

sels and placed beyond the influence of the vital action of the textures. When the irritation has been so great as to cause *permanent* paralysis of the functions of the part, then mortification or death ensues. When the irritation has been more gentle, the part resumes after a time its functions, but in a disordered manner so as to give rise to the various phenomena of inflammation. The degree of these subsequent disorders is determined partly by the nature of the part, and partly by the amount of irritation and consequent paralysis of the functions of the part which has taken place. When the irritation has been slight, the reactionary phenomena will, *ceteris paribus*, be correspondingly mild; while if the irritation has been severe, suppuration, ulceration, &c., will take place, and the structure of the part will be destroyed to a greater or less extent.

Scab.

We are apt to congratulate ourselves that scab, with many other evils, has disappeared before the improved practice of modern agriculture. But although usually comparatively circumscribed in all its attacks in this country, it is apt from time to time to spread, and occasion much trouble, expense and loss. Extensive graziers inform us that many of the English hill sheep are this spring infected, and that much care will be required to prevent the evil extending with the distribution of the stock which generally takes place during the next three months. Even as far south as the Cotswolds the plague appears, and large graziers and dealers assure us that they will take no sheep home without a full and explicit warranty of soundness.

Scab, as is now well ascertained, is nearly allied to mange in dogs and itch in man, and depends upon the presence of minute creatures—a species of *acarus* or mite—which burrow in the skin, causing the familiar distressing itchiness, the inveterate rubbing, and the irritable pimply skin, which, as the disease proceeds, becomes scurfy, bare, and scabbed. The unfortunate Highlandman of immortal fame, irritated by the “Scottish Fiddle,” as it is technically styled in the north, blessed the Duke of Argyll for his considerate erection of rubbing posts, and the sheep afflicted with scab make an equally liberal use of all objects against which they can rub, and in this manner the *acari* are frequently deposited, and transferred to the next visitor. The *acari* are of two sexes; the females, however, are the most active and troublesome, burrow at once in the skin, leaving as the mark of their entrance only a minute red speck, like the point of a pin. In eight or ten days a little swelling appears, which gradually softens and becomes pustular, and by the fifteenth or sixteenth day breaks, and allows the escape of the female, who appears with her brood of from eight to fifteen

young ones clinging round her legs. These soon distributed, bury themselves in the wool, and if unchecked multiply with great rapidity. Warm weather is especially favorable to the propagation, and hence the spring weather generally aggravates and increases the complaint, and even causes its re-appearance in those cases which seemed during the colder months to be perfectly cured. Troublesome and provoking in every case, scab is especially so amongst ewes and lambs; for not only do the dressings distress and annoy the ewe, but the offspring are frequently weakly, thrive badly, and soon show unmistakable evidence of the disease.

Shepherds often understand tolerably well the treatment of scab, and various dressings are of good repute. A mixture of tobacco water, of tar, and soft soap is very effectual, and any other applications, must be well rubbed in. It does not answer now to adopt the old prescription of allowing the “salve to sink to sair;” it must be applied with smart and gentle friction. Four ounces of tobacco infused in hot water, a pint of oil of tar, a pound of a pound of soft soap, will, with the addition of water, make a gallon of dressing, or quantity sufficient for three score of ordinary sized sheep. A mixture of mercurial and iodine ointment, or an alternate dressing of each, is also a good application, but must be used with caution, especially in damp weather, as the mercury is liable to become absorbed, and cause slow poisoning. During the past month a gentleman in the neighborhood lost five ewes, which died apparently from the unduly liberal use of mercurial ointment applied for the cure of scab. The rest of the flock, these five had been subjected to a second dressing, and the shepherd, naturally anxious to get rid of the pest, was probably too liberal with his remedy. In damp weather, moreover, was afterwards wet, which might possibly facilitate the absorption of the poison and aggravate its injurious effects on the system. The animals gradually became emaciated, thrifty and weak, lost flesh, and dwindled for or six weeks, when four died, and one, being hopelessly ill, was killed. We are told that the only notable appearances were wasting, paleness of the flesh, “soft rottenness” of the liver, and in the uterus a dead, swollen, putrid lamb. Cases of this description, though they are by no means uncommon, ought to render farmers more careful than they are in the use of remedies so potent as mercurial ointment. The articles mentioned by no means exhaust the list of agents employed in scab. The old-fashioned sulphur ointments or liniments are in use, but not very trustworthy; solution of oxide of lime, or bleaching powder, is also recommended, but is less effectual than solution of arsenic, corrosive sublimate, chloride of lime, &c. The other remedies already advised: In addition to the medical treatment, entire separation