

but throughout the kingdom. We might, indeed, go further, and say with perfect truth that there is not a consumer of agricultural produce in the country but is directly interested in the well-being of our association.—We believe, therefore, that we are entitled to the attention of the public; and such being the case we would be shirking an obvious duty were we to refrain from setting forth the strong claims which the society, of which this journal is the organ, has upon the public.

It is universally felt that the business of the farmer is one of vast importance. He is the food producer to the community. It is equally felt that ignorance is an extremely undesirable feature in a class which has such a responsibility as that of providing the first necessary of life, "our daily bread;" for ill-informed cultivators must always be insufficient providers, and thus the consequences of their lack of suitable information fall upon others as well as upon themselves. The great aim of all associations which have for their object the improvement of agricultural practice is to remedy this want of information; and they have effected it to a certain extent, although we must say that the circle in which they usually move might be enlarged with advantage both to themselves and to the public. But although we do not intend to discuss this view of what may be termed the shortcomings of such associations, there is one point in which they must necessarily be defective. They profess to teach and to encourage improved practices; but the requirements of modern agriculture demand that there shall be a union of "science with practice," in order that practice may become more effective, because more intelligent, and it is to effect this union that the Chemico-Agricultural Society has been formed, and that the three great national societies have enlisted the services of such men as Dr. Apjohn, Voelcker and Anderson.

The time has gone by when the idea of the co-operation of science with practice, in the business of farming, could be received with a sneer. Men have got wiser, and a strong tribute is paid, no doubt often unconsciously, to the advantages which scientific research confers on the practice of agriculture, whenever even an analysis of a manure is asked for, as a test of the value of the article. It may happen that the analysis is worthless; that it is even worse, and positively injurious, because it is a fabricated document; but this does not render the homage paid to science one whit the less, nor does the falsity of that document invalidate the claims which science has upon the merely practical man. If the union of "science with practice" rested on no higher grounds than those which were founded on the defective, and therefore protective functions of the former, there would be quite

enough to justify the connection. But its claims are even higher, and the field of its operations is, in reality, almost boundless.

It is now 16 years since the Chemico-Agricultural Society was established, and although its means have always been extremely limited, in a pecuniary point of view, we have no hesitation in saying that it has done a vast amount of good during its existence. If it had been more liberally supported, much more could have been done, and we therefore call upon the public to give it heartier support, so that it may be enabled to take a higher position in the promotion of the general welfare of the community than it has as yet been able to attain. The people of the northern provinces have long been favourably known for their intelligence and industry; but it is possible to heighten that intelligence and to stimulate that industry. A most efficient agent in effecting this exists in the Chemico-Agricultural Society. It has not, indeed, the attraction of annual exhibitions to draw public attention to its doings; but operations tell on the success of those very exhibitions. It does not, indeed, profess to improve the agricultural standing of the country by introducing better breeds of stock, but it assists in rendering such improved stock more profitable by the influence which it exercises on the cultivation of the soil, the feeding of stock, and the various ramifications of farm practice. We trust, therefore, that our appeal will not be unheard, but that many who have not as yet contributed to the funds of the society, and who have not as yet lent it the influence of their names, will see fit to do so. There are thousands in Ulster who have not contributed a shilling to the funds of the society but who have, directly or indirectly, been benefitted by it, and we certainly think it is their duty and their interest to support it.

[We take the foregoing from the last number of the *Journal of the Chemico-Agricultural Society of Ulster*, and shall be happy to learn that the appeal has been liberally responded to. That Society, with small means, has effected much good, not only for the agriculture of Ulster, but the whole of Ireland. We have frequently availed ourselves of the valuable investigations and results of its accomplished Chemist, Professor Hodges, of Queen's College, Belfast, whose labours and writings are well known and appreciated on this side of the Atlantic as well as in Europe. We trust, therefore, that the Society has yet before it a long career of increasing usefulness.—Eds C. A.]