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Notes by the Way.

Agricultural education. — Among many wise counsels that the late Professor Huxley gave to all sorts and conditions of men, few were more thoroughly practical than the advice offered to the Chamber of Agriculture of Easingwold, Suffolk, England. "There are, said he, some general principles that apply to all technical training. The first of these is that practice can only be learned by practice. The farmer must be made by thorough farm-work. I believe that you practical people would be all the better for the scientific knowledge that would show you *why* such or such a treatment is successful in growing such or such crops, or in feeding such or such animals. The knowledge would keep you from trying hopeless experiments, and would enable you to take advantage of the innumerable hints that Dame Nature gives to people who live in direct consort with things. Boys and girls, when at school, should be led from the observation of the commonest facts up to general scientific truths. If I were called upon to frame a course of elementary instruction preparatory to agriculture, I am not sure that I should attempt chemistry, or botany, or physiology, or geology, as such; it is a method fraught with the danger of spending too much time and attention on abstraction and theories, on words or notions, instead of on things. The history of a bean, of a grain of wheat, of a turnip, of a pig, or of a cow, properly treated,—with the introduction of the elements of chemistry, physiology, and so on as they come in,—would give all the elementary science which is needed for the comprehension of the processes of agriculture in a form easily assimilated by the youthful mind, which loathes anything in the shape of long words and abstract notions; and small blame to it!