

**ELEMENTS OF
AGRICULTURE, FOR
USE IN SCHOOLS**

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Elements of agriculture, for use in schools by James Bolton McBryde

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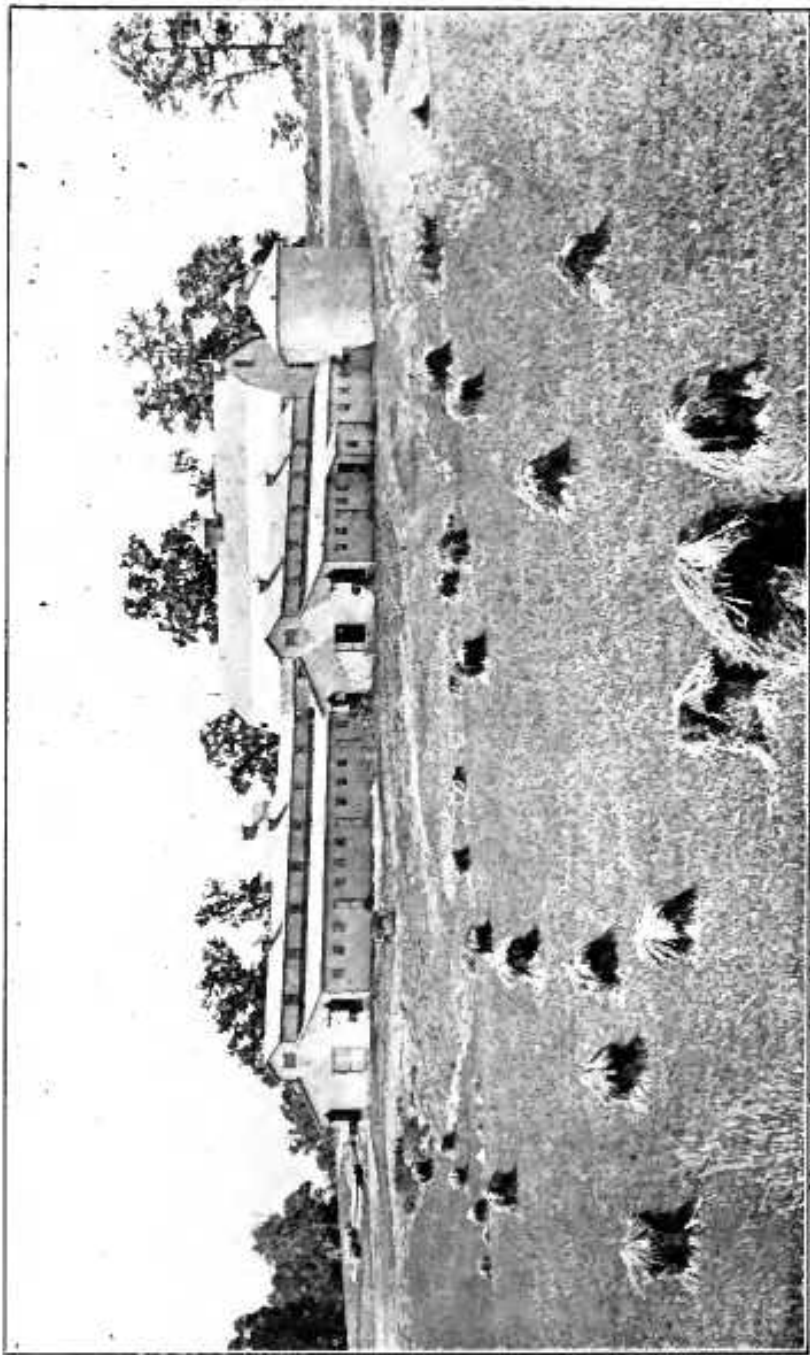
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JAMES BOLTON MCBRYDE

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Model Barn of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute (Showing Round Silo).

ELEMENTS OF AGRICULTURE

FOR USE IN SCHOOLS

BY

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PREFACE

The pressing need of some agricultural instruction in our public schools is generally admitted by all who have given due thought to the subject. Especially is this true in the Southern States, where the great majority of the population is engaged in agricultural pursuits, and where comparatively few students from the rural districts find their way to college. According to the census of 1900, the total population of the Southern States is about 23,000,000. Of this number the rural population makes up fully 75 per cent or more; in other words, about 17,000,000. The total number of persons enrolled during the session of 1898-'99, as students of agriculture in the land-grant colleges of the South was 1,777, or about .0001 per cent of the agricultural population. The number of persons receiving agricultural instruction outside of these colleges is so small as not materially to affect the result, and it is safe to say that of the agricultural population of the South not more than one person in 10,000 receives any schooling in agriculture. We have, then, the amazing spectacle of an agricultural community that is spending annually for its schools and colleges about \$35,000,000, and yet giving instruction in agriculture to only one person in every 10,000 of the agricultural population.

That there are still great difficulties in the way of the work of agricultural education is freely admitted. The want of thoroughly trained teachers, the need of more and better apparatus and text-books, and the want of appreciation on the part of the general public, are great barriers in the way of progress. But these barriers must and will in time be removed, teachers will be better trained, more and better apparatus will be provided, better text-books will be written, and when all this comes to pass the public will soon learn to appreciate this line of educational effort.

The object in preparing this little book has been to present in simple language some of the more important principles of agriculture, with the hope that as herein set forth they may serve to stimulate in the pupil a desire for further information on the subject. Details have been as far as possible avoided, for to attempt to load the pupil's mind with a mass of details would be to defeat at the start the primary object of the book. It must be borne in mind that within the limits of an ordinary volume it is impossible to present more than a very brief outline of the first principles of agriculture. Many topics must be omitted entirely and others touched upon very briefly. It is hoped, however, that these first principles may provide the student with a ground-work upon which to build a more perfect knowledge of agriculture.

Teachers should, whenever possible, supplement and illustrate the text by examples drawn from their own observations and experience, and should encourage pupils to observe and investigate for themselves.

For revising my manuscript and for many valuable suggestions, my thanks are due Dr. J. M. McBryde, of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute; Prof. T. C. Karns, of Tennessee; Mr. J. F. Jackson, of the Southern Planter; Prof. D. O. Nourse, of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute; Mr. David Cloyd, of Dublin, Va.; Prof. C. E. Vawter, of the Miller Manual School; Dr. J. M. McBryde, Jr., of Hollins Institute, and Dr. F. D. Wilson, of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute. For the illustrations I am indebted to Dr. Chas. N. McBryde, of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

J. B. McB.

Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, Va.

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