

absolutely so, by the aid of general taxation on property. Medical institutions, as well as colleges, have been largely endowed, and are still assisted by the State; and you have abundant example that the disposition has not been wanting in our government to execute, where the great constituent body has demanded the work. The propriety of this measure has reached your high places, and I refer with great pleasure to the recent message of Governor Fish, who, in view of the benign results accomplished by your society, has emphatically recommended "the endowment by the State of an Agricultural School and a school for instruction in the Mechanic Arts;" and this, if followed up with the zeal and earnestness which its importance demands, you may certainly effect. I cannot believe that a wise and intelligent legislature will longer deny your prayer. It may be said, that we have in this country no examples from which to copy an institution of this kind. No matter. They exist abroad, in the full tide of success, far beyond the probation of experiment; the Hofwyl School, in Switzerland, founded by Fellenburgh, for example, to say nothing of others, equally successful, in other countries of Europe. To them might Commissioners repair, at a moderate expense, for models of instruction, so far as they are adapted to our wants and condition; and were it not so, it is but a poor commentary upon American ingenuity and enterprise, to halt at any thing supposed to be ultimately attainable, without the strongest effort to effect it; and we can no more doubt the final success of institutions of this kind, than we can doubt the conquering career of the steam engine, or the electric battery.

The laying deep and broad, the foundations of a State Agricultural School, subject to an equal ratio of scholars from the several counties of the State, would be in accordance with the already established plans of distributing the public benefits of education, and liable to no objection. Thus, the necessary knowledge, so acquired, in the remotest districts of the State, through branches of our institutions, which might be set apart for that purpose, or established independently, through private liberality or enterprise. It cannot be expected, indeed it never was anticipated, that the State Agricultural Society should embark in a work of this kind; it has neither the necessary funds nor the corporate strength to effect it, and in pursuing the correct path already indicated, it has abundant exercise for all its functions. Yet its advisory aid and co-operation would be invaluable, and greatly add to the utility and success of any agricultural institution.

Aside from the establishment of an independent School for agriculture, the State might with great propriety provide a department in the Normal School, now becoming a settled branch of public education, for in-

struction in the principles of Agricultural Science, which from them, might be taught in the common schools. Popular works on Geology, Agricultural Chemistry, Botany, Animal, and Vegetable Physiology, the plain principles of Mechanic Art—all which are indispensable to the proper education of the farmer, might be taught in a plain, and simple course of lessons, as easily as the ordinary rules of the arithmetic, or mathematics; and a knowledge of these would be the source of satisfaction, if not of future profit, to every scholar. "During the past year," I quote the language of Governor Fish, "81,624,05 dollars have been expended by the State for the increase of books in the school district libraries, to which have been added, one million three hundred thousand volumes." Works of the kind which have been mentioned, together with well approved Agricultural books, should form a portion of the annual additions to these libraries; and if such works cannot be found the necessary authority should be created for their compilation. Thus you provide the means of self instruction in a great degree, to the humblest and most obscure inquirer, and that without cost.

REPORT ON AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS.

BY DOCTOR KIRKPATRICK.

SIR,—In submitting to you my report of the progress that has been made, since the 1st of March last up to the present time, in the horticultural department in connection with the Glasnevin Model Farm, I beg to state, that the kitchen garden has been recently thorough-drained, and is now under a regular rotation of crops, consisting of the best varieties of all kinds of culinary vegetables; in conjunction with which we have a portion allotted to the cultivation of small fruits, such as the gooseberry, currant, raspberry, strawberry, &c. We have also lately got a set of hothed frames, in which we are growing melons and cucumbers. These are cultivated by the pupils, who work in the garden in rotation; and it affords me much pleasure to say, that their attention and conduct are most satisfactory. I may also mention, that we make it a rule, that when any particular kind of work is to be done, all the pupils are to be in attendance, and every one is allowed to take a part in the operations going on; by this means each becomes thoroughly acquainted with the work. The pupils are brought together for a short time once a week, when I explain to them the work which has been done during the previous week, and point out the operations at which we are to be engaged the next.

In addition to the means thus afforded to the pupils of acquiring practical information, I deliver a course of lectures to them in their class-room—theory and practice being thus made to go hand in hand. So far as our pre-