

an accumulation of pent-up water which soaks through the subsoil and injures the herbage on the surface. This is what Mr. Bailey Denton has called "diffluent water," or water of pressure, and is not directly caused by the rainfall upon the wet surface. It is found only in lands underlaid by gravel or a porous material, which allows water to travel underground for considerable distances. It is evidently unsuitable for uniform clay soils, but appears to have been singularly adapted for the peaty soils resting on gravel, and interspersed with "binds" or retentive strata, which occur largely in Elkington's neighbourhood. The system was extensively practised over many thousands of acres until 1824, when Mr. Smith, of Deanston, invented the system of "thorough" drainage which required less skill, but is, in most cases, more likely to prove satisfactory. The regular system of drainage used by Smith is adapted to soils of homogeneous or uniform character, but skilful drainers who employ it are not forgetful of Elkington's methods, and use them in all cases where springs abound. It is found possible to combine both systems by cutting off water of pressure on the principles laid down by Elkington, and proceeding to provide for the carrying off of direct rainfall upon Smith's principle. In other cases, although the auger is not necessarily used, wide intervals may be employed in conjunction with continuously deep drains of to 11 or 12 feet deep cut down through the subsoil, until they reach the source of accumulated water beneath.

This is Elkington's principle, because it seeks the source of pent up water which, by rising through the superficial layers, injures vegetation. The auger hole was a mere accident in Elkington's system, and his principle was the same as that employed at Sudbury and other places, of finding the hidden sources of water and cutting them off so as to allow of a perfect circulation of air, and consequently of water throughout both soil and subsoil.

We would gladly know more of Elkington. He was a substantial man, who appears to have suffered from the trials and troubles to which all farmers are subject. To lose several hundreds of sheep from liver-rot was a severe blow, but, like a stalwart Englishman as he was, he boldly faced his difficulties, and, in doing so, rendered himself immortal. Honour be then to Elkington, the first and most notable of modern drainers! He was a man who would have rejoiced in the meeting of the Society at Warwick, and the modern advance of science. He was the natural predecessor of the improvers of cattle, sheep, and horses, as well as of all advancement in land cultivation, for without drainage (natural or artificial) it is impossible to carry out any other agricultural improvement. He deserves a monument, but, I know not if at the beautiful church of Southam, or in any other church, a tablet exists proclaiming his good work. Even Westminster Abbey would not be demeaned by such a stone, commemorating a worthy man who helped to make his country great, and that to no small degree. Let this brief note be considered as a small tribute to his memory rather than as a description of his work or a history of his life.

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