

# RETARDED KIDS WILL COMPETE IN EVENT HERE

## Special Olympics Set for Saturday

The Chicago Special Olympics is expected to attract 1,000 participants to Soldiers' field Saturday.

The competitors all will be mentally retarded children, coming from 26 states and Canada for the events and sports clinics.

The children, ages 8 to 18, have I. Q.s ranging from 30 to 75. They will compete in 200 events in four skill levels, with special medals going to the first three finishers and Illinois Sesquicentennial medals going to all participants.

### Has Two Sponsors

The Olympics is sponsored jointly by the park district and the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation to increase physical education for the mentally retarded. "There is a relationship between mental development and motor efficiency," said Dr. Lawrence Rarick, professor of physical education at the University of Wisconsin.

He said an experiment in suburban Houston schools showed that youngsters in physical education classes made more gains on intelligence tests than could be attributed to chance, while those not taking physical education made no gains. In addition, the physically active group gained 15 to 20 per cent in motor efficiency.

### Social Success Needed

A retarded youngster's success depends more on his social behavior than on his I. Q., said Dr. Robert Cooke, chief of pediatrics at John Hopkins university.

"With repeated failures, children and adults lose self-confidence," Dr. Cooke said. "Successful experiences are very important to motivation. Physical education allows successful experience."