

author for thus undertaking books of instruction upon husbandry, is thus stated:—

It is not pitty to see the great

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mon mother the earth, which now is grown so aged and stricken in years, and so wounded at the hart with the ploughman's goad, that she begetteth so many of the husbandman's hands, and groaneth for the decay or ner natural balsam. For whose good health and recovery, and for the better comfort of several needy and simple farmers of this land, I have partly undertaken these strange labours, altogether abhorring from my profession, that they might know and practice some farther secrets in their husbandry, for the better manuring of their leane and barren groundes, with some new sorts of marle not yet knowne, or not sufficiently regarded by the best experienced men of our daies."

Sir Hugh afterwards published another work, entitled, "Divers New Sorts of Soyle not yet brought into any Public Use for manuring both of pasture and Arable Ground," in which many interesting particulars can be learnt respecting manuring substances then only imperfectly known to a few. The manures recommended in this work are more numerous than might be anticipated, including salt, street dirt, sullage of streets, clay, fuller's earth, moorish earth, hair, malt-dust, the offal of slaughter-houses, burnt vegetable matter, soap boilers' ashes, fish, some new kinds of marl, and other things; and these are said to have been "not yet brought into any public use," we cannot wonder that the land began "to faint under the husbandman's hand." Indeed there is much in this, as well as some other old authors, from which we in Canada might learn several needful practical lessons; as some of our old cultivated lands are getting into a similar state described by Platt, and manuring substances, although some of them lying close around our homesteads, are almost as much neglected!

In his very remarkable work on Soils, Sir Hugh indulges in some new and amusing speculations on the magical properties of what was considered a sort of *universal salt*, to whose universal, generative, and fructifying influences, both the animal, vegetable, and mineral kingdoms mainly owed the fertility. After much controversy it was conceded that our ordinary salt (chloride of sodium) was identical with this much sought-for and esteemed substance, which was declared to promote not only the growth of plants, but procreation in animals. "Plutarch (it is said) doth witness, that ships upon the sea are pestred and poisoned oftentimes, with exceeding store of mice. And some hold opinion, that the females, without any copulation with the males, doe conceive only by licking of salt. And this maketh the fishmongers' wives so wanton, and so beautifull!"

The following extract will afford a pretty full idea of the extraordinary influence attri-

but the same virtues which lie hid in salt confirm the same. For salt whiteneth all things, it hardeneth all things, it preserveth all things, it giveth savour to all things, it is that masticke which gleweth all things together, it gathereth and knitteth all mineral matters, and of manie thousand peeces it maketh one masse. This salt giveth sounde to all things, and without the sounde no metell will ring in his shirl voyce. Salt maketh man merrie, it whiteneth the flesh, and it giveth beautie to all reasonable creatures, it enter-tayneth that love and amitie which is betwixt the male and female, through the great vigour and stirring uppe which it provoketh in the engendering members; it helpeth to procreation, it giveth unto creatures their voice, as also unto metalles. * * * * *

And it is salt that maketh all seedes to flourish and growe, and although the number of men is very small which can give any true reason why dungue should doe any goode to arable groundes, but are ledde thereto more from custome than any philosophical reason, nevertheless it is apparent that no dungue, which is layde upon barren groundes, could any way enrich the same, if it were not for the salt which the straw and hay left behind them by their putrefaction."

It is curious to observe how their old idea of the value of salt in agriculture has been revived in modern times. The late Samuel Parkes, author of the popular "Chemical catechism," published about thirty years ago an extended treatise on the use of salt to the agriculturist,—more particularly in reference to the renovation of worn-out soils. Great expectations were raised among the farmers, when the excise duty was taken off salt and its price consequently much reduced, that article was extensively applied in different forms as fertilizer; but, in general, with no very marked effect. Hence it soon again got in disuse. The impregnation of the atmosphere with saline matter in Great Britain, and islands generally, will no doubt account, some degree, for the feeble influence of salt agriculture, under such circumstances. Upon continents and places at a great distance from the sea, salt is known to exercise a beneficial influence not only on the soil, but on domesticated animals. It is also valuable an ingredient in composts, a fact well known to the ancient Romans. In Canada and a large portion of the American continent it is difficult to conceive how pioneers could get on without it.

To be continued.

The winter meeting of the New York State Agricultural Society takes place at Albany the 11th instant.