

the excitement of unappeased hunger would be injurious; but if the patient still manifest an indifference, the material should be at once withdrawn; in this way in the absence of appetite, an animal may safely fast for a considerable time, according to circumstances, until, indeed, the acute state of the malady has slightly subsided, when the assimilative functions are partially restored, and food of a proper kind may be given with benefit.

The most succulent articles of diet are universally preferred for sick animals to dry food, even although the latter might be more nutritious. As the nutriment is not in so available a form, we gain nothing by selecting it, while the moist diet is more easily masticated, besides being much less stimulating. For these reasons carrots or green food are desirable: the last, in particular, is usually very harmless, and tends to secretion by the amount of water it contains, besides acting beneficially by means of its saline constituents. The amount of nutritious matter contained in such diet is exceedingly small, but quite equivalent to the present wants of the system.

In the absence of succulent food, mashes are the nearest representative, but as bran is irritating in some states of mucous membrane, its use is not at all times allowable; where any contrary indications are present, flour gruel, or linseed tea, or a mixture of the two, will generally be taken by the patient with readiness, and will afford sufficient support to the system, without causing any excitement of the membrane of stomach or intestines. It is hardly necessary to remark that succulent vegetables are not to be permitted in cases of diarrhoea, as their action is ordinarily laxative, in consequence, probably, of the quantity of water which they contain; nor, by the same rule, will carrots or turnips be legitimate diet during polyuria, as under any circumstances, a diuretic effect generally follows their use: the white carrot we have noticed to be particularly active in this respect.

Against the system of abstinence at the commencement of an acute malady, it may be urged that the disease and the necessary depletive treatment will sufficiently weaken the patient, and that supporting the body by nutritious food is the only method of compensation. It might be easily shown that the same objection would apply to any kind of depletive treatment. It is unfortunately true that we cannot attack acute disease successfully without, to a considerable extent, lessening the tone of the system. If it were the case that nutritious food would furnish a remedy for this untoward consequence, without adding anything to the present excitement, we should be justified in defending its use; but as the system owes its support to the matter assimilated, and not merely to the food swallowed, we can hardly expect much from the consumption of nutriment which the digestive system cannot appropriate; nor

would it be consistent, even if it could, to allow a liberal diet, while our other therapeutic measures have a direct opposite tendency. The stomach would probably suffer in many cases if allowed to remain empty for any long time, from the solvent and irritating effects of its own secretion; hence a bland diet, easy of digestion and not stimulating or highly nutritive, is advisable; and upon it the animal can well subsist until the organism is capable of assimilating its ordinary aliment. In some instances an extreme disgust at the sight of food compels the employment of force in its administration, a necessity which cannot but be deplored from the disturbance occasioned to an animal whose life almost depends upon perfect quietude; nevertheless for the reasons given, some diet is necessary, and the only thing to be done under the circumstances is to administer it as carefully as possible, always remembering that a small quantity of aliment taken voluntarily will be more advantageous to the animal than twice or thrice the amount forced into the stomach. Linseed tea and gruels of oat-meal, bean-meal, or flour, according to circumstances, may be easily administered by the ordinary drenching horn, two or three times a day. Any medicines which the case may require will, as a matter of course, be given at the same time.

When from any causes, such as tetanus, throat disease, or extreme irritability of stomach, it becomes impossible to exhibit food by the mouth, we have recourse to enemata; animal or vegetable food in fluid mixture may be injected into the rectum; small quantities only are permissible, and consequently their more frequent administration is necessary.—Professor Brown, of Cirencester, in *Veterinarian*.

Jethro Tull, the Introducer of the Loiss-Weedon Culture System.

"Perhaps," says the *North British Agriculturist* (August 22, 1860) "the system, even to the width of the three rows and intervals between these rows, is exactly the same as the system pursued by Jethro Tull and others more than a century ago. The following are extracts from *Select Transactions of the Society of Improvers, Scotland*, published in Edinburgh in the year 1743:—

A letter concerning Mr. Tull's method of improvement, to a person of distinction in Scotland, and by him communicated to the Society.

I have been at the Lord Ducie's, where I have seen several new methods of husbandry, particularly with wheat. This way was found out by one Mr. Tull, a gentleman who was bred a scholar, turned his philosophy towards plants and husbandry, and by experience found that the constant expense of manure, which was ne-