

## It's your opinion

### Willowbrook overcrowding

With regards to the article in the Advance on Bldg. 29 in Willowbrook, I would like to say that conditons have changed for the better. However, unfortunately I can't, I can see no better conditions then there were present before.

What has happened to the 1 to 9 Ratio? It's a farce! If an attendant is absent or late what happens to his or her nine charges? To feed one child could take half an hour and to feed nine could mean 4½ hours. What happens to these children when they are short of attendants to care for them? One to 9 is nice on paper but what happens in reality is something else.

On May 25 I visited my son in Building 10, and was appalled at the conditions that exist since the children from Building 29 were transferred to his building. All the wards in Building 10 have become

dangerously overcrowded. I'm certain that there are health, sanitary and fire laws that are being abused, as well as the patients and children who live there.

Why doesn't the Advance do a "surprise follow-up" and see what has happened, not only in Building 29, but in others, especially in Building 10? That was the building where the attendant was arrested for striking a patient on the head with a mop. The story was buried in the middle of the May 22 Advance on page 17.

The Advance should also ask these following questions: Why are children in the same ward with older adults? Why are alert and bright children in the same ward with children who have no comprehension of their surroundings?

Why, when children can learn from each other, is there no one to put these children together? Patients, whether children or adults can help each other with proper supervision, but this is not done in any form whatsoever.

And finally, the big question to ask is: Why is there so much talk about how much is being done up in Albany for Willowbrook? The situation calls for prompt action with the proper steps taken soon!

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