

ones, all of which become, in a short time, fertile as their parent. The following calculation of the fecundity of a species of aphides, from Prof. Owen's lectures on "Comparative Anatomy," will offer some explanation of the extraordinary numbers in which these creatures sometimes occur. The *aphis lanigera* produces each year ten viviparous broods, and one which is viviparous, and each 100 individuals.

Generations	Aphis produces.
1st "	1
2nd "	100
3rd "	10,000
4th "	1,000,000
5th "	100,000,000
6th "	10,000,000,000
7th "	1,000,000,000,000
8th "	100,000,000,000,000
9th "	10,000,000,000,000,000
10th "	1,000,000,000,000,000,000

Salt as a Weed Destroyer.

Weeds are said to be robbers of the soil, for that which was not designed for them, for more useful plants. But, like other robbers, they do little mischief, if closely watched, and the proper means is taken to prevent their depredations. Indeed, weeds are not an unmitigated evil, for did they not grow, and make ploughing and cultivation, and hoeing, absolutely necessary, we fear our corn, potatoes, and all other crops, would suffer for want of necessary culture; and the loss from this cause, especially in a dry season, would be far greater than it now is from foul weeds. While saying much for the weeds, it must be admitted that there are some varieties so tenacious of life, and with such abundant means of propagation in the roots, that they are perfect pests, and among them there are the Couch Grass, Canada Thistle, &c. Almost every week some afflicted part of the soil applies to us for a sure and effectual method of effecting their eradication. But we know of no easy process, for the price of which we have found to be the same as that which patriots declare to be the price of liberty, "eternal vigilance." Occasionally we have read accounts of partial success by the use of salt, while with others, perhaps from the use of a large quantity, or an improper mode of application, the remedy has been found as bad as the disease. Salt, in large quantities, will destroy all vegetation. There are only a few of cultivated vegetables, such as asparagus, which will endure its liberal application.

A late English paper contains an account of experiments by a practical farmer in the use of salt for the destruction of Couch Grass and other weeds, which were eminently successful, salt not only proving effectual in killing the weeds, but materially lessening insect depredations,

and greatly increasing the crop of roots. We give the most important part of the report, to which we invite the especial attention of our readers. If such great benefits are to be derived from the use of salt, American farmers cannot learn the fact too soon.

"Some years ago, being troubled on my grass land with a weed which I could not eradicate by mechanical means, I sowed a heavy dose of salt, and at once effected the object. A season or two back, it struck me that if the experience was worth anything, it should teach me a quick way to rid my lands of weeds generally—the arable land, I mean. The consequence was that when the autumn arrived, the fields that were intended to fallow, received a very heavy coat of salt—coarse-grained, agricultural salt; which is, in fact, the sweepings from the salt works, and the refuse of the pans. The quantity sowed was 12 cwt. per acre. The winter which followed was a severe one, and, in connection with the frost, the chemical action of the salt upon the soil was charming to the eye, which delights in the sight of a beautiful friable mold, in the place of a churlish, unkindly clay, which usually resists the expansive, and disintegrating glacial influences of winter. The field, too, on which the experiment was tried had long possessed a reputation for Couch Grass, and that particular species of it known as Water Grass, the most hopeless and most troublesome of all. The hoe would not kill it, the twitch rake would not gather it, and the children in seeking it on the surface after the harrows had left it exposed, usually secured half of it, and stamped the rest into the soil to perpetuate the kind. This Water Grass, then, which the hoe would not kill, which the rakes could not collect, nor the children pick off, was quietly disposed of, never more to trouble me, while it lay at its winter repose. The salt had slain the thief of my profits, noiselessly as the ferret sucks the life blood from the rabbit in its retreat; and when the first spring furrow was turned, the view of the shrivelled enemy—the enemy which had baffled all my ingenuity and kept my exchequer low—was cheering indeed. One length after another of the sinuous, wiry weed, was examined, but there was no sign of life; not even at that critical point, not even at that critical point the knot, could I detect, by the means of the microscope, any indication of vitality. The "foal's foot," which runs down far into the subsoil, were many of them dead, though not all. In looking for the buttercup roots, also, scarcely any were to be found; and glad I was, for bother enough they had been to me.

"The land then received one or two furrows to incorporate the salt thoroughly, and diffuse its power beneficially, so that it might invigorate everywhere, and yet not remain in sufficient force in any one place to endanger the seed which followed.

"At the proper season, and without any other