

Farming as Conducive to Long Life.

We are not aware whether any statistics have been drawn up in this country as to the comparative length of life of persons following different occupations; but, should any one follow out research in this line, it would doubtless be found that the results obtained would not be very different from those brought out by two British physicians, Drs. Ogle and Arlidge, in which comparison is made between persons following different occupations in the country and in the city of London.

In this list we find that farmers, agricultural laborers, and gardeners and nurserymen, live, on an average, three times as long as town laborers and some other classes. The comparative mortality figure is lowest for clergymen; next in order come gardeners and nurserymen, then farmers and agricultural laborers, schoolmasters and teachers standing next.

These figures go to show the greater healthiness of outdoor occupations as compared with a sedentary and town life. Three out of the five classes named spend a large proportion of their time in the open air, while the other two, as a rule, are also able to obtain more or less fresh air. Of the fifteen callings showing the lowest mortality most are rural, the balance including well-to-do persons in town, while the fifteen highest are nearly all townspeople, belonging mainly to the working classes.

The reasons given for the higher mortality among the inhabitants of towns are bad houses, bad drainage in houses and workshops, and the tendency of poor surroundings and hard work to induce the workmen so situated to take to drink. The excessive death-rate among children is another cause that swells the list, while the sharper competition for work in town, and the consequent increase of poverty and starvation, is another great factor.

We commend these figures to the attention of our readers. They are very instructive as bearing on the increasing tide of emigration from country to city. That the tide will have to turn the other way sooner or later we firmly believe. While the deleterious effects of town life may not be quite so pronounced in this new world as they are in Great Britain and Europe, owing to the efforts made in most cities to provide breathing spaces and parks for the public health and benefit, yet the comparison between life in the country and city is

sufficiently in favor of the former, as regards healthiness, to make the farmer, who would transfer his abode to the city, pause and reflect well before so doing.

Farm Pupils.

The tragic death of Benwell some years ago at the hands of Birchall threatened to put a damper on the schemes of those individuals and societies who were living on the moneys obtained from credulous young Englishmen who paid these people large sums, in return for which they were to procure them employment on farms or in lucrative positions in the United States and Canada. The folly of paying money in this manner has been frequently exposed in the press, but, notwithstanding, the number of those forwarded to this country in this manner is quite large. Recent revelations have shown that the system is still in force, and that the list of victims is by no means a small one. Of course, when once the money is paid over to these agents, the unfortunate immigrants get nothing back. Their fare only is paid to their destination, and such as wish to go on farms are handed over to the first farmer who will take them, who is oftentimes the worst farmer in the district. This is done in spite of the promise of the agents to furnish these young men with decent situations, and on respectable farms.

It is time that a stop was put to these schemes. These agents are no benefit to the country, but rather the contrary. Any smart young man who desires work can obtain it quite as easily if he comes himself and seeks for it, without the interposition of an agent, and he will be so much better off in that he has saved his money from the voracious claw of the wily agent. As things are now managed, the young man lands at his destination pretty well "stranded," and, after a short time spent on the farm selected for him, gets disgusted, and comes into the nearest town, there to become a hanger-on and dependent on the kindness of such as pity him. We have seen a great many cases of this sort. Of course, some of the plodding ones, who have, perhaps, got into a better berth, manage to continue on and do fairly well, but this is certainly not the case with the majority of them. The advisability of keeping out of these agents' hands cannot be too strongly impressed on all young men who are contemplating coming to this new land to seek their fortunes.