

As, however, very few estate-owners have the necessary qualifications, such an enterprise is invariably undertaken by an agent, who must, in these days be most competent, if he is to make it a financial success. Even so, payment for his services is a heavy charge on profits, and the obvious ideal is for the estate-owner to manage and farm his own estate.

Now those who have tried this, even on a small scale, realise that it is a whole-time job of absorbing interest and great variety, and that it is positively absurd to suppose that anyone can qualify for it by a few years at an agricultural college and for a few years on an estate.

A really practical knowledge of arable farming, stock-breeding, forestry and building-construction, can only be obtained by a boy, who from childhood to manhood is familiar with these things, not merely by watching the manifold operations, but also by giving a hand here, there and everywhere, and thus discovering by actual experience what skill is required, and what time should be taken over any job.

When such a practical experience is supplemented by some technical knowledge of (say) architecture, artificial manures, and account-keeping, there is obtained a very real equipment, and estate-owners (having sons) should seriously consider the advisability of allowing one of them to grow up with this definite end in view. It may be objected that such a life precludes the possibility of a public-school or university education, and it certainly does, but though this orthodox education may seem a very desirable