

If the difficulties of a journey to Normandy, where all these could be learnt, are too great, I can speak with pleasure of the excellent teaching given in this branch of dairying at the British Dairy School at Reading, where it has been made a special subject.

I wish what I say on this subject to be so purely practical, that I have refrained from dwelling on the fascinations of cheese-making, but I can truly say that to those who embark on the work it soon becomes a passion, and I have often watched the creator of one of these interesting products stand breathless with anxiety as the first plunge of the taster is made into the tender sides of the little cheese, and the verdict awaited for with the keenest emotion.

I have advised a course of study for these soft foreign cheeses, but there are one or two kinds of English cheese—notably Wensleydale and Edish—which are small, easily handled, easy to make and very saleable; and for the making of them, or if it is wished to learn to make common, sound, English cheese, such for instance, as are known as Derbyshire cheeses, I should strongly advise a residence for three months or so during the summer, in a farm-house where this work is carried on; indeed, whatever special branch is adopted afterwards, I think there is no better grounding than is to be found in some of our well-managed large English dairy farms. The pupils would live with the family, work with the daughters of the house, and let me say would find in many of our English farms most refined and kindly companions. The life is healthy, full of interest, and the expense would be slight. I think I may safely say that for the three months, a pupil could be received and trained and taught for £6 for her board and lodging, and £5 premium for the teaching, and many a pale, delicate girl would find herself at the end of the three months a rosy-cheeked and healthy being.

When once dairy-work has been thoroughly mastered, there are many doors of lucrative employment open. Teachers are now required and highly paid by County Councils in connection with the schemes for technical education. Then I think with a little enterprise and energy anyone who had been initiated into the mysteries of French cheeses could make a very good living by giving lessons at farms on this subject; or again, dairy-maids are in continual demand and are highly paid. A short time since I knew of an offer being made to one girl who was thoroughly qualified in all branches of dairy-work, to take the management of a large dairy with servants under her, and her salary was £100 and a house.

I know there are not many such places as that, but it is a very common thing on large estates for a dairy-maid to have a house or rooms, and a salary varying from £30 to £50.

I think that if one or two girls could join together in a small dairy farm, they could, with energy and care, make a good and pleasant livelihood, but in this case, of course, capital would be required to start it. I should not advise embarking in a large business which would entail a number of men for the care of the cows, but on what in the Midlands is known as a "little place," that is a small house and land for two or three cows; there are few external expenses, and these small places pay in proportion infinitely better than the large farms; and I should like to add here, that a very profitable industry can, with very little trouble and a minimum of expense, be combined with other work, and that is an apirary. We read of tons of honey brought over yearly from Switzerland, while in many districts in England you hardly find a bee-hive. There are few more purely lucrative employments than bee-keeping, for when once

the hives are provided the cost is almost nil. Bees will often be given by some kind neighbour who entertains the happy superstition, that it would dirly affront her bees if she were to sell any, and thus your bar-framed hives can be stocked free of expense. A really good hive and all appliances necessary can be bought for £2. The work connected with the care of the bees is very light, and no one need be afraid of stings, as the only time when bees are apt to sting is when their honey is being taken, and this is so easily accomplished with the little sections which are slipped on and off the tops of the modern bar frames, that a pair of thick woollen gloves and a veil are quite sufficient protection. The work that most amateurs dread is hiving the bees when they swarm, and certainly the large dark mass of little insects hanging from some branch or hedge are formidable in appearance, and sometimes heavy to lift, but at such a time the bees rarely, if ever, interfere with the person who hives them. Many of the women near my home turn up their sleeves to be free in their movements, and bare-headed and bare-armed, work amongst the thronging insects without the slightest fear.

With respect to profit, one may calculate in a tolerably good year, on one large hive giving a yield of from forty to fifty pounds of honey, and this, if sold in the comb, will generally fetch a shilling a pound, or if extracted, the run honey will command a ready market at about ninepence, or if sold wholesale in large quantities about sevenpence. Therefore one year's return will more than pay for any initial expense.

I have spoken of the apirary in connection with the dairy-work, because it can be so easily and profitably kept upon a small farm.

Next in order of importance to dairy-work, as a most fascinating and paying industry, I shall place gardening. This is a branch of work which could so easily be carried on by ladies in their own homes and their own gardens. I think it is terrible when one sees how many splendid gardens are left almost to go to waste, because in these days the number of gardeners that used to be kept has had to be reduced, till one or two have to do the work that formerly was accomplished by six or eight men; but here we have ground already cultivated, probably hot-houses, or at least green-houses, all capable of producing good crops. This is so evidently a source of income lying absolutely unused, that it appears to me one of the most obvious ways in which ladies with reduced incomes can employ themselves, but I should like strongly to emphasize the fact that, if it is to pay, it must not be carried on in the fashion of too many amateurs, being attended to one day and not the next. A garden to be profitable demands knowledge of horticulture and constant care and attention, and I should advise a course of instruction at the Horticultural College at Swanley in Kent, if this occupation is to be taken up seriously. The cost of such a course would be £70 a year, and two years of instruction are required before a diploma is granted.

This appears at first sight a large outlay, but this diploma would fit a student either to cultivate her own home garden with profit, or to take a situation as head gardener. I hear that there are now many ladies working in this capacity and receiving good salaries, and that there are openings for many more, as many ladies with large estates and gardens to manage prefer to have a lady to deal with, and one who can help her in various matters, such as the arranging of flowers and table decorations, which are a heavy tie to any person with much business on hand, and which can be more tastefully and better carried out by an educated lady than by the average gardener.

There are many parts of Ireland so singularly well suited for carrying on gardening and the production of fruit and vegetables on a large scale, that it is sad to know how little is achieved in this direction. Doubtless one difficulty has been to obtain a good and regular market, but from what I have heard of this, I think the English market must be looked to, and with the reduced charges for freight of agricultural produce the cost of carriage need be no bar to this scheme. But a vigorous effort should be made to extend the same cheap rate of freight from the interior of Ireland, which I believe has not yet been done.

A ready sale can always be obtained very easily in our large towns for fruit and vegetables. Careful packing is required, and this must be learnt, and is an art that could soon be acquired by a few lessons from a market gardener, or if the Swanley course is taken, it is made there a regular branch of instruction.

I have not dwelt upon the details of this work, as so much depends on whether a lady takes up the work as a paid gardener, or undertakes it upon her own account; if the latter, and unless she has a large garden at her command, then I am strongly of opinion that she will find the growing of flowers and plants for sale more profitable than vegetables. Our markets are now so full of imported vegetables from France and the Channel Islands that the remuneration is very small, but by a system of advertising, and the aid of parcel post, small plants, cuttings, early flowers, even those of the commonest kinds, obtain a ready sale, and I know that many ladies add to their small incomes in this way; but there is in gardening the possibility of a good return for the labour, and there is no pursuit more absorbing in the daily interest, from the promise to its fulfilment, than the sowing and the gathering of a garden brings.

One more industry must be mentioned on my list, or it would be sadly incomplete, and that is poultry keeping. I have placed it last, because in our English climate there are so many risks of failure, and also if poultry rearing is carried on upon a large scale, it rarely succeeds for more than one or two years in the same place, on account of the ground becoming tainted. For this reason if poultry keeping is taken up, I should advise that the object aimed at should be the production of eggs and not the rearing of chickens.

Upon two acres of grass land, with a few good cheap wooden structures, 100 fowls could be profitably kept, and if the plan was adopted of dividing the run and changing the fowls monthly from one side to the other, with a yearly dressing of a little lime, there would be no fear of disease amongst the poultry.

The first outlay in buying the stock of good laying hens should not be more than £10, and the erection of the houses required another £5. The cost of keeping poultry is supposed to be a penny per head each week, and the 100 fowls should on an average, in the summer months, give 24 dozen eggs a week, at prices ranging from 1s. 2d. to 1s. 6d. a dozen—here I am speaking of the London market. In the winter rather more food is required, and we should put the cost of 100 fowls at 10s. per week, but the eggs, now perhaps only 10 dozen a week, would be worth from 1s. 6d. to 2s. a dozen, and still leave an ample profit. I think if poultry keepers would devote their energies more to this question of supplying the markets with eggs than to rearing chickens, they would find it a more certain profit. There is such an unflinching demand for eggs. Here again, comes the necessity of careful packing and regular supply, but this is no real difficulty, and only requires care and attention.

I think that I may be charged with being an optimist in my view of the various out-of-door