



DR. WILLIAM KEESE RETIRES—For 20 years, Dr. and Mrs. William S. Keese have been the beloved leaders of the Bonny Oaks institution. On Feb. 1, they will retire to their home, "Willucy Farm," adjoining the school.—(Milton Hawkins Photo.)



DAVIS SUCCEEDS KEESE—Foster Baird Davis, former manager of the Bonny Oaks farm and dairy, will succeed Dr. William Keese as Bonny Oaks superintendent. Mrs. Davis, the former Eleanor Benning, was a resident of Bonny Oaks for 12 years, during which time she completed grammar school and graduated from Tyner High School. She was later assisted through Berea College by scholarship funds made available to the school.—(Staff Photo by Milton Hawkins.)

Dr. Keese Reviews Principles Of Bonny Oaks Teaching Plans

By KATHARINE DAVIS

Delinquency begins at home, Dr. William S. Keese, retiring superintendent of Bonny Oaks School, declared yesterday, laying the blame for the nation's wave of juvenile delinquency on its parents. "If children are controlled at home, they will be much less apt to do wrong away from home," Dr. Keese declared. "Many, many people are fathers and mothers who are not capable of being parents. Society has taken so much responsibility for the children which individuals bring into the world that parents don't have the sense of responsibility they should have. Young people do terrible things just for the thrill they get, without thinking of the consequences."

Dr. Keese's resignation will become effective on Feb. 1, and he will be succeeded by Foster Baird Davis, former manager of the Bonny Oaks farm and dairy. Although the change from the capable, elderly Dr. Keese to young Mr. Davis will probably be evident at Bonny Oaks, the new state of affairs will not be too strange, for both Mr. and Mrs. Davis are old residents of Bonny Oaks. They have

resided there for the past five years, and Mrs. Davis previously lived there approximately 12 years.

FATHER'S DEATH

The former Eleanor Benning, Mrs. Davis was placed at Bonny Oaks after the accidental death of her father, and while there she completed grammar school and graduated from Tyner High School. She was helped through Berea College by the Z. C. Patten Trust Fund. It was at Berea that she met Mr. Davis, also a graduate of that college.

"Throughout the 20 years that I have been at Bonny Oaks," Dr. Keese stated, "I think that I learned the secret of the requirements for childhood happiness. First of all, the child must have a sense of security—not financial security, for children don't worry about such, but the knowledge that someone is backing them up, that there is someone to befriend, shelter and protect them."

"They are more hungry for love than anything else," he smiled, and added, "We have to 'shoo' the little things to get them out from under

our feet sometimes. They want our attention very much, so that they can know that someone notices them as individuals. They need kindness, too, and gentle care."

WORK NECESSARY

Bonny Oaks children are taught among many other important lessons of life, the dignity and necessity of work. "We believe children should work and be taught the dignity of work. Our children here help with the work that is necessary in operating a farm and dairy. The older girls cook and do household work. When they leave here, we want them to be capable housekeepers."

Dr. Keese said, "It is important for the child to do more than just to be told about things. They should control their temper, the truth and be made to do what needs to be done pleasantly. We correct the children, not because of what they have already done, but to keep them from repeating the performance."

LIFE 'SACRED'

"Our policies won't be too great a departure from those of the past superintendent," Davis stated. "I believe that the life of every child is sacred, and we will try to bring up the children of others as we would want our own brought up. It will be our policy to co-operate with the city welfare agencies as

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as fully as possible. In my years of experience at Bonny Oaks and in teaching school, I have come to love this work, and have chosen it for my life work."

Principal needs of the school, as listed by Davis, were recreational equipment and at least four more workers. In addition to his training at Berea College, he has also attended Vanderbilt University. His home is in Barbourville, Ky. Mr. and Mrs. Davis have one daughter, Sylvia, age 4.