

The Olive planters of the Riviera are well aware of the utility of studying the Moon's condition when grafting is in progress, and no grafting is carried out save at the full of the Moon.

Since the dawn of language the influence of the Moon over the mind of man has been recognised and over the growth of animals since the days of Aristotle. To-day many a Norfolk peasant will only boil his pork before full Moon and never after it ! Indeed from superstition to fact, the Moon's influence over the affairs of men and things is firmly established and it only remains for us to turn it to the best account like all the other forces of Nature.

[*H. S. L. D. Ind. Sc. Agriculturist, Nov '23.*]

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### **The Successful Farmer.**

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From the alacrity and frequency with which retired men and others with little knowledge of farming, and with a questionable desire and capacity for hard work, assume they can become farmers, it would seem that the faculty for hard work is but a subsidiary attribute of a farmer.

It may be that a man with little aptitude for hard work may become a farmer, but there is little likelihood of his becoming a successful one under present circumstances. Experience to-day shows that the only farmer who is really successful is he who possesses an unlimited capacity for keeping a grip of things. Apart from those unfortunate farmers who plunged too heavily during the boom and are not yet out of the mire, the man who is not making a success of his farming operations to-day is, in many cases, he who has little inclination for hard work. Investigation in this country and others shows that farming in general is not a business with big monetary returns, nor is the rate of interest in the investment high. If therefore the overhead charges are unduly high and production is low, as they are very liable to be when the farmer is merely a looker on—and perhaps only an occasional one at that—then the chances of producing at a profit are very small indeed.

The pioneer stage of farming in South Africa, when success came to those who were ready to make the most of their opportunities, is now passing. The man now entering upon farming in this country and those already in it, unless they have a substantial backing

must not only be ready to grasp any special opportunities that come their way, but they must also be prepared to spend long hours in the burning sun, and frequently longer ones, after the sun has gone down if they would succeed. Whether the farmer actually does much manual work himself or not depends upon the size of the business. In any case the supervision must be of the closest, if leakage of time and money is to be prevented. With many farmers the cost of repairs and replacements are inordinately high, and the habit is to put the blame on the native. The farmer, however, who is constantly with his natives, whose supervision is efficient, and who is prepared to do a little repair work himself, does not find these costs such a burden. His figures will be low compared with those of the other farmer. The latter, when comparing his own figures with those of his more successful neighbour, says he cannot understand how it can be done. Close personal supervision constitutes the secret.

During the ploughing season many successful maize farmers get out with their ploughs at 4 a. m. and stay with them all day, not even returning for meals, in order to ensure that their ploughing shall be done thoroughly. The other farmer probably does not consider it necessary to get on the lands until he has had his breakfast, and he never misses a meal for the sake of thoroughness in his farming methods. To-day the path to success is a hard and narrow one. The easier one will likely lead to a heavier bond.

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## GLEANINGS.

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*The ways of Science.* The method of science is economy of thought. The aim of science is control of the future. Science shows how these new forces can be acquired and managed and what benefits can be derived from their employment. But science has no authority to ensure that the world will make proper use of its gifts. Men may employ them for their own destruction. In fact they do.

In short, science provides the motive power, but not the motive for the use of power. Consequently the scientist should not be blamed when we see his well-intended and valuable discoveries employed to increase the misery of the world instead of alleviating it.