

# SAYS SCHOOL FARMS KEEP CHILDREN WELL

President Brannan of Bellevue  
Commends the Work at a  
Colony Club Meeting.

## LEAGUE APPEALS FOR FUNDS

Needed to Carry on the Work—1,400  
Farms to be Started Soon in  
Thomas Jefferson Park.

At the invitation of Mrs. Howard Van Sinderen, men and women gathered at the Colony Club to hear the plans of the International Children's School Farm League, which is appealing for funds to continue work that it has started. The league has two honorary Vice Presidents and, although neither was present, each sent an expression of interest in the work.

Col. Roosevelt wrote that he hoped the day would come when there would be a school farm attached to every school and hospital in the city. In a letter also Joseph H. Choate said:

I believe that the work is so good that it should be pushed until the Board of Education takes over the maintenance of the farms. To save the children is to save the State.

Mrs. Henry Parsons, President of the league, presided, and it was she who fashioned out of a disconsolate rubbish heap the first children's school farm in the city. Dr. John Winters Brannan, President of Bellevue and Allied Hospitals, heartily commended the work of the league, as though to atone for the skepticism with which he received the league's first proposal to establish farms in connection with Bellevue.

"I can testify," he said, "that the children's general condition has improved from the work, and the teachers now have no discipline that is more heartily dreaded than the withholding of permission to go to the gardens. The children are inclined to be docile when they think of the weeds getting in among their flowers and vegetables. They just have to get out and attend to them."

Henry Griscom Parsons, son of the founder of the league, and now its Secretary and Director of the department of school gardens for the training of teachers in New York University, told something of his faith in the work and of its success.

"The school farms teach the children to

value fresh air as it can never be learned in foul and congested surroundings. They teach them courage and open-mindedness," said Mr. Parsons, who told amusing incidents of the farms. One little girl was deeply absorbed in the contemplation of a gorgeous green worm she had found, and her excitement knew no bounds when she found another on the next day. She went running in triumph to the teacher, only to be greeted by a scream of fright. The teacher's fear was quickly communicated, and the little girl never could be induced to touch another. This, he said, was bad pedagogy, for it is a tenet of the school farm educators that ignorant fear should be dispelled.

Mr. Parsons described the two acres of Thomas Jefferson Park that will contain this Summer 1,400 miniature farms with little roadways built between.

"In such an arrangement law and

order is absolutely necessary," he said, "and the children can be trusted to see to that. They are property owners, and they learn the courtesy of the communitistic spirit. They have to."

Many pictures were thrown on a screen showing the blind, the crippled, and the poor at work among the plants, learning that air is good and that it is well to thin out at times and to prune.