

### *Agricultural Experimental Stations.*

In Belgium there are also nine agricultural experimental stations, supported jointly by the Government and the local agricultural societies. The work carried on at these stations is chiefly chemical. In the station at Ghent, which may be taken as a type of the group, there is a director, a chemist and three assistants; a chemical laboratory, well supplied with apparatus for conducting analytical work, a stable and a feeding room.

At these stations analyses are conducted of foods and of products from the farm, of grasses and fodders used for the production of flesh or milk, for the purpose of determining their comparative value; also of manures, but more particularly the commercial fertilizers, such as are purchased and used by the Belgian farmer.

Formerly the small farmers of that country were shamefully imposed on by the vendors of spurious fertilizers and cattle foods, the deficiencies in which they were unable to detect until after they had sunk a large part of their means in testing them. Now, through the agencies of these useful institutions, the farmer can have determined for him beforehand the actual value of all such substances and thus be protected from imposition.

The sugar beet is grown in large quantities in Belgium from imported seed, some samples of which are much adulterated with old and worthless material. The stations have rendered most valuable service to the farmers by testing the vitality of the various lots offered in the market, and have thus been the means of preventing, in large measure, the waste of labour and other losses which attend the use of worthless seed.

Feeding experiments have been most carefully conducted with different breeds of animals and the results made public. The officers of this station have also devoted some attention to counterfeits in commercial fabrics, determining the precise quantity of cotton in mixed goods. No teaching is carried on at any of these stations.

#### *The Horticultural School at Ghent.*

This is one of two such national schools supported by the Belgian Government. The board of instruction consists of seven professors, and the course of study extends over three years. The number of students is limited to 25.

At this school the cultivation of flowers is a prominent feature, receiving the principal attention both as to instruction and practice. On this account much time is devoted to botany. As aids to study, there are large collections of plants in the conservatories and an immense herbarium of 30,000 specimens, comprising species from all parts of the world. Collections, charts and casts illustrate the structure and