

men who hire themselves out for farm labour is not in any way so important as the class with us. Farm labourers are not numerous, as large farmers requiring their services are anything but numerous themselves. Their place is taken by the body of peasant proprietors, who may be said, in general terms, to represent our agricultural labourer class. I have travelled pretty extensively on the Continent, and I confess to having formed a very favourable opinion as to the condition of the agriculturists of the lower ranks. Time will only permit me however to glance at their condition in Belgium; more especially that part of it—Flanders—where cultivation stands so deservedly high. Wages are not great; a farmer in the neighbourhood of Courtrai, who farmed about 90 acres, told me that he gave his labourers 67 centimes per day, that is about *1d.* per day with an ample supply of provision—meat, bread and soup. From a franc to a franc and a quarter may be stated perhaps as the average without provisions. Nearly all the labourers have small plots of ground, which they have time to cultivate, and which they do with the most pains-taking care. That the condition of the labourer is in every way a comfortable one, even a cursory investigation will easily show. The clothing is wonderfully good, far above—specially in the linen department—that of our labourers. In the districts where the small plots of land are cultivated by the peasant proprietors pleasant signs of personal and household comfort abound everywhere. The village streets through which one passes show little of the squalid untidiness which too often greets the eye of the traveller in this country; and seldom is he offended with the sight of children bouncing about in all the Arab freedom of dirt and rags which characterises too many of the rising youths of our own villages. Nor, let me add—which possibly is one grand reason of all this comfort—do you see the drunkard staggering through the streets in the hopelessness of confirmed degradation. The cottages are small, and scantily furnished, according to our ideas of furnishing; but a scrupulous cleanliness atones for this, and adds a charm which abundance of furnished wealth without it would not give. The personal dress of both sexes gives you the idea of great comfort, although in the materials employed you have no evidence of the abundance of money. It simply tells of small funds laid out to highest economical advantage, than which nothing I conceive is more satisfactory in peasant life.—*Mr R. S. Burn before the London Farmer's Club.*

WHAT THE CHINESE EAT.—Rice is the staple article of food with all these Chinamen, as with the coolies and farmers, the only difference being that they have their fish and vegetables in quantity enough to be served up on separate dishes, and of much more expensive kinds than those bought by the poorer men. A choice addition consists of thin slices of pork fat, rolled up, cut

into lengths of about an inch, and until most of the grease is drawn out, leaving the rest crisp and brown, and not unpalatable. Bread is never eaten in the provinces south of Shantung, its place being entirely taken by rice; but there is a sort of dumpling made of flour, sometimes plain and sometimes with mince or dried fruit in it. Small cakes are also made from rice and barley flour with seeds like carraways strewed on the top. Heavy sponge cakes made in a mould, and cakes made from bean flour, are also in request. The Chinese aristocrat never feasts (if he can help it) without roast sucking pig for one dish, and of roast pig the part he prefers is the crackling. Every reading child knows about bird's-nest soup and the Indian sea slug biche-de-mer. Eggs are baked in clay until quite hard, and eaten in slices. Deer's sinews and pig's ears are great favourites. They have also excellent soups, thickened with first-rate vermicelli. In Foo-chow-foo bacon and hams are prepared, which many pronounce to be as good as English; at all events, they are famous all over China, and are always a very acceptable present to the residents at the other ports. They have even been exported to America, though, no doubt, only as curiosities. It is said that the art of curing hams was introduced into Foo-chow by a resident English lady some twelve years ago.—*All the Year Round.*

To drive and keep rats from corn-cribs and granaries, place some gas-tar in them, and daub some in their holes, and they will leave the premises at once. The tar can be obtained at any place where gas is manufactured.

TO REMOVE CHAFF FROM ANIMALS' EYES.—Mr. C. E. Todd states, in the Ohio Farmer, that he had a valuable cow which became partly blinded with oat chaff, and tried the various remedies commonly prescribed, but to no effect. He then took a silk pocket-handkerchief, drew it tightly over the end of the fore-finger, and after raising the eye-lid as much as practicable, thrust the covered finger carefully into the eye. The chaff adhering to the silk was at once removed.

NATURAL FOUNTAINS IN ICELAND.—Two of these fountains, within a yard of each other, erupted alternately—the larger one vomiting a column ten feet high for the space of about four minutes, when it would entirely subside, and then the smaller one took up the running for about three minutes, ejecting a column of about five feet: their regularity in time and force was perfect. What gives rise to this remarkable phenomenon I will not attempt to decide, but there are reliable accounts of their regular habits for the last hundred years.—*Iceland; its Volcanoes, Geysers and Glaciers.*

THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE.—It is hard to know whether more to admire the variety of the form under which food is supplied to the animal creation or the simplicity of the fundamental