I CAN NOT BEGIN TO TELL how much help club work has been to me. It not only gave me credit for a semester's work in clothing, but also created my desire for a college education," wrote a Kansas club girl who was permitted to take a final examination for the first semester in college on the strength of her three years' experience in club work. Club work often leads boys and girls to seek a fuller knowledge of agriculture and stimulates an ambition to secure a broader education. Of those taking the regular course in agriculture and home economics in the State colleges last year over 1,800 were boys and girls who had been in club work, while over 3,300 club boys and girls took short courses at the colleges, 730 having scholarships won through their club work.

The daughter of a Bohemian baker in Westfield, Mass., the oldest of a large family of children, found her first opportunity through club work. First, she learned to can at the canning center. Then she bought equipment and canned at home evenings, after working all day behind the counter in the bakery and helping her mother with the younger children. A second and third year she continued this home-canning work, branching out by canning for several neigh-
bors and in this way earning money which was her very own. In her second year, she wished to learn more and joined a garment-making club. At 17, she first learned how to sew, but within a year we find her with such skill that she is teaching her friends how to make their own dresses. Still her outlook on life grew, and she began to plan ways and means of getting enough together to go to Massachusetts Agricultural College for a course in home economics. One of the red-letter days of her life was the day she actually enrolled as a student at the college.

The great advantage of working with boys and girls is that whatever you do is only a beginning—a take-off so to speak, from which they leap forward to greater things. A broader education is only one of these things; in countless other ways the club work of the farm boys and girls is working toward the improvement of rural life.

Through club work, boys and girls are led to realize the possibilities of farm life and to look upon it as worthy of their best thought and effort and as offering opportunities for success and happiness second to no other occupation. How it helps to keep the boys on the farm is indicated by the experience of a Wisconsin boy who joined the calf club and raised a prize-winning Holstein calf. To use his own words, "Club work has completely changed my life plan, as my parents always encouraged me to get a mechanical education, thinking that I am best fitted for that. I thought so myself until I became interested in club work and found out what I could do."

During the past 10 years there have been numerous and striking examples of improvements in farm life and practice brought about through the influence of this work.

Crop production has been materially improved in many parts of the country through demonstrations carried on by club members. Corn clubs have probably had a wider influence than any other in this respect. There is evidence that the results of corn-club demonstrations are being accepted and put into practice by farmers generally in communities where the most successful demonstrations are made. R. A. Moore, corn extension specialist of the University of Wisconsin, states that he is convinced that the high yield of corn in recent years in Wisconsin, as compared with several
other corn States, is due largely to the fact that boys' and girls' club members in that State have for 10 years been producing high-grade seed and distributing it to farmers throughout the State. One corn-club boy in Minnesota, although he is only 16, has developed a regular seed-corn business, has built and owns a fine seed-corn house, and expects to sell this year 500 bushels of seed corn. For several years corn-club members in Colorado have been making demonstrations in corn growing and have been selling seed from registered fields, with the result that there has been a marked improvement in corn production. It is reported that Colorado farmers are willing to pay practically twice as much for registered seed grown by club members as for ordinary seed corn.

The First Purebred on the Farm.

In introducing purebred live stock into communities where scrubs have largely prevailed, and in weeding out unprofitable animals from the farm herds, as well as in improving methods of feeding and caring for stock, the club members have accomplished some notable results. Thousands of pure-
bred animals have been introduced as a result of the club work with baby beeves, dairy animals, sheep, and swine. Some 33,000 club members are now engaged in such work in the Northern and Western States.

A, Learning How to Judge as Well as Feed; B, Preparing for the Show.

Of 174 entries by club members at the Iowa State Fair in the baby-beef class, 121 were sold at auction and 2 by private sale. The 123 calves weighed 124,220 pounds and sold at an average price of $18.30 per hundredweight. Iowa State College purchased two of the calves for $650.

Club work with dairy calves is carried on in 23 of the Northern and Western States, and has two main purposes,
Boys' and Girls' Clubs, namely, the introduction of better stock and the demonstration of the best methods of feeding and care for maximum milk production. This has in many cases led to the general introduction in the community of systematic milk testing and keeping of records of feed and of milk production. In some instances club members as a group have brought in registered sires or joined bull circles, and in some communities members have joined or formed cow-testing associations, of which farmers generally have also become members. The introduction of better stock and better methods which has thus been brought about is laying a foundation for permanent future improvement.

In many instances the club animal has been the first purebred on the farm, and it has been the interest of the boy or girl that has won the farmer over to purebreds entirely and has made him more kindly disposed toward community movements and associations for the introduction of better stock. It is a matter of actual record that during 1920 over 5,000 farmers were led to replace scrub pigs with purebreds as a result of the pig-club work, and this figure is undoubtedly an inadequate index of the influence the club work is exerting in this direction. It is especially significant that in many communities the club members are supplying much of the purebred stock bought by the farmers.

As a result of poultry club work purebred fowls have been introduced on many farms that had previously known only scrub chickens, and thousands of unproductive fowls have been culled from the flocks. In many communities club work has been responsible for establishing the practice of raising only one breed, thus simplifying production problems and establishing a better reputation and market for the community product. In 1920, 3,000 poultry-club members in the Northern and Western States introduced 38,000 purebred fowls on their home farms, culled 1,200 flocks, and raised 155,000 chickens. Club work not only helps to keep the country boy on the farm, but even reaches out and leads the city boy back to the land. One city boy who went into the poultry-club work made such a success of it that he determined to go regularly into the business. "I owe all my success in the poultry business," he says, "and what I may ac-
complish in the future, largely to the boys’ and girls’ club work, for it has started me on the road to success.”

One of the far-reaching effects of club work has been its influence in extending the practice of home canning. The farm diet has been materially improved through this important contribution to the winter food supply of the home.

The average cash income on the farm is relatively low, and therefore any increase in the cost of clothing becomes a heavy tax on the family budget, making home sewing increasingly necessary. In 1920, 30,000 girls in the Northern and Western States were organized in sewing clubs in which they learn not only to sew but to use commercial patterns.
and to select suitable fabrics. They produced 63,100 garments for themselves and for members of their families, and, in addition, more than one-third of them did all the family mending. They also organized demonstration teams, and during the year gave 897 demonstrations in garment making before 36,485 people. Through these demonstrations they created a widespread interest in home sewing and showed how simple it is. Their work convinced many mothers that what seemed to be a difficult problem was really quite easy when attacked in the right way. These teams gave style shows, demonstrating not only the proper garments for the growing girl, but the shape of shoes one should wear as well.

The Bankers Take an Interest.

Property ownership is a powerful incentive to the best effort, and creates a sense of business responsibility that is of the utmost value to the prospective citizen. A survey conducted at the International Live Stock Exposition at Chicago in 1920 showed that 253 club members taking part in demonstrations at the exposition were worth $300,000. Their average holdings were about $1,200, representing live stock, savings, and investments acquired over a period of from three to six years through strict attention to business and to the use of the best known practices. This accumulation of resources has not escaped the watchful eye of the banker, who is always ready to loan money for use in productive enterprises and to assist in community development. In 1920 the bankers of the Northern and Western States loaned $900,000 to the young business men and women of the clubs. Not a single case of a club member failing to meet his obligations in a businesslike manner has come to our attention.

Social and Community Development.

Club work not only promotes individual thrift and skill, but has also had a marked influence in the social development of the club members. Meetings, songs, yells, games, and the like, as part of the group activities of the clubs, have appealed especially to young people and have tended to increase their interest in demonstration work, as well as to promote their social development and welfare.
Parades, festivals, displays, pageantry, fairs, and games have been valuable supplementary features of club work, and have had an important influence in stimulating interest among boys and girls and in making them active club members. A realization of the importance of the work they are doing in giving public demonstrations, the organization of a definite program of work, and the keeping of accurate records and reports have done much to make young people feel that they are essential to the life of a community and are making definite contributions to its welfare. In 1920 club members held 1,736 achievement day meetings and 98 club camps, and made more than 95,500 club exhibits.

In the Northern and Western States club work is rapidly becoming a regular feature of the county extension program, and in the organization of counties and communities for extension work the part that boys and girls can take in helping to meet the problems that arise is now generally recognized and provided for. For example, suppose that in a certain community one or more of the following problems develop: The wheat yield is low, the potato crop is unprofitable, the hens lay only one-fifth of the time, living conditions do not compare favorably with those of the city home, there is much hard work and little social life or recreation in the com-
munity, and the young men and women of the community are leaving for the city in large numbers. In planning a community program of extension work the problem of low wheat yield may be assigned to certain farmers who undertake to demonstrate the value of late fall planting and using an improved variety; other farmers take up demonstrations in the better handling of the potato crop, treating the seed for scab prevention, and cultivating the crop according to the most improved methods suggested by scientific investigation. In this connection, however, the question may arise as to whether some of the boys of the community might not be competent and willing to assist in the demonstration work, thus greatly increasing the number of demonstrations and the reliability of the results. A potato club is organized and the boys take up the demonstrational work as enthusiastically as their fathers, treating seed and practicing better methods of cultivation, spraying, and seed selection. In the same way both boys and girls are enrolled in poultry clubs to supplement the demonstrations their mothers are carrying on in profitable poultry production, and take an active part in promoting such work. Thus a foundation is laid for holding the interest of the young people in the community by establishing closer ties of interest between parents and children and uniting them in the work of solving the economic and social problems of the community as a whole.

Clubs Make a Big Place for Themselves.

Boys' and girls' club work has come to be recognized as of such consequence that in the Northern and Western States 200 counties now employ county club agents to work with the communities in developing demonstration work among young people. In such counties a budget of from $3,000 to $4,000 is appropriated to carry on the work annually. The club enrollment in these counties is from 400 to 1,000 members, and the earnings of the club work amount on an average to $40 a year per member.

The fact that in 1920 over 216,000 boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 18 years were engaged in club work and were seeking through their membership in about 14,000 local clubs to improve agricultural and home economics prac-
tices in their communities and reaching and influencing through this means over a million persons, indicates that club activities have become an important part of extension work and community life. The actual financial output of these clubs in 1920 was something over $4,600,000, which is an indication of the sound business basis upon which this work has been established. When we realize that the club membership in the Northern States which was only 23,000 in 1915 had increased to over 216,000 in 1920, some idea may be gained of the popularity of this work and of the possibilities it offers for the future.

From an economic standpoint club work has more than paid its way in actual money returns, and, in addition, has trained in leadership and broadened in social outlook hundreds and thousands of boys and girls who will soon constitute a considerable portion of the adult rural citizenship of the country and be a controlling influence in American farm life.