

# OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

*Retarded Children*

*Can Be Helped!*



VOL. XV — ISSUE NO. 2

MAY, 1962

## GOVERNOR ROCKEFELLER RECOMMENDS 5-YR. PLAN FOR RETARDED

### JOINT LEG. COMMITTEE MEETS ITS FRIENDS



Seated, Assemblyman Stanley Steingut, Vice-Chairman, and standing, left to right, Senator William T. Conklin and Senator Harry Kraf, members, Joint Legislative Committee on Mental Retardation and Physical Handicap, greet some of the handicapped children at the public hearing of the Committee at the Hotel Biltmore, March 9.

### WHITE HOUSE EXECUTIVE ORDER CHANGES NAME OF PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE

President Kennedy early in March signed an Executive Order removing the word "Physically" from the title of the President's Committee on Employment of the Physically Handicapped. The title now is The President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.

In announcing the change at the White House, the President explained the reason: "We want to emphasize the great importance of hiring people who may have suffered some degree of difficulty mentally. These people deserve our whole-hearted support and cooperation in making it possible for them to live useful and fruitful lives."

This move has been advocated by the National Association for Retarded Children and others for a considerable time. It was gratifying indeed to see this forward movement on the part of the federal government as well as the State of New York.

### TO APPOINT CITIZENS COMMITTEE ON MENTAL RETARDATION

In a special message to the Legislature on January 30, Governor Rockefeller set forth a master plan for a comprehensive mental health program in New York State.

The plan, among other things, stressed improved living conditions in the State Institutions, increased training facilities, program to relieve over-crowding in the State Schools, expansion of the Office of Mental Retardation, implementation of research institute, increase of personnel, and raising the ceiling on state reimbursement for community mental health expenditures from \$1.20 to \$1.40 per capita.

Probably as important as any statement was that he will appoint a Citizens Committee for Mental Retardation "to advise in the formulation and implementation of the state's programs for the mentally retarded".

This is a measure that the Association has been advancing for a number of years in conferences with the Governor's Staff and especially his secretary, Dr. William T. Ronan.

Excerpts from the message follow:

"Mental disability has been for each generation one of the major human problems. Today, however, care and treatment can be provided which offer new hope for many of the mentally ill or retarded . . . Three out of every hundred children born are stricken with mental retardation. These crushing disabilities acknowledge no special station in life . . .

"Not all of the elements in this comprehensive new plan can be implemented immediately. But the plan provides an important guide to present action and direction for future efforts on behalf of the mentally disabled. My Executive Budget will recommend funds to permit significant advances toward the realization of this plan.

This new plan comprehends the following programs:

- "II. For the mentally retarded in State Schools.
  - A. Expansion of facilities.
  - B. Better care, food and clothing.
  - C. Strengthened central administrative direction.
- "III. For all the mentally disabled.
  - A. Expanded research programs.
  - B. Strengthened recruitment and training of personnel.

"IV. For expanded and coordinated community programs with increased State aid which looks toward the removal of the per capita ceiling.

- "V. Comprehensive study to modernize admission procedures.

Now, turning to a discussion of the details of this Master Plan.

"D. Improved Living Conditions in the State Institutions.

Improved living conditions for patients in the State institutions—both in the hospitals and in the schools—should accompany the new treatment programs if these programs are to have their maximum benefit. Comfortable and dignified living conditions not only are therapeutic but reflect a proper concern and respect for the individual patient. The State should continually seek to raise the quality of these services to patients and thus increase the patients' standard of living.

"On a continuing basis, this means

- more plentiful and varied diet,
- improved clothing,
- improved housekeeping services, and
- less crowded facilities.

"The Executive Budget for the fiscal year 1962-1963 will include funds for a substantial improvement in the living standards of patients in the State institutions.

"Turning now to a different area of concern, which is also a matter of great mental health importance —

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MAKE PLANS NOW — OCTOBER 5, 6, 7 — STATE CONVENTION

## OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

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**NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION  
 FOR RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.**  
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A Non-Profit, Tax-Exempt Organization of Parents and Friends  
 of Mentally Retarded Children

Chartered by the State of New York  
 February, 1949

Affiliated with National Association for Retarded Children, Inc.

President: PETER C. KEISCHGENS  
 Executive Director and Editor: JOSEPH T. WEINGOLD

## COMMUNITY CHEST MORALITY (Editorial)

The enormous pressures that are now being brought to bear on voluntary agencies to join community chests rather than carry on individual drives for funds calls for some careful investigation and study.

It is not our intention to go into a study of the motivations behind these pressures that wish to do away with the great American right to individual endeavor, but certainly the morality of some of the actions of these chests is open to a great deal of question.

Whether a multi-functional agency such as Chapters of the State Association for Retardation are best served by Chests or by individual drives is something for another discussion. But where the chest has made a commitment to the Chapter in lieu of an individual drive it seems to us that there is a moral obligation on the part of the Chest to treat the mentally retarded equally with all other handicapped and services in that community.

The picture of the White Plains Chest, which failed to meet its goal by only 15%, cutting back the Westchester Chapter by more than 50% is a case in point. Such action is completely irresponsible and shows a lack of feeling and concern for the mentally retarded in that Community that cannot be condoned. If Chests are to survive, this kind of action will not help in the least. Temptation becomes almost irresistible to go to the public with this story to see whether, indeed, the public is inclined to sacrifice the mentally retarded for the sake of other services. We don't think so.

We do not think the President's stand, the stand of the Governor of the State of New York with all respected officials who have embraced the cause of the mentally retarded has failed to touch the hearts of the public. We carefully distinguish between the public and community chest officials who are self appointed, have no responsibility to anybody in the community, are rarely questioned publicly and are self perpetuating.

We urge all who are tempted by the primrose path of Community Chest participation to be aware of the thorns and the pitfalls on that path.

## NOTHING THAT TAKES MONEY (Editorial)

Although the legislative session produced a number of measures that will help to round out the Association's program for the mentally retarded, it was clearly evident that few if any measures that involved any significant sums of money were to pass the legislature.

The three bills on which the Association placed its major emphasis, a bill to eliminate or limit reimbursement for patients in state schools; a bill to aid sheltered workshops by helping to meet their deficits; and a demonstration project for a regional vocational rehabilitation service in Westchester combined with a residential center, all failed to pass.

It is obvious that the three of these involved either the

(Continued Next Column)

## STATE WIDENS AID FOR RETARDED

### GOVERNOR CHANGES HIS COMMITTEE'S TITLE TO INCLUDE THE MENTALLY RETARDED

On Saturday March 17th, Governor Rockefeller announced the name of the Governor's Committee on "Employ the Physically Handicapped" has been changed - the word "physically" was dropped to emphasize increasing concern for the mentally retarded.

Mr. Rockefeller made public the new title at the annual meeting of the eighty-three - member committee in the Plaza Hotel. His decision was greeted with prolonged applause. The Governor, speaking at a luncheon, credited Orin Lehman, the committee chairman, with suggesting the shorter yet broader name.

"There has been increasing realization in recent years that the mentally retarded have considerable potential for employment", said Mr. Rockefeller.

"From now on it's the 'Governor's Committee on Employ the Handicapped.'"

The meeting was the first to include a program on the industrial capacities of the mentally retarded. Henry A. Viscardi Jr., president of Abilities Inc., presided at the discussion of training methods for retarded and disabled persons.

Governor Rockefeller noted that whereas statistics on job placement of the handicapped showed a drop every year in the 1959-1961 period nationally, in New York State there had been corresponding gains each year. Commenting on 1961, he said:

"It was the second consecutive year in which New York rehabilitated more adults than any other state, 6,733, and in addition provided rehabilitation services to more than 16,000 persons under 21 years of age."

"The State Division of Employment placed a total of 40,382 handicapped persons in jobs during 1961 — an all-time high for this state, the largest total of such placements achieved by any state."

In making the announcement concerning the mentally retarded, the Governor said "for these concerns embrace the need for securing acceptance not only for the physically handicapped but also of the mentally retarded and the mentally restored who are ready for work."

"There has been increasing realization in recent years that the mentally retarded have considerable potential for employment."

"Pilot projects have demonstrated that special sheltered workshop training could successfully rehabilitate mentally retarded young adults whose employment had previously been considered impossible."

The Governor also stated that his administration also has under consideration a proposal by the Council on Rehabilitation for State assistance for sheltered workshops.

Dr. Salvatore DiMichael, regional representative of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, reported "break-throughs" in reclaiming retarded individuals as productive workers.

"There are 5,400,000 mentally retarded people in the United States today", he said. "Of these, 4,500,000 can be trained for jobs, 700,000 are capable of taking positions in sheltered workshops and only 200,000 need a program of complete lifetime care."

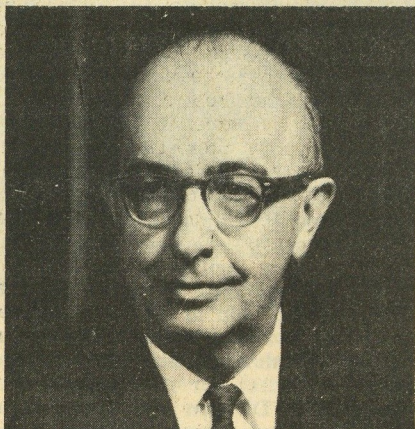
### NOTHING THAT TAKES MONEY (Continued)

expenditure of funds by the state or some loss in revenue. If, however, we measure the cost of the last two bills, estimated at approximately \$450,000 a year, against the cost of building beds at \$15,000 each to institutionalize the mentally retarded and the enormous cost to the state of keeping them in such institutions for life, we wonder at the economics that prevents the passage of such bills. All of us in the Association would gladly forego some of the expenditures on capital construction of new facilities in order to test our premise, already tested many times and proved, that money spent on community facilities saves the State many times more in the long run.

QUEENSBOROUGH HOTEL — GLENS FALLS — STATE CONVENTION

## DR. GEORGE JERVIS HEADS N. Y. S. RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR MENTAL RETARDATION

The designation of Dr. George A. Jervis, Director of Psychiatric Research at Letchworth Village, for the position of Director of the new Research Institute For Mental Retardation located on Staten Island was announced by Dr. Paul H. Hoch, Commissioner of Mental Hygiene, on February 18.



DR. GEORGE A. JERVIS

Believed to be the first of its kind in the world providing a comprehensive mental retardation research program in the basic sciences, construction of the institutes is expected to begin in the Spring of 1963.

Dr. Jervis is well known for his contributions to advances in detection and treatment of PKU and many other forms of mental retardation.

Receiving his medical degree and his doctorate in psychology (both cum laude) from the University of Milan, Italy, he did his post graduate training in neurology and psychiatry in Paris, France, at the Salpêtrière Hospital, St. Ann's Hospital, and the Hospital of the Pitié.

Dr. Jervis is presently associate clinical professor of psychiatry at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center; consultant of neuropathology at Veterans Administration Hospital in Montrose, N. Y.; consultant of neurology at New York State Rehabilitation Hospital at West Haverstraw, N. Y.; and a member of the Advisory Committee of the Kennedy Foundation for the Study of Mental Retardation.

Dr. Jervis is also a member of the International Committee for Neurogenetics of the World Federation of Neurology; and served as a member of the study section of the National Institute of Mental Health for a five-year period. He is also a member of the Scientific Research Advisory Board of the National Association of Retarded Children and the Research Committee of the New York State Association for Retarded Children.

He is married to the former Ruth Shoemaker of Wyoming, Pa. and is the father of three children, two girls and one boy.

### MAHOPAC HOSPITAL, PUTNAM COUNTY, TESTING FOR PKU

The new board of the Mahopac hospital, acting on the suggestion of the Putnam County Community Mental Health Board, has decided to make routine hospital tests on all new born infants for detection of PKU.

This makes Mahopac hospital the first in the area and one of a few centers in New York to conduct this test routinely to prevent the development of certain types of serious mental retardation.

## 400,000 INFANTS TO BE SCREENED FOR PKU

### NATIONWIDE PROGRAM BY CHILDREN'S BUREAU

A nationwide program to detect one important cause of mental retardation, phenylketonuria, will use the Guthrie blood test to screen 400,000 newborn infants throughout the country, beginning July 1st.

This great project is being coordinated by the Children's Bureau of the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

If results confirm those obtained on more than 3,000 persons tested in New York State, the Bureau is hopeful that the test can be applied routinely to all newborn infants.

To date, more than half of the state health departments have expressed their willingness to cooperate.

Dr. Guthrie, research associate professor of pediatrics in the University of Buffalo Medical School, has agreed to train 20 to 40 of the medical technicians who will be doing the tests.

The technicians will come to Buffalo in groups of six from the various state health departments. Their expenses for the five day course will be paid by the Children's Bureau. The Bureau is also distributing information on the test to state health officials.

Plans are under way to supply the materials required for making the test to the cooperating public health laboratories and hospitals to insure uniformity of results.

Phenylketonuria, or PKU, is a rare inherited disorder that occurs once in every 10,000 to 20,000 live births, according to authorities in the field.

Victims lack a liver enzyme which converts an essential amino acid, phenylalanine, into another, tyrosine. The unconverted phenylalanine piles up in the body, damaging the developing brain. If the condition goes undetected, it leads to such severe mental retardation that a victim is usually confined to an institution for life.

However, if PKU is detected early, and the infant placed on a diet low in phenylalanine there is no apparent brain damage and the child grows up mentally normal as far as we know at this time.

A low-phenylalanine diet is provided free of charge to children with PKU in New York State young enough to benefit from it.

Hitherto, the ferric chloride test of urine, known as the diaper test, has not proved completely effective. Furthermore, it cannot be done while the infant is still in the hospital. The Guthrie test can be done in a hospital, before the baby goes home.

A few drops of blood are taken from the infant's heel and placed on a piece of absorbent filter paper. A disk of the blood-coated paper is then put on a glass dish coated with a special nutrient and a culture of bacteria.

If there is excessive phenylalanine in a disk, the bacteria around it will multiply, indicating that the baby whose blood is on the disk has PKU.

If the tests were performed routinely on all newborn babies, Dr. Guthrie believes that it could be done for not more than 50 cents each.

The estimated cost of the entire testing program for the 400,000 babies is no more than missing two babies with the condition and having them grow up as severe mental retardates.

At the end of the Children's Bureau screening program, Dr. Guthrie will evaluate the findings and draw up a report on the results.

## SHAMPOOS, PERMANENTS, HAIRCUTS

In observance of National Beauty Salon Week, members of the Niagara Falls Hairdressers and Cosmetologists Association donated their services to the Niagara County Chapter of the ARC.

Children were given permanents, shampoos, sets and haircuts at two of the local beauty shops. Refreshments donated by local dairy and bakery shops were served as well.

One way of getting the kids to get a haircut.

COOL NIGHTS — HOT CONVENTION — OCTOBER 5, 6, 7.

## OFFICE OF MENTAL RETARDATION PROGRESS REPORT

The following are extracts from a special progress report dated January 1, 1962 from the Office of Mental Retardation.

### SPECIAL REHABILITATION PROJECT

The cooperative rehabilitation project being operated jointly by the Wassais State School, the Westchester County AHRC Workshop and the State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation has been functioning for three years.

The following are some statistics as of November 30, 1961: Placed in the program 40 young men; 2 young women; Returned to the institution, 9 men, 1 woman.

Reasons for return: Physical reasons—3; behavior problems—3; general inadequacy—3.

Self supporting: 16 young men, 1 woman; partially self-supporting—3; in workshop training—12.

Because of local problems, a "half way" house has not been purchased yet, but boarding houses have been utilized. An additional physically handicapped (wheelchair) patient is in boarding care and after training at the Mobility Workshop in New Rochelle is now working and partially self-supporting. One of the young men has returned to live with his own family in White Plains and attends the sheltered workshop. As the report says, "The foregoing is a very encouraging program."

### WEST SENECA STATE SCHOOL

Contracts for the construction of eight cottages for school age children were awarded on December 6, 1961. These units are for 30 children each and are designed to provide an appropriate setting for the intensive treatment and training of these children who have the greatest potential for return to community living. The tentative scheduled date for receiving the first patients is September 1, 1962, which will be met if construction schedules are maintained.

### J. N. ADAM STATE SCHOOL DIVISION

The group transfers from the Newark State School were completed during November. All future vacancies will be filled from a waiting list which is already established. The nature of the facilities limits the types of patients who can be accommodated as a small amount of play room space in the wards makes it difficult to care for children or adults with much physical activity.

On November 30 there were 327 patients and 277 employees at the J. N. Adam Division.

### MT. MCGREGOR DIVISION—ROME STATE SCHOOL

Governor Rockefeller recently announced the preparation of a plan for the development of the farm area of the Mt. McGregor Institution at Wilton, New York (near Saratoga Springs) to provide accommodations which, together with the facilities on the mountain, will constitute an institution presently being planned for 1800 patients. The plan appeared in the November issue of Mental Hygiene News and additional prints will be available upon request.

### SCHOOL FOR THE RETARDED—Suffolk County

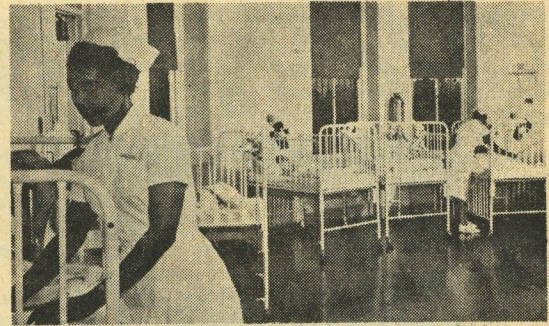
The completion of plot plans for the new state school to be located in the Town of Huntington, Long Island was announced recently by Commissioner Hoch. A total of \$12,200,000 has been appropriated for the purchase of land and initial construction. It is expected that construction will begin in the spring of 1962. The December 10th issue of Mental Hygiene News carried a print of the plan. Copies of it may be obtained from the Department of Mental Hygiene when additional prints become available.

### LETCHWORTH VILLAGE

Arrangements are under way to provide better training facilities for the young adult education program at Letchworth Village. Oak Colony which formerly housed the men working on the farm has been organized with a reduced capacity for the residence and training of thirty young men whose future return to society is contemplated. Space also became available in the nearby former pasteurizing plant which provides classrooms for twenty-four additional young male adults who reside in the cottages in the adult group. A staff residence has been diverted to a training area for girls,

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## WILLOWBROOK EXPANDS FACILITIES FOR UNDER 5 GOUVERNEUR HOSPITAL DIVISION OPENS



The Gouverneur Hospital Division of Willowbrook State School went into operation in February with the transfer of 87 patients to the new facility in Manhattan. The Division will eventually accommodate some 200 bed-ridden severely retarded children and help to relieve overcrowding at Willowbrook, making available accommodations for those on the waiting lists which exists for children under five years of age.

The Gouverneur Division was leased to the State of New York by New York City when it was found unsuitable for hospital purposes in that area.

### PRE-INSTITUTIONAL COUNSELING

As a result of a series of conversations between the Executive Director of the New York State Association of Retarded Children, Joseph T. Weingold, and Dr. Arthur W. Pense, Head of the Office on Mental Retardation, a beginning has been made to initiate a program for pre-institutional counselling.

The purpose of this venture is to make available professional counselling services to the parents of mentally retarded children who have applied for institutionalization of such children. This will accomplish a number of things. Among these would be to acquaint the parents with the facilities and programs of the institutions; to help the parents decide whether or not they have made the correct decision at the moment; and in general to try to insure parental adjustment concerning any decision finally made.

According to Dr. Arthur Pense, Mrs. Saunders, Director of Social Services of the Department of Mental Hygiene and Miss McInerney of the New York Office of the Department are currently organizing the initial series of meetings which in the first instance will be with the workers from the New York City Department of Hospitals. These will take the form of informational courses for social workers servicing the mentally retarded so that they might engage more efficiently in the pre-institutional counselling program.

"This is a small beginning," writes Dr. Pense, "but from it we hope to learn some lessons in planning and expansion of the program later on."

### ANTIQUEN SHOW BENEFITS RETARDED

The 18th Annual National Antiques Show in Madison Square Garden on February 28th brought together 6,000 years of antiques gathered from 16 countries.

For the questioning collector an appraisal clinic "was run by the Appraisers Association of America, staffed by a revolving panel of 60 experts in various fields. The Association appraised any item brought to the show for a fee that was donated to the National Association for Retarded Children.

QUEENSBOROUGH HOTEL — OCTOBER 5, 6, 7 — GLENS FALLS

## LETCWORTH VILLAGE CHILDREN PERFORM AT WELFARE LEAGUE LUNCHEON

The 2,300 persons attending the 22nd anniversary luncheon of the Welfare League of the Letchworth Village Chapter AHRC saw and heard the musical version of "Peter Pan"—performed by children of Letchworth Village.



**PETER PAN** (Mary Yager) with **WENDY** (Frances Peletieri) and her brothers **Donald Ennis** and **James Keir**.

The attitude of most of those present were summed up by a dais speaker, James F. Reville, father of a son at Letchworth.

"There is a never-never land we are not privileged to enter," said he, just before the show.

In the past, the patients have put on medleys from several shows at the annual luncheon. This was the first time they ever did a single musical. Frank DiMaria, recreation director, who staged it, said it required "patience."

## SECOND SUIT AGAINST HUNTINGTON STATE SCHOOL DISMISSED

Supreme Court Justice Henry M. Zaleski, in a lengthy decision, recently dismissed a suit that would have halted the construction of the \$40,000,000 State School for the retarded near Huntington.

The suit, filed by the so called Citizens Planning Council of Huntington was dismissed by the Judge who noted a similar action had been dismissed last year by another Judge.

Judge Zaleski said that "the acquisition of land will decrease the value of the plaintiff's land is not a valid argument when the action of the State is beneficial to the public welfare". He stated that State Mental Hygiene Commissioner Dr. Paul M. Hoch had not acted illegally when he selected the site for the retarded children center.

The protesting group under the chairmanship of George W. Seif whose property is not involved in the acquisition of land for the State schools said the decision would be appealed to the Appellate Division.

According to a spokesman for the New York State Association for Retarded Children this so called Citizens Planning Council of Huntington has no wide support and really consists of a handful of persons determined to throw as many road blocks as possible in the path of the new State School.

As a matter of fact, the present site chosen by the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene was proposed by the Supervisor of Huntington and many of the very citizens who are now involved in the protest.

The State, as noted elsewhere, is proceeding with the building of the school according to schedule.

## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY PLEDGES AID TO ASSOCIATION

The American Legion Auxiliary, New York Department, project for the year was announced as "RETARDED CHILDREN" by Mrs. Michael F. Boland of Syracuse, president of American Legion Auxiliary.

Monies contributed by the various Auxiliaries will be used to help establish new and maintain present day treatment centers for retarded children. Mrs. Boland, in talks across the State to the various Auxiliaries, has stressed that there is no place for the vast majority of these children under consideration who are not in public schools.

It is contemplated that presentation of the funds will be made in August at the State meeting of Auxiliaries.

The project is the result of the great interest that Mrs. Boland has shown in the mentally retarded and correspondence between her and our Executive Director, Jerry Weingold. The necessity for community programs children too young or too old for public school or who do not meet the criteria for public school placements appealed to Mrs. Boland and to the delegates of the Auxiliaries who adopted this as a state project for the year.

## FORSTENZER TO COORDINATE COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

Hyman M. Forstenzer, Director of Community Mental Health Services in the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene since 1958, has been named to the newly created post of Coordinator of Mental Health Programs.

In this position he will work closely with the advisory committees of the 10 mental health regions in furthering comprehensive integrated programs for the care and treatment of persons with all mental disorders.

Mr. Forstenzer has been with the Department of Mental Hygiene since 1950, serving first on the staff of the State Mental Health Commission. With the passage of the Community Mental Health Services Act in 1954 he was appointed assistant director of community mental health services.

## DR. RODGERS, DIRECTOR OF SYRACUSE STATE SCHOOL, RETIRES

### DR. JACOB SCHNEIDER APPOINTED TO POST

Dr. Arthur C. Rodgers, Jr., Director of Syracuse State School for the past four years, ended almost 42 years of state service when he retired January 1.

Dr. Rodgers entered state service at Willard State Hospital in 1916. Following service in the Army Medical Corps in World War 1, he entered private practice and served on the staff of two Veterans Administration hospitals. In 1923 he returned to state service as assistant physician at Hudson River State Hospital. He subsequently served as assistant director of Central Islip State Hospital (1931-1953), director of Binghamton State Hospital (1953-1957), and director of Syracuse State School.

Dr. Jacob Schneider has been named director of Syracuse State School effective January 4 by Dr. Paul H. Hoch, Commissioner of Mental Hygiene.

Assistant director of Marcy State Hospital since September 29, 1960, Dr. Schneider entered state service in January 1946 at Willard State Hospital and advanced through the various grades to acting clinical director.

## LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM FOR RETARDED MAKES ADVANCES EDUCATION AND MENTAL HYGIENE LAWS AMENDED

### REIMBURSEMENT AND SHELTERED WORKSHOP AID MEASURES FAIL TO PASS

Although the measures on which the association put major emphasis in the Legislature this year, to do away with reimbursement for patients in State Schools, state aid for the ongoing operations of sheltered workshops, and the demonstration project for a regional sheltered work shop and residential center, failed to pass, some important changes were made in the education and mental hygiene laws.

This session saw introduced more than 30 bills dealing directly with the mentally retarded. Of these, only about half a dozen were passed and at this writing are on the Governor's desk for signature. The bills that passed are as follows:

A bill amending section 4405 of the Education Law which remedies a situation where the Education Department will veto the whole bus route if it is over 20 miles. This bill (Conklin-Amann) will allow reimbursement for the reasonable distance set by the department, usually 20 miles, and permitting the local school district to pay the overage. This is a bill which will be of inestimable help in the education of the physically handicapped and mentally retarded children in the rural areas where frequently they have to be transported distances greater than 20 miles to special classes (signed;)

A bill amending 4404, the Education Law, to require that each school district education board shall cause examination by an approved psychiatrist or psychologist of every public school pupil not attending special class, who has failed continuously in his studies during his first three years of attendance, to determine if he is incapable of benefitting through ordinary classroom instruction and needs special education. It is hoped that this bill will help discover some of the mentally retarded who spend their school years in regular classes, without the special aid they need. (Brydges-Steingut) (vetoed;)

A bill amending Section 22 of the Mental Hygiene Law, to allow the mental hygiene commissioner, when overcrowding exists in state institutions for the mentally retarded to authorize admission of these children under 5 to private institutions or facilities with the expenses to be paid by the State, appropriating \$180,000. (Brydges-Amann) This was an authority that has been sought by the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene for a number of years and would have passed last year except for a legislative mixup. It is hoped that this measure in addition to the facilities such as Gouverneur Hospital, J. N. Adams and others being built will help relieve the critical waiting list situation for children under five (signed;)

A bill adding the words "training and education" to that part of the mental hygiene laws enumerating the purposes of state schools. At present only "care and treatment" are enumerated. It is obvious to all that this is too limiting. Another Association Bill mandated classes in the state schools from the earliest age to 21, but this will have to wait for another year. (Conklin) (signed;)

A bill amending Section 124, Mental Hygiene Law requiring that notice of petition made by one parent of an alleged mentally retarded person for confinement be served on the other parent if living in a manner prescribed by court (Kraf-Feinberg) (vetoed;)

A bill to authorize the boards of education of school districts with eight or more but less than twenty children with retarded mental development having intelligence quotients of less than 50 to contract with the boards of another school district, cooperative educational services board or vocational education extension board of county for instruction and training subject to approval of the education commissioner. This

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## NEW SCHOOL AID PLAN PROTECTS RIGHTS OF HANDICAPPED

As reported in the last issue of Our Children's Voice, the Diefendorf committee on school aid recommended the elimination of all special state aids, including special state aid under the Heald formula for the handicapped.

This proposal brought a storm of protest at various hearings of the Diefendorf committee as well as the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental Retardation and Physical Handicap. The bill to this effect introduced by Speno-Dickinson-Henderson brought a storm of protest from Nassau County and other counties whose programs would have been irreparably harmed by this measure.

As a result of the expressions of these opinions and the conferences held by the Association and the United Cerebral Palsy and persons interested in the emotionally disturbed with the legislative leaders, the Administration proposed a number of changes which it is hoped will protect the rights of the physically handicapped, emotionally disturbed, and the mentally retarded.

The six cities with more than 125,000 population were given in addition to the increased aid, a flat 10 per cent of the aid they are paid for operating expenses. This is meant for the cost of programs for the physically handicapped, the mentally retarded, the emotionally disturbed, non-English speaking and so-called "culturally deprived" pupils, delinquents and vocational and technical training.

In addition, the following was added specifically to protect the rights of special education.

"No school district shall be eligible to receive the full apportionment of state aid to which it is entitled under other provisions of this chapter unless the trustees or board of education comply with the requirements of article eighty-nine of this chapter. If the trustees or board of education of a school district fail to comply with such requirements or reduce the programs provided there-under below the corresponding programs provided during the school year commencing July first, nineteen hundred sixty-one, except as a result of a reduction in the number of pupils affected, the commissioner of education shall withhold from the full apportionment of such state aid an amount equal to the difference between (I) the expenditures which he estimates the district would have had to make or incur during the school year upon which such apportionments are based if the district had fully complied with such requirements or if the district had maintained such programs and (II) the expenditures actually made or incurred by the district for such programs during the same school year."

The Association had asked for the more positive approach of weighting the handicapped pupils to reflect the increased cost of their education. Nevertheless, the measure as now written clearly reaffirms the mandate of Article 89 of the Education Law with regard to special classes. It is hoped that it will have the desired effect of continuing the expansion of such classes that has taken place so spectacularly in the last few years.

### MILLION GIFT BY KENNEDY FOUNDATION

A gift of \$1,100,000 to the Stanford University School of Medicine to advance research in mental retardation was announced by the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Memorial Foundation on March 10.

The foundation said \$1,000,000 will be used to build a new research center and the additional \$100,000 over a four-year period to stimulate new educational and research project in the field.

Dr. Joshua Lederberg, 1958 Nobel Prize winner and head of the Department of Genetics at Stanford, will coordinate the research and educational facilities of the laboratories — to be known as the Lt. Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. laboratories for molecular medicine.

STATE CONVENTION — GLENS FALLS — NEAR LAKE GEORGE

## NEW YORK CITY CHAPTER MAKES GRANT TO TEACHERS COLLEGE

### SUMMER WORK CONFERENCE ON 17 TO 21 TRAINABLE MENTALLY RETARDED

A grant of \$2,000 has been made to Teachers College, Columbia University Department of Special Education for a summer work conference and Practicum on the Education and Guidance of the Mentally Retarded (trainable) in Late Adolescence, it was announced by Seymour Rubin, President of the Chapter.

This continues the long tradition of such grants on the part of the New York City Chapter to Hunter, City College and Teachers College, Columbia University.

There will be an on-campus practicum with the late adolescents (17-21). The conference will consider the development of the curriculum to facilitate physical, mental, social and emotional adjustment of young retarded adults through direct observations of sheltered workshops and the Occupational Day Center in the New York City Area.

Participants of the course will be given ample opportunity to observe the demonstration class react in social situations such as swimming, excursions and play.

Opportunities will be provided to encourage the participants of the course to do individual and creative research.

The staff consists of Prof. I. I. Goldberg of Teachers College and Jean Ferraro, Supervisor of Classes for Mentally Retarded Children, Newark Public Schools, Newark, New Jersey.

The summer session will be from July 2 to July 20. Information about the course, registration, etc. can be obtained by writing Prof. M. H. Fouracre, Head, Dept. of Special Education, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York 27, N. Y.

## SUMMER WORKSHOP IN VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION OF MENTALLY RETARDED

### OVR MAKES GRANT TO ASSOCIATION

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation is continuing its grants to the New York State Association for Retarded Children for the purpose of training personnel in the vocational rehabilitation of the mentally retarded.

The cut back in funds for this purpose has been restored and the sixth summer work conference will once again offer an intensive training course for the various disciplines in the vocational rehabilitation of the mentally retarded.

The work conference will take place this year from July 9th to July 20th at the New York City AHRC Training Center and Workshop. It will be under the direction of Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director of the State Association and Dr. Max Dubrow, Director of the AHRC Training Center and Workshop.

The Workshop is an intensive course in both the theoretical and practical aspects of the sheltered workshop as a vocational rehabilitation resource for the mentally retarded. The OVR grant provides stipends of \$250 for some twenty five participants.

Those who are interested are urged to write as soon as possible to Joseph T. Weingold, L.L.B., Executive Director New York State Association for Retarded Children 19 Union Square New York 3, N. Y.

The conference is limited to no more than 30 participants from all over the country.

## NASSAU ADULTS HELP CHILDREN



Two young adults from the Nassau County Chapter's Vocational Training Center carry portable pegboard room dividers up the steps to waiting youngsters at the Hempstead Long Island Child Care Center where they will be used to separate cots at naptime. Constructing the room dividers was part of Nassau's training program for teenagers in the use of machine-powered woodworking equipment. Retarded boys will now undertake a full-scale renovation of the Child Care Center (which operates on a limited budget) including shelving, simple closets, painting and maintenance of the grounds.

## NEW STATE ED. DIVISION FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

As part of its expansion of the program for handicapped children, the State Education Department has established a Division for Handicapped Children to replace the former Bureau for Handicapped Children. The units incorporated in the new Division include two Bureaus — the Bureau for Physically Handicapped Children and the Bureau for Mentally Handicapped Children.

Dr. Anthony J. Pelone, formerly head of the Bureau for Handicapped Children, is now Director of the Division.

Charles D. Becker heads the Bureau for Mentally Handicapped Children and Ray F. Simches will head the Bureau for Physically Handicapped Children.

The Bureau for Mentally Handicapped Children will have responsibility for services involving mentally retarded children, including both the trainable and those in the educable range. In addition, this Bureau will have responsibility for the program of services for slow learning children (I.Q.'s 76-89).

The Bureau for the Physically Handicapped Children will have responsibilities for all instructional and related services involving physically handicapped children, including those who are blind, deaf, cerebral palsied, speech handicapped, as well as those with other disabling defects. In addition, this Bureau has responsibility for the program of services for children who are emotionally disturbed.

### LEGISLATION (Continued from page 6)

bill will be of great help to small districts where good grouping is very difficult because of the small number of children. Under the law as it exists any school district that has 8 or more such children is mandated to set up a class, frequently very difficult if not impossible with such a small number, (Barrett-Huntington). This bill has been signed by the Governor;

A bill removing from the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene the right he now has to charge above the reimbursement rate. It is not generally known that the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene had this right, but it does exist and has been exercised in the past. Although this is a far cry from removing reimbursement altogether, it is certainly a step in the right direction limiting the Commissioner to no more than the reimbursement rate (Ingram). This bill has been vetoed.

## GATEWAY TO ADIRONDACKS — GLENS FALLS — STATE CONVENTION

## CHILDREN'S BUREAU CELEBRATES 50th BIRTHDAY

The Children's Bureau on April 9, celebrated a gigantic 50th birthday at the Statler-Hilton Hotel in Washington.

It marked the half a century of ever increasing service to the children of the United States and the world. Today one finds it difficult, indeed, to see how these services would have been accomplished without the Children's Bureau.

Some of the dramatic highlights of the Bureau's long history of accomplishment are as follows: The United States was the first Nation in the world to establish a Children's Bureau and more than a score of Nations since have followed its example;

The programs, interests and efforts of the Bureau have literally meant the difference between life and death to millions of children in the past 50 years, not only through the reduction of infant mortality but through the support the Bureau has been able to give to the States to add new medical, surgical or scientific developments to their programs of child care;

The Bureau was a pioneer in providing parents with helpful information about the health needs of their children. One of its publications, INFANT CARE, is the all-time Government best seller and four others rank among the first six.

The Bureau has been a consistent and vital force in helping develop clinical services for the mentally retarded throughout the Country.

These broad responsibilities have been carried out with staff and appropriations that grew from 16 in 1912 and appropriations of \$25,640 to a staff of 267 in 1962 with the salary and expense appropriations of \$2,668,000. The maternal and Child Health budget grew from \$1,580,000 in 1936 to \$25,000,000 in 1962; Crippled Children Aid \$1,187,000 in 1936 to \$25,000, in 1962; and Child Welfare Services \$625,000 in 1936 to \$18,750,000 in 1962.

In 1915, one baby out of every ten born alive failed to survive the first year of life, baby death toll close to 300,000 a year. Today, fewer than three out of a hundred babies born alive die in infancy.

Dramatic as its work has been with many handicapping conditions, its latest interest, mental retardation, has benefited as much as any of them. Over 13,000 children were served during 1960 by mental retardation programs under State Health Departments. By 1961, a total of 46 States and territorial health departments had developed special clinical programs in mental retardation, and 52 States and territories either had a special demonstration service or a training project in mental retardation as a part of their maternal and child health service programs.

In addition, more than 200 specialists from various disciplines were recruited and trained to provide services and leadership in these programs for the mentally retarded. Fifty clinical teams began providing new kinds of help to mentally retarded children and their families; more than 25,000 public health nurses received some training and orientation in mental retardation, and 14 medical schools began using special clinical services to retarded children as the basis for training of medical students, residents, and interns.

One of its most dramatic advances was in the field of PKU, a disorder, according to the Children's Bureau, that occurs once in every 20,000 births. One in every 70 persons can transmit PKU genetically, according to the Children's Bureau.

Through the Children Bureau's detection program during 1960, 25 new born infants with PKU were detected and put on the special diets they needed. "If the condition had gone undetected in this small group, and each had lived 50 years, some \$2,000,000 would have been spent in the total cost of care of this group of children," according to the Bureau.

It is now involved in a mass screening of some 400,000 newborn babies as will be described elsewhere in this issue of the newspaper.

## ROLE OF VIRUS INFECTIONS IN MENTAL RETARDATION STUDIED

### 75,000 EXPECTANT MOTHERS IN PROJECT

Blood samples from more than 75,000 expectant mothers may provide the answer to how large a role virus infection plays in mental retardation, Mongolism, cerebral palsy and other neurological disorders with which infants sometimes are born.

In an unprecedented study, these blood samples are being tested for evidence of infection by scientists at the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness (NINDB) and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). NINDB and NIAID are two of the seven institutes that make up the National Institutes of Health, research arm of the U. S. Public Health Service.

The study is part of an NINDB collaborative project designed to make periodic examinations and to keep records on pregnant women and their babies at 15 medical centers throughout the Nation over a period of at least 10 years. The project is an attempt to understand the processes of conception, pregnancy, labor, and delivery in relationship to the growth and development of the newborn child.

It is a large-scale effort, moreover, to collect information on many factors which might be related to disorders of infancy and childhood and to collect this information, wherever possible, before—rather than after—such disorders develop.

The blood-sampling phase of the project makes use of antigens—substances which stimulate a chemical defense mechanism in the blood—to test the patient's serum for evidence to exposure to certain viruses. If a patient has been exposed to infections, this will be indicated by a greater number of antibodies in her blood.

At each of the 15 collaborating medical centers, blood samples are obtained from the patients during pregnancy and are sent to NINDB, Bethesda, Maryland, for testing. The serum is stored at minus ten degrees Fahrenheit in two huge, walk-in freezers—1390 square feet in total size—in NINDB's Serum Center. Specific information concerning the patient's pregnancy is kept along with data concerning the sample of serum, both of which are readily available for checking and rechecking for many years.

To test the serum, NINDB's Section of Virology, under the direction of Dr. John L. Sever, and NIAID's Laboratory of Infectious Diseases, under the direction of Dr. Robert J. Huebner, supervised the production of an extensive panel of more than 100 viral antigens. Among these are 28 echo viruses, 30 coxsackie viruses, 28 adenoviruses, 9 myxoviruses, and 3 polio viruses. These range in severity from common cold viruses to those that cause paralysis and death. As new viruses appear among the patients at the collaborating institutions, antigen production must be developed.

New York State Institutions collaborating in the project are Columbia University and New York Medical College in New York City and Children's Hospital, University of Buffalo School of Medicine, Buffalo, N. Y.

## ROSENBERG NAMED TO PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE

Bernard Rosenberg, first President of the Westchester A.H.R.C., has been appointed to the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.

Mr. Rosenberg, one of the founders of the New York State Association, has also served as a member of the Board of Visitors at Letchworth Village. He is now chairman of the Public Education Committee of the Westchester Chapter.

Congratulations are in order for this wonderful appointment of a member of the Association.

GLENS FALLS — OCTOBER 5, 6, 7 — STATE CONVENTION

## COST OF GUTHRIE PKU TESTS LESS THAN 50 CENTS

### LEGISLATURE MISINFORMED

A number of bills before the Legislature this year to mandate the use of a blood test for PKU failed to pass this year. One bill, introduced by Assemblywoman D. Lawrence (R-New York City) passed the assembly but failed to clear the Public Health Committee of the Senate.

The rationale behind a mandate for such testing is the availability of the Guthrie blood test that can be administered to a new-born baby before it leaves the hospital. The diaper test can only be administered effectively some five weeks or more after the birth of the child and therefore is not available for hospital testing.

One of the reasons given by Legislators for the failure of the PKU bill to pass is the purported great cost of such tests, quoted at \$7.00 per test.

A check with Dr. Robert Guthrie, the discoverer of the test, elicited the information that such a test would cost no more than 50 cents and probably around 40 cents per test if administered in quantities. This amount is based on the following figures.

The Children's Bureau Project reported elsewhere in this issue will cost some \$6,000 for 10,000 kits of material. These 10,000 kits can test 1,000,000 babies at a cost of less than 1 cent for material. In addition, Dr. Mosher, Commissioner of Health of Erie County which is carrying on an intensive program of testing in the county, states that it is costing about \$7,000 to test 25,000 babies or approximately 28 cents per test.

In addition to this, it is necessary to have a technician collect the blood samples. A technician takes 45 minutes to collect the blood samples from 12 babies. Even if such a technician receives \$2.00 an hour, the collection of the samples would cost approximately 10 cents per baby. The total cost therefore, adding these three figures together is 39 cents if the babies are tested in quantity.

A letter from Dr. Edward R. Schlesinger, Assistant Commissioner for Special Health Services of the State Health Department, does not dispute these figures.

This information has been made available to the Chairman of the Public Health Committee of the Senate, Senator George Metcalf of Auburn, New York. It is hoped that with this information next year's legislature will take another look at the bills to mandate PKU testing.

## GOVERNOR APPOINTS WEINGOLD

The appointment of Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director of the New York State Association of Retarded Children, as a member of the Governor's Council on Rehabilitation was recently announced by Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller. This is an unsalaried position.

The Governor's Council is charged with the duty of preparing plans and advising the Governor on an improved and extended program of rehabilitation of the handicapped, including vocational rehabilitation.

Part of its plans for twelve primary and a number of secondary rehabilitation centers in connection with universities is already being implemented. These centers are primarily for the purpose of physical rehabilitation and to prevent disabling consequences of the handicapped.

Recently the Governor's Council has proposed to Governor Rockefeller a plan for aiding vocational rehabilitation facilities and sheltered workshops. This plan is now under consideration by the Governor.

The Council serves at the will of the Governor. It has no definite term of existence.

## NEW CELLS FOUND IN DAMAGED BRAIN

### NEURONS DETECTED IN TESTS ON RATS SUGGEST CHANCE OF REPAIRING INJURIES

Evidence that the cells called neurons may be formed in the brains of adult mammals, possible including man, was reported recently to the journal, *Science*.

For more than a century, it has been commonly believed that the neurons are laid down early during growth in mammals, possibly in the first few days of embryonic life.

And it has been believed that once neurons are destroyed by injury or disease they are forever lost and can never be replaced. Damage to the brain, it follows from this belief, cannot be repaired.

Experiments casting doubt upon this old belief were reported in the March 30 issue of *Science* by Dr. Joseph Altman, a psychologist working in the Psychophysiological Laboratory of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

It has been known, Dr. Altman pointed out, that the brain cells called glia, which make up supporting tissues in the nervous system, do multiply after the brain is damaged. And neurons have fibers called axons and dendrites that will regenerate if cut.

The new evidence is, he said, that new neurons are formed in a damaged brain area under certain conditions imposed during a series of experiments performed on adult rats. It is believed to be the first time that evidence of the formation of neurons has been attained for the mammal.

The studies done by Dr. Altman, in collaboration with his wife, Elizabeth, a histologist, involved sticking a hypodermic needle into the brain of young adult rats. The needle was designed to destroy some brain tissue.

Originally, the studies were done to observe the multiplication of glia cells. As a by-product, it was observed that apparently some new neurons appeared in the damaged brain areas.

## "HEALTH SERVICES FOR MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN"

### NEW CHILDREN'S BUREAU PAMPHLET

A most interesting booklet "HEALTH SERVICES FOR MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN," has just been issued by the Children's Bureau, describing the Bureau's services for the mentally retarded.

In it, as well, are projections as to population increase for the mentally retarded and other needed services that will arise from changes in our population and social structures.

Mrs. Katherine B. Oettinger, Chief of the Children's Bureau, said that the number of mentally retarded children is expected to increase to approximately 6,400,000 by 1970 from the 5,400,000 today.

The report outlines four years of progress — from 1956 to 1960 — in developing and expanding services of health departments for mentally retarded children. By the end of this period, all but one State health department had developed some special services for these children as part of its maternal and child health program.

The report calls for "much more attention" to coordinating services on a State and local level. "These efforts need to be translated to the local level and the time and effort of the Children's Bureau and the projects staffs (now working in the States) could be used to assist in developing such coordinating machinery on a local level."

The booklet is full of interesting facts, figures, statistics and observations and is recommended to all.

"Health Services for Mentally Retarded Children" is available from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government printing office, for 30 cents.

# Chapter News

MONROE COUNTY CHAPTER recently honored 120 volunteers working at the Newark State School . . . Dr. Frank R. Henne, Director, was the principal speaker . . . announces that the new day training program for teen-agers and young adults were moved to the 40&8 Club . . . 60 girls from the Burnham building in Newark were guests of the Rochester American Hockey Club in December . . . MONROE COUNTY CHAPTER and Jack Riley, manager of the Rochester Americans, provided funds for chartered buses . . . Monroe Council No. 822 United Commercial Travelers chartered a bus that took 40 boys to Canandaigua for an "ice-cream treat" . . . The Chapter has set a goal of 500 members in the '62 membership drive . . . Mrs. Ben Gold and Mrs. Alice Ottman are co-chairmen . . . ONEIDA-HERKIMER CHAPTER full of news . . . Carmen Basilio, former boxing champion, appeared at a bowling match at Aurora Bowlaway—all proceeds going to the Chapter . . . The newest program, of course, is the Activity Center launched through the Junior League of Utica . . . The staff of the diagnostic and counselling center attended a conference in New York City on February 8th . . . Sponsored by the New York State Department of Mental Health . . . Fund Drive will be held May 20-27 . . . and how we need money . . . Central New York Hair Fashion Guild donated a drinking fountain to the Workshop . . . Pre-workshop clients inaugurated the new kitchen equipment by preparing a pancake lunch for the Workshop clients and staff . . . United Commercial Travelers again conducting their Easter Orchid sale for the benefit of



Left to right: Sidney Finck, President of Welfare League, Letchworth Village Chapter; Mrs. Edward M. Kennedy, William Kaufman, Congressman John E. Fogarty, Martin Tananbaum, James Reville, Luncheon Chairman of Welfare League.

retarded children . . . WESTCHESTER CHAPTER announces purchase of a \$500 slicing machine for the cafeteria in the Workshop, through 10 cents a day contributed by each of the Workshop staff . . . Worried that urban renewal plans in White Plains may threaten headquarters on Hillside Avenue . . . SUFFOLK COUNTY CHAPTER still in the throes of trying to get a Day Training Center contract from the Community Mental Health Board . . . The Board still says there are other things that have priority . . . Chapter claims Board is not using all money available . . . Studies going on all the time, however, . . . hope the children don't become too old for Day Training Programs by the time the studies are over . . . Ask SUFFOLK COUNTY CHAPTER to put you on their mailing list for their excellent, well presented paper, "Chapter Data" . . . looks as if the Auxiliaries are growing by leaps and bounds . . . have all of you seen the terrific newsletter being put out by NIAGARA COUNTY CHAPTER, "The Stride"? . . . A most professional job, even though mimeoed . . . NIAGARA COUNTY CHAPTER is broadening its efforts to include the whole county by setting up NIAGARA COUNTY Executive Board of AHRC . . . four members from Niagara Falls and four from Lockport . . . other area people will be selected as well . . . representatives from NIAGARA COUNTY Mental Health Board will be asked to serve . . . NIAGARA COUNTY CHAPTER is full of activity and things should be breaking there in a hur-

(Continued Next Column)

DON'T FORGET — STATE CONVENTION — GLENS FALLS

ry . . . Did you know that NASSAU COUNTY CHAPTER has a special "Auxiliary Bulletin" . . . how do you like that . . . held its famous Dior luncheon on March 5th at the Waldorf-Astoria . . . so successful that OCV doesn't get any



Just for fun to remind you summer is near, a scene from Putnam County Chapter Camp activities.

write up of it and no pics . . . all those good looking gals gone to waste . . . Dr. Ralph Tardera is chairman of the annual Rose Ball . . . just can't keep away from action . . . All Chapters! What about those Pepsi Cola white star bottle caps . . . Nassau County reports they recently received \$82.50 for 110 pounds of caps turned in by members . . . now hear this! . . . NASSAU COUNTY CHAPTER has received so many donations of household furnishings that they are now offering them for sale . . . washing machines, electric drier, mangle, etc., etc. . . even three baby carriages . . . WELFARE LEAGUE—LETCORTH VILLAGE CHAPTER is calling for more volunteers to help with birthday parties in the cottages . . . the big news of course was their annual dinner reported elsewhere in OCV . . . The Rockland County Board of Rabbis is planning to institute religious classes for retarded children . . . reports ROCKLAND COUNTY CHAPTER . . . ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER reports United Commercial Travelers of Newburgh and their ladies making plans for annual Easter parties for retarded children . . . apparently all trainables are in special classes in Middletown . . . a new sub-chapter in Ellenville, New York, Ulster County . . . ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY beginning its "little workshop" project . . . a room in the basement of the Presbyterian Church house has been donated and volunteer workmen are getting it in shape to open sessions in the near future . . . doesn't this sound familiar . . . wheel chair basket ball game sponsored by Catskill Mountain Lodge Knights of Pythias of Liberty New York for SULLIVAN COUNTY CHAPTER . . . Troop 85 SULLIVAN COUNTY CHAPTER received official charter . . . The Tappan Post, American Legion of Staten Island gave a Christmas party for the third time to over 200 children at Willowbrook reports BENEVOLENT SOCIETY — WILLOWBROOK CHAPTER . . . and of course, as in the other State Schools, youngsters are taken into the community for entertainment and recreation . . . our friend Max Gordon is their new president . . . ORANGE COUNTY is exploring possible sheltered workshops . . . not easy to get going . . . ROME STATE SCHOOL CHAPTER is working hard on a visitors building . . . just bought girl scout uniforms at the school . . . urges the parents with problems to do what the nations should be doing, "let's sit down and talk" . . . Greater Olean Council of Churches sponsoring Church school with CATTARAGUS COUNTY CHAPTER . . . groups for Catholic children are already in session at St. Joseph's Church . . . Adirondack Hairdressers Association sponsored a dessert card party in observation of National Hairdressers Week, proceeds to Lawrence West School for Retarded Children . . . our CLINTON COUNTY CHAPTER . . . CAYUGA COUNTY CHAPTER

(Continued Next Page)

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN BUFFALO

### NIAGARA BORDER WORKSHOP ON MENTAL RETARDATION

The Erie County Chapter of the New York State Association was the host to what is hoped to be the first of a series of international conferences with Region No. 3 of the Ontario Association for Retarded Children on March 31, 1962 in Buffalo.

This conference, the first of its kind in that area, proved to be most beneficial to both sides of the border in discussion of basic problems concerning the retarded.

Four major topics were discussed; research, education, legislation, and institutions. Speakers for the Canadian group were Dr. S. J. Koegler, Psychiatric Research Institute for Children, London, Ontario, Mr. William R. Kirk, Executive Director OARC from Canada, and Mr. R. G. Anglin OARC Institutions Committee Chairman.

For the United States, speakers were Dr. Robert Guthrie NARC Research Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Children's Hospital, Buffalo, N. Y., Robert H. Wagner former President of the New York State Association and Joseph T. Weingold Executive Director of the State Association.

Dr. William E. Mosher, Erie County Health Commissioner described the program for testing for PKU babies in Erie County, the first county in the State to carry on a county wide program of this kind.

Honorable Dr. Matthew B. Dymond, Ontario Minister of Health was a featured speaker at the luncheon.

Next year's conference is planned to be held on the Canadian side of Niagara Falls.

### CHAPTER NEWS (Continued)

(Auburn) happy as can be with Community Mental Health Board contract for \$20,000 . . . reported elsewhere in OCV . . . amazing what a stimulus a grant like this can be to programming . . . UPPER HUDSON CHAPTER busy dividing like an amoeba . . . soon will have Warren-Washington and Saratoga County Chapters . . . already busy preparing for the 1962 Convention October 4 through 7th at Queensberry Hotel in Glens Falls . . . just received a check of over \$1,000 from Glens Falls Council 417 United Commercial Travelers . . . Betty West just been appointed executive director of CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY CHAPTER . . . Congratulations . . . our old friend Edith Romano . . . ONONDAGA COUNTY CHAPTER . . . selected as a member of the Citizen's Committee for the Rosamond Gifford community scholarship fund . . . considerable damage to the Pioneer Workshop . . . because of fire . . . everything under control now and business as usual . . . Volunteer painters painted the main room of the Center . . . ONONDAGA COUNTY CHAPTER eagerly awaiting Community Mental Health Board decision on application . . . Chapter's application is one of the best we have seen . . . we urge all Chapters to write to Vern Madden to get a copy . . . just want to give him something extra to do . . . and our pioneer BROOME COUNTY CHAPTER has its 1962 membership drive under way . . . had a guest speaker at March meeting Dr. Waldemar Boldt, Director of the Broome County Mental Health Clinic and an old friend of the Association . . . recently purchased a new Chevrolet Greenbrier station wagon . . . rich, what? . . . all of us wish our old friend Joe Tholl a speedy recovery from his recent heart attack . . . I'm informed he is now in St. Peter's Hospital Albany recovering from gall bladder operation . . . drop him a note—his address is 19 Ferndale Avenue, Albany, N. Y. . . CAPITOL DISTRICT CHAPTER in a real social whirl with welcome wagon newcomers club and other activities . . . 13 young adults are now in a daytime activity program . . . instruction in vocational work, homemaking and occupational information . . . in Troy 7 young adults in daytime activity . . . real feeling of doings in CAPITOL DISTRICT CHAPTER . . . and the next item is a fitting ending to Chapter News . . . the annual successful chicken dinner at the PUTNAM COUNTY CHAPTER held at the Mahopac Fire House in March . . . a huge success . . . even though there was a "take out orders" program, more than 200 people attended . . .

## MENTAL HEALTH BOARD GRANT TO CAYUGA COUNTY CHAPTER

### CHAPTER RECEIVES SUPPORT FOR DAY TRAINING PROGRAM

The Mental Health Board of Cayuga County has made a \$10,000 grant to the Cayuga County Chapter of the New York State Association for Retarded Children to help meet a \$20,000 budget to carry on the chapter's program for the mentally retarded.

The United Fund is providing \$6,000, the Chapter itself \$4,000 to meet this budget.

Dr. Peter Midura, Director of the Cayuga County Mental Health Services, Cayuga County Mental Health Board, Miss Irene Tobias, Community Health representative of the State Department of Mental Hygiene and the Cayuga County Board of Supervisors were extremely helpful in assisting and guiding the Chapter to qualify for funds available to day training centers for mentally retarded children.

According to Mrs. Clyde E. Bay, Corresponding Secretary of the Chapter, with special classes instituted in public schools it was originally believed by many supporters that the private schools sponsored by the local chapter would no longer be needed.

To help counter this belief, the Chapter called upon the Cayuga County Citizens Committee early in 1961 to evaluate the School program and to show the need for continued financial support and operation.

After a number of meetings and a visit to the Chapter by Jerry Weingold, a report was issued recommending continuance of the program.

Twenty-three of the 38 children at the School during the 1960-61 year were absorbed into the public school system and 15 were retained. There are presently 31 children enrolled. They are divided into 3 groups: 9 in a pre-school group, 9 in a school age group and 13 in the Workshop Training program. This latter group has been doing such work as caning and refinishing chairs, loom and hand weaving of rugs and mats and clerical work such as inserting, sealing, stamping and bundling of bulk mail.

The Chapter is looking forward to the continuation of understanding and support of the development of their program.

### NEW UNIT IN PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

A new unit that will be known as the Neurological and Sensory Disease Service Program was announced by Dr. Luther L. Terry, Surgeon General of the Public Health Service. The purpose of the program is to advance the application of research knowledge in the field of neurological and sensory disorders.

It will concern itself with the stimulation, development, and support of activities directed to prevention and diagnosis as well as treatment and rehabilitation of patients with epilepsy, cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, mental retardation, various types of vision, speech and hearing defects and other disorders of the central nervous system.

Services to be provided by the Neurological and Sensory Disease Service Programs will include consultation, technical services, demonstrations, training, education and other activities. Such services will be made available to communities directly and through grants, in cooperation with State health agencies, medical schools, professional organizations, and other private and public non-profit groups.

Heading the new program will be Dr. Eugene H. Guthrie, a Public Health Service career officer for ten years. Dr. Guthrie will also serve in an advisory capacity to Dr. Richard L. Masland, Director of the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness, in matters of professional and technical assistance. The dual appointment will enable Dr. Guthrie to see that the results of research conducted or supported by the NINDB are promptly incorporated into the new service program.

**TAKE THE FAMILY TO STATE CONVENTION — OCTOBER 5, 6, 7.**

## ALBANY COUNTY INSTITUTE ON MENTAL RETARDATION

Services for the mentally retarded in Albany County and the need for coordination were the subjects of discussion of a two day conference on mental retardation sponsored by the State Interdepartmental Health and Hospital Council. This is another of a number of such conferences that have been sponsored around the State, many with the cooperation of State Association Chapters.

All participants agreed on the second day of the session that while individual services for the retarded in the county vary in quality, the principal need is for better coordination of the community services.

Dr. Arthur W. Pense, Head, Office of Mental Retardation, State Department of Mental Hygiene, estimated there are 5,458 mentally retarded children and adults in the county.

About 100 persons attended the meeting at the Sheraton-Ten Eyck Hotel. Panelists were Mother Bernadette, superintendent of St. Colman's Home; Adrian Levy, assistant commissioner of Education for vocational rehabilitation; Joseph A. Bauer, secretary of social services for Catholic Charities of Albany; Mrs. Dorothy Reissig, Capital District Chapter New York State Association for Retarded Children; and Dr. Walter A. Osinski, director of the Albany County Community Mental Health Services.

Dr. James T. Hepinstall, deputy superintendent of schools, was panel moderator. Professor Louis E. Rosenzweig, department chairman of the education department of Brooklyn College, was the keynote speaker.

## NIAGARA CONTINUES PLANNING TO ASSIST RETARDED

Diagnosis, family counseling, education, recreation, rehabilitation were described as major areas for community planning for better care of its mentally retarded children and adults at a meeting at Hotel Niagara in March of this year.

The guest speaker was Dr. Lawrence Taft, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Yeshiva University, New York City.

Dr. Jonathan P. S. Leopold, director of the Niagara County Mental Health Board, which sponsored the meeting presided.

The purpose of the meeting was to continue the discussion of community planning with the hope it will lead to concrete planning on a "more professional and sound" basis than has been done to date, he said.

Dr. Taft emphasized the importance of recognizing mental retardation early because with adequate help some of those children may be brought to higher development. In the majority of cases, he said he had found that a "team setting" was best for diagnosis, such as the Beeman Child Guidance Center in Niagara Falls or the Center at Children's Hospital in Buffalo.

Dr. Taft also stressed the great need for pre-school nursery classes.

In addition recreation, vocational training, parent counseling were cited as other important needs.

General discussion took place after this presentation with Mr. Charles Clark, supervisory principal of the Niagara-Wheatfield School District, Dr. Arnold Windt, director of the Beeman Child Guidance Center and Edward Lindsay, executive director of the Council of Social Agencies, participating.

## ROCKLAND COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD AIDS CHAPTER

The Rockland County Community Mental Health Board had made a grant of \$5,626 to the Rockland County Chapter of the New York State Association, according to James Cottle, President of the Chapter.

This grant represents a contribution of \$2,312 by the Community Mental Health Board and a similar contribution by the Chapter to carry on a socialization program for "girl graduates" of Letchworth Village working in Rockland County.

Previous issues of Our Children's Voice have described the program of Letchworth Village in placing of young adults on jobs in the community. One of the drawbacks of such placements has been the failure of the community to accept these young men and women as a part of a community life. The Chapter in conjunction with Letchworth Village mapped out a program whereby members of the Chapter, volunteers would help these young persons to a fuller social and recreational life. It was agreed at that time that there might be some help from the Community Mental Health Board to obtain the services of a trained worker in this area.

The grant here described is the result of that planning to work with retarded adults. Presently the Chapter is working with one group. The grant from the Community Mental Health Board permit working with three groups.

## ONEIDA-HERKIMER OPENS CENTER FOR OVER 14's

A day training center was officially opened by the Oneida-Herkimer Chapter in February of this year.

It is for mentally retarded 14 and older who cannot qualify for public schools or the AHRC workshop. The new project is designed to make these handicapped youngsters acceptable either in public schools or in workshops through a training program.

A similar center for pre-school children is being planned. The instructor is Mrs. Henry Iamele who has worked with retarded children as a volunteer since the Washington Mills School opened in 1954.

This venture has been made possible through a \$2,000 gift from the Junior League to get activities underway. In addition, \$2,000 will be given next year for the continuance and enlargement of the program.

A previous donation of \$2,000 by the Junior League in 1960 enabled the AHRC to move its workshop to the present location.

"This is a typical activity," said Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director of the State Association, "that should be eligible for community mental health funds."

## ASSOCIATION VP APPOINTED TO COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

Sidney Van Dusen of Glens Falls, fourth vice-president of the state association, has been appointed as a member of the Warren County Mental Health Board.

This is the first appointment of an Association member to such a Board in this State.

Mr. Van Dusen's name was urged on the Board of Supervisors by letters from members of the Glens Falls Unit of the Association and when a vacancy occurred, he was appointed to fill it.

"Sid," writes Mrs. Van Dusen, "has been to one meeting of the board, with most of the meeting being devoted to people asking Sid questions."

The Association has been urging that Community Mental Health Boards should include an active member of the Association for Retarded Children as a member of the board since the duties of such Boards include support for variety of projects for the mentally retarded.

GLENS FALLS — STATE CONVENTION — OCTOBER 5, 6, 7.

## SECOND CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL GROUP WORK FOR RETARDED

The second conference on social group work for the mentally retarded was held on Friday April 6th at the Educational Alliance, 196 East Broadway, New York City. This conference is sponsored by the New York City Chapter under the direction of Mr. Meyer Schreiber, Director of Group Work and Camping Services for the Chapter.



Displaying the plaque awarded by the AHRC to National Council of Jewish Women, North Shore Evening Branch; Mrs. Arnold Kohn, canteen chairman; Mrs. Bruce Schulman, Branch Chairman; Steven Bromfield, social worker director of the canteen; and Mrs. Leonard Karpel, community services chairman.

More than 150 professional and interested volunteers participated in the all day institute.

A number of papers were read, highlighted by "Recent Developments in Mental Retardation and Their Implications for Social Group Work" by Michael J. Begab, Specialist in Social Services to mentally retarded children, Children's Bureau, Washington, D. C. A companion paper was "Program as a Tool in Social Group Work With the Mentally Retarded" by Dr. Alan Klein, Professor of Social Group Work, University of Pittsburgh, School of Social Work.

The afternoon session was devoted to a series of workshops and discussions on programming. These included programming with the 8-12 year old retardates; with the teenage retardates; with the young adult and adult retardates; and programming in the day and resident camp setting.

It is planned to make this an annual event. Proceedings of this Institute, as well as the Institute last year are available from the New York City Chapter. Inquiry should be made to Mr. Meyer Schreiber 200 Park Avenue South, New York 3, N. Y.

## COMMUNITY CHEST FAILS TO MEET OBLIGATIONS

The Association has been receiving a number of reports from Chapters who are members of various community chests to the effect that the Chests have not been meeting the commitments they have made for Chapter programs.

In most instances this has been due to the fact that the Chests have not raised the goals set on the basis of which allocations were to be made.

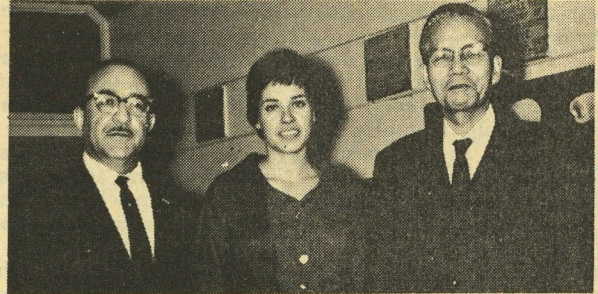
Nevertheless there have been instances where Association Chapters have been cut far beyond the percentage by which Chests have failed to meet their goals. For example, the Westchester Chapter, a member of the Chest in White Plains, was allocated \$20,000 by the White Plains Community Chest. Although the Chest failed to meet its goal by only 15%, the Westchester Chapter was cut back from \$20,000 to \$8,500. Needless to say this has presented a serious problem in terms of services to the mentally retarded in that area of Westchester, but even more than that the principle of equal treatment of all agency members of Chests is clearly violated.

The White Plains Chest has refused to reconsider.

## PRESIDENT'S PANEL CONSULTANT VISITS NEW YORK CITY OCCUPATION DAY CENTER

Dr. Osamu Kan, Consultant to the Panel appointed by President Kennedy to study the problems of mental retardation, chose to visit the Occupation Day Center initiated and maintained by New York City Chapter as his only New York City project visit.

The Doctor is Superintendent of Chichibu-Gakuen, National Home for Mentally Retarded Children in Japan. The concept of training not just high level functioning retarded adults but those who are severely handicapped was probably as novel to Dr. Kan as it was to experts in the U.S.A. until the Association started to blaze a trail by opening its Occupation Day Center in 1958.



Dr. Kam, far right, visiting the Occupation Day Center, N.Y.C. Chapter, with Seymour Rubin, President of the Chapter, and Joan Levine, instructor.

President Seymour Rubin of the New York City Chapter and Dr. George Zuckerman, Executive Director, were at the Center to greet the distinguished visitor when he arrived with Dr. Gunnar Dybwad, Executive Director of the National Association for Retarded Children, Bernard M. Fineson, a member of the New York City Board of Directors and the Board of NARC.

President Kennedy's consultant observed one young man being taught how to travel by means of signs resembling those in subways, buses and other means of public transportation. He was told by Arnold Cortazzo, Director of the project, that he had been able to eliminate one chartered bus already by teaching 30 young adults who never in their lives traveled alone to come to the center and return home by a public transportation.

Occupation Day Center is an experiment in independent living partially financed through a project grant of the National Institute of Mental Health.

## AUTOMATION AND THE RETARDED

Will the growing trend towards automation help or hurt job chances for the retarded?

Some interesting reasoning was recently advanced by Dr. William Fraenkel of the National Association for Retarded Children that automation should help create jobs for the retarded.

Here is his reasoning:

Retarded persons have found their greatest employment opportunities in the service occupations. Automation actually brings about growth of the service occupations; for automation brings more leisure time for all, and persons during leisure make greater and greater demands on the service fields (they take more vacations; eat more meals in restaurants; etc.). To satisfy the demands, more and more people will be needed in the service occupations. Including, it's hoped, more and more of the retarded.

*Comments on the above are solicited by the editor.*

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## THE OCCUPATIONAL TRAINING CENTER

### SCHOOL FOR 17 TO 21'S IN NEW YORK CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Since 1945, under the leadership of the then Director of the Bureau for Children of Retarded Mental Development in the New York City public schools system, Richard H. Hungerford, many professionals and individual parents have been working for a continuation or occupational school for the young adults who cannot qualify, academically, for special classes in the high school system of the city of New York.

Some 16 years later, and after the existence of the AHRC for almost 12 years, this dream was finally realized in the establishment of the Occupational Training Center on West Houston Street in part of the building formerly occupied by the Food Trade High School Annex. It was largely due through the efforts of the Association in its conferences and planning with the Board of Education that this facility came about.

The following is a description of the occupational training center as furnished to OCV by the staff of the Center.

"The Occupational Training Center (O.T.C.) is planned for educable mentally retarded adolescents between the ages of 17 to 21 whose needs cannot be met in existing CRMD high school classes. They represent approximately 20 to 25% of the mentally retarded group whose potential for employment and adjustment to the community appears to be limited without additional services. The O.T.C. will endeavor to provide such aid by helping them to achieve maximum functioning in an adult world within their capabilities. These trainees, as a rule, are immature socially and emotionally. They tend to have poor coordination and dexterity and are low in academic capabilities. They require additional social and vocational training before some of them may be able to maintain themselves successfully in private competitive employment with some degree of supervision. For other trainees, the O.T.C. will serve as a training ground for eventual placement in sheltered workshops maintained in the community."

"This pilot project, the first of its kind in the country under the auspices of public education, offers splendid opportunities for experimental purposes to determine the socio-occupational potentials of this group. As the program progresses, trainees will receive more intensive training in those particular areas in which aptitude and interests are manifest."

"Studies to date have indicated that the basic needs for this group include the establishment of good work habits in both manual and non-manual or social skills and the wise use of leisure time. In an endeavor to meet these needs, the O.T.C. in its experimental program will stress appropriate social skills, work in various occupational areas on an unskilled level and experiences in a vocational or leisure time activities. Academic work in the communication skills and mathematics will have high functional value in relationship to the social and occupational skills being taught."

"Some of the occupational areas to be implemented include the following: travel and messenger work, house-keeping and home making (including child care and baby-sitting), shipping room procedures (including mimeographing, spirit duplicating, collating, stapling, packing, etc.), household maintenance, needle trades, food preparation and service, laundering, personal service, light factory work (sorting, assembly disassembly, packaging, etc.)."

"Recreational and leisure time activities are planned to include the following: sports, quiet games, music appreciation, singing, social and folk dancing, clubs, painting and drawing, hobbies, wood work, leather work, metal foil work, ceramics, linoleum block printing, paper mache, collages."

"The Occupational Training Center could prove to be the prototype of similar centers established throughout the city, should the need become evident for the extension of this type of training and service."

## IMPROVED METHODS FOR TRAINING SEVERELY RETARDED CHILDREN

### SHIELD OF DAVID THREE YEAR STUDY SHOWS SIGNIFICANT GAINS

Significant gains for the children as well as the parents are reported in a three year study conducted with fifty severely retarded children from birth to four years of age. The project, initiated in 1958, at the Institute for Retarded Children of The Shield of David, New York City was sponsored by the National Institute of Mental Health.

The project's major emphasis was placed on providing an intensive multi-disciplinary service to the child and improving the mental health of the family constellation in which the child's development begins. The program provided a full medical diagnosis, classes in special education, a home training schedule with visiting nurses, a speech and language development program and individual and group counseling for the parents.

The report noted that the older groups of experimental children showed significant improvement in curricular skills, general emotional status, freedom from distractibility and in the receptive, expressive and articulation areas of speech. The report also stated that "the fact that IQ scores did not significantly change after training, despite the fact the children had made significant gains in actual curriculum skills, suggests that intellectual measurements are inadequate predictors of successful academic achievement in special classes and special schools for retarded children." In addition to the fifty experimental children enrolled in the training program, a like number of control children for whom no such training had been provided, were tested for comparative purposes. The gains evidenced by the experimental children were not similarly reflected in the scores of the control children.

Parents of the experimental children were assigned to various forms of individual or group therapy dependent upon their individual needs. The parents were shown to be significantly more emotionally mature and psychologically stable after therapy. They were more constructive in their attitudes towards the child, there was substantial improvement in the relationships between the parents, increased frustrations tolerance in daily living, and decreased feelings of hopelessness, depression, anxiety and guilt.

In view of the rapid growth of special classes for severely retarded children in the public school systems throughout the nation the demonstration of a concrete and constructive training program for the pre-school retardate bears timely significance.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

February 26, 1962

To the Editor of "Our Children's Voice",

I want to congratulate you on the very excellent and informative paper which you issue. I know that I speak for many other parents who feel as enthusiastic as I do, but who have not taken the time to let you know how much we all enjoy your publication.

You have the ability to present all matters of interest to parents of retarded children — legal, medical, educational, etc. in such a clear precise manner, that it is a pleasure to read and easy to understand. So often in other papers, the articles are so technical that I tend to skip over them, but I read every word in your paper.

We always find time to criticize so I felt that now I should take the time to express the pleasure I get out of reading your publication each month.

Sincerely yours,  
(Mrs.) Esther Ashkenas  
21 Sherman Avenue  
New York 40, N. Y.

(We could not resist printing this laudatory note. Must have felt love that day. Editor)

OCTOBER 5, 6, 7 — STATE CONVENTION — GLENS FALLS

**ROCKEFELLER RECOMMENDS (Cont'd from page 1)****"II. The Mentally Retarded"**

"Three out of every hundred children born are stricken with mental retardation.

"Local communities have taken increasing responsibility in recent years for the care and training of the less severely retarded.

"At the same time, the population of the State Schools for the mentally retarded has continued to rise, with an increase in the proportion of the severely retarded and of patients requiring total care. Approximately five per cent of the mentally retarded cannot be cared for at home or in the community due to the severity of their condition, accompanying medical and psychiatric disorders, or the lack of community facilities.

"The State's goal for the mentally retarded must include improving and expanding the State Schools and encouraging the development of co-ordinated community facilities.

"For the State Schools, I propose

— early completion of the expansion program to relieve overcrowded conditions.

— further steps to assure the best possible care for all, with particular attention to the needs of the increasing number of severely retarded and those requiring total care, and

— affording opportunities for maximum training and development within individual capabilities.

**"A. Program to Relieve Overcrowding in the State Schools.**

There is no immediate end in sight to the continuing increases in the population of the State Schools. It is estimated that this population will increase by 700 patients in the coming year.

"Significant progress has been made in the last 18 months toward relieving population pressures at the State Schools through the acquisition of several facilities formerly used for other purposes, to serve as auxiliaries for existing schools. These acquisitions have included

- The Sampson Air Force Base Hospital,
- The J. N. Adam Memorial Hospital in Perrysburg,
- Mt. McGregor in Saratoga County, and
- Gouverneur Hospital, recently leased from New York City.

"Further progress depends upon the timely completion of the State's building program of new State Schools. These new Schools will include

— the West Seneca State School in Erie County, where 1040 additional beds will be ready for patients during 1962,

— a new State School at Mt. McGregor in Saratoga County, for over 1100 patients from the Capital District, for which my Executive Budget will recommend funds to initiate construction in the coming year,

— a new State School in Suffolk County, where construction will start this spring, and which will care for over 2800 patients, and

— a new State School in Brooklyn for 600 specially disturbed mentally retarded.

**"B. Better Care for the Severely Retarded.**

Providing proper and adequate care for the severely retarded is one of the most important and most difficult tasks of the State Schools.

Most of these patients are pathetically and completely helpless and require substantial personal attention to provide the total care so vital to their health and welfare.

Following a departmental study made several years ago the number of persons ministering to total care patients under 10 years of age was doubled, with effective results.

My Executive Budget will recommend an increase of over 550 new positions so that more care can be provided for those patients in the age group of over 10 years requiring constant attention.

As already mentioned, my Budget will also recommend funds for improved clothing and food in the State Schools.

**"C. Central Direction for Mental Retardation Programs.**

The expanding importance within the Department of Mental Hygiene of programs for the mentally retarded requires a strong central unit within the Department to develop policy and provide central direction for these programs.

"My Executive Budget will provide funds for a strengthened and expanded Office of Mental Retardation.

"One of the major tasks of this Office will be to develop suitable educational programs for the trainable retarded in the State Schools.

"In addition, I will appoint a Citizens Committee of Mental Retardation to advise in the formulation and implementation of the State's programs for the mentally retarded.

**"III. Research and Personnel.****A. Research.**

Hope for further progress in the field of mental illness and retardation lies in research. From research must come the improved methods of treatment and of prevention of illness and disability . . .

To meet the needs in research, the State, with the support of your Honorable Bodies, has undertaken a large-scale program for the expansion of its research facilities. This program includes

— The Institute for Research in Mental Retardation on Staten Island — the first of its kind in the nation . . .

**"B. Personnel**

One of the great problems in providing suitable programs for the mentally ill and retarded is the lack of trained personnel. This has greatly added to the burdens of the dedicated persons presently caring for so many patients.

The State owes a debt of gratitude to these persons and must continue to strengthen its recruitment and training programs.

In addition, the Department of Mental Hygiene, in conjunction with the Division of the Budget and the Department of Civil Service will undertake, beginning this summer, a comprehensive study of the staffing needs of each institution in the Department to obtain a sound basis for establishing staffing patterns for future years.

**"IV. Mental Health Service in the Community.**

A comprehensive State Program for mental health can be effective only if mental health services in the community are strong and are operated in coordination with the services provided by the State . . .

Important first steps have been taken toward this goal:

— In 1960 your Honorable Bodies raised the per capita ceiling on State reimbursement for community mental health expenditures from \$1.00 to \$1.20.

Much remains to be done. I recommend for your favorable consideration legislation which will

— raise the per capita ceiling on State reimbursement for community mental health expenditures another 20 cents to \$1.40, as a further step in the direction of complete removal of the ceiling . . .

**"Conclusion**

The task of caring for and treating the mentally disabled is a great responsibility and a great opportunity.

(Continued Next Column)

**OFFICE OF RETARDATION (Cont'd from page 4)**

and this facility will be functioning actively soon.

**REPRINT**

An article entitled "Parental Acceptance of the Child's Way of Life in a Residential School", by Joseph A. Stuckart of the Broome County Chapter, AHRC, was printed in the November 1961 issue of the Mental Hygiene News and has been reprinted. Copies are available from the Department of Mental Hygiene and the New York State Association.

**ADMISSION PAPERS**

For several years, the Department of Mental Hygiene has been encouraging the use of the voluntary and physician's or psychologist's certificates for the admission of patients to the state schools when a judicial certification is not actually necessary.

In 1955, 86% of the patients were received on judicial certifications and 14% came to the institutions on voluntary or other certified certificates. During the six months ending September 30, 1961, 67% of all patients admitted were received on non-judicial forms. Two-thirds of these were under one physician's or psychologist's certificates and the remainder were on minor's voluntary forms.

**PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION**

The Director and the staff of the Rome State School have been conducting a program of professional education which is of considerable interest. Beginning over a year ago, public health nurses in the 26 counties served by the institution were invited for full day seminars at the institution. Social workers from community agencies, particularly the welfare departments, have also been invited to visit the institution and many have accepted the invitation.

More recently an effort has been made to acquaint the staffs of community mental health services with the services provided for mentally retarded in the institutional programs.

**STATE SCHOOL POPULATION INCREASE**

On October 30, 1961, there were 459 more patients in the state schools than there were on March 31, 1961. This increase is much greater than it was for the same period in 1960.

**INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCES**

Interdisciplinary conferences for professional staff members of the state schools and Craig Colony were held upstate on September 27 and 28 at Craig Colony and downstate on November 1 and 2 at the Willowbrook State School. The purpose of the conferences which has been held annually for three years is to encourage the interdisciplinary approach to the treatment and training of the children and adults in the state schools and to provide an annual meeting for the state school professional staffs.

**GOVERNEUR HOSPITAL DIVISION****Willowbrook State School**

The first patients were received at the Gouverneur Hospital on December 5. They are young bed patients because facilities are best suited for these children. At the end of November 1961 the New York City waiting list for children under 5 stood at 199, with 76 applications under investigation. This will be reduced to the extent of the available facilities to be activated at the Gouverneur Hospital (approximately 200) and those who can be received to fill vacancies in this age group at the main institution, Willowbrook. It should be mentioned that about 30 new names are added to the waiting list every month.

**ROCKEFELLER (Continued)**

It is a responsibility which must be borne, with compassion, primarily by State and local government, with the sympathetic aid volunteered by private individuals and agencies.

It is an opportunity to provide new hope and new lives to many who would otherwise live out their lives in mental darkness and despair.

"It is also an opportunity for State government, working with the local communities, to provide a forward-looking and positive demonstration of the State's essential role in the federal system . . .

"New York State has long been a leader in developing and providing the most advanced and effective programs of care and treatment for our mentally ill and mentally retarded.

"To maintain this position of leadership, we must continue to build with imagination and new achievements.

"I urge your support of the recommendations made in my Executive Budget which will provide a major first step in the master program for mental health which I have outlined."

(Signed) NELSON A. ROCKEFELLER

ALL COME — STATE CONVENTION — OCTOBER 5, 6, 7.

# "A CHILD IS WAITING"

## BEING FILMED IN HOLLYWOOD

### RETARDED CHILDREN USED AS ACTORS

"A Child is Waiting", the television story by Abby Mann that achieved so much publicity, is now being made into a film in Hollywood.

Twenty mentally retarded children, ages 9 to 12, are playing themselves — speaking lines and "acting" — in this movie about training of the handicapped in a state institution.

Although a number of films have been made in which human unfortunates have appeared in front of Hollywood's cameras, this is probably the first time that mentally retarded children have been so employed. Sure to be a subject for controversy, the legitimacy of their presence in the film already has been questioned for ethical as well as dramatic reasons.

For Stanley Kramer, the motion picture producer who thrives on controversy, the movie and the legitimacy of employing the mentally retarded for its cast are, he argues, no cause for apprehension.

Sharing his belief are Dr. George Tarjan, superintendent of California's Pacific State Hospital at Pomona who approved casting of his young patients in the film, and Abby Mann, who wrote the script after painstaking research on the subject.

Also speaking up is Judy Garland who co-stars in the film with Burt Lancaster. Says Judy:

"Controversy about this movie? In a world where you have to choose sides on everything, can there be more than one side on the subject of helping retarded children?"

As well as being powerful drama, producer Kramer feels the movie will "throw a spotlight on a Dark Ages type of social thinking which has tried to relegate the subject of retardation to a place under the rocks. Retardation is no more sinister than blindness or polio and, like the latter, the sooner society opens its eyes and goes to work on it, the sooner science and medicine will find the answers to prevent it."

Children, he reports, have been "great". They are cooperative, eager to please and beautifully mannered. "Most of the children", says Kramer, "bear some physical anomalies of their handicap. Don't you look different than everybody else?"

Says writer Mann, "whatever artistic fulfillments the picture reaches, the utilitarian value could be enormous. If people saw this picture and understood something of the problem of mentally retarded children and not laugh at them, this would be an enormous achievement."

"What better way to do this than to have people watch the children themselves and let their simplicity and honesty speak for themselves? No words that I could ever write could ever do it so eloquently."

## BOOK REVIEW

**MENTAL RETARDATION: READING AND RESOURCES**, Edited by Jerome H. Rothstein 628 pages, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc. \$6.75.

This book brings together extracts from a number of articles and books written from about 1951 through 1960.

We have always looked with some reservation on compendia of articles and extracts from books on any subject if it is meant to be a short cut for serious students to knowledge of that field. If the present volume is used for that purpose, and sometimes we fear that will be the case, it will be a disservice to the field of mental retardation. It can, however, serve as a stimulus to whet one's appetite for further information and a jumping off point for more intensive reading for serious students. It is no substitute, no capsulated readers' digest kind of pabulum for the hasty reader.

There is a great deal of work that has been summarized by the author under 15 general headings with an interesting appendix. The author himself introduces each of these headings with several pages of analysis and comment to tie the articles together.

Some of these are general considerations; assessments; diagnosis, and classification of mental retardation; implications; learning theory and mental retardation; school programs for the educable; secondary school programs; school programs for the trainable; post school programs; educational programs in public institutions; speech development; parent counseling; National, State, and local programs; teachers of the mentally retarded; research; and finally, a look at the future.

Any such book must, of necessity, consist of the editor's choice of authors. We must abide by these even though we may think that the choices in some instances could be improved. For example, under the topic, Research, we wonder why the author chose "the Johnstown Training and Research Center", rather than for example, the Woods School or others equally involved in research programs of this kind. As a matter of fact the whole topic is misleading since the author limits himself to non-medical research.

We merely point this out to illustrate the pitfalls in accepting any volume of selected articles as a substitute for independent work.

With this limitation and caution we feel the book could be a valuable addition for the beginning student for an overall view of the problem of mental retardation.

### RETARDED ELIGIBLE UNDER THE CANADIAN DISABLED PERSONS ACT

Benefits under the Federal Canadian Government act, not to exceed \$40 monthly, are available to persons reaching 18 years of age, whose personal income is not more than \$720 if single, and \$1200 annually if married.

The mentally retarded unemployables are certainly eligible for these pensions. The Canadian Association for Retarded Children has urged every parent to file an application for same as soon as the disabled person reached 17½ years of age.

### NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.

19 UNION SQUARE, NEW YORK 3, N. Y.