

LEAKE AND WATTS HOME SEEKS ADDED FACILITIES

**Founded Ninety-three Years Ago by Westchester
County's First Judge, It Has Trained Thousands
of Children Along Vocational Lines**

IT is a far cry over the sea and over the decades from Dotheboys Hall in Yorkshire, that Dickens wrote about, to the Leake and Watts Orphan House on the dividing line between Yonkers and New York City; yet what was evil and cruel and senseless in precisely those far-away methods of Wackford Squeers has given place to a constructive spirit which is today all beneficent and kindly and helpful, aiding every day in building up the wastage of broken homes into self-reliant American citizens—so that the backward glance is seen to be both pertinent and instructive.

The modern method of vocational training in use at Leake and Watts Orphan House, which is under the charge of Miss Delight C. Butts, temporarily assigned to this work from Teachers College, Columbia University, is not, in its essentials, so vastly different—though infinitely more unselfish—than the vocational system invented long ago, for his own advantage, by Wackford Squeers of "Nicholas Nickleby."

Every child entering Leake and Watts is made the subject of scientific study to find out what he can do; what he likes to do and what, therefore, he should be trained in so as to make the most of his talents.

Some of the boys and girls, from city homes, who have only dreamed what country was like, take so quickly to the garden and to growing things that it is early evident that farming would be ideal for them. If that be the case, they are sent to Rose Hill Farm, the

gift of John Watts de Peyster, grandson of the founder of the home, and named by him after his ancestral home in Edinburgh, Scotland. Here on a 250-acre farm, with its herd of Holstein cows which furnish all the milk for the 453 children; with its huge poultry plant, which during the first five months of the year sent in 50,000 eggs for the youngsters; with its cornfields and vegetable gardens the wards of Leake and Watts learn scientific and practical farming.

Studying Each Child.

All of the children are watched as they grow. The supervisor reports that one particular boy has taken joy in helping to paint the swimming pool. A little inquiry develops the fact that Bill's delight is to mix paint and wield a paint brush. That work suits his physique, his mental outlook on life, and gratifies his artistic sense. So Bill becomes a painter.

In some slight emergency, some accident perhaps, to one of the younger children, Sarah displays an aptitude for nursing. She has health, a sunny disposition, is kind and unselfish. She receives the opportunity to take the necessary number of Regents' points in the high school and then enters a training school for nursing—her life work has been appointed.

When the buildings were being wired, Tom showed himself so handy that he was allowed to take the electric wiring course at Saunders Trade School; and Jimmie, who made such a nuisance of himself hanging around the garage and trying to tinker with the truck, goes

into the same school to take a course in mechanics.

Leake and Watts is unique in that it is not entirely an orphanage, nor is it a reform school, nor, primarily, a training school; nor yet a child refuge. It partakes of many of the best qualities of all of these.

This institution was founded ninety-three years ago by John Watts, first Judge of Westchester County, last Recorder of the City of New York under the Royal Government from 1774 to 1777, member of Congress and Speaker of the New York Assembly at Kingston. He founded the home in accordance with the will of John George Leake, his brother-in-law. Mr. Leake, who died in New York City, June 2, 1827, was a lonely man, without children, though he loved them. It was bitter for him to have to say, as he did:

"I am the last of my race; there is none living in whose veins runs a drop of my blood."

In his will he provided for the founding of this home for children, and his nearest kin, John Watts, united with the trustees in establishing the home, which has been instrumental in saving thousands of unfortunate children.

How It Is Managed.

The home is controlled by a board of trustees as provided for in the will of Mr. Leake. In perpetuity the trustees comprise the Mayor of New York City, the rector of Trinity Church, the senior minister of the First Presbyterian Church, the senior minister of the Collegiate Dutch Reformed Church, and the two wardens of Trinity Church. Mr. Leake felt that through these men the people, on whom, after all, the orphan house must rely for the great bulk of its support, would always have a cogent voice in its management and direction.

The first actual home was not founded until 1843, and the principal of John Watts's money could not be used, and the trustees had to wait for interest to accumulate. It took twelve years. Finally, at 110th Street and Amsterdam Avenue, the first Leake and Watts Or-

phan House was opened. The present main building is situated at Hawthorne Avenue, right on the dividing line between New York City and Yonkers. In the beginning it took care of 100 boys and girls, but year by year it has grown.

In 1800 a large north wing containing gymnasium, playrooms and dormitories was added; very soon a similar wing on the south, devoted to school and sewing rooms. These improvements were due to the generosity of General John Watts de Peyster, grandson of John Watts, the founder, and great-grandson of Abraham de Peyster, ~~and~~ ^{was} time acting Governor of New York. It was this de Peyster's grandfather who was a personal friend of George Washington. The descendants of the founder, allied by marriage with the Livingstons, Kearneys and other well-known old New York families, have for many years been the leading contributors to the upkeep and expansion of the home.

Home Needs More Land.

One of the patrons of Leake and Watts is Edwin Gould, who has just given the money for a barn to cost \$25,000. This will hold the herd of Holstein cows which furnish fresh milk sent every day to the home in New York.

One trouble is that Rose Hill Farm is practically being "eaten out of house and home" by the steady demands of the appetites of an ever-increasing crowd of hungry children, and the trustees are desirous of adding more land for cultivation. Two adjoining farms, one of them having an orchard which last year yielded 12,000 barrels of apples, are on the market; and in order to extend the usefulness of Leake and Watts it is hoped to be able to purchase this additional acreage, more cows, more poultry and sheep, together with outbuildings that may be used as dormitories for the boys and girls.

Contrary to general belief, this is not a wealthy institution. Each year the work lacks about \$50,000, which has always been raised largely through the industry of its Superintendent, Albert S. McClain.