

## Advance inquiry aids mental patient

An inquiry by the Advance into complaints of aggressive behavior by a Willowbrook patient led school officials to arrange individual attention for the woman.

Parents of another patient told the Advance that their daughter was bitten on the ear twice by this patient.

After calling the school, an Advance reporter located the mental hygienist responsible for the ward where the patient was bitten. Dr. Eric Sheldon, the team treatment leader, agreed to study the other patient's records.

He later said the patient persists in biting and other aggressive behavior, even when under heavy sedation. Since she has developed a high tolerance

for the medication, he said, doctors will not increase the prescribed dosages.

Instead, Dr. Sheldon directed the ward staff to keep a careful watch on the patient's behavior, charting the instances of aggressive behavior and the circumstances that apparently induce the actions.

"This way we'll know better how and when to take preventive action," he said.