

the skilful the farmer might be—this was cult to be found. In conclusion, nothing creates more clearly the great advance which is being made in the agriculture of this country than the introduction and spread of a new class of farm machinery. The machinery of this country has ever been a gauge of the intelligence of its inhabitants; iron clad ships and guns are not the implements of warfare of uncivilized or semi-barbarous nations; nor are modern thrashing machines and steam engines the implement of a backward or bigoted culture.

Rot in Sheep.

Plenty of skins, but we are saying as little possible about it," was the report recently made to us by a friend who lives in a certain sheeping district, which shall be nameless, and of whom we had inquired how matters were progressing with respect to what some call "the little people."

Plenty of skins," is a very significant expression, telling not only of actual losses, but of points to which we may allude before close these remarks. And when we see the bleached pastures, saturated with water, and the equalled-like sheep, with their wool apparently stuck close down upon their skins, but ready to roll off at the slightest touch; when we note the yellow tinge which pervades the eyes, the general absence of that sprightliness which characterizes sheep in high health; and these and other well-known symptoms are more accompanied by the tell-tale "poke" we feel assured that if there is not already, soon will be "plenty of skins," although abundant supply of that article is not accompanied, in that case, with either profit or satisfaction to the stockmaster.

It is justly dreaded by the sheep-owner as the direful calamity which can befall his flock. Sweeps off the animals like a pestilence, and if known to exist or occur in a flock, a grave decision arises as to the general health of that flock—such a suspicion, moreover, becoming, if made public, a very serious matter; for all are aware of the stigma which will avoid the risk attaching when the seeds of a fatal disease belong in the constitution of the animals. These reasons it is of the utmost consequence to the sheep-owner that every practicable means be resorted to in order to cure, if possible, but is much better, to prevent the appearance of this disease, if such can be accomplished.

Now, we may at once say we have no faith in so-called cures for rot, because by the time cures are so much developed as to attract attention the disease is beyond the power of cure. We must endeavour to prevent the occurrence of the malady; we may delay its progress when sheep are even affected by it, but we

cannot actually cure it—we cannot eradicate it so as to restore the affected animals to a pristine state of health.

Excessive moisture stagnating in the soil is a predisposing cause of rot. We are not alluding at present to the scientific view of the question, embracing the history of those animalcules which exist in the livers of rotten sheep: those who are desirous of following out this part of the subject will find it fully and ably discussed in Professor Simonds' admirable lecture, delivered at a weekly council meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, and reported, in Nos. 17 and 18 of our volume for 1861. We are considering the subject practically, and for that reason we refer in the first place to the effects produced by excessive moisture, particularly stagnant moisture in causing rot among sheep. The removal of this agent in the development of the disease is entirely within our reach. When we drain the land we lessen the probability, if we do not actually remove altogether the possibility, of rot making its appearance on such land. When we say this, we refer to sheep which are bred and kept on drained land. It is true, cases of rot may and do occur on pastures which are either artificially or naturally dry; but if so, we may be certain that the disease is confined to sheep which have been bought in, or brought from another place where draining has been neglected; unless, indeed, some rotting spot has been left unnoticed and undrained in the range of pasture. We know this from experience. We have bought sheep early in autumn—sheep which were apparently perfectly sound when purchased, yet, although put on sound pasture, those sheep have rotted and died to such an extent that very few remained alive out of the lot at shearing time. At the same time, sheep bred on the ground, and others brought from healthy localities, although grazing along with the diseased sheep, and treated in every respect in the same manner, remained perfectly sound. The seeds of the disease were laid in those sheep prior to their purchase, although the disease itself had not become sufficiently developed to attract attention.

Referring to the death of sheep from rot during the winter and spring months, Prof. Simonds remarks that the most dangerous period for sheep is about midsummer, particularly when there is much rain with the elevated temperature of that season. It is at that period the foundation is laid of the disease which terminates, some months after, in a change from a thriving to a wasting state of condition, in jaundice-like appearance of the skin, &c., in the accumulation of that particular swelling under the lower jaw which invariably accompanies this disease, and in all the other tokens of an unhealthy constitution ending in death. We feel convinced that Prof. Simonds' views are correct, and it shows the necessity of avoiding hasty conclusions when rot does make its presence apparent during the winter months.