

A SCHOOL OF FARMING.

THE SPLENDID OPPORTUNITIES TO BE GIVEN AT BRIARCLIFF MANOR.

MR. LAW'S GREAT FARM, ON AND NEAR WHICH THE SCHOOL WILL BE CONDUCTED.

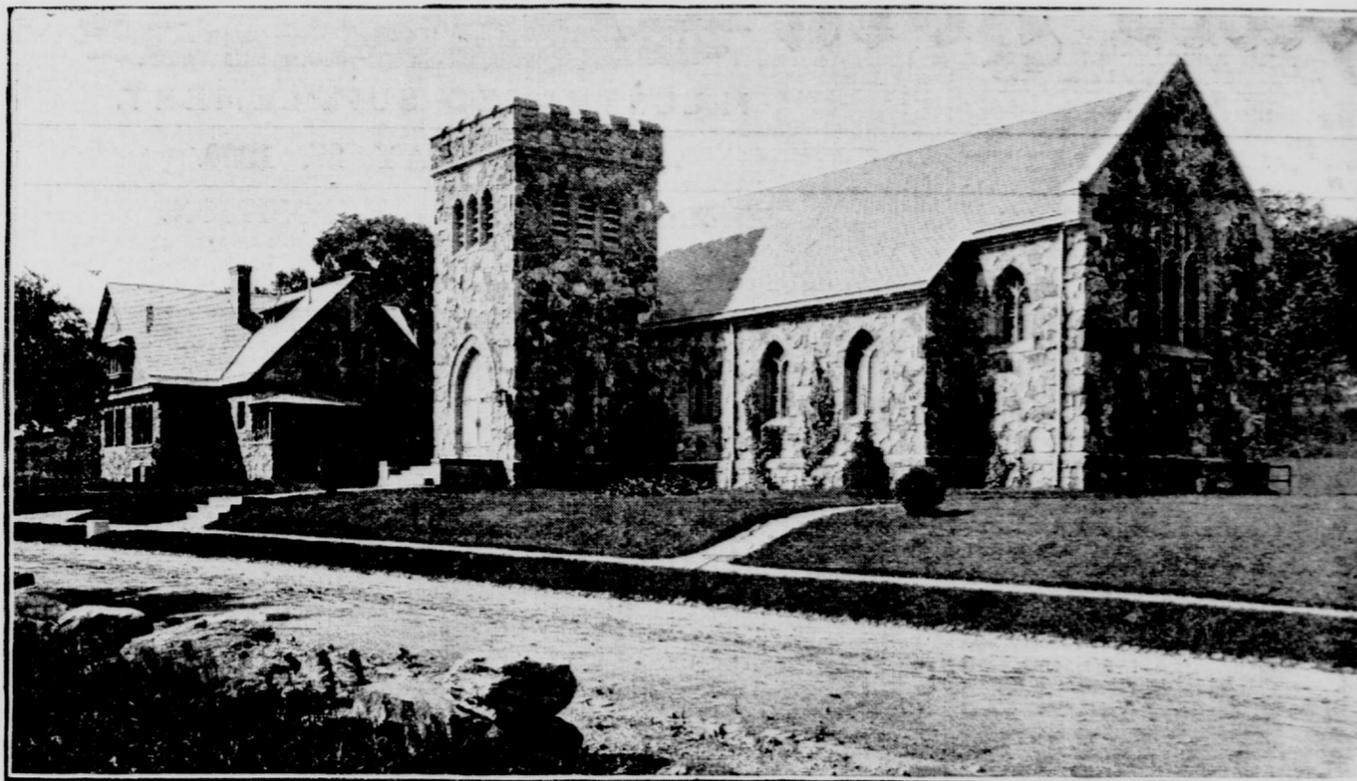
When the promoters of the School of Practical Agriculture and Horticulture looked about for a spot wherein to establish the institution various places were suggested, but it was finally agreed that Briarcliff Manor, one of the most beautiful parts of Westchester County, would be the most suitable. There, about midway between Briarcliff Manor station, on the New-York and Putnam division of the New-York Central Railroad, and Pleasantville, on the Harlem Railroad, the school will be established. It will be on a plateau overlooking the sixty-six acres which have been acquired and also much of the land and many of the buildings on the Briarcliff Farms, which will serve not only as a beautiful picture, but as an inspiration for the students.

The object of the school is "to train men and women in the methods of horticulture, floriculture, gardening, poultry raising and allied branches, that they may become proficient in the management of farms, estates, greenhouses and gardens, and may be able by thorough knowledge of the science of the soil to make the field, through intelligent and skilful work, bring forth abundantly of its great wealth of beauty and usefulness."

The school will aim to raise the standard of agricultural methods. Practical instruction will be given in the orchard, garden, greenhouse, poultry yard and dairy, and students will be taught "how to overcome and not be overcome by the many difficulties that beset agriculture."

The Briarcliff Farms, owned by Walter W. Law, have been conducted for years with an object in view—the production of pure and good food, with consideration first for the quality and then for the quantity. There seems to be no doubt in the mind of Mr. Law that the purchasing public is always ready to pay liberally for a first class article, and, having that in mind, his farm has been conducted on liberal lines, and is looked upon as a model institution. The students at the new school will be surrounded by a pure atmosphere and a moral tone which must prove advantageous.

Briarcliff Farms occupy a tract extending about four miles north and south and about three miles east and west, in the heart of the picturesque region of Westchester County, where its elevation above the sea is the greatest. It lies between Tarrytown and Sing Sing, in the midst of a highly developed region, and near the part which overlooks the river. In the vicinity of Scarborough are the estates of William Rockefeller, Mrs. Elliott F. Shepard, H. Walter Webb, V. Everit Macy and James Speyer. The farm and the home of Mr. Law may be reached most conveniently by the Putnam branch. Near the pretty station is the schoolhouse, and the well kept stone fences, the hard roads and the artistic cottages, half stone and half wood, impress one at once with the idea that the place is well cared for. The picture at the first glance would give the visitor the impression that the place was a summer residence point, but the wagons, filled with milk cans and cases of farm products, which may be seen on the roads leading to the various railroad stations show that the farm is a business institution. The railroad tracks have been laid from the main line to the farm, and by means of these



BRIARCLIFF CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH AND PARSONAGE.



THE DAIRY, BRIARCLIFF FARMS.

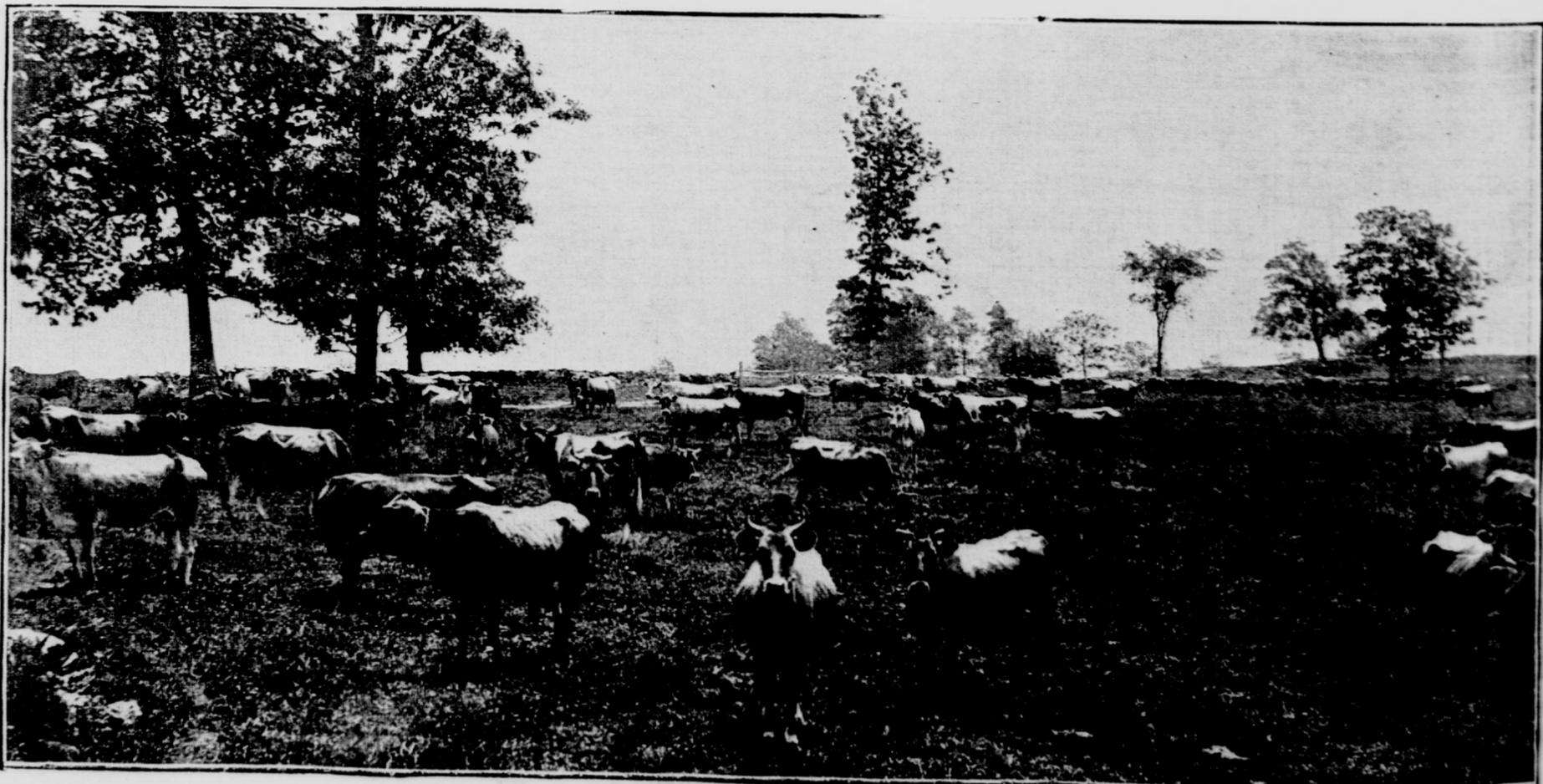
the shipment of farm products is facilitated. Near the railroad are the neat homes of some of the farmhands, and a short distance beyond these, toward the ridge, are several large granaries; further away, on the main road, is the model dairy building. The motto of Briarcliff Farms is, "The production of pure food of the highest standard of excellence." And this might with all propriety be inscribed on the pretty Swiss structure.

NOT A LABORATORY.

"This is not a laboratory," says Mr. Law, "where milk is doctored, or a depot to which milk is brought indiscriminately. Only such milk goes from the farms to the consumer as is produced on the farms, and 80 per cent of the cows that furnish the milk have been raised on the property." Of the 875 head of cattle on the place, about four hundred are registered Jerseys. No other breed is allowed in the herd.

There are several milking stations, and from these the milk is taken to the dairy as soon as the cans are filled. All known safeguards against impurity are employed, and no milker is allowed to milk a cow until he has thoroughly washed his hands, and this must be done again before he begins with the second cow. The attendants wear white duck suits while on duty, and those who are employed as milkers are not allowed to go near the barns. When the milk reaches the dairy it is emptied into a sterilized copper tank on the ground floor; thence it is forced through sterilized pipes to the second floor, where it is cooled and bottled. A large space is set aside on the ground floor where milk is pasteurized and put up specially for infants' food.

Besides the milk bottling department there is a large butter room, on the second floor of the dairy, which is finished in white enameled wood, marble and glass, and has an initial



A HERD OF JERSEYS AT BRIARCLIFF FARMS.