

THE IMPORTANCE OF SALT FOR ANIMALS.

All kinds of stock require salt to keep them in good health, especially at this season, when the pastures are rich and they are eating large quantities of green food. Every farmer has observed that his cattle, horses, &c., are very fond of licking the salt earth of the barn yard and stables.

Whenever you observe this, you may be sure the animals want salt, for nature is a pretty safe guide in such matters,

Governor Emerson says:—

“In Spain, they give their sheep salt with great regularity: 112lbs. in five months to 1000 sheep. Mr. Curwen gave salt to his live stock daily for years.

For horses he gave	6 oz. per day
Milch cows	4
Feeding oxen.....	6
Yearlings	3
Calves	1
Sheep.....	2 to 4 per week

if on dry pastures; but if they are feeding on turnips or coles, then they should have it without stint. Some give it to the live stock on a slate or stone, some lay lumps of it in the cribs or mangers. It is an asserted fact, that if *sheep are allowed free access to salt they will never be troubled with the disease called the rot.* Some recent experiments also lead me even to hope that I shall one day or other be able to prove it to be a cure for this devastating disease. I have room but for one fact. “Mr. Rusher, of Stanley, in Gloucestershire, in the autumn of 1823, purchased for a mere trifle 20 sheep, *decidedly rotten*, and gave each of them for some weeks, an ounce of salt every morning. Two only died during the winter; the surviving 13 were *curd*, and have now,” says my informant, “lamb by their sides.”

The late Mr. Butcher, of Brook Hall, in Essex, for years employed salt for his cattle and sheep, on his farm near Burnham, in Norfolk. One of his fields was so very unfavorable for sheep, that before he used salt he lost 10 or 14 sheep in a night, when feeding on the turnips; but after he had adopted salt, he never lost one. He used to let the sheep have the salt without stint; and he remarked, that the sheep always consumed four times the salt on this *particular field* than when feeding on any other on the farm. Mr. Butcher one year let this field of turnips to a neighbour, who did not use salt; and consequently after losing 10 sheep the first night, gave up the field in despair.

THE FACULTY OF FEIGNING DEATH.—There are cases on record of persons who could spontaneously fall into a death-trance. Monti, in a letter to Haller, mentions several. A priest of the name of Caelius Rhodaginus had the same faculty. But the most celebrated instance is that of Colonel Townshend, mentioned in the surgical works of Gooch; by whom, and by Dr. Cheyne and Dr. Beynard, and by Mr. Shrine, an apothecary, the performance of Colonel Townshend was seen and attested. They had long attended him for he was an habitual invalid; and he had often invited them to witness the phenomenon of his dying and coming to life again, but they had hitherto refused, from fear of the consequences to himself. Accordingly, in their presence, Colonel Townshend laid himself down on his back, and Dr. Cheyne undertook to observe the pulse; Dr. Beynard laid his hand on the heart; and Mr. Shrine had a looking-glass to hold to his mouth. After a few seconds, pulse, breathing, and the action of the heart were no longer to be observed. Each of the witnesses satisfied himself of the entire cessation of these phenomena. When the death-trance had lasted half an hour, the doctors began to fear that their patient had pushed the experiment too far, and was dead in earnest; and they were preparing to leave the house, when a slight movement of the body attracted their attention. They renewed their routine of observation, when the pulse and sensible motion of the heart gradually returned, and breathing and consciousness. The sequel of the tale is strange—Colonel Townshend, on recovering, sent for his attorney, made his will, and died, for good and all, six hours afterwards.—*Phantasmata, by R. R. Madden.*