

They hop around the garden or field and eat all the insects in their way by thrusting out a long sticky tongue and catching the victims quicker than one could see.

Toads prevent the large increase of grubs and insects to such an extent that they are often procured and placed in hot-beds. In England toads were sometimes purchased for this purpose at four pence each.

Earth Worms.

The little earthworms which we often see in the ground are of the greatest importance and use to the farmer. There is a larger number of these little animals than anyone could estimate, and with these multitudes constantly moving about through the earth, the soil is kept loose and stirred up. The worm casts gradually accumulate on the surface and form a layer of very fine, fertile soil.

Snakes.

We all know that snakes are the most repulsive of animals, and yet they are useful to the farmer. They eat countless numbers of insects and slugs, and prove themselves in many ways to be the farmer's friends.

Moles.

The moles are others of the underground helpers. These mouse-like animals make their habitations under the ground, and live on bugs, grubs, and slugs. As they travel through the ground in quest of food, they loosen and till the soil which is certainly a help. Some farmers claim that moles are harmful, because they eat carrots and other roots, or bury young plants in their mole-hills. But it has been found that they eat only the roots which come in the way of their mining operations, and it is thought that they do more good than evil, as they destroy so many of the creatures that are far more injurious than they themselves.

These are a few of the helpers and friends nature has provided for the farmer. There are many others which are of great value, but it would take too long to tell about them.

The farmer has, of course, horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, hens, and many other trusty and faithful friends who help him to give his family a home, food and comforts, and we should never forget to be kind to dumb animals, for without them we could not live.

Correspondence Comrades' Branch.

(FROM THE FEDERAL MAGAZINE, LONDON.)

The Hon. Secretary of the Correspondence Comrades' Branch draws attention to the fact that it is necessary that all applicants for Comrades should state their sex, age and their own or their parents' occupation, so that correspondents who are personally interesting to them may be given. Mention should also be made of any particular hobby in which they are interested, or any exchange they wish effected. Mrs. G. T. Plunkett often receives lists of names without any particulars whatever, and it is disappointing to the children to be kept waiting while these necessary enquiries are made. An application form is appended, and packets of loose forms will be sent on application to the Central Office, Caxton Hall, Westminster, or to Mrs. G. T. Plunkett, Belvedere Lodge, Wimbledon, Surrey. Comrades from a number of fresh places are greatly wanted so as to make more variety for the applicants of the different schools. This Branch numbers over 14,000 members.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR CORRESPONDENCE COMRADE.

Name.. . . .

Address.. . . .

School.. . . .

Age.. . . .

State whether you are a Boy or Girl.. . . .

State clearly parents' occupation
or position. If adult, state
own occupation.. . . .

Give a choice of two or three
different parts of the Em-
pire where you would wish
for a comrade

State whether there is any sub-
ject, such as natural history,
literature or current events
in which you are specially
interested.. . . .

Name and address of Enroller
or
Signature of Parent or Guardian

Return this form to
Mrs. G. T. Plunkett, Hon. Sec., Belvedere Lodge, Wim-
bledon, Surrey.