

peritonitis, enteritis, tumours, osseous and articular lesions, cold abscesses etc. all of which may be caused directly by tuberculosis, and their ultimate prognosis is no more hopeful than that of phthisis pulmonalis." It is further decided by the medical experts to be a "parasitic, virulent, contagious and transmissible disease, caused by a microbe—the bacillus of Koch." This bacillus seems to have the right of way everywhere. It can enter any opening in which it can get its head. It can find routes in the human body in a hundred directions. It slips in with the procession of food, along with the columns of air, or moves in by itself through breaches made in the walls of flesh by abrasions, punctures, wounds and ulcerations. Nor are these all the agencies at the command of this fell disease. Certain diseases such as measles, small-pox, chronic bronchitis, pneumonia and certain constitutional conditions due to diabetes, alcoholism etc., greatly predispose the contraction of tuberculosis. Having thus outlined the number and methods of the approach of this formidable foe, its origin is described. It is found in the milk, muscles and blood of animals which serve as food for man. It is transmitted from the tuberculous human subject to the healthy by means of sputa, pus, dried mucous discharges and all objects laden with tuberculous dust. It is contagious through food, through contact with persons having it, and in many instances is the outcome of myriads of other diseases. No suggestion is unfortunately made as to the cure of this pestilence when once established in the human subject. The only means available is the prevention of its transmission. This can be done by thorough cooking of meat which may be tuberculous, and boiling milk which may be infected. Patients must be secluded from all who are predisposed to it from heredity or from having had certain forms of disease. The clothing, the sputa, the furniture of the sick one must be thoroughly disinfected.

We have on previous occasions advocated the teaching of agriculture in our rural schools but there are no signs as yet of anything being done in that direction. It appears that our neighbors across the line are also fully alive to the advantages that would accrue from such instruction. The *American Agriculturist* in its October issue has an able article on the subject in which it says: "Properly conducted, the teaching of agriculture in the common schools would greatly add to the scholars' interest and to the value of the education they received. As it is at present in thousands of our country schools the instruction is wholly apart from the actual life of the scholars. The teaching is a weary round of book studies, and the wealth of practical instruction that is to be gained by a proper consideration of the every-day life and natural surroundings of children is entirely missed. Besides turning the young mind in the direction of agriculture, such instruction in the common schools would tend to increase the in-born love of the soil, and sow the germs of State and national pride and patriotism. These important influences should never be overlooked in the conduct of our public school system." What we chiefly aim at accomplishing is for the government to appropriate a sum for the purpose of providing instruction to a certain number of select school teachers on the subject of agriculture thus equipping them for teaching not only the methods of agriculture but the principles on which success depends. Such instruction could be obtained at the Ontario Agricultural College. The plan is very simple and we trust that the Education department will put the machinery in motion to give it, at least, a trial. We are convinced that the benefits would be very great. If those who framed our educational system had looked back upon their own youthful experiences, and recognized the fact that interest in the subject of study is the first essential towards success in the matter of learning we should have had more value attached to what we might call object lessons from nature. We should have had a wider and deeper interest in the things of the country taken by boys belonging to the country, and less of the growing tendency to crowd into large urban centres—in many cases much to the disadvantage of those who go. Boys who do not take kindly to the ordinary routine work of a school are unprovided for—their mental development is either neglected, or it is left to chance to determine what objects of interest may

absorb their thoughts. We shall rejoice to see the time when farmers' sons will take an intelligent interest in all objects that come before their eyes, and have the means within their reach of solving difficulties as they appear.

THE essential condition of success in life for all normally constituted men is undoubtedly the right choice of a vocation. What to do with our boys is a serious question with every parent for it is just here that so many fatal blunders are made. Parents may be actuated by the very best motives in laying out a plan of life for their sons but they are too often unmindful of the fact that what may prove eminently successful in one case may be equally disastrous in another. And very often the decision is rendered more difficult by the necessity laid upon the boy of earning his daily bread as he eats it. Then, too frequently, circumstances usurp the place of decision; and what should be the result of careful thought is left to mere accident. We have no hesitation in saying that a large percentage of failures in life can be attributed to the fact that young men have been compelled against their own predilections and desires to adopt a vocation entirely unsuited to them. Parents are too prone to shut their eyes to the natural bent of their sons' minds and learn their mistake when it is too late to rectify it. The boy may show a positive dislike to the position chosen for him and protest strongly against continuing in it but he is either encouraged or forced to remain and the result, in nine cases out of ten, is failure. In such cases an immediate change to a vocation more in sympathy with the boy's disposition and tastes is the only safe course to pursue. It should be borne in mind that the loss of a year or two at the outset of a young man's career is nothing compared to the injury and life-long disappointment entailed by being forced to remain in a trade or profession for which he is naturally unsuited. The world is full of poor, briefless barristers, doctors without patients, prosy preachers lacking the first requisites of their calling, who would have turned out successful farmers or business men and hosts of struggling clerks who would have made good mechanics and *vice versa*. All the perseverance in the world won't make a man successful in life unless his heart is in his work and he finds pleasure and profit in what he undertakes. Parents cannot therefore be too careful in the choice of a vocation for their children.

5 CASH PRIZE COMPETITIONS

Of Interest to every Farm Household.

MASSEY'S ILLUSTRATED has been steadily winning fast friends during the past twelve months, and no wonder, for neither time nor money have been spared by its publishers to fill its pages with interesting and instructive matter and with the handsomest illustrations obtainable.

None of our past zeal shall be wanting in the future to make the ILLUSTRATED a journal of still greater merit.

As this journal is published in the interest of rural homes, and with a view to greatly increasing its usefulness, we have decided to offer the following prizes for five competitions:—

FIVE CASH PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

No. 1.—For the Best Story, based on some Canadian theme.—Open to every reader of the ILLUSTRATED.

First Prize, \$5.00 in cash.

Second Prize, goods to the value of \$3.00 selected from our Premium List.

No. 2.—For the Best Essay on "Can our present Methods of Farming be improved upon, and if so, How?"—Open to Farmers only.

First Prize, \$5.00 in cash.

Second Prize, goods to the value of \$3.00 selected from our Premium List.

No. 3.—For the Best Essay on "Good House-keeping."—Open to Farmers' wives and daughters.

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No. 4.—For the Best Plan for a General Purpose Farm Barn.—Open to any reader of the ILLUSTRATED.

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No. 5.—For the Best Plan for a General Purpose Poultry House.—Open to any reader of the ILLUSTRATED.

First Prize, \$5.00 in cash.

Second Prize, goods to the value of \$3.00 selected from our Premium List.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.

The work on each competition must be wholly original and executed by the author's or designer's own hand, and evidence furnished to this effect if asked for.

The manuscript or plans entered for competition shall all become the property of MASSEY'S ILLUSTRATED, but will be returned if they do not care to publish them.

First and Second Prize Stories, Essays, and Plans, and others, if of sufficient merit, will be published in the ILLUSTRATED, and if found desirable will be fully illustrated. Author's and Designer's names will be published unless we are specially requested not to do so.

Work on each competition must be in promptly at time specified below, and must be accompanied by author's or designer's full name and P.O. address.

All communications must be addressed to—Massey Press, Massey Street, Toronto. Any enquiries requiring an answer must be accompanied by a 3c. stamp.

Special Conditions.—Competitions No. 1, 2, & 3.

There will be three judges, one of whom will be Mr. Chas. Morrison, one of the editors of the ILLUSTRATED (ex-Editor *Toronto Daily Mail*), and two others, who have no connection with MASSEY'S ILLUSTRATED, and who will be duly appointed and announced. Their decision will be final.

Stories and Essays will be judged on the following basis:—

General Appearance, handwriting, etc., maximum,	10 points.
Grammatical Construction and Spelling,	" 20 "
Knowledge of Subject,	" 20 "
Originality of Theme and Argument,	" 20 "
Treatment,	" 30 "

No manuscript must contain less than 800, or more than 2000 words.

Special Conditions.—Competitions No. 4 & 5.

There will be three judges, one of whom will be Mr. W. E. H. Massey, who has from youth had much to do with building and the drawing of plans. Another will be a professional architect or draughtsman, and the third a competent and practical judge of the requirements and utility of farm barns and poultry houses.

Plans will be judged on the following basis:—

Neatness and Accuracy of Drawings,	maximum, 20 points.
Exterior Design	" 20 "
Interior Arrangements,	" 20 "
Adaptability to General Purposes	" 20 "
Cost of Construction, compared with merits of Design	" 20 "

All Plans should be carefully done up before being posted, to prevent their being lost in transmission.

When Manuscripts and Plans must be sent in.

The sooner work on each competition is handed in the better, but the following are the latest dates upon which manuscripts and plans will be received—

Competition No. 1—up to 6 p.m. on Jan. 14th, next.	
" No. 2— " " Feb. 11th, next.	
" No. 3— " " March 11th, next.	
" No. 4— " " Jan. 14th, next.	
" No. 5— " " Feb. 11th, next.	