

stimulated active exercise and outdoor sport; the abundant rains, which fed the many rivulets with a constant supply of fresh water, suggested the cultivation of that pastime of which Izaak Walton had left a classical description, long before Rousseau in France made the love of nature a fashionable sentiment. Lord Bacon pointed to the study of natural phenomena as the only source of knowledge. Evelyn wrote a treatise on forest-trees, and the old-fashioned English flower-garden is immortalised in Bacon's 'Essays,' in the "Winter's Tale," in Cowper's "Task," and in the works of many other poets. Through the literature of the eighteenth century there runs a vein of increasing love and knowledge of natural objects and natural scenery, beginning in Thomson and Gray, widening and deepening in Erasmus Darwin and Cowper, and attaining full vigour and originality in Burns and Wordsworth, as also in the school of English landscape-painting. William and Caroline Herschel com-

Next came the Bath and West of England Society, 1777; the Highland Society, 1784; and the National Board of Agriculture, 1793. The 'Farmer's Magazine' was started in 1800. About the same time that Lawes and Gilbert in England and Liebig in Germany gave such an impetus to scientific farming through their experiments and publications, "Mr John Finnie at Swanston, near Edinburgh, having suggested (1842) to some of his neighbours the desirableness of obtaining the aid of chemistry to guide farmers in many departments of their business, the hint was promptly acted upon, and these Mid-Lothian tenant-farmers had the merit of originating an Agricultural Chemistry Association (the first of its

kind), by which funds were raised, and an eminent chemist engaged" ('Ency. Brit.,' article "Agriculture," vol. i. p. 305). There is probably no country where farming is such a favourite pursuit of gentlemen of leisure and wealth as Great Britain, or where the intelligence of higher society and of the universities is so liberally transferred to the benefit of the country, of its population, its crops, and its livestock. Among many examples of the past and present I mention as an outcome of this spirit the little volume by Sir Thomas Dyke Acland, 'On the Chemistry of Farming' (London: Simpkin & Co., 1891), and his liberal patronage of agriculture in the west of England.