

to be regretted that Mr. Schubler did not ascertain how much salt the soil contained originally, as this necessarily determines the quantity to be used. It is easy to take too much; and I once manured (for the sake of experiment) an acre of heath soil with 60 lbs. of common salt, it was, even after two years, still so sterile as to neither produce Oats nor Potatoes. In England, where the manuring with common salt has been most resorted to, a much larger quantity per acre is used, which may be ascribed to the rains in that country, which will soon extract a great part of the easily soluble salts.

In England it is strewed, some weeks previous to the sowing of the corn, over the fields; and this is a good plan, as it will thus gradually spread through the furrow-slice, and then be easier taken up by the roots. Generally speaking, it is well to sow it in the early spring over the fields, as it will then be carried by the water in the soil, and better avail the plants during the summer.

In some countries the common salt intended for manure is strewed from time to time over the dung-sink, which must have been usual in antiquity, as we find it mentioned in the Scripture. It is asserted that the common salt brings the dung to speedier decomposition; but this is not probable. That, however, dung will act more powerfully if mixed with common salt is easier to be believed, especially if the plants given for fodder, as well as those given to the cattle as litter, be deficient in this salt.

If the crops are manured with common salt, the feeding of the cattle with common salt (otherwise useful) will be superfluous, as they will then receive it in their food. If plants which are rich in common salt, are given to the cattle, we shall always see that they will reject the salt given to them in its natural state, as the want of this substance is otherwise satisfied. It may be also that food saturated with a vegetable acid, which has been formed by the decomposition of the common salt, is more advantageous to cattle; on which account experiments with acetate of soda might be made. If I mistake not, even carbonate of soda (soda) has been of late years mixed with the fodder of cattle with advantage.—*Sprengel*.—*Ag. Gazette*.

### DISEASES OF SHEEP.

*Treatment of Rot.*—As reason and experience have taught us that tathy herbage is a common cause of this complaint, we should, when it shows itself, at once remove the animals to a better pasture, where they should be exempted from teasing of every kind.

Salt appears, after every trial, to be the best medicine, and to this they should have, at all times, ready access. Should the disease be rather far advanced, the breathing hurried, and the cough annoying, occasional doses of the following infusion will be of service, in enabling the farmer to keep down the disease, till such time as he can conveniently dispose of the animal. Take of

leaves of fox-glove two ounces, boiling water two English pints: pour the water on the leaves, cover up the vessel, and keep it in a warm place for six or eight hours, then strain.

Two tea-spoonfuls morning and evening may be given to a sheep, but as the plant is an active poison, and the strength of its infusion liable to vary, a couple of days should always intervene between every six doses.

About the year 1800, a notion prevailed in this country, that an effectual remedy for rot had been discovered by the Dutch, but this was quite unfounded, no cure ever having been hit upon for this sweeping malady; indeed, a cure is fairly out of the question: its prevention and palliation, but not its eradication, being all that we can hope for. Sundry plausible plans of treatment have, however, at one time or another been contrived, some of them in all conscience harmless enough, but others again as well adapted for the destruction of the animal as the removal of the disease.

As fluke-worms have usually been reckoned the cause of rot, so the treatment has principally consisted in attempts to effect their extermination. With this view, Sir George Stewart Mackenzie, of Coule, in defiance of all preconceived medical opinion, advocated, in his work on *Sheep*, published in 1809, the employment of mercury to stay the progress of rot, and in the same work, or *one very like it*, as lately published anonymously by the Society for the diffusion of useful knowledge, under the title of the *Mountain Shepherd's Manual*, the utility of this dangerous procedure is as firmly maintained. At the same time Sir George, though rather in the dark as to the real nature of the disease, admits, in both editions, that tubercles exist in rot, especially in the lungs. Now, if he had inquired of any medical person what drug ought, when tubercles are present, of all others to be avoided, he would have found that medicine to be mercury. The administration of it therefore in rot, no matter what may be the form or mode in which it is exhibited, will to a certainty aggravate the symptoms and shorten life. If, for the sake of doing something, you will endeavour to remove the worms, Chabert's animal oil will be found a safe and efficacious remedy; but, if my opinion can have any weight, I would recommend the farmer to allow them to remain.

Sheep, when displaying symptoms of rot, should always be kept dry and warm. If they must be retained throughout the winter, good sound solid food, such as well-made hay or oats, should be afforded them, and the shelter of a straw yard should if possible be obtained. A liberal supply of salt should be given with all their provender; and if they do not seem to relish it, give them occasionally a small quantity in water as a drench.—*Prairie Farmer*.

*Value of Irrigation.*—A small field of poor and almost valueless land in Scotland being irrigated, the second year the burthen on an imperial acre being weighed, it was found to have yielded 9,680 lbs. of well dried hay.—*Am. Ag.*