

## SHOWS WARD MANOR AS HAVEN FOR AGED

A. I. C. P. Report Pictures the  
Beauty and Advantages of Es-  
tate in Dutchess County.

\$250,000 A YEAR FOR WORK

Association Uses Sum for the Home  
and Other Aid to the Elderly—  
New Apartment House Here.

In a report, entitled "In and About a Gray Stone Manor House," the New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, 105 East Twenty-second Street, describes four years of work on its Ward Manor property at Red Hook, in Dutchess County. The 1,000-acre estate, with its group of buildings, was given to the association by the late William B. Ward, president of the Ward Baking Company, as a memorial to his father, Robert Boyd Ward. Through the Robert Boyd Ward Fund Mr. Ward gave with the estate a home for elderly people.

The report, made public yesterday by C. N. Bliss, president of the A. I. C. P., was written by William H. Matthews, director of the association's family welfare department, who is also chairman of the committee in charge of the development of Ward Manor. The figures disclose that the average age of the inmates of the home is 75 years.

The principal buildings are occupied by the elderly persons as their permanent home. The other buildings have been converted into camps for boys and girls. Several new buildings have been erected, including a large summer vacation home, Sunset Lodge, for elderly persons who live in New York City in winter and work in the Crawford Shops, maintained by the A. I. C. P.

Spending \$250,000 a Year.

The association is now spending at the rate of approximately \$250,000 a year on Ward Manor and other instrumentalities which it has developed in the past four years for the care of the aged. Nearly half that sum is given to elderly men and women in the form of monthly allowances to enable them to maintain themselves in their own modest homes in the city. The association has just opened a new sixty-room apartment house on Pomphrey Square where rooms may be rented by elderly persons in modest circumstances. The association owns the building.

"For ten years or more no one save a few solitary caretakers had occupied the property," says the report, referring to the gray stone Tudor building and other houses that had been the property of Arthur Gordon Hammersley in 1914. "The exquisitely wrought iron doors of the gray stone manor house opened neither for host nor guest. From the windows on the east no one looked as the morning sun wove tangles of light and shade through leaf and branch of stately oaks. From the balustraded western porches no one watched as river and mountain seemed all afire in evening glow. From the leaded casement windows on all sides there came no gleam of lights to pierce in later hours the darkness of the night. As silent, cold sentinels the tall limestone chimneys seemed to rise from the red tile roof."

"Bill" and "Jerry," two of many who during the four lapsed years had found a place in the manor household, do the work around the place. One cares for the garden, the other for the canaries. Another inmate, "Albert," with paint pot and brush wanders around the place retouching doors and fences in need of paint. A second "Bill" cultivates the flowers, and "Dickie" with a bucket and mop keeps the porches and steps spotless.

Beauty in the House.

"Should a visitor choose to wander through the house," the report says, "he would find there much of beauty. Rugs, tapestries, books, pictures—bits of loveliness from far away lands, gifts of visiting friends who have found their way to the gray stone manor house."

The report tells how one of the barns, through the generosity of a

friend of girls, was transformed into Greybarns, a Summer camp for girls. Two additional farmhouses were reclaimed for girl camps through the generosity of other donors.

"Sunset Lodge, also a memorial, differs from the gray stone manor in that it is a Summer living place only," it is explained, "a vacation home for old folks who still struggle in the city. Each year some of this group pass from Sunset lodge to the gray stone manor house."

The report also describes the transformation that has been made of the island that goes with the property, of the boys' Summer camp, "Island." The boys' baseball field is in full view of the old folk on the porch of the manor house. Another section of the estate is called "Bungalow Hill," and has five holiday bungalows.

The committee in charge of Ward Manor includes besides Mr. Matthews Mr. and Mrs. C. N. Bliss, Mrs. James A. Burden, Mrs. August Belmont, Mrs. E. Roland Harriman, Mrs. John H. Frenkel, Mrs. William B. Ward, Dr. Haven Emerson, Ralph H. Kent, Henry Barby and Samuel Keyser.