

THE O. A. C. REVIEW.

The Dignity of a Calling is its Utility.

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THE O. A. C. REVIEW will spare no endeavor to furnish reliable news and information to those interested in farming operations.

Ex students will confer a great favor on the Editors of this Journal by sending news, particularly expert ones of practical value.

EDITORIAL.

"A nation's literature is the outcome of its whole life. To consider it apart from the antecedents and environments which form the natural genius were to misapprehend its nature and its bearing. Its growth in kind and degree is determined by four capital agencies—RACE, or hereditary dispositions, SURROUNDINGS, or physical and social conditions, EPOCH, or spirit of the age, PERSON, or reactionary and expressive force."

"Agriculture must conform its methods to the phenomena of the vegetable and animal life, it follows necessarily that the science of these phenomena is the rational basis of agriculture."

So much has been said about the New Year that it hardly seems necessary to add more; but this we might say, that although the year ends in nought let us each be determined that our work of the year shall not end in nought. With the coming of the New Year, new possibilities arise before us and the extent to which we improve each and every opportunity of bettering ourselves will determine whether we rise above mediocrity or drift with the tide.

The influence of the College on the agriculture of the Province is very marked. Turn where you will to behold advancement along agricultural lines and its quickening influence is seen. Who contributes a great deal of the literature on agricultural subjects at the present time? Is it not the men who are, or have been, connected with the O. A. C.? Who, during the past three weeks, have been stalking through the land dispensing knowledge right and left? Chiefly, our men. Who are the leaders in thought in the neighborhoods in which they reside? The men who have spent one, two or three years at this institution. The farmers of the Province are beginning to ask for knowledge in all branches connected with their work, and to whom do they look to satisfy their longings? To the centre of agricultural knowledge for the Province. Then, go on bright star and may your brightening beams be scattered far and near until the pathway of the farmer shall shine more and more unto the perfect day.

We have just emerged from the clouds of another vacation with all the varying effects which vacation has upon various constitutions and temperament. We do not wish to join that great army of pessimists who are forever looking on the dark side of things, and who are always finding fault with anything and everything, but we would crave our readers indulgence for a moment or two in regard to the long vacation to which we are subjected. A great deal has been said and written on this matter, yet the vacation remains as long as ever. Relieve the Professors of Farmers' Institute work and then it will be shortened; so say those who ought to know; but how accomplish this is the question. Do away with the Farmers' Institutes would be an easy solution of the problem, but this is not at all desirable as they have come to stay, and the good which they are doing is incalculable.

Please consider the following remedies.—
1. Follow the example of the scientific call feeder—change from new milk to skim, to concentrated and bulky fodder gradually. The professors have been spoon feeding and giving the finger to the farmers long enough; teach them gradually to drink without the spoon and the finger and to rely on themselves more and on others less. There are plenty of farmers throughout the Province who are capable of leading discussions at such meetings and a good, lively discussion will do more good than a barrel of pap, and better farmers will be the result. A great many think that they cannot have a meeting without a Professor to lean upon, but this is only the fancy of an indolent brain. Develop yourselves and then you will know how you got there.

2. Get the ex-students of the College to work. Oh! you say, they have plenty of opportunities at present and do not embrace them. But were they ever asked to take a responsible part in the programme of the Institutes and they refused or were a failure? We think not. Give them to believe that you have some confidence in them and they will take hold of the work in real earnest.