

persistently open their doors to the inspection of practical men; if they invite eminent and successful agriculturists to test the practical knowledge of their pupils by examining them in the details of farm labor on the farm, not in the lecture-room, where the animals, the crops, the live stock, are before both pupil and examiner, why then I am sanguine enough to believe that it will yet be confessed that such colleges can teach practical as well as theoretical agriculture, and that the encouragement of the successful students is not an object unworthy the attention of the Royal Agricultural Society.

A paper drainage well illustrates the great practical experience and knowledge of Mr. Bailey Denton on the subject. A lecture on Plows and Plowing, by Mr. J. E. Ransome, of Ipswich, gives a general view of the progress of plowing from the earliest times, entering into all the points connected with the subject. A Report on Wheat Experiments, by Prof. A. H. Church, is very interesting, as showing the favourable results arising from a proper selection of seeds, the process being clearly given. Dairy farming forms the subject of an excellent lecture by Mr. J. F. Harrison, the volume concluding by a lecture on Leases, by Mr. R. G. Welford.

#### FARMERS' SONS.



**W**HEN a farmer's son leaves home to become a clerk in some village or city store, or to engage in some other business, in three cases in four, he takes the first step towards his pecuniary ruin. Occasionally, a young man thus gets into a business, in which he becomes a partner, or owner, and makes money; but such cases are rare.

Let us suppose a case. A young man hears of the high salaries clerks get in New York, \$1500 a year in some cases, and he gets the New York "fever," and taking \$50 in his pocket, he bids his parents farewell, and leaves home in high spirits.

When he gets to the city, he inquires for a boarding house; he applies to several, and finds the price of board from \$6 to \$10 a week—the cheapest, with fare he would not be satisfied with at home, being about \$6. He takes board at this rate, and begins to look for a situation—sees advertisements in the papers for clerks, but a hundred get the start of him, some of whom

write splendid hands; and, of course, they get the situations.

In a few weeks his money is all gone, and he writes home for more; and the result generally is, that after spending from \$100 to \$200, and "seeing the elephant," he comes home disgusted with city life, and is willing to stick to the farm, or awaits a new outfit for a second trial for success.

Such an aspirant for money-making has his ardor somewhat cooled when he learns of city merchants, that they pay green hands only about enough to board them; say, from \$300 to \$500 for smart, active clerks from 18 to 25 years old. The rule is to increase salaries from \$50 to \$100 a year, till clerks become fully acquainted with the business, when some *few*—the most efficient, perhaps one in a hundred—get a salary that enables them to lay up a little money, if they are economical.

If, however, we should turn to the histories of most young men, who leave good homes to obtain situations in cities, we should find that ninety-nine in a hundred failed to realize their anticipations, and have died poor, or are now living on less means yearly than a good farm affords, while their lives are a continued current of cares that render life anything but happy.

In our younger days we had practical experience in this matter, and left New York with a shattered constitution, brought on by close application to business, without a compensatory reward for the loss of health, and to escape a premature grave we fled to the country, there to get a new lease of life by tilling the soil.

Here are a few remarks on the foregoing subject, which we clip from the *Rural World*:

The sons of farmers commonly think their lot is a hard one. Unlike most city youths, they are compelled to perform daily toil. Their life, is not one of constant amusement. They cannot see and hear as much as their city cousins. They do not dress in as fine clothes—cannot treat and be treated at the popular saloons, or visit the costly gambling resorts which abound in every city. They feel that their lot is indeed a hard one, and the highest ambition of many of them is, to arrive at that age when they can go to the city and see "all the sights."

But let us talk to our farmers' boys. You are in the right place. You are learning habits of industry and frugality. By your daily toil you are acquiring a sound con-