

'Anbury' in turnips. The latter makes the following interesting statement:—"On visiting the fields where the turnips were affected (by the above-named disease) by wart-like excrescences, and forked and twisted into the most fantastical forms, I noticed a spot on which the roots were nearly all sound. On stooping down and examining the soil, I picked up some bits of a whitish-looking substance which appeared to me like dried gas-lime, and I learned afterwards that on this very spot a cart of gas-lime had been unloaded the year before. The chemical examination of the soil on this field showed merely traces of lime; and, at my recommendation, the occupier applied a heavy dose of gas-lime, which completely cured the evil."

Considering the above, we can come to no other conclusion than that gas-lime is of value to those who can easily obtain it.—*N. B. Agriculturist.*

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE.

The Colonial Veterinary Surgeon of the Cape recommends the following treatment for foot and mouth disease in the last number of *Agricultural Journal of Cape Colony*:—"The principal consideration is to keep the feet clean and dry, to prevent matter and intractable sores from forming.

"The following lotion will answer as a wash for the mouth and a dressing for the feet:—

Powdered Sulphate of Copper	..	6 ounces.
Carbolic Acid or Jeyes' Fluid	..	3 do.
Water	..	1 gallon.

"Mix thoroughly and apply to the eruption. The mouth will get well with one or two dressings, but the feet should be thoroughly cleaned, dressed and carefully attended to. Any astringent healing antiseptic lotion will answer, if well applied. A dressing of tar answers very well where cattle cannot be regularly attended to.

"Considering that the large majority of the cattle in this country are not sufficiently tame to admit of being caught daily to have their feet dressed properly, I would recommend, as a substitute for daily dressing by the hand, that a large shallow bath be constructed in a suitable situation, either of wood or cut out of the soil and cemented, or if the soil is capable of retaining water, a good bath may be made, by simply cutting out a level channel about 12 feet wide and 18 feet long, capable of holding a fluid mixture about 9 inches deep, the edges sufficiently high to prevent waste by splashing over. It would be necessary to have a strong close fence on each side of the bath to keep them in it when being driven through, with a gate at each end to prevent any animals from getting to the bath to drink. The affected cattle could be driven through this bath daily, and as a *preventive*, I would recommend that the non-affected stock should be driven through daily also, while the disease continues in the neighbourhood. If the herds and flocks are small, a bath half the size of the above may be sufficient."

SOME ASPECTS OF NATIVE AGRICULTURE.

The native cultivator (or goyiya) is an individual about whose character there is much diversity of opinion. He is considered lazy and apathetic by some, while others looks upon him as a helpless creature, a child of circumstances who is deserving of our sincerest commiseration. Some assert

that he is ignorant of the very rudiments of agriculture, and some again maintain that when it comes to paddy and other indigenous crops, so far from requiring to be taught he can teach others. I have lately had an opportunity of seeing native cultivation carried on under conditions which may be said to be peculiar to the districts in which they were met with, and this experience for one thing has brought new light to bear upon our idea of the character of the native cultivator.

In the remote villages visited by me the art of agriculture has reached such a state of neglect as the ancient cultivators of Ceylon would hardly have believed it could reach. True, there are some grave difficulties in the way of the agriculturist in many parts of the Island, and among them may be mentioned the great lack of cheap conveyance, the absence of markets, and the difficulty of getting about. To these drawbacks we may attribute the fact that the villagers in many parts never go in for vegetable-fruit garden culture, as the produce is of a comparatively perishable nature and will not keep for any length of time; and that produce should keep is, of course, a necessary condition in these remote places. I have seen excellent English and native vegetables grown experimentally in places where there was no market to speak of for the produce. Many of our largest provincial towns contain but a handful of probable consumers of fruits and vegetables of superior quality; but even granted a sufficient number of consumers, in the absence of cheap means of transport, it will not pay the cultivator to convey his produce from the remoter villages to the markets of the larger towns. So that as far as vegetable gardening is concerned, these villages may justly be acquitted of blame. Indeed, there are parts of provinces that have yet to be opened up a great deal before fruit and vegetable gardens can be successfully established. Much of them is still covered with forest growth, and till villages and towns and markets appear in those places, it can hardly be expected that the villager will expend the care and trouble necessary for vegetable culture—which requires clean cultivation, manuring and watering—with the poorest possibility there is at present for marketing his produce. But what surprised me was the careless manner in which paddy and the fine grains (kurakkan, amu, tana, &c.) are cultivated. The yield of paddy is miserably low, and no wonder, when the land is continually under cultivation without fallowing and without manuring. So little importance is attached to the preparation of the land in many places, that even the use of the native plough has been discarded and the only operation preparatory to sowing is the inversion of the sods by means of the mamotie. The crop receives little or no after treatment, and is generally left to struggle against weeds.

In the *chenas* the fine grains may be seen growing together with hill paddy, Indian corn and other plants, the seeds of all having been sown together. The result as may be expected, is that there is a struggle among the various crops and that they all suffer.

There is little excuse for the carelessness of the cultivators in the matter of paddy and dry grain cultivation, when it would be to their