

covers the hillsides far and near. On the side of the hedge-banks are groups of primroses, wild oxalis, buttercup (Wordsworth's celandine), the cuckoo-pint, and other wild flowers, while scattered about are trees and shrubs—beech, oak, sycamore, larch, holly, thorns, roses, blackberry, hazel and willows. The ivy is present everywhere, coiling over hedges and the stone houses with their thatched roofs and around trees. Another feature of a Devonshire lane is the flocks of horned sheep frequently met, with the shepherd and his faithful dog.

The trees most frequently seen on the hillsides in Devon are the larch and oak. The former is not a native, but is planted. Its wood is extensively used for flooring, doors, gates and other purposes. The oaks, not yet in leaf, give a brown and dead appearance to the hills. Owing to the fury of the capricious winds from the Atlantic that sweep these hillsides, they are so twisted and gnarled as to serve little purpose for building, and are used chiefly for fuel. Singular to say, the larch, which grows in the same places as the oak, is shapely and straight as an arrow. But its stem is more pliant and yielding to the tempest than that of the oak.

We lived for three days in one of those Devon farmhouses—the "Lorna Doone" Farm. The stone house was said to be seven hundred years old. It could not have been John Ridd's home, for a man five feet ten in height could no more than stand upright in the rooms. The walls were of stone, and so was the ground floor. The huge fireplace was the centre of household duties and comfort. Its great cranes creak incessantly over peat fires as the busy house-wife prepares the meals and attends to the other cares of her household, and those huge joints of beef and mutton are well cooked, and disappear with marvellous celerity. "For," as John Ridd says, "we people of Devon are always hungry." One can understand that after breathing their bracing air for a fortnight.

Exmoor has an inexhaustible supply of peat which serves the people of the surrounding country for fuel. The peat is the remains of an ancient forest and the rich vegetation which once covered the country. It is a great tract of land of some 400 or 500 square miles in extent. Scarcely a tree or bush can be seen on its wind-swept hills. Thousands of deer, sheep and ponies are supported on its grass during the summer, and eke out a more precarious subsistence during the winter on the heather and other shrubs. The dry grass is burned every spring to prepare for a fresh crop of herbage.

Between the "Lorna Doone" Farm and the Bristol Channel is a lofty hill, nearly a thousand feet high, called the Countisbury Hill. We toiled up this hill one bleak afternoon and stood looking out on the Channel and the broad Atlantic. Suddenly from the heather almost beneath our feet a bird rose, singing as it went upwards. Mounting higher and higher, and still continuing its song, it became as a mere speck, and was finally lost in the clouds, but we heard its notes some time after it had disappeared. "That is a lark!" exclaimed the bird-lover in ecstasy, "that's worth our coming to England."

The Schoolmaster's Hackneyed Phrase.

An observer in a recent teachers' convention has some amusing comments to make regarding a certain phrase which seems to be peculiar to the teaching profession. Our friend declares that a dozen or more speakers in succession used the same phrase, although each one might have used some other language more elegant and also more definite. The uses made of the phrase are shown in the following quotations:

1. I will give an illustration along this line.
2. As these lines of thought run along they meet and cross each other.
3. There ought to be two lines of suggestions.
4. I will proceed to discuss the subject upon the line suggested.
5. I will discuss the subject along two lines: first, the line of expression; second, the line of acquisition.
6. We cannot be specialists along all lines.
7. Following your lines of development you will learn the following truths.
8. We now proceed to make some investigations along the lines of culture."
9. I will proceed to indicate a line of progress.
10. "The pupils in this school are allowed to follow the line of least resistance."
11. "The line of argument leads us to the following conclusions."
12. "Having found ourselves subjected to certain embarrassment, we looked for a line of aid."
13. "I called the attention of the teachers to child study and found they had done nothing along this line."

Our observer declares that the phrases, "along this line," "along these lines," "on this line," "on these lines," "upon these lines," are heard from about 95 per cent of all the members of the profession in every speech and every paper delivered by them, and that usually the phrase is used because the speaker has on the one hand no definite terms in which to express his ideas, and on the other no definite ideas to express.—*Exchange*.