LIFE'S Fresh Air Fund

Inclusive of 1918, LIFE'S Fresh Air Fund has been in operation thirty-two years. In that time it has expended $174,473.17 and has given a fortnight in the country to 40,097 poor city children.

The Fund is supported entirely by bequests and voluntary contributions, which are acknowledged in this column.

Previously acknowledged .................. $2,270.36
R. M. Crosby .................................. 25.00
"A. P. S. " .................................. 100.00
Joseph Hudson Plumb, Jr. .................. 50.00
Robert J. Boyle, M. D. ................... 10.00
Mrs. H. M. Barkedale ....................... 5.00
Mrs. C. M. S .................................. 2.05
Henry Willis ................................. 100.00
Alice M. Wood ............................... 5.00
Anon ........................................... 10.00
Kinnekert Sunday School .................. 13.60
Belle Hunt ................................. 50.00
Athy Hunt .................................... 50.00
Mrs. Burr Porter ............................. 10.00
E. S. Hammond .............................. 15.00
Anonymous .................................... 5.00
Dr. Luther S. Harvey ....................... 1.00

$2,728.01

WITH the close of school in June comes the opening of LIFE's Fresh Air Farm at Branchville, Connecticut. Each fortnight through the summer parties of about two hundred children are sent for a two weeks' vacation in the country. LIFE's Farm is popular, but, unfortunately, it is not elastic, and it is therefore not possible to accommodate all those who would like to be our guests. No needy child is ever refused if we can take him, but frequently lack of space prevents.

The Farm is about fourteen acres in extent, and was the property of the late Edwin Gilbert, who devoted it to Fresh Air work. The main house as well as the barns and outbuildings, have been refitted for dining-rooms, dormitories, etc. The brook and orchard, ball ground and ample play grounds help to entertain the little guests at the Farm.

In the summer of 1887 the work started. Since then LIFE's readers have never failed to help. The work is entirely dependent on their generosity, which each summer has enabled more than a thousand children to benefit by this much needed outing. Up to 1919, 40,097 children have had outings at an expenditure of $174,473.17.

This year the help is especially needed, for the poor, in this era of high prices, are poor indeed, and vacations for their children are well nigh an impossibility. The children come from the city missions and settlements, the great East Side and the poorer districts anywhere in Greater New York.

Investigations have shown the insufficient feeding of many of the children in the schools. The guests at the Farm bring their appetites with them, and arrears of scanty rations are also made up. Plenty of suitable, well cooked food is given to them—all they will eat—and they certainly do enjoy it. Mountains of provisions melt away, and the children plainly show the good of it. Both provisions and railroad fare count up, especially as Branchville is fifty-three miles from New York.

Clothing for children of twelve and under is badly needed, and can be put into immediate use. They haven't extensive wardrobes when they arrive, and after two weeks these are sometimes mere things of shreds and patches, neither useful nor ornamental.

Visitors are welcome at the Farm. The children feel that an interest is taken in them, which they return many fold. They are nice children, bright children, good citizens in the making. All they need is a chance, and this vacation is one way of giving them at least a little help toward that chance.

Remittances should be made payable to LIFE's Fresh Air Fund. Acknowledgment is made in LIFE about three weeks after receipt, and by letter direct if the sender's address is given.

With his dog: I wonder why he wants to stop here.