



IDYLEASE

A HISTORIC LANDMARK



DR. EDGAR ARTHUR DAY
BUILDER OF IDYLEASE IN 1902

Though born in Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1853, his boyhood and most of his early manhood were spent on his father's farm at Paradise, near Newfoundland, N.J. He laid the foundation of his education at a private school at Oak Ridge and followed with a course of study at the State Normal School at Trenton, where he prepared himself for teaching. For a time he was principal in the public schools at Jersey City, N.J., also at Hastings, N.Y. Later, after taking a medical course at the Long Island College Hospital, Brooklyn, he practiced for some years in the borough.

Conceiving the idea of establishing somewhere near the great cities an institution where people in broken health might rest and recuperate, Newfoundland suggested itself to him as an ideal spot for its location, and in 1902 he matured plans for its establishment. A year later "Idylease" was opened, and here he lived and continued to labor and plan for the accomplishment of his ambition. Although not actively practicing medicine when the Inn opened in 1903, the Doctor's work included many instances of medical aid, which have contributed largely to the success he attained.

While living in Brooklyn, Dr. Day was an influential member of the Lewis Avenue Congregational Church, an active worker in the "Congregational Club" of Brooklyn, and a member of the Royal Arcanum.

His entire life was spent in unselfish devotion to the welfare and uplift of his fellows. In developing his plans for the Inn, it was his ideal to have it stand in influence for spiritual as well as physical health and rest. To this end he early instituted the practice of holding religious services on Sunday afternoons in the parlors of the Inn, and not only the guests but neighbors were invited to attend. These services were usually conducted by the pastor of the Oak Ridge Presbyterian Church. The Doctor sought, too, to permeate the institution with a strong moral atmosphere.

He was the prime mover in the organization of the North Jersey Poultry Association and the Village Improvement Society of Newfoundland, both established within a few months. His constant thought and purpose were the advancement and improvement of Newfoundland; the town he loved.