

GIVE TO THE CHILD HOME ATMOSPHERE

—REV. BROTHER BARNABAS

Founder of Youth's Agricultural School Urges Plan for Institutions.

Tells Conference Here Pride Must be Awakened in Little Ones.

A doll's house built and furnished, papered, painted and lighted by a boy of fifteen, dresses cut and sewed by little girls to whom an institute is home, are part of the exhibit now being held in the Engineers building.

Children saved from blindness by the timely care of a visiting nurse and children saved from the streets and from vice and ignorance are part of this exhibit. The exhibit is part of the Western Reserve conference of men and women who are working to save neglected boys and girls.

At noon yesterday the conference began with luncheon in the Chamber of Commerce library to 150 men and women from the Western Reserve and all parts of the country. In the afternoon these people and hundreds more nearly filled the Engineers auditorium. James R. Garfield presided. Among the speakers were Mrs. Martha Falconer, head of the Girls' House of Refuge in Philadelphia; Rabbi Louis Wolsey, Rabbi M. J. Gries, Beatty L. Laird of the Hudson Boys' farm and Henry Metzger of the Jones Home for Friendless Children.

In the evening Rev. Brother Barnabas, founder of Lincolnale Agricultural school in Lincolnale, N. Y., was the chief speaker. Brother Barnabas urged home and family training for institution children rather than mechanical system.

Others who spoke were Miss Caroline Burnite of the public library, Dr. John Fisher of the Children's Industrial school and home here, Miss Cordelia O'Neill, principal of Marion school, and Dr. Samuel Wolfenstein, head of the Jewish Orphan asylum, and E. M. Williams. Brother Barnabas said in part:

"To get the best results, to create as much as possible an atmosphere of home about the institution, the children should be divided into small groups or bands, each group having its own separate sleeping rooms, dining rooms, parlors and playgrounds. By this means you will develop in the child a spirit of personal interest in his surroundings that gradually induces him to take a pride in his own particular group.

"The dining room occupies an important place in the development of normal life. The ideal dining room should be capable of seating not more than twenty-five children and each child should have his own particular and permanent place at the table. The service should be homelike and the food ever changing and plentiful.

"Give the children an insight into the social side of life. With that end in view let there be frequent visitors to the institution and when they call don't ask them to view things from a distance. This will be a splendid means of broadening the minds and spirits of the children and will open up to them new avenues of thought and ambition.

"Encourage the organization of societies among the children and let their meetings be open forums for the discussion of such topics as are of general interest. Don't neglect to install a useful library stocked with good literature and give the children an opportunity to make use of it. Let practical men and women from the

different walks of life give occasional talks to the children.

"When relatives visit the institution give the child opportunity to exercise his individuality. Let him personally conduct his friends on a tour of inspection to the different departments, so that they may learn from the child's own simple words the manner in which he lives, works and plays.

"Be it always remembered that the home is the foundation of all society and that some day, sooner or later, your boys and girls are to go out into the world and make themselves a home."