

## Our Editorial Corps.

THOUGH this journal continues to be under the responsible management of the same Editor-in-chief as at the first, some changes have taken place from time to time in the personnel of his staff of assistants, and of these it may be well to inform our readers, that they may know to whom they are indebted for not a little of the interest which attaches to the CANADA FARMER. Much to our regret, Mr. D. W. Beadle, of St. Catharines, who so ably conducted our Horticultural department at the first, ceased to be connected with this paper at the close of Vol. I. The department thus vacated has been managed since by the Editor-in-chief and the Office Editor. This last-named position is filled by Mr. John E. Ellis, of this city. Prof. Buckland still presides over our Stock department, and during the past year has enriched our Correspondence department by many valuable contributions. Prof. A. Smith continues to conduct the Veterinary department, and Mr. James Smith the Architectural department. The Rev. C. J. S. Bethune is Entomological Editor, and it is no disparagement to others to say that this is a specially valuable feature of this journal. Mr. J. H. Thomas, of Brooklin, is a regular contributor to "The Apiary," and solves all practical questions that come up in the course of the correspondence we receive in relation to bee-keeping. Several parties lend us occasional aid, and it is only right to say that among these our chief indebtedness is to Mr. J. E. Cull, of the Canada Company, a gentleman whose taste and whose ready and practical knowledge, as to farm matters, render him a most efficient and valuable contributor. This enumeration of our *collaborateurs* will suffice to convince our readers of the truth of a statement elsewhere made in this issue, that "we have a most efficient Editorial staff."

## Farmers' Clubs.

WE have had the pleasure, on rare occasions, of recording the origin and progress of Farmers' Clubs in some few sections of the country, which were in advance of less enterprising neighbourhoods, or distinguished by the presence of some active and leading spirit who influenced the lethargic characters around him, and stirred them up from the apathy that is wont to settle down on the inhabitants of rural districts. Certain it is, these useful institutions are far from common among us, and as we believe they are calculated to do a great amount of good when judiciously managed, we would strongly advocate their formation as an adjunct to Agricultural Societies, and as affording the means of mental improvement and social intercourse in a way which Agricultural Societies alone cannot effect.

During the spring, summer and harvest months, the farmers' time and energies are taxed to their utmost extent to press through the necessary work in the short season which this climate allows; but winter is a time of comparative leisure in the country—of comparative leisure only—for on every well ordered farm there is plenty of work to fill up the brief days of this season of the year: but the evenings are long, and afford a most welcome leisure for relaxation from the strain of nerve and muscle, for social enjoyment, and for mental culture. It is then that the attractions of the fire-side and the domestic circle may be most fitly indulged and turned to best account. But even where these are all that they should be, we need to go out of the charmed circle, and come in contact with our fellows in social intercourse of a less exclusive character. Amongst the agricultural population, farmers' clubs afford a most appropriate means of securing this desirable end. When they are rightly conducted, the benefits they might confer can hardly be over-estimated. They furnish a ready and most pleasing opportunity for gaining and imparting in-

formation on matters of common concern, of comparing experience, and of cultivating kindly feelings of fellowship and sympathy. By their organization a rural neighbourhood may be provided at a trifling expense with a valuable library of books for circulation, pleasant meetings and discussions are established, and in many other ways they conduce to the mutual improvement and social enjoyment of the comparatively isolated community of agricultural districts.

The details of their management must be regulated in great measure by the circumstances of the neighbourhood. We would suggest that the meetings and discussions which usually form a part of the proceedings of these Associations should be as little formal in their character as possible, and we know of no better example to hold up for imitation than the Little Falls Farmers' Club, of whose meetings most interesting accounts are given from time to time in the *Utica Weekly Herald*, whose reports we have occasionally condensed for the benefit of the readers of the CANADA FARMER. While the discussions themselves should be of a free and conversational character, care should be taken that the interest of the evening is not left to accident, but should be provided for by appointing beforehand some subject, and one or more individuals to lead the debate, either by reading a paper, or in any other way that may seem most appropriate. Subjects for discussion can never be wanting. All the occupations and interests of rural life are fit and inexhaustible topics for such meetings.

There is one other suggestion we would make, and which has been acted on with very satisfactory results in several instances, namely, that some of the meetings at least should be of a more public general nature, and should include the farmers' wives and daughters amongst the audience. This would at once enlarge the sphere of their operations, and render them more attractive and refined. One word in conclusion. Let the meetings be held in the school-house, or in rotation at your own dwellings, but never, if it can possibly be avoided, in taverns. We hear of several of these Associations being projected in various localities. We heartily wish them success, and trust their number will greatly increase. We believe them to be most important means of disseminating information, cultivating the mental powers, and elevating the farmers' calling to its true position of dignity and influence.

## Agricultural Education.

THE subject of popular education in general is one of the questions of the day in Britain, and as one branch of this great subject, the education of farm laborers, and of young men who intend to pursue agriculture as a profession, is being largely discussed. At the first monthly meeting of the Kingscote Agricultural Association for the present season, a lecture was delivered on this topic by Col. Kingscote, C.B., M.P., which was replete with common sense views, and was especially good in reference to the training of young men for agriculture as their future occupation. A plain general education until the age of twelve or fourteen, is advocated as the basis of the work. "Then," said the lecturer, "comes the ticklish time to know what to do with boys." They need to have their muscles exercised and developed. It is time for them to learn to hold the plough, and to perform all the manual operations of the farm. They should also be taught accounts and book-keeping. What is to be done at this critical age? The agricultural colleges are not in all respects the thing. Especially do they fail in teaching the practical part of the business. Theory is well, but the practice needs to go with it. A sort of apprenticeship to farmers who have been themselves thoroughly educated is good; much may be learned at a college or school like that at Cirencester; but what is wanted is a course of training by which work with the hand shall be taught along with work with the head. The lecturer was of opinion that a farm, managed by a well educated practical man, the whole work of

which should be done by the school of pupils in attendance, their time being divided between study and labor, would be the best solution of what should be done with youths at the "ticklish age." Such an establishment might have its professors and teachers to give lectures and instruction during certain hours, and might also employ a portion or all of the evenings of the week in studies of one sort or another. Difficulties would of course creep up in connection with this plan, but it presents many obvious advantages.

We have often thought that a scheme of this kind would be eminently suited to a new country like ours. We believe it might, by judicious management, be made well-nigh self-supporting. The chief obstacle in its way is a certain prejudice which exists against manual labor institutions, and that resolves itself mainly into the notion young men almost invariably get into their heads, that to become sojournerly they must abjure vulgar toil, and be genteel in attire and habit. That work is low, and incompatible with respectability, dignity, and scholarship, is too much the prevailing impression. Farming will never occupy its true position among human avocations until this false view of things is done away, and a wisely planned scheme of manual labor education, thoroughly carried out, would be as fatal to it as anything within the compass of practicability. We should much like to see the experiment fairly tried in "this Canada of ours."

## Literary Notices.

THE ILLUSTRATED ANNUAL REGISTER OF RURAL AFFAIRS FOR 1868. We have received from the publishers, Messrs. Luther Tucker & Son, of Albany, N. Y., a copy of the above-named publication, now in the fourteenth year of its age. Like its predecessors, it is full of useful information on rural topics, illustrated by suitable engravings, and as we have before observed, we know not in what shape so much valuable matter can be had for thirty cents, American currency, without it be in the columns of the CANADA FARMER. The present number contains, next to a calendar of the months and of the farm operations appropriate to them, a valuable article on "Rotation of Crops." Then comes a chapter on the "Culture of Small Fruits on the Hudson," which cannot fail to be highly suggestive to all fruit growers, and especially those who raise the smaller fruits for market purposes. Next we have "Shrubs and Shrubberies," occupying some 22 pages; then "Contrivances in Rural Economy," some of which we intend to give a future issue; then, "Iron Furniture for Farms;" "Stone and Gravel Roads;" "Hay Barracks;" "Plan of a Corn House;" "Order and System;" "Remedies for Household Pests;" "Garden Insects," by Dr. Fitch, the celebrated Entomologist; [N.B. This one chapter is worth the price of the book twice over.] "Plans of Grounds;" "Rain Gauge;" "Cutting Fodder;" "Farm Notes;" together with, as the auctioneers say, "a variety of smaller articles too numerous to mention."

Since the above was put in type we have received copies of the above publication from Mr. F. E. Grafton, Bookseller, of Montreal, and Mr. Day, Bookseller, of Guelph. The former advertises it for sale at 30 cents, and the latter at 25 cents.

THE LITTLE CORPORAL. This juvenile monthly continues to maintain a high character. The issue for December is a capital number. It contains "On the Hearth Rug;" "The Great Panjandrum Himself;" "Jennie's Memory String;" a new "Rhyme of Little Red Riding Hood;" the conclusion of "Camp Bruce;" besides a number of sparkling poems, among which is a perfect gem, by the Associate Editor, Mrs. Emily Huntington Miller, entitled "The Baby's Stocking;" music by Geo. F. Root, a letter from Theodore Tilton, and an editorial describing the beautiful process by which chromos are made. A new volume of *The Little Corporal* begins with the January number. Terms, \$1 a year. Address Alfred L. Sewell, Publisher of *The Little Corporal*, Chicago, Ill.

THE AMERICAN STOCK JOURNAL. An advertisement respecting this periodical, will be found elsewhere in our present issue. It is an excellent publication, comes out monthly, and cannot fail to interest and prove instructive to stock breeders.