

You have not those meetings at the *café* on Sundays after service, where one hears both young and old talking of farming, stating their opinions, relating what they have done, seen, or read during the week; discussing the operations of the season, describing the results of their personal experiments or of those obtained in the experiment fields of the parish, chatting about the prices of goods, of the yield of crops, of the markets, in one word of all things that are interesting to the local agriculturist.

It is not, Gentlemen, from a desire to ask for the opening of new bar-rooms or that they should be opened on Sunday that I speak, but allow me to tell you that nearly allied to evil may often be found some little good.

Practical lectures.—Lectures, in spite of the good they produce, do not yield all the fruit we have a right to expect from them. They have often the defect of being too theoretical, and are not sufficiently attractive to common minds. So it has been attempted to attract to them larger audiences, by endeavouring to put something palpable before the very eyes of the audience. Milk is tested, the difference in quality of various samples is compared, mechanical skimming is done by means of a separator worked by hand-power, cream is churned, and experiments tried with the most celebrated butter-presses.

It is to the agricultural syndicates of Verviers that the honour is due of being the first to institute these practical lectures of such indisputable utility.

Agricultural syndicates.—These syndicates, founded outside the local clubs, were established, like many others however, to extend the trade in butter, to elevate it, to put a stop to the frauds so common since the invention of *margarine*, and especially to perfect the making of butter in order to be able to contend with advantage with foreign competition.

It at first pursued its object by publishing periodically the names of its adherents in order to introduce to the buyers, especially to strangers, those who made pure butter of the best quality. The pats sold by its members must bear the stamp of the association and the mark of the seller. This measure aimed at permitting the purchaser to apply to an expert taster or to a chemist, and that at the expense of the association, to obtain assurance of the quality and purity of the butter purchased. Heavy penalties, besides those inflicted by law, punished those who contravened these social statutes.

But this intervention, although a beneficent one, did not sufficiently hinder the diminution in the sales, and the lowness of the prices. In a word, the reputation of Herve was diminishing more and more abroad: a situation very near akin to that of Canada.

The syndicate, which recoils before no obstacle to obtain its object, has placed itself in accord with the agricultural societies of the district, and has instituted the system of practical lectures called *volantes*, flying.

Practical flying lectures.—This is how its delegates work at present. Each lecture is divided into three distinct lessons which are given on the farms.

The 1st, on a Sunday, perhaps, comprises the testing of milk, general instruction, and separator-skimming.

The 2nd, on the following Wednesday, on churning and the working of the butter. The 3rd, on the Sunday following the first lesson, on the examination of the advantages resulting from the employment of modern appliances compared with the old methods.

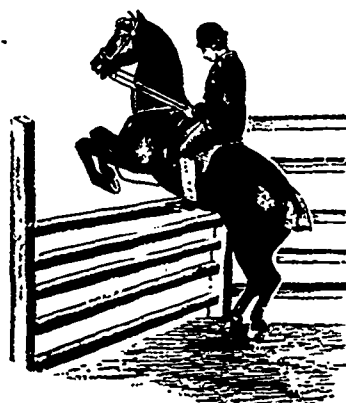
A woman-assistant, one of the best ex-pupils of the dairy-school, acts as *aide* to the lecturer in the manual lesson.

It seems to me that with such means within the reach of every one and of every one's purse, since it is perfectly free, all that is needed is that a little earnestness should be displayed on the part of those interested.

The weather, the time occupied, the difficulty of change of place, distance, a party of pleasure, and other motives, if others there can be, all must infallibly fall before such persistence on the part of these devoted promoters of progress. There is no doubt that success must recompense the expenditure of so much pain and perseverance.

I do not know, Gentlemen, if you will find in this description any information useful and applicable to this country.

Although you have only very lately entered on the lofty march of progress, you have already done everything for the advancement of your national agriculture. You have founded clubs that are producing immense good. You are multiplying lectures, you are sending out to all places inspectors and special agents charged with the duty of instructing the farmers and of aiding them with their advice. The sentiment of union is innate in you, and it has produced numerous and prosperous cooperative associations. Experiment-farms are setting a good example; with their help, the improvement of practical agriculture is not doubtful. You are searching for new markets for your products. In a word, you have in a very short time covered the first stages of the long and involved road of progress.



NEW YORK HORSE SHOW—A GOOD TAKE OFF.

But that first success must not suffice, you must continue to march in front. You have the moral and financial support of the public means. Never cease then from demanding the establishment of a central and superior school of agriculture, conducted by competent, *but above all, by practical men*. Press for the creation of this nursery in which shall be formed the future leaders of your agricultural industries. Multiply your model-farms. Found new clubs, open numerous schools. Teach your masters to instil into their pupils, with the first elements of agriculture, a love for labour and for a free life in the fields. Select lecturers able to support their knowledge of the theory of farming by a practical acquaintance with everyday work. Form syndicates for the sale of your products, and for the purchase of any nutritive or fertilising materials you may require in your business. Never cease uniting your efforts to produce better crops and more of them. Profit by the results obtained at your experiment-farms. Be yourselves an example to your neighbours, and lastly, let no opportunity escape of promoting the improvement of your agriculture and of thereby increasing the prosperity of your fellow-citizens.

In conclusion Gentlemen, I thank you for the kind attention you have paid to my address, and I pray you to excuse me for having trespassed so long on your precious time.

A Lincoln Ram Much Admired in New-Zealand.

This fine sheep was bred by J. R. & R. B. Kirkham, Bishopthorpe House, Lincolnshire, Eng., and taken by William