

the declaration of the Secretary of the Admiralty that the butter for the navy "was ordered from abroad because our agriculturists could not hold their own with Danish butter." There is so great a yearly increase in the import of Danish butter that we paid last year a million sterling for it more than in 1893. A good deal of this is at the expense of the British producer. Yet the production of butter for export is quite a new industry in Denmark. The business is only twenty years old, and now "butter-making is the chief trade of the

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country, and the source of the greater part of its revenue." In explanation of this Mrs. Tweedie states that "the Danish farmers have seen the advisability of combining and working together, and have realized the advantage of employing modern scientific principles. They have also found that the quality of butter cannot be maintained where each farmer makes it according to his own method and after his own ideas, with the result that individual buttermaking has been entirely given up. The farmers keep the cows and deliver the milk, or more often merely the cream—properly separated by centrifugal machines—to the buttermaking factories, of which there are some hundreds established over the country. There the butter is made on the newest scientific and hygienic principles, and a certain standard of excellence is maintained. The result of this combination of labor, with improved methods of manufacture, is that the Danish farmer to-day is a rich man, with a regular business, instead of being discontented, unemployed, and often almost starving, as so many of our own farmers are in England." As to the extent of the trade done by Denmark, the table of figures quoted leaves no doubt. The exports of bacon and eggs have both greatly increased, but the most significant figures relate to butter. They show that in 1889, 677,398 cwt. of butter was exported to England, of the value of £3,742,869, while in 1894 the exports to England were 1,102,493 cwt., of the value of £5,843,954.

This large increase in half-a-dozen years is not due to any state undertaking. Danish buttermaking is not a state business. The state has nothing to do with it beyond arranging competitions and awarding prizes for excellence. "These competitions are usually arranged at twelve hours' notice, so that competitors are obliged to send in any butter they happen to have ready, instead of an extra good pound or two made specially for the exhibition with great care." The egg business in Denmark is also a brisk one; the country makes £400,000 out of eggs, and most of these are collected from the peasants with their half-dozen fowls. And the pig-rearing business is also being pushed as an adjunct to the butter trade, the pigs being fed on the milk left from the buttermaking.

Mrs. Tweedie says Denmark makes £8,456,434 a year from England out of butter, bacon, and eggs, and she asks, "If Denmark can produce these articles at a profit, why cannot we? The climate of England is the same, and our geographical position better. The soil of England is better than that of Denmark, but, alas! the enterprise is lacking, and there is no co-operation."

In the above quotation is the reply to the problem. The Danish farmers have combined, and, working together, now use modern scientific principles to produce butter that is always good alike. Here is all the difference between working at a loss and working at a profit. Mrs. Tweedie goes into details to show how the system is worked by the Copenhagen Milk Supply Company—a business which, under the direction of Mr. Busck, pays its 5 per cent. dividend, notwithstanding that it takes what nearly every one of our farmers will say is a world of trouble, which no Englishman thinks necessary. Every visitor to Copenhagen notes that the milk is supplied in bottles, which are sent out from the central offices of the company sealed down. Even the half-skimmed milk is sent out in sealed cans, from which it can only be drawn by a tap. And the price, notwithstanding all these precautions, is 10d. per gallon for sweet milk,

5d. for half-skimmed and for butter milk. The butter, of which from 400 to 800 pounds is made daily at the factory, and about one-half of the quantity sold in Copenhagen, is packed in one-pound china pots. The company takes the milk of numerous farms within thirty miles of the city, and makes the strictest provision for the purity and cleanliness of the article, even going so far as to pay the farmer for the milk not used if he reports immediately the occurrence of any infectious disease on the farm, either among men or cattle. The company employs about 250 persons.

The state in Denmark does something which we might well copy. Twenty years ago Denmark was in the position that English agriculture is now. She has since turned her land to account, and is working it at a large profit. So much for co-operation—this is the moral of Mrs. Alec Tweedie's article.—*London Agricultural Gazette.*

Poultry.

How to Get the Best Results from Farm Poultry.

First Prize Essay, by H. BOLLKWT, Cassel, Ont.

In order to get the best results from our hens, we must make them a branch of our business, and pay more attention to them than is done in most cases. Poultry will no more pay if neglected than any other business will. The successful men are those only who carefully look after every branch of their pursuits. Nine times out of ten the farm hen gets little or no care, but has to scratch for her living, roost out on the fences and trees, endure the piercing cold winds and rains, and take care of herself as best she can. In some cases the poultry are supplied with a house, but most of these are inadequate and unsuitable. Is it any wonder, then, that under such treatment they do not pay, and are decried as unprofitable by most farmers, while under more favorable treatment and care they would prove the farmer's best friend and pay him a handsome profit for the food consumed?

To make a success with our hens, we must commence by providing them with a comfortable, roomy, well lighted, and cleanly kept house, which need not necessarily be a costly structure, but can be constructed of ordinary material, so long as it is roomy, well lighted, free from cold draughts, and sufficiently warm in winter to keep its inmates from freezing their tender parts.

It should contain two rooms, a smaller one in which they sleep, and a larger one in which they are fed and take exercise during the day, scratching and hunting for their grain feed, which should be scattered among cut straw or chaff, in order to make them work; for a lazy hen, like a lazy boy or girl, never amounts to anything, and is only a source of annoyance. Now, after you have a suitable house, you must stock it with a chicken that is bred to suit your purpose. For most farmers who are not within reach of a large city market, where they can dispose of their chickens for broilers at a remunerative price, the production of eggs, in the main part, will be found the most profitable, and for such the different smaller breeds (which by many are termed as the egg-producing machines), such as Leghorns, Minorcas, and Andalusians, will prove the best. Where both eggs and chickens can profitably be disposed of, Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes, and other large breeds will answer best.

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