

be confined to those most generally esteemed varieties met within our best cultivated districts, their characteristics being given in the briefest possible manner. The simplest division between them for our purpose is that of colour, white or red, the yellow varieties being classified either with the one or the other, according to the darkness of their tint. Amongst the most esteemed of the white varieties, we meet with,

Brodie's Wheat.—Fine sample, superior to Hunter's; straw longer, about a week or ten days earlier at harvest, and more productive; suited for spring sowing, cultivation increasing in good districts—Lothians, Berwickshire, &c.

Chidham.—Fine quality; short, compact grain, with fine, transparent skin; meals well, and fetches a good price at market; largely grown in the southern countries; increasing in Scotland.

Dwarf Cluster.—Short, firm straw; tillers well; yield generally good both in quality and quantity; suitable for rich, humous (vegetable mould) soil; grown chiefly in the south, but stands the north climate very satisfactorily.

Essex.—Resembles Chidham; probably the same wheat slightly altered by cultivation in a different district; fine thin-skinned variety, with square head and no awns; esteemed highly by millers; yield good in good district.

Fenton.—Hardy, with short, strong straw: rarely falls; good cropper; suitable for rich soils; quality of grain good.

Hopetoun.—Resembles Hunter's, rather finer quality perhaps; hardy; good cropper; largely cultivated in the north; esteemed in the markets.

Hunter's.—Rather thick ear, tapering towards point; grain rather large, plump; top dull white or light brownish tint; quality excellent: hardy; grown extensively in the north; succeeds well in the south.

Pearl.—Resembles Chidham and Essex; fine quality of grain; straw long and stout; early at harvest, and suitable for either winter spring sowing, on rich, warm soils; meals well.

Spring.—Bearded; ear shortish; grain thin, with transparent skin; straw generally shortish and weak; ripens quickly even when sown late in spring.

Talavera.—Ear long and thin; grain very large, plump, with rounded ends quality excellent: meals well, and always tops the market; tender habit; sown in spring, and requires good soils; has not succeeded in the north.

Uxbridge.—Apparently same as Chidham, improved by climate; ears larger; grain small, short and plump; fine white colour; sample beautiful, and much sought after by millers for finest flours; good cropper, succeeds well in good districts of the north.

Velvet-eared, or Rough Chaffed.—Straw short and stout; grain medium size, of pearly white colour; excellent quality, and good cropper; requires dry climate, or apt to mildew; largely grown in the eastern counties.

(To be continued.)

A Diet for Acute Diseases.

The necessity for supplying a certain quantity of nutriment to the system does not cease upon the occurrence of disease, although it may be considerably modified at least for a time. This circumstance renders it advisable to decide upon the precise object desired, before any system of dieting be arranged. The simple inquiry what is necessary, in reference to each case, would generally find an answer, and prevent a host of errors in the treatment of animals suffering under disease; applying this principle we come at once to the question, what is the object of diet in acute affections?

In very few, perhaps in no instances, can it be said that food is at all indispensable to support the system; under the immediate disturbance of an active disease, aliment of any kind will stimulate, and, consequently unless absolutely necessary had better not be administered at all. We can hardly understand that harm can result from a day's or night's abstinence, while we have often had reason to regret the consumption of too much, when the digestive organs were unable to perform their office. We have probably no more safe or direct sedative effect resulting from any system of treatment than from total abstinence for a time; no more direct source of irritation than the introduction of a quantity of material into the stomach which is incapable of appropriating it. The anxious inquiry, "What will he eat?" applied to man or beast, is expressive of solicitude, which, however genuine, is unfortunate for the patient, as it commonly leads to the selection of tempting food, to excite an appetite which naturally would not exist until the organism was again sufficiently re-stated to permit its indulgence with advantage. It may be accepted as an absolute fact, that under every form of acute disease no benefit can possibly result from allowing the patient to eat at the commencement, even should a desire to do so be manifest, there is no immediate want of sustenance, and no debility will result from a temporary abstinence; although even were these consequences imminent, food would not furnish the means of prevention, as the impaired digestive action reduces it to the level of mere waste material, unproductive of any benefit to the system.

Our anxiety is always to remove every particle of food from the animal's sight for the first twelve hours of an acute disease, allowing only water, rendered medicinal by the admixture of some saline, such as nitrate of potash or the sulphate of magnesia or soda; by this plan we prevent an irritating thirst, and at the same time the too large consumption of fluid, thus made distasteful; while the quantity which the animal's feelings prompt him to swallow will act beneficially upon the secretions.

At the end of ten or twelve hours, a little hay or green food, or mash, may be offered, as the