

aside and catching cold. In this manner the *sedentary* fault is overcome as well as the *crowded* condition and the few minutes used for this purpose are soon made up by the renewed hope and fresh vigor of the brightened pupils, whose teacher is more valuable to them than rubies.

Moreover, if the teacher so conduct her school she will find a brighter class of pupils, less irritation, better lessons, no need for "keeping in" after school and long hours in a foul atmosphere. Let us arouse, be watchful and strenuous in the conflict for better things and a fair share of reward shall be ours.

The Passing Milkmaid

THE most romantic feature of farm life bids fair soon to disappear. An edict has gone forth that the milkmaid must go. She may be pretty and pleasing, but she is not scientific.

The milking machine has arrived to take the milkmaid's place. Sometimes it is run by electricity, with the help of a storage-battery. Simple of construction, it is nothing more than an ingeniously-contrived pump, with which are connected a number of rubber tubes. When the tubes are adjusted, the requisite suction is produced by the pump, and the milk flows into the pail.

By the help of such machines, a whole stableful of cows can be milked simultaneously and expeditiously, at less cost. Milkmaids must be fed, and, as a rule, have large appetites; they are never cheap. On the other hand, the mechanical substitute does the work quite as well and demands neither wages nor board. If preferred, it may be run by a gasoline or an alcohol engine at trifling expense.

It is not economy, but the microbe question that is back of this reform. Milk is a natural "culture medium," and within half a dozen hours after it comes from the cow an average sample of it will contain about 10,000,000 bacteria to the quarter-teaspoonful. This is considered not an excessive allowance. Most of the germs are harmless, but some may be dangerous, and, this fact being realized, great efforts are at present being made to reduce as far as possible their rate of breeding.

The electric, or gasoline, milkmaid is merely the newest expedient adopted for the purpose. Inasmuch as the milk comes from the cow almost, if not quite, germ-free, and passes directly from the udder through a sterilized tube, without coming into contact with human hands, it must reach the pail (which likewise has been sterilized) in a condition practically devoid of microbes. If, thereupon, it is transferred to sterilized glass bottles and sealed in them, it must reach the consumer in a state beyond reasonable criticism.

An "Open-Air" Parliament in Switzerland

NO more interesting sight could be imagined than the scene in the quaint old market square opposite the ancient Rathaus. First of all his faithful followers wait upon the President, with other members of the government, and escort them from the Rathaus to the platform of the big square which has been erected the previous day.

In front of this the thousands of burghers stand bareheaded in the sunlight as the venerable President opens the parliament with a prayer and a modest speech. The men assembled before him take an oath to vote according to conscience, "for the good of the land and the avoidance of all evil."

Next a list of candidates for the cantonal government is handed up to the platform, and the members of the new body are elected simply by a show of hands. The old President reads out each name and the question of "Aye?" is put to the people, much as Moses

himself must have done in ancient Biblical days.

Up go the hands of those who are in favor of the candidate. Then "Nay" is called, and hands go up also. Of course, the majority decides. And in this simple way is this law-abiding and prosperous community ruled. Then follow various discussions about roads, laws, and new regulations,—all of which matters have been freely discussed in the little local journals for weeks before the parliament met.

The foreign onlooker is amazed at the peaceful and dignified procedure throughout. Of excitement or unseemly fighting or insults there is absolutely none. Every phase of the work in hand is conducted with quiet self-possession that many a magnificent senate might envy.—From "The 'Open-Air Parliaments' of Switzerland," by W. G. Fitzgerald, in the *American Monthly Review of Reviews* for February.