fell to the floor, suffering a swollen eye.

She estimated she had five "assaults" daily in her ward in which patients suffered various injuries.

Mrs. Howell, under questioning by Biaggi's law partner, Bernard Ehrlich, said she applied for a job at Willowbrook in 1963. "I just walked in and asked for a job," she said. There were no requirements for the position. Her only prior experience was that of a factory worker.

She said she then underwent a three-week indoctrination period in which she was instructed in child care, "TPR" (temperature, pulse and respiration) and how to administer medication. In regard to medication, she said she was instructed on how "to use the right patient, the right dosage at the right time."

In Building 22, which houses the severely retarded, Mrs. Howell said she was never

given specific instructions on how to care for each patient. When Adrienne was assigned to her ward in October, she was merely informed that Adrienne had to be fed, given medication and supervised.

No one ever told her that Adrienne had the ability to learn to feed herself, as experts for the petitioners have testified. Mrs. Howell said she tried to toilet train Adrienne and to teach her to eat with a utensil, but gave it up after about a week.

She estimated she had about half an hour in the morning to feed breakfast to approximately 30 patients. Following breakfast, she said Adrienne as well as others received what she indicated was the only training program, known as "Activity of Daily Living."

Whatever training Adrienne received in the ward was obtained through her, Mrs. Howell said.

Mrs. Howell said the school had monthly meetings with supervisors and others, including attendants, to discuss the progress of patients and

determine what programs they could take part in, but she indicated that in Adrienne's case this consisted only of Activity of Daily Living, interspaced with outdoor trips three times a week.

She said Adrienne received two medications — a tranquilizer and an anti-seizure medicine which was placed in her food.

During the nine years she has been at Willowbrook, Mrs. Howell said she knew of no in-service training programs for attendants.

If she saw residents fighting, Mrs. Howell said she tried to separate them and, if possible, distract them. She said she did not punish them for such behavior.

The hearing resumes today.