

It is a most encouraging fact to all who feel an interest in the welfare of our State, that our farmers generally throughout the State are fast becoming alive to the important aid that science is affording to their noble profession.

It is this craving for useful knowledge that has brought agricultural schools and colleges into successful operation in Europe in later times, and causes them to increase in number and usefulness. Among those existing in our country is the noble institution with its able teachers, which has been founded by some of the public-spirited farmers of our own State, and which we may hope to see more amply endowed. In this institution the farmer's son is to receive a finished college education, besides being taught both the theory and practice of his profession.

Among the many existing branches of science, so far as I have observed, chemistry and geology take a prominent rank in the estimation of the intelligent farmer. In fact, without some knowledge of both these sciences it is impossible to form a just conception of the characters and properties of soils and of the changes produced in them by atmospheric agencies and by cropping.

The injurious effects of different kinds of insects upon plants has more and more shown the farmer the necessity for knowledge of their habits, and I am pleased to find that Entomology is taught in our college by an accomplished professor.

Some knowledge of physiology, both animal and vegetable, is also required by the farmer. The first aids him in the care of his domestic animals, whilst the latter enables him to cultivate intelligently the plants of the field, the garden and the orchard.

The State of New York has certainly taken the lead in disseminating useful information, as has been evinced by the natural history surveys completed in that State nearly twenty years ago. The final report is embraced in nineteen large quarto volumes, to be followed by two more on Paleontology, and there is also a geological map. There is no doubt that this work, which embraces Geology, Mineralogy, Botany, Entomology, Zoology, and three volumes on practical agriculture, has had much to do with the rapid progress of agricultural and other industrial pursuits which has been made in that great State.

There is no doubt that the means pursued by New York have proved most efficient, and that her people have been amply repaid the cost of the work which has so much increased her productive resources.

It might be supposed that if our smaller State could not incur the cost of a complete natural history survey, she would find it clearly her interest, like Pennsylvania and