

26 *The Nature of the Barley-Corn,*

ack, and other ill Effects of the Clayey and other gross Particles of stagnating Well-waters, and the calculous Concretions of others; and therefore such waters ought to be mistrusted more than any, where they are not pure clear and soft, or that don't arise from good Chalks or stony Rocks, that are generally allowed to afford the best of all the Well forts.

Spring-waters are in general liable to partake of those minerals thro' which they pass, and are salubrious or mischievous accordingly. At *Uppingham* in *Rutland*, their water is said to come off an Allum-rock, and so tinges their Beer with its saline Quality, that it is easily tasted at the first Draught. And at *Dean* in *Northamptonshire*, I have seen the very Stones colour the rusty Iron by the constant running of a Spring-water; but that which will Lather with Soap, or such soft water that percolates through Chalk, or a Grey Fire-stone, is generally accounted best, for Chalks in this respect excell all other Earths, in that it administers nothing unwholsome to the perfluent waters, but undoubtedly absorbs by its drying spongy Quality any ill minerals that may accompany the water that runs thro' them. For which reason they throw in great Quantities of Chalk into their Wells
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