

ceased to fix carbon during the day, but continuing to absorb oxygen at night. This condition, then, may be assumed as carbon, or chromole, in its *least* amount in quantity, under its *highest* state of oxygenation, and is most frequently met with in flowers whose function (the reverse of that of leaves) is to part with carbon, whilst they absorb oxygen. We have in these examples the colouring principle of plants (carbon,) presented under its two most opposed conditions, namely, in an abundant quantity, and little oxidised, assuming a dark green colour; whilst, in the opposite state, there exists only a small proportion, but at the same time it is exhibited in its highest degree of oxygenation, appearing as a bright red.—*Medical Times*.

WHITE BELGIAN CARROT.—Sir Charles Burrell, Bart., M.P., of Knapp Castle, near Horsham, Sussex informed the Council that he attributed his growth of 1,601 bushels of White Carrots per acre last season (without including the green tops previously to carting away being severed from the Carrots, for feeding cows, &c.) principally in so dry a season as last year, to the effect of previous Pearson-plough drainage, as recommended by Mr. Hodges, and to the circumstance of the ground having been well prepared by spade husbandry. Sir Charles had always found the latter practice preferable to double-ploughing or subsoiling on heavy soils; for, in addition to an increase of crop, amounting by estimate to 300 bushels per acre, great benefit arose, in his opinion, to subsequent crops, by the good effect produced by that operation on the land.

THE NATURE OF WARP.—Mr. Charnock of Holmfild House, near Ferrybridge, Yorkshire, communicated to the Council the result of his inquiries into the nature of the deposit of rivers, by means of the microscope and his deductions from these investigations as to the cause of the great fertility of warped land, which he conceived to arise from the presence of those infusorial animalcules and their remains, so well known to exist in the deposit of all rivers flowing in a long and slow course through flat, alluvial districts, and whose character, through the labours of Dr. Ehrenbergh, of Berlin, has been so distinctly traced, and made known to the scientific world.

VIRTUES OF OATMEAL.—*Blackwood's Magazine*, in discussing the comparative virtues of wheaten flour and oatmeal, thus throws down the gauntlet to England, after having by a few figures proved the superiority of the latter:—"What do you say to these numbers, Mr. Cockney? You won't pity us, Scotch oatmeal eaters any more, we guess. Experience and science are both on our side. What makes your race-horses the best in the world may be expected to make our peasantry the best too. We offer you, therefore, a fair bet. You shall take ten English ploughmen, and feed them upon two pounds and a half of wheaten flour a day, and we shall take as many Scotch ploughmen, and feed them upon the same weight of oatmeal a day—if they can eat so much, for that is doubtful—and we shall back our men against yours for any sum you like. They shall walk, run, work—or fight you, if you like it, and they shall thrash you to your heart's content. We should like to convince you that Scotch porridge has some real solid metal in it. We back the oatcake and the porridge against all the wheaten messes in the world. We defy your home-made bread, your baker's bread, your household bread, your leaven bread, and your brown Georgies—your fancy bread and your raisin bread—your baps, rolls, scones, muffins, crumpets, and cookies—your bricks, biscuits, bakes, and rusks—your Bath buns and your Sally Luns—your tea-cakes, and saffron-cakes, and slim-cakes, and plank-cakes, and pan-cakes, and soda-cakes, and currant-cakes, and sponge-cakes, and seed-cakes, and girdle-cakes, and singing-hinnies—your short bread and your currant buns—and if there be any other names by which you designate your wheaten abominations, we defy and defeat them all. We swear by the oatcake and the porridge, the substantial bannock and the brose—long may Scotland produce them, and Scotchmen live and fight upon them!"

THE MURRAIN ON THE CONTINENT.—The *Presse* publishes a second article on the typhus fever at present raging among the oxen in Germany, and on the best mode

of preserving France from that scourge. "First," says the *Presse*, "it is necessary to state an important fact, the result of long experience, which is, that the malady is completely incurable, and that no preventive measure can protect animals from its attack. We insist on this point, in order that the Government may not, like other Governments during the last century, lose much valuable time in seeking for preservative means, which they might have employed in efficaciously opposing the progress of the malady. In the year 1770, the Dutch Government proposed a prize of 20,000 florins to any person who should discover a specific against the epydemy; and, whilst the colleges of Leyden and Utrecht were discussing the subject, the contagion carried off 281,531 oxen in the United Provinces. There is another fact not less important to be mentioned. This malady never developed itself spontaneously either in France or in the other parts of western Europe. It has always been introduced into those countries either from the south of Russia, Wallachia, Moldavia, or the marshes of Hungary, countries where it appears to be endemic, without, however, exercising as great destruction there as in the countries in which it appears from time to time. Every time the typhus has appeared in Germany, Italy, France or Belgium, it has been ascertained in the most positive manner that it has been imported by animals arriving from the above named countries, which may be considered as the permanent focus of this epidemic. With respect to the mode of guaranteeing France from this scourge, the best appears to be an absolute prohibition against the admission into France of foreign oxen. Common sense indicates this as the surest mode of preventing the infection from penetrating into France. Should, however, notwithstanding every precaution, the disease unfortunately appear in France, to abandon the malady to itself would be to incur the almost certain risk of seeing the epidemic cease solely for want of aliment. During the last century several countries in Europe, amongst others the Campagna di Roma, lost the entire of their horned beasts. Entire herds were destroyed, and it was found necessary to import oxen in order to replace those which were carried off. Of all measures of repression, the most efficacious are the interruption of all communication with diseased cattle, and their destruction and burial under the earth as soon as they are found to have caught the infection. During the last years of the empire, whilst the typhus abandoned to itself penetrated into France, and caused the destruction there of 400,000 head of oxen, its progress was arrested at Utrecht, where it was brought by Russian cattle, and the consequences avoided by the prompt measures adopted by the authorities—the interruption of all communication from abroad, and the immediate slaughter of all diseased cattle. We may add in termination that the public would do well to be on their guard against favourable accounts brought from the theatre of the contagion. Those countries are interested in maintaining a communication from abroad, and they will, consequently attenuate the evil."

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