

9. Botany, treating of the structure, uses and classification of plants. Also including vegetable physiology, explaining their functions, diseases, &c.

10. Zoology, relating to the structure and classification of the animal kingdom, with which is connected comparative anatomy and physiology of the domesticated animals of the farm.

11. Geology, explaining the structure and arrangements of rocks, their origin and diffusion, with the decomposition whereby soils are formed.

*Question 3.*—Give a general sketch of the History of Agriculture from the Egyptians, Greeks and Romans to the middle ages. In what way did the Church foster and promote this art during the latter period? What are the principal characteristics of modern Agriculture?

*Answer.*—Of the various branches of Agriculture, that which relates to the raising of fruit, called gardening, seems to have been first practised.

After the flood “Egypt’s alluvial lands” seem to have been the seat of the beginning of agriculture, which was subsequently diffused by the colonizing Greeks who regarded it with honour.

Rome subsequently becoming mistress of the world, carried a knowledge and love of this indispensable art to every portion of the earth which witnessed the triumphs of her victorious armies—Britain among the rest.

Different opinions prevail respecting the agriculture of Egypt, both as to its origin and some of its practical applications. The annual irrigation of the Nile richly manured the land, and great crops of grain—particularly pulse—were unquestionably raised. The pick was the first instrument used in cultivation, as would appear from the engravings on ancient medals and seals. The sacred Ox was the only animal used in agricultural labor. In Greece agriculture was carried on extensively, and some of what we often imagine to be purely modern practices were well understood and followed, such as draining, &c. Xenophon, and other writers, were acquainted with the art and wrote upon it. Mago, the celebrated Carthaginian, wrote several books upon this important subject.

Rome afterwards encouraged it by every means, and many of her most eminent warriors, statesmen and citizens produced treatises on agriculture and practised it as a pursuit. Among them, Columella, Varro, Cincinnatus, Virgil, &c., from whose writings may be gathered many practical principles that have never been improved.

Agriculture was introduced into the British Islands by the Romans, but did not appear to have made much progress till the Norman conquest, 1066 when many Norman Barons came over and encouraged and cultivated it extensively. They are described by a contemporary historian as being “exceedingly addicted to cultivating the land, and raising horses and cattle. When the dark ages came on, agriculture was preserved on the estates of the Church alone, the Monks being the conservators of this art, as they were