

the remaining older sheep brought 199 guineas. The highest priced obtained 90 guineas, and was taken to Ireland. *South Down Sheep*—At the annual letting of Mr. Jonas Webb's rams at Babraham, four dozen shearling rams, 42 shear-sheep two dozen three year old sheep, and a few older rams were offered. The prices reached did not equal those of some previous years, although the average, £25 9s 10d for 54 sheep publicly let, was £4 10s higher than that of 1858. Mr. Waters, of Eastbourne, Sussex, was the hirer of the highest price tup at 70 guineas, and Mr. Rigdon, of Brighton, of the next highest for 60 guineas.

FLAX CULTURE.

Having been frequently asked of late for instructions in the art of flax cultivation, we have pleasure in referring to an admirable article upon the subject, which is commenced in the present No., from the Irish "Country Gentleman and Agricultural Review," a copy of which we have been favored with by Mr. Hutton, Secretary of the Bureau of Agriculture. Although written for the climate of Ireland, the article, with a few obviously necessary variations, will answer equally well for this country.

THE WIREWORM.

RAVAGES OF THE WIREWORM.

(Concluded from page 49.)

The wireworm feeds on the roots, or root-stems, or young stalks below ground, of almost every herbaceous plant. There are few which it does not eat. It more especially attacks all those crops which are commonly cultivated, as oats, wheat, barley, grass, clover, turnips, potatoes, mangold-wurzel, cabbages, carrots, onions, lettuces, hops, beans, &c.; and in the garden it is particularly destructive to carnations and pinks, irises, lobelias, dahlias, &c. It devours any succulent root, but prefers fibrous-rooted plants, such as wheat, oats, carnations, &c. The only plants which we

have heard of that it does not attack, are mustard and woad. It is also said to live in dung and vegetable earth; but there may be some mistake as to this, those who are not skilful confounding many different creatures which feed on, or are found at the roots of plants, with the true wireworm. It is probably to mistakes of this kind that we must ascribe contradictory statements which have been made on other points: for instance, we have above enumerated the potato among the plants which it feeds upon; but different observers are not at one as to this, some saying that the wireworm does not eat them, whilst others state that its ravages have been most destructive. To account for this, some have supposed it to be destructive in one district, and harmless in another. We are not disposed to admit that the habits or tastes of the wireworm differ in different counties; and as we know practically that the true wireworm does eat the potato (as slices of that tuber have been successfully used to collect them), it follows that where potatoes have escaped, that must have arisen from some other cause, such as the wireworms having other food that they preferred besides them,—or the grub having been a different insect. The slices have been found full of wireworm grub; while in the same garden the growing crop of potatoes did not suffer much. The turnip crop is attacked in the young state before the root has begun to swell, and the tap-root is eaten through about an inch below the ground. Of all crops, wheat, oats, and barley seem to suffer most and are most regularly attacked. The mischief which these creatures do appears from the following fact:—It has been found that on turning over with the spade a part of a field, which they infested, that there were six or eight worms in the space of every four feet; and it was there observed that one single worm had bitten from 8, 12, to 20 stalks, all in the same place. The place bitten is a vital one, being at the base of and into the heart of the stem. Fancy two grubs in every square foot going on at this rate. The wonder is, not at the havoc that is done, but that the whole field is not destroyed in a single night.

MEANS OF PREVENTION AND CURE.

No doubt the wireworm fulfils some important and useful part in the economy of nature, but we have not been able to find any aspect in which it can be said to be otherwise than injurious to the farmer; there is, therefore, no reason why it should be spared by him, or any other means of