



FIG. 7.—LOOSE SMUT OF WHEAT (*Ustilago tritici*).—The central ear is normal and healthy, the others are smutted and most of the spores are already shed.—Tubouf.

It seems that the ball smut has been very abundant but by no means general in the crops as many farms were clear of it, especially where the practice of bluestoning has been followed for a number of years and strong seed had been used. There appears to have been little difference between the crops on summer-fallow, stubble or breaking so far as smut was concerned. In many fields it was very apparent that the portions sown earliest were most smutty. It was also observed that when the soil had by drifting deeply covered the seed there was a great deal of smut. Spring opened early and was so dry that many sowed early in March and altogether too deeply, the wheat came on slowly and in its weak condition was more liable to attack by smut. In addition to this a great deal of very much shrunken grain, due to frost and rust, was used for seed, as was also many a decidedly smutty sample.