

THE FOOT ROT.

A. B. Dickinson, of Steuben county, New York, delivered an address some two years ago, before the Cortland County Society, in which, among other things, he spoke of his mode of curing the foot rot in sheep, and foul in the feet of cattle. He said:—

"I have had some experience for twenty-five years, with what I once considered as one of the most injurious diseases to cattle, and more especially to sheep. I now regard it as of little or no consequence, and I will trouble you with one of twenty-five year's operations, and to that end will take the year in which the disease was most malignant, which was in 1850. I purchased in that year more than 30,000 sheep, and had not less than 1,000 head of cattle upon my farm. During the pasturing season, more than one half of my sheep were affected with the rot, and because they were thus diseased, I purchased so largely. Men came all the way from Ohio to sell me their sheep, expressly on this account. My remedy is simple and plain, and my cure equally sure. I make a three cornered field, and at the pointed corner I make a lane; in this lane or neck of the field, I set a trough twelve feet long, twelve inches deep, of the same width, in which I fasten some scantling, substantially, flaring out, then cover the scantling with boards, so that only one sheep or steer can go through the trough at a time. In the trough I place 50 or 100 pounds of blue vitrol, fill and keep it as full of water as it should be, covering the liquid over with straw, and set the sheep or cattle marching through. By leading a tame ox the rest will follow. A good shepherd dog will start the sheep through, and one man with a well trained dog, can drive through 10,000 in one day. This vitrol will kill the disease. It will make and replace hoofs, or parts that have rotted off. With cattle, it is not so malignant as with sheep, but either may be cured without stopping their growth, if taken in time. If it has been of long standing, feed sulphur freely in your salt."

HINTS ON FEEDING MILCH COWS.—Thompson, in his work entitled "Experimental Researches on the Food of Animals," says that a cow, if fed for two days on an insufficient quantity of food as indicated by loss of weight, and diminution of milk, will require at least double that time to reach the condition from which it deteriorated, and the reason of this is obvious, because the particular starvation has caused it to lose a portion of the substance of its body, which requires a longer time to re-establish than to pull down.

This rule, he says, is applicable to the dietary of men as well as to inferior animals. An increase of labor should always be accompanied with an increase of food, both at sea and in prison. A short walk, for one confined to a solitary cell, calls for some augmentation of food. A slight increase of temperature, or the irritating influence of insects, will effectually diminish the milk of a cow, and indicates the propriety of increasing the amount of fodder.

During his experiments on feeding milch cows, he found that the milk of one day was derived from the food eaten the day previous, and that it takes at least sixteen hours for the digestive organs of the cow to fully take up all the nutritive matter which she feeds upon.

PHILOSOPHY OF LIGHT DIGESTION.—In a nietetic point of view, it would be well for weak stomachs to remember that wild birds are more nutritious than their domesticated cousins, and more digestible. But the white breast or wing of a chicken is less heating than the flesh of winged game. Other game—such as venison, which is dark-colored, and contains a large proportion of fibrine—produces highly stimulating chyle; and consequently, the digestion in an easy and rapid affair for the stomach. But, though the whiter meats be detained longer in the stomach furnish less stimulating chyle, and be suffered to run into acetous fermentation, their lesser stimulating quality may recommend them when the general system is not in want of a spur. Meats are wholesome or otherwise, less with reference to themselves than to the consumer. "To assert a thing to be wholesome," says Van Swieten, "without a knowledge of the condition of the person for whom it is intended, is like a sailor pronouncing the wind to be fair, without knowing to what port the vessel is bound."—*Dr. Doran.*

FATTENING LAMBS.—A writer in the *Maine Farmer* who had been in the habit of feeding grain to his ewes, for the purpose of fattening his lambs, without much visible effect, at last resolved to try feeding of the grain to the lambs themselves, and accordingly made troughs and filled them with oats, which he keeps away from the sheep, but so situated that the lambs alone can get at them. In this way he has lambs at ten weeks old which dress sixteen pounds in weight.