

ment, we think it is worth trying; and upon a larger scale than has yet been done, if it is to have a fair trial: deaths above the average in a very small flock destroy all chance of success. Those who desire to experimentalize will of course thoroughly inquire into the subject; but three points seem vital. To secure a pure breed and not permit crossing: the majority of the possessors of the animals in this country have indiscriminately crossed the Alpaca and the Llama, producing mules, which do not propagate. Do not *coddle* the animals, or shut them up: do not over-feed them, or allow too rich a diet even of grass. They will require great care and judgment; but care and judgment are to be shown in adapting their new condition as much as possible to that of their native habitat, not by killing them with kindness.—*Spectator*.

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*The Alpaca*; its naturalization in the British Isles considered as a national benefit, and as an object of immediate utility to the farmer and manufacturer. By WILLIAM WALTON.

THE object of this publication is to urge the introduction into this country of the Alpaca, one of the four varieties of Peruvian animals—part sheep, part goat, part camel. Mr. Walton's recommendation of the Alpaca over its other domesticated variety, the better-known Llama, is the superiority of its wool, meat, and constitution; for, as he truly observes, we do not want the Llama for a beast of burden. The book (founded on a successful prize-competing essay, written for the Highland and Agricultural Society) brings together a variety of information respecting the natural history of the species, and the different success that has attended their introduction in this country, as curiosities for menageries or parks, together with two experiments upon a small scale, in the Highlands of Scotland and Ireland, to treat them with a view to naturalization. To these facts Mr. Walton adds some judicious criticisms on the different modes of management adopted by the English breeders, and a good many expositions of the national importance of the subject to our farmers, manufacturers, and the carnivorous portion of the community.

The author, as was to be expected, displays some enthusiasm towards his hobby; underrating the difficulties of rearing and acclimatizing the animals, and overrating the worth of the carcass,—for we cannot hold the hardy early Spanish adventurers, or our own sailors wearied of ship-provisions, the best of judges as to delicacy of flavor. The fleece, however, is of great value in manufactures. The South American supply is insufficient to meet the demand; the Alpaca wool is admitted by all Mr. Walton's correspondents to increase in quantity and improve in quality in this country; and the animal would displace no other stock. Its natural place is the barren lands of high hills or mountains, though it will thrive, at least in Peru, in lowlands, if not of too rich a pasture.

Whatever should be the result of the experi-