

seven or eight score varieties of strawberries, all growing at once under exactly similar conditions, to discover their relative merits; Professor Pantton's experiments to discover which are the most serviceable enemies of the pestilent army worm—and how best these can be encouraged to kill the worm—all these going on under the students' eyes, watched by them, discussed by them, and criticized by them, are of the greatest educational benefit to them—a benefit none the less real because it comes to them unconsciously.

Then there is the magnificent series of experiments conducted by the College Experimentalist, Mr. Zavitz, 2,200 of them, going on at once, all bearing directly upon the practical everyday work of their farms at home—how can these, when watched, and even participated in, by the students themselves, fail to be but an inspiration of the greatest potency to careful experiment and close observation or their own parts, in their own

practical work as farmers, as soon as opportunities permit?

And, finally, there is the farm itself, under the magnificent management of its superintendent, Mr. Rennie, with his fertility-restoring, weed-destroying system of sod-reduction and shallow cultivation—a system which scientific teaching as well as practical experience shows to be the nearest akin to nature's own method of keeping up fertility that agricultural husbandry has yet hit upon—how valuable an object-lesson it must be to every student intending to follow farming as a practical pursuit it is impossible to estimate.

CONCLUSION.

Such is the Ontario Agricultural College, an educational institution magnificently equipped, enthusiastically and ably manned, and admirably conducted in every way, its ideals being intensely practical, and its methods, for the most part, thoroughly modern.

PRACTICAL NOTES.

By GEORGE HARCOURT, B.S.A.

Sunflowers with Corn for the Silo.—Many farmers have found that they could increase the feeding value of their silage by mixing the heads of an acre or so of sunflowers with their corn as they cut it and put it into the silo; but the trouble has been that it requires some time to do this and to get the sunflower heads evenly mixed through the corn. It is a busy time with the farmer when the silo is being filled, and work must be carried on as simply as possible.

Mr. T. W. Charlton, of St. George, thinks he has found a simpler way of handling sunflowers for the silo. Some years ago a wheelbarrow-load of green sunflower stalks was left standing in the farm lane; the cows found it and ate up the sunflower stalks as well as the heads. This set Mr. Charlton to experimenting with the sunflower stalks. He tried the cows in the stables in various ways with the green stalks, until he was satisfied that the cattle would eat them and seemed to relish them. His next move was to cut some of the stalks along with the corn, and put them in the silo. His cows ate the cut sunflower stalks when the silage was fed, and seemed to enjoy them quite as much as the corn silage. He saw no evil effects from feeding the cows the cut stalks.

The next year he mixed the sunflower seeds with the corn and sowed them together. The corn and the sunflowers were cut and put into the silo together in the fall, and he found nothing but good results from feeding the mixture, and he had the added advantage of a saving in the necessary labor required to handle the crop. He told other farmers of his results, and they are giving the sunflower stalks a trial.

Mr. Charlton has a large herd of purebred Holsteins; it was to them that the silage containing the sunflower stalks was fed, and the milk produced was sent to the North Brant butter factory. We hope in due time to hear from Mr. Charlton the results of another winter's feeding, as for this past season sunflower seeds were planted with all his corn, and in the fall the stalks and corn were all cut and put into the silo together.

Turnips and Winter Butter.—Many farmers still believe that turnips can be fed to cows, and yet that no taint or odor will show itself in the milk or the butter produced from such milk. There is no doubt that by careful feeding a great deal of the objectionable odor can be done away with, so that whether cows shall be fed turnips or not has become a burning question at many of our winter butter factories.

If it is the desire of our farmers to capture the English butter market with fine butter made in our factories during winter, have they any chance of doing so if their cows are allowed to eat turnips as part of their daily ration? We think not.

Quite a number of our winter butter factories have found that it will never do to allow cows to eat turnips; and, what is more, butter having a turnip flavor is not wanted even in our own home markets, and can command at best only a second-rate price. Therefore a number of the leading winter butter factories have refused to accept milk from farmers who feed their cows turnips.

Mr. T. W. Charlton, of St. George, President of the North Brant Dairying Co., has been instrumental in having the management of his factory decide against accepting milk from cows fed on turnips. Accordingly last spring a circular letter was sent to all the patrons of the factory, notifying them that no milk would be received from anyone that fed his cows turnips. The patrons were advised to grow carrots, mangolds, or corn for the silo. The result has been a large acreage sown to mangolds, and the crop has been a very good one.

If the farmers of Ontario desire to get hold of the English market it can be done only by co-operation, all working for the one end—the farmer, by producing his milk in the very best way, free from any objectionable taint (even if he has to stop growing turnips); and the buttermaker, by making the very best article he can from the milk given him.