



Dr. Miodrag Riatic, right, director of the Willowbrook State School, congratulates James Browne and Mrs. Rosa Moore, therapy aides who earned diplomas under a special program. Arnold Brandwein, left, was coordinator of the training sessions.

S.I. Advance Photo by Tony Carannante

19 Willowbrook aides earn diplomas

Diplomas were presented yesterday at Willowbrook School to 19 therapy aides, the first class to graduate under the special program.

The aides have completed a 30-hour seminar course under the instruction of Dr. Lanny

Fields, a consultant from Richmond College, and Willowbrook employes Michael DeRespinis and Essa Jallad.

The diplomas were presented by Dr. Miodrag Ristich, director of the school, assisted by Harold Brandwein, co-coordinator of the behavior modification unit.

After an introduction by Brandwein, there were speeches by DeRespinis, co-ordinator of

the behavior modification unit; Dr. Fields and a few remarks by Dr. Ristich. Two of the graduates, Mrs. Neta Woodard and Richard Nilan, also spoke, as did a representative of the students of Richmond College, Miss Sue Herrero.

Brandwein said that the graduation marked a turning point in the history of Willowbrook. He said the program, which will train

therapy aides to do rehabilitation, as opposed to being just attendants, is the first of its kind, he said.

The students trained at the behavior modification unit, a special residential facility where other attendants will be trained in the future for rehabilitative work.