in 1837 by the late Henry Handley, M.P., a fine specimen of a Lincolnshire squire—a good sportsman, an excellent judge of stock, and cultivating his own estate with more intelligence and success than was usual at that time among his class. The first annual encampment of the society took place at Oxford in 1839, and its first Journal was published in 1840 under the admirable editorship of the late Philip Pusey, a lively and forcible writer, and a most zealous farmer, who to the day of his death in 1851 devoted his time, his talents and his fortune to promoting the improvement and recording the progress of his favourite science. He was an example of that delightful combination of scholarship and practical energy which is so common in England, and he exercised the double influence of an accomplished gentleman and an enlightened agriculturist.

In every institution which meets with distinguished success results are always produced which were not anticipated by its originators. Thus it happened that, when the Agricultural Society was founded, not one of the promoters forsaw the importance of the mechanical department. In the ten sections of the charter of incorporation defining the objects of the association, 'implements' are only incidentally referred to as one of the subjects to which men of science were to be encouraged to pay attention, in a miscellaneous paragraph, which includes 'the construction of farm-buildings,' 'the application of chemistry to the general purposes of agriculture,' 'the destruction of insects injurious to vegetable life,' 'and the eradication of weeds.' At Oxford a few manufacturers saw an opening for obtaining customers, and found their way to the show-yard in spite of the difficulties from the want of that cheap conveyance which is now common to the whole kingdom. One gold medal for a collection of implements, three silver medals and five pounds for a 'paddle-plough for raising potatoes,' were all the rewards distributed in 1839 for what was destined to be the most attractive, as well as the most useful feature of the Society's exhibitions. After the Cambridge meeting in 1840 the importance of the implements was acknowledged; and the number displayed, beginning with some 300 at Liverpool in 1841, increased at the rate of about 100 on every succeeding year, until, in 1853, at Gloucester, they reached their highest point in a total of 2000. The rise or fall of a few hundreds chiefly depends upon the importance and railway facilities of the town where the show is held, and the number of articles exhibited is less a test of the progress of mechanical invention than of the sales which are likely to be effected in any particular district. The annual show is only one of the numerous modes in which the makers advertise and display their productions. The true prize to the manufacturer is plenty of custom.

(*To be Continued.*)

ECONOMY IN SMOKING.—A correspondent of the *Manchester Examiner* has made a discovery which will greatly promote comfort and economy in smoking, the result being achieved by a simple plan of keeping the tobacco-pipe cool. His instructions are:—Take a piece of sponge three-quarters of an inch square (in a dry state), make a small hole through the centre, then steep it in water until it becomes distended. Squeeze the water out, and put the stem of the pipe through the hole until the bowl comes in contact with the centre of the sponge. Charge the pipe, and fill the sponge with cold water, then commence smoking, and it will be found that a saving of 25 per cent. in tobacco is effected, with an improvement in the flavor.