

Whatever be the abuses of the journal, its undoubted value remains. As a means for the diffusion of knowledge, for the exposure of new views and ideas to criticism and as a medium for such criticism, as well as for binding the individual to the profession as a whole, the periodical is indispensable. In it is reflected the intellectual and scientific position of the society it serves. In it resides the true scientific method which is "to make no unnecessary hypotheses, to trust no statements without verification, to test all things as rigorously as possible, to keep no secrets, to attempt no monopolies, to give

out one's best modestly and plainly, serving no other end but knowledge."—(H. G. Wells.)

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THE IMPORTANCE of MINERALS IN ANIMAL NUTRITION . . .

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It has long been known that the vital processes of life are dependent not only on the presence of various mineral salts, but also on a proper relationship between them. At the present time the importance of mineral matter for livestock is receiving much popular attention, due chiefly to striking results which have been secured in recent experiments by nutrition experts. Particular attention is being paid to the deficiency of minerals in animal nutrition. Such experimentation in the past has established the fact that Lamsiekte in cattle and Rickets in pigs fall in the class of deficiency diseases.

Among the minerals which should receive especial attention by all progressive farmers, Calcium and Phosphorus have first claim. The particular deficiency of these two minerals is greatly accentuated by their paucity in certain South African soils.

Dairy cattle in particular are affected by the lack of these minerals, and it has been shown that for every 2½ gallons of milk withdrawn from the cow the lime equivalent of 1½ ounces of first-grade bone meal is also withdrawn. The cow, in order to keep up the production and composition of her milk, must eventually deplete the reserves of Lime and Phosphorus in her skeleton. Such a condition can be likened to a banking account—funds, unless replenished, soon become depleted.

Farmers whose every care is closely linked up with the welfare of their cows should take warning. They should feed balanced rations to replenish the depleted reserves, and so prevent mineral starvation. The feeding of "Vebros" Milk and Beef Meal will ensure not only a balance of Protein and Vitamins, but also a balance of the necessary minerals. Our "Vebros" Mineral mixtures and cattle licks are likewise scientifically balanced and consequently guaranteed to meet all the requirements in mineral nutrition. They will therefore insure your animals against such mineral deficiency diseases as e.g., anaemia and "hairless" goitre in young pigs.

In conclusion, a warning against the use of mineral licks is not out of place in this article. Mineral mixtures which contain high percentages of Fluorine have been shown to be disastrous to stock in that they cause deformities in the bones, particularly the jaw-bone, and similarly they lead to improper mastication in that the teeth become tender and loose. The danger of chronic Fluorine poisoning has only lately gained prominence and it is on that score that we repeat our warning against the use of high percentage Fluorine mixtures. Fluorine is particularly associated with Raw Rock Phosphate in chemical combination.

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