

Countryside Life As Told by
A Town Evacuee.

I was evacuated to Middleton-in-Teesdale from Newcastle on the 1st of September 1939. Countryside life was very new to me as I had spent my holidays on the coast or in another town.

September of that year was beautifully fine, and as the arrangements were not completed to start school immediately we had a long holiday which enabled us to become acquainted with our strange and exciting new life.

The first great attraction was the orchard at a farm where a town friend of mine was billeted. But that attraction did not last long as the apples proved to be on the sour side.

One of the things I discovered was the great amount of freedom to be enjoyed in the country, no dangerous traffic on the roads and no smoke in the air.

We had the pleasure of roaming through the fields and woods and watching the doings of "Mother Nature".

among birds and rabbits & squirrels. But I had been up to then very nervous of the bigger animals, to me they seemed to be wild & I dreaded approaching them and I would go a long way to avoid them. I soon found out however that they were very harmless and friendly, by that time I had learned how useful they were in giving milk, butter, cheese and meat. As time went on I came to understand that the better the animals they were, the better the produce they gave. And ~~so~~ as the quality of food is so important to our health, we can only have the best from the best. And that means we should have good breeding amongst the stock.

I was curious to know how the farmers could distinguish between the good and the bad of the breed. After joining "The Young Farmers Club" I learnt that good animals had a very clearly marked distinguishing features and also how to look for them. I also learnt how to feed them ~~well~~ properly, not

only that but how to look after them. Namely to see that their bodies are clean and also their byers. The byers should be well ventilated and a good supply of lighting.

In the country the seasons seem to have much more meaning. Spring is a time of preparing, sowing, planting & feeding young stock. Summer brings hay making. Autumn brings harvesting of corn, fruits etc, while in winter the land is lying resting from its years yieldings and gathering strength for another season, then again in Spring we see the buds opening, the birds building & flowers coming in their turn. The cold frozen earth begins to turn green again & the sun's warmth brightens everything. Summer is a riot of colour in flowers, hedges & fields. The long hot days can be spent out of doors. In Autumn the colours begin to fade into browns & reds in a wonderful (or) variety of shades. The smaller animals lay in their stock of winter food.

And now after 4 1/2

years of the joys of
country life, that of the
town seems to hold no
pleasures to ^{be} compared with this
"The Country Life"
