

do most of our mastication for us, so that we are unable or unwilling to do it for ourselves. They claim that they are doing us a benefit by saving our jaws and our stomachs so much labor, but they are positively the insidious enemies of mankind.

We do everything scientifically these times—except eating and wearing. We are accomplished in everything except in matters pertaining to our health. We must eat as well as clothe fashionably. The tyrant fashion has more victims than all the other evil powers combined. Were it not for his dominion over us we could live luxuriously on ten per cent. of the present cost of our articles of consumption, and mankind would be wealthier, healthier, and happier.

How Weeds Multiply.

The botanist of the Ohio Agricultural Station has been making estimates of the number of seeds found upon a single plant of several of the most obnoxious weeds grown in that State. In the Shepherd's Purse he found that the number of seeds in each silicle or seed vessel varied from 18 to 34—average about 25, and 1500 silicles were counted upon a medium sized plant, making the total number of seeds per plant 37,500. Computing in the same manner, he estimated the Dandelion to contain 12,103 seeds in each plant; Wild Pepper Grass, 18,400; Wheat Thief (*Lithospermum arvense*), 7,000; the Common Thistle (*Cirsium lanceolatum*), 65,366; Camomile, 15,920; Butter Weed, 8,587; Rag Weed, 4,366; Common Purslane, 388,800; Common Plantain, 43,290; Burdock, 38,086.

These figures will give a faint conception of the possibilities of weed multiplication; and will show the necessity of observing the habits of weeds and of preventing their running to seed. Fortunately many of those seeds do not find favorable conditions for growth, else there would be no practical means of eradication; and the main object of the farmer should be to make the conditions for dispersion, germination and growth as unfavorable as possible. The forces employed for their disposal are winds, streams, tides and ocean currents, and the agencies of man and the lower animals.

With regard to the duration of growth, the report makes the following observations:

"Like other plants, weeds may be divided into annuals, biennials, and perennials. The natural history of each species should be well known, for upon this is based many important remedial measures. As a rule, annual weeds are largely confined to cultivated areas. They should be closely watched, and never allowed to interfere with the growth of the crops. By neglect we suffer the double injury of lessening the yield of the crop in which they appear, and providing a supply of seeds so that the pests will be continued, thus causing future trouble.

"Biennial weeds, for the most part, produce no seed the first year, but seed is often produced quite early the second season. On this account they should be destroyed during the first year of their existence. Most of the worst biennial weeds have fleshy or tap-roots. In exterminating these plants just as much of this root should be cut off as possible.

"Perennial weeds are those the tops of which die down at the approach of cold weather, the roots remaining alive, and from them new shoots are sent up year after year. Many perennial weeds produce their flowers and seeds much earlier in the spring than annuals. On this account they should be most carefully

watched. They are apt to be most troublesome in pastures and meadows, and are often very abundant along roadsides and fences. They should always be cut before they blossom, or at least before any seed is matured.

Gentlemen Farmers—Their Influence for Good and Evil.

Of late years many business men and members of the different professions have manifested a strong tendency to engage in agricultural pursuits, some being retired gentlemen, and others actively employed in their profession or business. They are known to practical farmers under various reproachful epithets, such as "kid-glove farmers," "book farmers," and in the Southern States they are called "Latin farmers."

This movement has been chiefly caused by the rapid advancement made in agricultural science. Most professional men become enamored with some department of science, and it is reasonable to suppose that agricultural science should receive its share of devotees. So rapidly has this movement taken place that the demand for farm managers of the right stamp has been vastly greater than the supply. Such men are required not only to have practical experience in farming, but also a knowledge of the science of agriculture, and can readily command a salary of \$1,000 to \$1,500 a year. The men who own and conduct these farms are those who have been successful in business, and have consequently utilized their business qualifications in their farming operations, to which their success has been mainly due. Each farm of this nature is an experiment station to some extent, and if one or two could once be established in every township, it would be the best means of giving an impetus to agriculture. It cannot be said that every undertaking of these professional farmers turns out to be a financial success; but the surrounding farmers can learn as much from their failures as from their successes. They undertake more risks than practical farmers as they usually spend their money as much for enjoyment as for profit. Their farms are stocked with the finest herds, grazing upon the most luxuriant permanent pastures, upon a well drained soil, and all other improvements to correspond.

It is to be regretted, however, that too many of these farmers turn out to be speculators of the worst kind. They deal in such fancy stock as their fancy leads them to. They ruin the constitution of their finest animals in their mania for prizes at exhibitions, and their insatiable lust for notoriety. There is no class of people in the world which does so much good and harm as these speculators. Too many innocent farmers are apt to be wheedled into their ring, and end their career in disaster. There must be a sharp line of demarcation drawn between gentlemen of this character and those who have engaged in progressive agriculture out of pure love for the science it contains.

While recently in Hamilton we called on Mr. Valancey E. Fuller for the purpose of attempting to settle some disputes which we had with him with regard to the tests of Jersey cows. Mr. Fuller is the largest and most successful breeder of Jersey cattle in Canada. Although a successful lawyer and still actively engaged in his profession, he is the owner of 365 acres of land at Waterdown station on the G. T. R.,

five miles from the city of Hamilton. It is astonishing what progress he has made during the short three years of his ownership of "Oaklands." Many of his friends and neighbors predicted that he would ruin himself by the enterprise, as he was inexperienced and the soil of the farm was considerably worn out. However, his attachment to the science of agriculture could not be suppressed. Now his farm and his stock are the admiration of this whole continent, and he has won for himself and for Canada an imperishable name. He is progressive in all his methods of agriculture, and many of those practical farmers who jeered at his undertaking are now beginning to adopt much in his system. He scorns speculation; and although his herd contains some of the finest animals to be found in the Jersey breed, yet he does not pamper them. They are sold upon their known merits, and the demand for them is much in excess of the supply.

He courteously took us out to see his stock, and we found them in a fine, healthy condition. They are perfectly free from disorder, being fed and exercised in such a manner as is most conducive to their health. We saw his dairy in operation; he has a DeLaval cream separator, feeding the calves with the skim-milk after they are a week old. We tasted butter of the choicest quality, for which he obtains the highest price from special customers in Toronto, viz., 35c. to 40c. per pound.

The exceptions which we have taken to the Jersey tests will be found in another column. Mr. Fuller bears the honor of being the father of these tests, and is therefore anxious to make them as popular as possible. He agrees with us as to their imperfections, but pleads time to have them placed on a higher standard. He informs us that the Jersey Club has made material alterations in their system of testing for the ensuing season.

The best practical proof of the confidence and respect entertained of Mr. Fuller by the farmers of Wentworth, and of the interest which he takes in agricultural progress, is his election as president of the Wentworth Farmers' Institute, which is rapidly becoming an influential body. He wields a great power for doing good to agriculture in all its aspects, and we are pleased to see that such a power resides in the hands of one who is both able and willing to exercise it to the best advantage.

Flies may be kept from annoying horses by making a wash of carbolic soap and water, with a small quantity of kerosene oil added to it. This is sponged over the horse's coat and let dry two or three times. Its effects remain for about three or four hours. By repeating it at intervals the flies may be prevented from annoying the poor animals at this season. Another remedy is to procure Persian insect powder; put a quantity of it in a common flour dredger or large pepper box and dust it well into the hair. This is sure death to flies and harmless to animals. If it is blown up into the air of the stables at night and dusted well upon the posts and ceiling, as well as the animals, these will enjoy a good night's rest. It will also clear flies and mosquitoes from rooms. Yet the best protection from flies is a full-sized cover when in the open air and a rather dark stable when at rest.