made up of what may look at first like unpromising material.

The work in the poultry yard in January needs constant attention. The poultry house should be warm and dry; cracks and crevices should be covered and there should be no draughts on the birds. The fowls should be fed a warm mash in the morning of cut clover hay, scalded and mixed with bran or middlings. Steep the clover at night in a tub or bucket with a cover, and in the morning it will be soft and mushy, with an odor that reminds one of new mown hay. Feed this mash each morning. For the noonday meal, feed wheat, oats or barley, and at night feed liberally of whole corn. The grain food must be scattered in the litter on the floor of the scratching shed or house. Two or three times a week, feed green cut bones and vary the diet with green foods, as cabbage, lettuce, etc. Cull your birds closely, and all not intended for breeders should be sent to market. During the latter part of the month, begin to study your matings, so that no time will be lost when you are ready for breeding.

ONTARIO EXPERIMENTAL-UNION.

It is now sixteen years since Mr. Zavitz, then a student of the O. A. C., conceived the idea of connecting the graduates leaving the College by a Union, each member of which agreeing to undertake certain agricultural experiments on a practical basis. The beginning was modest: twelve letters were first sent-twelve willing men answered. The result of the first experiments was such as to encourage their continuance and it was not long ere the usefulness of the growing Association proved itself in such a striking manner that the Government felt bound to give substantial aid. The Union, like all similar enterprises, had to contend at first with many difficulties; farmers were reluctant to undertake the tedious work of experimenting, little belief was expressed towards its success, but, through the persistent efforts of its director, it survived and steadily prospered from year to year. The membership, first confined to ex-students and students, soon extended to all farmers and has now reached the handsome number of 3,000. To-day, the Union stands as a most useful and practical organization, such as any country might justly be proud of.

In order to explain the rapid success of the Union we need only to point to the usefulness of its work, and the benefits which the farming community has not ceased to derive from it, benefits still increased by the recent extension of experimental work to several branches related to agriculture.

It has justly been said that agriculture is the oldest of all arts but the most recent of sciences ; for it is only of late years that science has thrown light upon its operations. Still, many questions are yet discussed, many problems are still involved, and in the struggle against the ever growing competition of our times, the farmer, forced to modify his system of culture on a more economical plan, is often at a loss to determine what he should adopt. The same may be said of the numerous varieties of grains among which he must choose the most profitable. New theories and new varieties arise every day. In their choice the farmer must be guided. The Union aims to determine the true value of these. But the conditions under which farming is done are so numerous and variable-so many influences have to be contended with-that no rules can be fixed, no method can be adopted with security, unless repeated investigations, carried out over a wide area, have definitively proved their excellence.

These experiments, so necessary, are, by means of the Union, performed in co-operation throughout the province. All varieties of grain, all new methods of culture are submitted to a thorough test for several years. Those which give the most satisfactory results are then adopted. Thus, the average production of the land, owned by the members of the Union, has been raised to a better standard. Thus, the attention of farmers is awakened and kept directed towards the all important questions of the selection of grains, the proper way of preserving the fertility and moisture of the soil, to check the progress of weeds and to destroy injurious insects.

Besides material advantages, these experiments create in the farmer who undertakes them a greater interest in his work, thus breaking the dull monotony of farm life, a greater accuracy, a desire of knowledge, and a stronger interest in the reading of bulletins and of reports formerly disdained.

The rapid growth of an organization which thus joins material and moral advantages is not to be wondered at, and the unprecedented success of the