

—and undertake to cultivate even a garden of half an acre for the summer. He will then find that knowledge is as essential to the right use of the spade as of the pen, and there is as great a difference between the scientific farming of Flanders, where literally not a weed is to be seen, and that of many farmers, the wealth of whose soil is about equally divided between fruits and weeds, as between trade of a modern commercial city and barter of a back-wood settlement. It is true that agriculture has been the last to receive the impetus of modern science. It is true that many agriculturalist are content to go on in the ways of their fathers, because experiments are costly. But it is also true that they are unable to compete with those who understand the use of new instruments methods and fertilizers.—Agriculture is also becoming in this country a popular recreation. Many gentleman is content to spend on his country-seat money which he makes in the counting room. The practical farmer is thus able to get the benefit of experience without paying for them. This change in agriculture, which has converted it from a drudgery to an art, has created a demand for a corresponding literature. "Fifty years ago a stable agricultural periodical did not exist on the American Continent." Now every considerable district has one, while almost every weekly paper secular or religious has its agricultural department; and it will not be long before something of a library will be a part of the furniture of every well-ordered farm.—Book Table, *Huiper's Magazine*,

DOES DAIRYING IMPROVE LAND ?

Mr. X. A. Willard, in a recent article, says :

There is no question but that lands may be kept in fertility and increased in productiveness with more ease and less expense under the dairy than under a system of grain-growing. The dairy farmer has the means at his command for making large quantities of manure. That he is wasteful of this material, and injudicious in its application it may be often, and perhaps as a general rule, is charged against him. Still under all mismanagement in this regard, it is believed that dairy lands are steadily improving in the elements of fertility, and are now in better heart for grain crops than when grain-growing was made the business of the farm. It is true that upon many farms the yield of grass is much less than it should be, but this is not so much on account of any lack of fertility in the soil as from neglect of proper culture—allowing weeds to creep in, overstocking pastures, feeding down the aftermath of meadows, cutting grass when over ripe, and other abuses which, in time have served to lessen the product. When farms have been properly managed, and have received the liquid and solid excrement of the stock, judiciously applied, they have been wonderfully improved, and are annually yielding immense crops.

Herkimer County, the oldest cheese dairying county in New York, contains about 278,000 acres of improved land. This is divided up into two thousand farms of 50 acres and over running from three to twenty acres; or in all, say about three thousand farms. The value of products taken from the farms in 1864, according to the State census, was as follows :—

Dairy products	\$3,157,129
Grain products	1,106,780
Some thirteen other products	2,524,882

Total agricultural products for one year \$6,788,791

Now if this sum was equally divided among the 3000 farms, it would give each farm \$2,263 as the average income. But as there are 1,000 farms that run from three to twenty acres, or that are under fifty acres each, some idea may be had as to whether the farming is as productive in its results as in in other sections. If we have figured correctly, the average product per acre in 1864 amounted to some \$24. The highest annual product of cheese sold from the county has been a little above 18,000,000 pounds. In 1864 the cheese crop was only a little over 13,000,000 pounds.

OYSTER FARMS.

How would you like to live where you could go out and pick oysters for dinner, as you do apples? You need not smile; you could easily do it if you lived near an oyster farm. And it is about these curious farms I want to tell you.

You must know that we eat so many oysters, that they grew scarce in many places, and People began to fear that we should exhaust the supply. That would be a sad calamity to those who are very fond of oysters; so some enterprising men set themselves to work to cultivate oysters as we do potatoes—only in a different way. When the little oyster is launched into life, to take care of himself, his first care is to secure a home. His wants are very simple, requiring merely a holding on place—for holding on is the speciality of an oyster. If he cannot at once secure a safe home, he is almost sure to be devoured by fishes, for fishes like oysters as well as men.

As soon as this fact about the young oyster was discovered by the wise men, they conceived the idea of providing homes for the little creatures, as men provide homes for poor children—only, as oysters don't care for cradles, and milk, their nurseries were made in this way :

Strong stakes were driven into the mud—under water, of course—and between them were woven branches of trees. That was all. Having the nurseries ready, the men now brought several boat-loads of old oysters, and placed them on the ground around the stakes, to start the farm. As the young oysters are hatched, they naturally attach themselves to the branches, and proceed to grow. Each oyster is said to lay two millions of eggs in a season.

There are other ways of farming oysters. One way, in use in Italy, where a lake is devoted to the purpose, is to build a small hill of stones, and make a sort of fence around it, with stakes driven into the ground. The old oyster live on the hill, and the young ones on the stakes. When the farmer wants oysters, he has only to pull up a stake, and pick them off. In France there is still a different way. The farms are enclosed in stone walls, and large stones are scattered among the oysters, who live on the ground. Of course the baby oysters live on the stones. There are thousands of these farms on the shores of France. They have even gone so far as to improve the flavor of the common oyster by artificial feeding.—*Olive Thorne, in Interior*.