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conditions which generated the storm have also been favorable for an unusually rapid growth of bacteria. This fact has been proved by many experiments which have shown that without the presence of lactic organisms there can be no spontaneous souring of milk. The same climatic conditions would affect the milk in exactly the same way even if no thunderstorm were produced, as is frequently observed by dairymen during the warm sultry days of autumn.

Under ordinary conditions milk undergoes some sort of lactic fermentation. During recent years, however, a great variety of fermentations have been recognized in milk, and many products result from their action. Some give it an alkaline reaction, at the same time curdling it; others impart to it various colors, such as green, yellow, blue or red, by the formation of pigments. It is not our intention to study these in detail here except to state that they are very undesirable and oftentimes sources of trouble. We have learned in our study of milk that the cause of all these changes, even the desirable ones, lies in the contamination of the milk from without, and the great remedy for the prevention of undesirable forms is extreme cleanliness in handling the milk.

The souring of cream is now regarded as simply a result of bacterial growth. Many attempts have been made to isolate and grow the special bacteria which give a fine flavor and aroma in butter, and produce a gilt edged product by inoculating this bacteria into cream which has been practically freed from germ life by the pasteurizing process. So far they have found no single germ which will generate all the desirable qualities. Cultures have already been found, however, which have a decidedly favorable influence on the butter. In Denmark, the leading butter country of the world, 95 per cent. of the exhibition produce is made from cream ripened by these special cultures.

In guiding the dairyman to the best method of securing pure milk and in helping the butter maker to produce an article of a uniform flavor, dairy bacteriology, as a study, has already done much and promises still more in the future. The time will come when it will be possible to manufacture butter from which undesirable flavors have been eliminated; when the cheese-maker can obtain by the use of special cultures any desired form of ripening.

LITERARY SOCIETY.



THE O. A. C. Literary Society as organized for the season of 1896-7 has had a fairly successful year, and at the close it is perhaps well to take a retrospect of the work done. In the first place all will agree that the officers

selected in October have proven themselves thoroughly capable and faithful in the performance of their respective duties. The society was especially fortunate in the choice of a critic, for in Mr. Henry they found a man whose four years experience in the Literary Society of Toronto University had familiarized him with the workings and proper mode of procedure which should govern such a body. His remarks were always encouraging, and some of the suggestions made by him were acted upon to the great benefit of the society as a whole. Of the other officers it would be invidious to make any particular mention where all had done their part so well, but to Mr. Oastler, as chairman of the managing committee, belongs much of the credit for the well filled programmes of the different meetings throughout the year.

The attendance at the meetings usually counted at least eighty per cent. of the whole student body. In the debates and discussions the latent oratorical ability was called forth at times until one could indulge in the hope that the halls of our Legislatures would before many years resound with the eloquence of some of the graduates of the O. A. C. Literary Society. In the musical parts of the programme many of the amateur singers and players have shown themselves to be possessed of no mean talents. Essay reading has been neglected during the past few years and this session only two have been presented. But what was lacking in quantity was compensated for in quality. Mr. Bishop, B. S. A., favored us with an essay on "The Poetry of Tennyson. Mr. Bishop has a thorough knowledge of English literature, and his excellent style is an evidence of how deeply he has drunk at the "pure wells of English undefiled." The other essay was by Mr. Henry, the subject being Free Trade and Protection, a comparison of the merits of the two systems. It appeared in a slightly changed form in the February number of the Review.

After the Christmas vacation the question of holding a number of sessions of a Mock Parliament was taken up with the result that Messrs. Henry and Summerby were appointed leaders for the respective parties. On January 30th the society met and resolved itself into a Parliament, Mr. T. F. Paterson officiating as Speaker. The Speech from the Throne, as previously published, detailed the several planks in the policy of the Government party.

Messrs. Reid and Baird spoke for the Government on the different items, after which the leading members on both sides joined in a general discussion of the policy outlined.

The Budget which was presented later contained some interesting figures, showing how the money had been spent. In the estimates was a grant of \$20,000 to fit out an airship to distribute advertisements for the Agricultural College, and provision was to be made for a grant to the O. A. C. kitchen large enough to cover the deficit occasioned by the serving of \$5.00 a week board for \$2.50.

Three weeks later the Parliament was resumed, this time with Mr. Summerby as Premier and Mr. Henry leading in the cold shades of the Opposition. An order of business much the same as that followed in the previous meeting was gone through with. Mr. N. C. Scott made the speech of the evening, and dilated eloquently upon the plans of the Government for withstanding the tyranny of such combinations as the College Staff. He demanded that the students should be dealt with separately, according to their deserts, and protested against any impositions upon the student body because of the small boy tricks of a few.

A closing entertainment on March 19th at which Miss Alexander Ramsay, Mr. Smedley, and Mr. Wilson are to appear, will enable the members of the society to offer some slight recompense to their friends in the city for the kind treatment they have received.