

JUSTIFIES PRIDE.

The Breyfogle Free Kindergarten In New Albany.

A WOMAN'S THANK-OFFERING.

Description of the Handsome Building and Its Equipments.

EXTENT OF THE WORK.

While there are numerous charities in New Albany, Ind., the one in which the entire community takes especial pride is the Breyfogle Free Kindergarten, situated on Vincennes street, at the junction with the Charlestown turnpike. The residence of Dr. William Breyfogle is one of the most attractive in the South, being surrounded by a breadth of rolling ground laid out with shady avenues, prettily designed flower-beds and numerous fruit trees.

On one of the loveliest elevations in this park-like estate is the kindergarten, which is built according to the latest and most approved plans. The building in itself is an ornament to the city, and the fact that its inception and support are due to an individual woman, arouses interest in the personality of that woman. It was three years ago that the kindergarten was established and during that time it has been supported by Mrs. Breyfogle from her private fortune. She is the only woman in that section who has made so munificent a gift for public benefit and, furthermore, she is ever ready with open purse and big heart to assist in every good cause for the alleviation of the poor and for the elevation and encouragement of women. She belongs to a prominent family and is a native of New Albany. Before her marriage she was a recognized society leader and a noted Southern belle. She was Miss Zerelda Winsteadley. Her home is exquisitely furnished and ornamented with rare bric-a-brac and paintings, reflecting credit upon the artistic taste and culture of the owner.

Several years ago Mrs. Breyfogle was caught in a railroad wreck and, although injured considerably, she was so grateful for escaping with her life that she determined while confined to her bed on recovering to give a thank-offering to God. She thought of various charitable works, but of them all, chose to establish a free kindergarten. Near the locality where she resides there are numerous woolen and cotton mills. The workers in these mills have homes in the vicinity and as their families live too far away from the city to enjoy the best educational advantages, she concluded to build the kindergarten in her yard so it would be accessible to these people and families. The children range from the tot of two years on to seven and eight years old. At this time there are 120 enrolled. Miss Virginia Minor, of Indianapolis, is the Superintendent of this school, and is assisted by several young women, who are in the normal training classes.

The building is on a high stone foundation, with a bay front, set off by five plate-glass windows. A commodious piazza is on the right side. There is a pointed roof, crowned by a miniature turret and two tiny gables to the west. In color the structure is of yellow tint, and the Pompeiian red roof and gables contribute to the artistic effect. The interior is equally inviting and of handsome design. The hall is of oak, with three high windows, curtained with yellow silk, opening into a cloakroom. The schoolroom is finished with antique oak. The floor and the wainscoting are of the same. The room is lighted by electricity.

The children in attendance are provided with lunch every day, also furnished by Mrs. Breyfogle, served by a janitress. One of the new features of the work in which Mrs. Breyfogle is very much interested is the establishing of a library for the benefit of the families in the neighborhood. Already some standard books and magazines have been collected, and they are eagerly read by the parents of the children. In addition to the instruction of the children, there is a social club, called the Mothers' Froebel Club. Last winter there were several delightful entertainments given at the kindergarten. One night there were seventy in attendance, when Miss Minor gave what she called a Manhattan party. There had been given to Mrs. Breyfogle twenty untrimmed hats and the trimmings. The men were expected to trim the hats of the women, and on payment of fifteen cents a piece the hats were given to the women.

Mrs. Breyfogle was instrumental in the starting of four other kindergartens. One is taught at the Main-street Mission by Miss Irene Calvert; one at the First Presbyterian church mission chapel which is free, while there are two private kindergartens. The kindergarten is not yet made a part of the public school system of New Albany, but it is expected that it will become a part of the school system within a few months.

[Source: Emma Carleton Scrapbook #4, p. 48]