

mist, acquired a world-wide reputation in the latter part of the eighteenth century.

46.
Jenner.

47.
English love
of nature.

Many other students of nature could be added to this list. Perhaps none has acquired greater popular celebrity than Jenner.¹ This he acquired through his extraordinary discovery, by which he grappled successfully with one of the most prevalent and distressing epidemics from which former generations had to suffer. The study of animated nature, the observation of the sky and the heavens, have always been favourite occupations of Englishmen. The love of travels abroad and of the country at home has favoured a close intercourse with nature. A fickle and humid climate invited the superior skill of the agriculturist and the gardener, and rewarded them with heavier crops and more luxuriant verdure.² The chill of the long winter

gical Reform" (1869. Reprinted in 'Lay Sermons and Addresses,' No. 11). He is there considered as the first representative of "Uniformitarianism" against the older "Catastrophism." Uniformitarianism has been followed by "Evolutionism."

¹ Edward Jenner (1749-1823), one of the greatest benefactors of mankind, spent twenty years on the farms of Gloucestershire, following the advice of his friend and master John Hunter, "Don't think, but try," before he undertook the first inoculation of cowpox on the 14th of May 1796. About the end of the century the process of vaccination, which dispelled the older process of inoculation—introduced into England by Lady Mary W. Montagu in 1721—had become generally known in Europe. The governments of the Revolution in France and the Academy of Sciences had at the end of the century occupied themselves a good deal

with the cure of smallpox, both Voltaire and d'Alembert having taken great interest in the subject.

² The yield of an acre in wheat is in England about 30 bushels or one ton of grain; next comes Belgium, then Germany, then France; the average yield in the United States of America is barely one-half of that in England. The yield of an acre in Scotland exceeds slightly that in England. In Scotland farming is carried on with much skill and enterprise, and, in spite of the severe climate, gardening is probably further developed there than in any other country. It appears that the first voluntary organisation for the improvement of agriculture was the "Society of Improvers in the Knowledge of Agriculture in Scotland" formed in 1723, of which the Earl of Stair was one of the leaders. Though it counted 300 members, it was short-lived: its 'Select Transactions' were published by Maxwell in 1743.