

"The kind of meat which they yield is of a peculiar character. When the sheep are not over fattened, it is tender and juicy, but, in the opinion of many persons, somewhat insipid.

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"The Leicester sheep were never favorites with the butcher, because they had little loose inside fat. It ought, nevertheless, to have been recollected that the smallness of the head, and the thinness of the pelt would in some measure counterbalance the loss of tallow; and that the diminution of offal is advantageous to the grazer, for it shows a disposition to form fat outwardly, and is uniformly accompanied by a tendency to quickness of improvement.

"The New Leicesters, however, are not without their faults. They are not, even at the present day, so prolific as most other breeds. This was too much overlooked in the time of Bakewell and his immediate followers. Their object was to produce a lamb that could be forced on so as to be ready, at the earliest possible period, for the purposes of breeding or of slaughter, and therefore the production of twins was not only unsought after, but was regarded as an evil.

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"It was likewise, and not without reason, objected to them that their lambs were tender and weakly, and unable to bear the occasional inclemency of the weather at the lambing season. This also was a necessary consequence of that delicacy of form, and delicacy of constitution too, which were so sedulously cultivated in the Leicester sheep.

"The last objection to the New Leicester sheep was the neglect and deficiency of the fleece. There is little cause, however, for complaint at the present period. The wool has considerably increased in length, and has increased both in fineness and strength of fibre; it averages from 6 to 7 lbs. the fleece, and the fibre varies from 5 to more than 12 inches in length. It is mostly used in the manufacture of serges and carpets.

"The principal value of this breed consists in the improvement which it has affected in almost every variety of sheep that it has crossed; but it has met with, especially in Wales, a powerful antagonist in Costwold."

The introduction of additional evidence showing the necessity of providing luxuriant pasturage for the Leicester breed, will be proper.

"I occupied a farm," says a Lammermoor shepherd, "that had been rented by our family for nearly half a century. On entering it, the Cheviot stock was the object of our choice, and so long as we continued in possession of this breed, everything proceeded with considerable success; but the New Leicesters came into fashion, and we, influenced by the general mania, cleared our farm of the Cheviots and procured the favorite stock. Our coarse bean pastures, however, were unequal to the task of supporting such heavy-bodied sheep; and they gradually dwindled away into less and less bulk; each generation was inferior to the preceding one; and, when the spring was severe, seldom more than two thirds of the lambs could survive the ravages of the storm."

Sir John Sinclair has also recorded his opinion on this point. "The Leicester breed is perhaps the best ever reared for a rich arable district; but the least tincture of this blood is destructive of the mountain sheep, as it makes them incapable of withstanding the least scarcity of food."

MALFORMATION OF THE TURNIP.

The following facts were communicated to a recent meeting of the *Chemico Agricultural Society of Ulster*, and published in its *Journal of Transactions*, for a copy of which we are indebted to the kindness of some unknown friend. We remember nearly two years since some similar turnips grown by the Hon. Adam Ferguson, of Woodhill, Upper Canada, the seed of which had been imported direct from a most respectable house in Scotland. There can be little doubt that peculiar atmospheric conditions, as well as the soil, have an influence on the result.—EDITOR.

"Specimens of turnips, exhibiting in a most remarkable manner the curious splitting up of the bulb into numerous roots and the production of several stems, so as totally to alter and destroy the character and value of the crop, were placed on the table, and excited much interest. The specimens, Dr. Hodges stated, had been forwarded by Messrs. Drummond, the eminent seed merchants in Dublin, and had been taken from a field on which the crop was of excellent quality, except in a patch of ground in the corner of a field, where the plants, like the specimens, had "sperted" so much from the normal form that they presented the appearance of rape. The soil from the plot on which the malformed roots were growing had been forwarded by Mr. Drummond for chemical examination; and Dr. Hodges reported that he was also engaged with the investigation of soils from the Albert Model Farm, near Dublin, on which the turnips had also become malformed, and, in many cases, diseased. The subject was of serious importance to the public, and he would direct the attention of the society to the aid which the members might afford to the investigation of the disease—if it might be so termed—which interfered so much with the project of the farmer. He also described the extent to which mildew had appeared this year on the turnip leaf.

GRASS SEED FOR AN ACRE.—An English farmer recommends the following mixture for an acre—8 lbs red clover, 2 lbs. white do., 2 lbs. yellow do., with one bushel of rye grass. This, by his computation, affords 100 seeds rye grass, 50 red clover, 32 white, and 12 yellow clover, per superficial foot. In this country a good substitute for the rye grass would be the same quantity of red-top per ac e.

PLASTER operates beneficially on light, dry and sandy or open soils, as they soonest admit the rain water which dissolves and conveys it to the roots of the plants. Plaster may be applied to pasture or mowing lands in March or early in April, or tea with fine eff ct.