ON THE FORMATION AND MANAGEMENT OF FENCES.

Fences have been mostly formed of Whitethorns; and where they have been skillfully planted, and duly attended to, they have formed fences that are impregnable to cattle—but many of them having been improperly planted, and neglected after planting, have failed to form sufficient fences. Thorns are not aquatic plants, but they require more moisture to bring them to luxuriant growth than any other tree or shrub that is not ranked among the aquatics, and if that supply is withheld, they do not thrive well. When enclosing of land began to be attended to in Scotland, soon after the middle of last century, the dykes were formed with a trench, 6 feet wide and 4 feet deep, and the earth dug up from that trench was heaped over the thorns as high and narrow as it could be made to stand, and it was generally built nearly perpendicular on the back, by sods or turf, to near the height of 3 feet, so that the rain that fell on the coarse Grasses and weeds very soon covered the mound or dyke; and as very little of the rain-water sank into the mound, the thorns, after exhausting the moisture in the dyke, when formed, became stunted and unhealthy for want of moisture, and if not relieved, ultimately died. The proper way of forming a dyke for a thorn hedge, is to make the trench, or sheugh, only 3 feet wide, and 18 inches deep, laying the soil, or first spading, mostly under the thorns, and the second spading of subsoil, above the thorns, to the depth of 9 or 10 inches: and as that is composed of barren earth, weeds or Grass will not spring up over the thorns so readily as in richer soil. The design of a larger trench and high dyke was to serve as a fence till the thorns grew up—but by depriving them of moisture, the thorns were starved and became stunted. It is true, that a trench of 3 feet by 18 inches deep, and the dyke formed of what was dug from the trench, was not sufficient to turn cattle, but had to get either a foot or 16 inches of land stones raised over the dyke, or dead thorns struck into the top of the dyke, or stobs and railing put up to render the fences impregnable to cattle. Any of these on the top of the dykes would allow the rain-water to sink to the thorns, and would not exclude the heat of the sun. Any dyke formed in that manner, and strengthened by any of the toppings here mentioned, will, in five or six years, if kept clear of weeds, become an impregnable fence, especially in clay land that retains moisture. To end my remarks on the formation of dykes, I have only to add, that when fences are right across a reclining plane, the trench should always be formed on the lower side of the dyke, so that when rain falls it may run into the dyke and feed the thorns; and in all cases where fences are formed on the side of a road, there should be no trench or ditch between the road and dyke where they are level, or on the lower side where there is a declivity. Thorns planted on the lower side of the road, having no ditch between the road and the thorns, always thrive well, owing to the roots of the thorns being fed by the moisture from the road, enriched with dung dropped by the animals travelling on it. But, besides the right formation of fences at first, they require to be frequently dressed, the ground over the roots of the thorns dug up, so as to kill weeds, and allow moisture to reach the roots of the plants. The proper mode of dressing thorn fences is a matter of some importance, that was long misunderstood or neglected. When the thorns grew up they were neglected and allowed to take their own shapes, or if the hedge bill was at all used, it was in cutting off the lateral twigs next the roots of the thorns on the front of the fence, to make the hedge as straight in the fore-side as possible; but the thorns were allowed to retain their highest and bushy tops. This was the very worst mode of dressing a hedge. The chief growth of thorns is, like other shrubs, at their tops, and the growth of the lateral branches is puny and feeble, compared with the growth above. And when these smaller branches were lopped off, and the growth on the tops prevented the sun or rain from falling on the remains of the lower twigs, the thorns set up strong stems with bushy tops, but became so bare and open at the root as not to form a proper fence, and in time allowed cattle to go through the fence. But of late, when hedges are dressed at all, the lateral branches and twigs are spared even to the surface of the ground, while the strong and bushy tops are cut down to an equal height, and thinned, so that the hedge, in a few years, comes to be formed into the shape of a wedge, or horse's mane, when cut short and standing upright—thin and narrow above, and broad on both sides below. When that is done, the branches and twigs, on both sides, get their due proportion of the sun and rain, and grow close and so thick as to form a fence which cattle cannot storm. When I surveyed the county of Ayr, for the Board of Agriculture, in 1810, I found only two or three hedges cut in that manner; but now there are many hundreds of miles of them cut in that form. Another mistaken notion long prevailed in Ayrshire, viz., that the wool of sheep made thorns canker and die. But as every farmer had, for centuries past, a good many sheep on his farm, yet the thorn bushes referred to above grew well, notwithstanding the sheep rubbing on them; and as there are thousands of such thorn-trees growing on all the dry sheep walks in Scotland, where sheep nestle under and touch them, the wool of sheep does no harm to thorns.—*W. Aiton, in the Ayrshire and Renfrewshire Agriculturist.*

Murrain or Red Water in Cattle.—Mr. Joseph Dibley of Oak Creek, Wisconsin, sends us the following recipe for this disease: Take two pounds of Epsom salts—pour on to them boiling water enough to dissolve them and stir in one-fourth pound of tallow. Give one-third of it warm for a dose, and at the end of seven hours another third if needed, and after a similar interval the remainder.—*Prairie Farmer.*