Some Inquiries and Suggestions concerning Salt for Domestic Use; and concerning Sheep, to preserve them, and to Improve the Race of Sheep for hardiness, and for the finest Drapery. In a Letter from Doctor John Beal to the Publisher.

1. **Salt** gives the favour and gust to all our Diet; and would be the best and surest Prevention against the Rot of Sheep, if it could be had at Easie Rates upon the Downs; for which England is generally most concern'd: For, Sheep do support our great Staple-trade, as is implied in the Proverb, That London-bridge hath Wool for the Foundation, and that our Senators in Parliament do sit on Wool-jacks. Therefore I here annex and intermingle the Consideration of Salt and Sheep, as most necessary commodities, and not out of the Road of your Useful Philosophy; nor by you omitted in your Ph. Transactions. Against the Rot in Sheep Spanish Salt is recommended Numb. 160: and the means to get Salt is describ'd or suggested Numb. 51, 53, 54, 66, 102.

2. From the last of which I will begin to solicit these further Inquiries: At what places about Lemington in Hampshire Salt is made? What Quantity is made there? Whether any Salt is made in the Isle of Wight, or in the Isles of Jersey or Guernsey, or any Isles or Coasts belonging to England, Scotland, or Ireland? And what is the peculiar accommodation in Lemington, which occurs not on other Coasts? What kind of Salt, white or bay, &c? And, if it might be obtain'd from a trusty friend, to know, what is the gain by each Copper at Lemington; the Proportion of the Copper; how many workmen for one or more Coppers; what their Wages, and what other Charges? To the purpose, that where the Wages or other Charges are lefs, and the Accommodation not wanting, the supply for the Neighbourhood, or as the Seas and Rivers may convey the Salt, may be encouraged. Note, that the Brine at Nantwich, contains a Third, or Fourth, or when leaff, a Sixth Part of Salt.

3. Mr. Winthorp by Letter told you, that he had the Way of making good Salt in New-England in great abundance and at easie rates. They complain, that great wages are requir'd there; which
which does much retard their Building of Ships and their
Iron-works; which would otherwise do them great Service,
and do a necessary Kindness to this Kingdom at present, if
applied to save our Timber, which begins to be scarce. And
Salt is requisite for their great Advantages by Fishery, if they
have learnt to cure their Cod and Sturgeon, of which they have
abundance on their Coasts and Isles; and they have the near-
est approach to secure the English Interest on Newfoundland,
and for the Fishery on the Bank. Under one you may in-
quire, what Accommodations they have, or what Helps for
Salt about New-York, or other Places in that Continent, or
in any Isles of the English Colonies. If a sufficient Sunshne
and Industry be not wanting in Ireland, I cannot guess what
should hinder them to have abundance of Salt for themselves,
and their Fishery, and for others, since they cannot want
Workmen, and their Wages (as I am inform’d) not great, if
compar’d with the usual Demands in South-England.

4. In Varro’s Days it was the Reproach of our Transalpines
(who dwell much farther towards the South than we do) that
on the Rhine there were then neither Vines, nor Olives, nor
Apples, nor Sea-Salt, nor Fossil-Salt, but were driven to the
poor Shift of using Burnt-wood for their Salt: *ubi nec Vitis,
nec Olea, nec Poma nasceuntur; ubi Salém nec fissilem nec ma-
ritimum habereant, sed ex quibusdam lignis combustis, carbonibus
falsis pro eo utentur*. Varro de re Rust. l. 1. c. 7. The World is,
as to those Things, much amended (since those Days) on this
side the Alps: And the English may yet be minded to proceed,
as far as they can, to remove the Reproach; at least for Fruity
Wine, and Salt. *Cato* c.88. teaches diligently, how to make vul-
shews, How to order our Bacon and our Salt (*coeto Sale, nec
nominium minuto, sed suspensa molâ infraacto, diligentier saltâ;* for our delicate Gammons, &c. and there instructs, How to
boil Salt, and how to season the several Parts of Bacon. And
l. 6. c. 1. for Application to fore Eyes (a curious Point) he pre-
fers *Saête Montanum, Hispánium, vel Ammoniacum, vel etiam
Cappadocum, minutâ tritum, & immisíum meli.* All our good
Housewives do find a great Difference between our common
Bay-Salt, and the several other Salts, which are in ordinary Use
amongft
amongst us. We find some white Salt very faint; and the price imports a difference between Spanish, French, and Portugal Salt.

5. The Illustrious Palladius, who wrote about the Year 550, and had his ample Manors or Territories in Italy, Naples and Sardinia, and thereby had great experience in Sheep, seems to give sure rules, how to preserve the flocks found; Novemb. Tit. 13. Sect. 2. Among his advice, he saith, Salis tamen crebra composita, vel pasturis misia, vel canaliibus frequenter oblata, debet pecoris levisque fastidium. All these Three, Palladius, Varro, and Columella, do give infallible instructions for the preservation of our flocks; but the rules cannot be observed by those that have the greatest flocks: To change pastures often, to be supplied in rainy seasons with dry fodder, to lick salted troughs, to have some turns in salt-marshes: The words of Palladius l. cit. are, Pastura ovillo generi utilia sunt, que vel in nivalibus, vel in pratis secioribus excitantur, pallustris vero noscia sunt. And Galfr. Prat. from his own, and his ancestors' experience of 80 years, bids us take heed of the pregnant verdure, when much rain falls in the vernal months of April, and May: And all sheep-masters are afraid of rainy autumns. But whence shall the relief be had? The charge will be heavy, if the same fodder be provided for every year, and the destroying years do surprize us. I hear, that about Salisbury some do plough up a few acres, and sow a kind of pulfe, which they there call Tilt. And now we have in England so many kinds of French seeds, and French grasses, that one kind or other is like to prosper in most places; and fodder well ordered in stacks will hold out for many years, perhaps for sheep the older the better. And hereabout they hold such friendly correspondence, that in autumn I see the shepherds drive the flocks out of somersetshire into dorsetshire, and those of dorsetshire into somersetshire, for the benefit on both sides by change of soil. Note, That crude antimony cures sheep and other cattle, and fattens them also. I omit many particulars commonly known and observ'd by careful shepherds, as in showers, and soon after a shower to drive the flocks gently, that they may beat off the dew with their feet, before they suffer'd to feed on the wet grasses, especially in cold mornings, when dewy
dewy Cobwebs lie upon the Pastures; and to let the Sheep
blood under the Eye, as soon as they can discern them. Rank of
Blood. I must refer to Mr. John Smith’s *England’s Improvement*,
*QUAT.,* p. 170, 171, hoping that he will bestow a few Sheets more
to direct punctually the best Way of ordering Sheep, and the
most effectual Remedies against the several Kinds of Rots, and
their other Diseases, as a Matter of no small Concernment
to *England*, and in which he seems to have much Experience.

6. To return for more Salt, and to know the Shifts that are
made, and lately were made for it in *England*. At *Wirewater*
in *Lancashire* Salt is gathered out of Heaps of Sand along the
Sea-side in many Places: Upon which Sand (faith Speed) the
People pour Water until it gets a saltish Humour, which they
afterwards boil with Turf, till it become white Salt. *Camden
in Britannia*, fol. p. 753. describes it thus, *In oce huius mariituna*
*multi in Leis habi circumvader*, *quibus aquam tibiis infund-
dunt, donec saltingam convexerit, quam posita subitus globis in
candidum salern ausuous*. And Speed faith, There are certain
Stones lying in the River *Wye* at *Butterbee* near *Durham*, from
whose Sides, at the ebb and low Water in Summer, issues a cer-
tain Salt reddish Water, which with the Sun waxeth white, and
growing into a thick Substance becomes a necessary Salt for the
By-dwellers. *Camden* p. 744. describes it thus, *Inde Vedra de-
currit, crebro eminentibus faxis interpolatus, quibus si aqua infun-
datur, sallam inbuit qualitatem*. Sir, you took *Notice* of two or three *saline* Springs in this Neighbour-
hood of *Somersetshire*: One examined by Dr. *Hickman*, in your
*Num. 56*. p. 1110; another in *Num. 57*. p. 1162. And doubtless
there are many more such in *England*, if well observed. And
*tho’* the Proportion of Salt be small, yet they may serve for some
domestic Uses. The Water in Summer-time, when the Brine
is stronger, being cast in any Place where it may be soon dried
by the Sun, and where we would have Pigeons resort, does
please them well. So will any refuse Brine being boil’d up to
a Confinement. But I know not whether such Brine taken from
pow’d Hieh will be kind for Sheep. *Posibly such saline* *Springs*
*may indicate fossil Salt for future Industry*. And *Num. 56*. p. 1135,
you recite from worthy Mr. *Evelyn* a good Hint to encourage
some Attempts for the *Multiplying of Salt,in Sylva secon*., *Edi.*
c. 3. p. 26. See. 17. Sir Hugh Plat hath said and collected enough of the Vertues and Ufes of Salt (and how it may be obtain'd) for the Fertilizing of Land, in his *Jewel-boufe*, c. 104.

7. Now to improve the Race of our Sheep for Hardinefs, or for Largenes of the Size, and Abundance of Wool; we hear that many wealthy Sheep-masters on the Downs do offer very high Rates for the largest Sheep, Rams especially, that they can procure; and sometimes they buy from foreign Parts very large and Jufty Rams, and find the Benefit by the Largenes of the defcending Race. And since, in several Parts of England, they seriously set on for the finest Drapery, 'tis to be with'd that our Merchants would bring us from thofe Parts of Spain, Italy, and Greece, (which boafe of the finest Wool) both Rams and Ewes that bear the finest Wool, that we may try them at Lenthalfore in Herefordshire, where they are skill'd, and generally practifed in ordering fuch delicate and tender Sheep, and to try them in other Parts, where they pretend to the finest Wool in England. Our Merchants lay much, and require good pay for the Spanish Wool; some for the Wool of Segovia. Of old the Sheep of Tarentum had in Italy the highest Esteem. These Tarentin Sheep were brought into Italy from Greece, and were fo tender, and did require fuch curious and costly Attendance in Varro's Days, being all cover'd with Leather Pefls *pellibus integuntur* to guard them from Heat or Cold, and to preserve their Purple Fleeces from all Pollution; *Varro* l. 2. c. 2. and after, in *Columella's* Time, required fuch exact Skill to preserve them, *Colum. l. 7. c. 2.* that I know not how to recommend them for our English Climate, and our ordinary Shepherds. *Pallad. lib. I. cit.* *Grecas ovem, scil. Arianas, vel Tarentinar, moris est potius fibulo nutritum quam campo.* I must refer to better Advice for such a Race as is likely to live among us, and then if Gentlemen would make the Trial to amend the Race of Sheep (as they have often attempted to amend our Race of Horses by the beft of Barbary, and as with more Hope the Gentry in Ireland may affay to mend their mettallone Hobbies with Spanish Genets, or Bards from Tangier,) under one, by the fame or like diligence, and by the fame adventure, they may chance to oblige their Country both ways, both with Sheep bearing finer Wool, and with better Horses than the Irish Hobbies; I dare not fay, than the right British.

For
For I was told by a great master of horses, who had many years experience of Stallion barbs, the best he could buy, that the bastard barbs, descending from the best English mares he could obtain, were constantly better shaped, and better for the saddle and other stronger service, than their Syres. But I turn'd here aside to name Ireland, because the sort of sheep is not so ordinary in Ireland as in England, and they are nearer Spain and Tangier than we are: And they are highly to be commended for their late industry, both in the linen and woollen manufactures; which may nobly provoke our emulation. And whilst England and Ireland strive to excel each other in good things, we draw closer to a perfect union, and to give strength and assistance to each other mutually. Sir, you having been long accus'tom'd to bear the burthen of useful Inquiries, and to promote the common good, you'll pardon this freedom in, &c.