

The instrument itself is as nearly akin to a lawn mower as anything can be. It is precisely the same cutting by a revolving cylinder, upon which are fixed seven spiral knives, acting against a fixed blade, and thus forming a scissor. A steel comb is placed underneath, to protect the skin of the animal, and ensure an even clipping of the hair. The operator holds this instrument with both hands, and moves across-grain over the whole surface, like a smoothing iron. The legs only, together with the lower part of the chest and the head, must still be clipped with scissors; but this may be done by hand whilst the other parts are being operated upon by the machine. The inventors affirm that two horses may thus be completed in five hours, requiring only the labour of three men—the operator with the machine, the clipper with the scissors, and a labourer to work the machine.

Thus far, the principle of this new instrument can easily be understood by all who are acquainted with lawn mowers; and although this novel and, at the same time, most useful application of the principle of rotary cutting may not be very strikingly new, the transmission of the rotary motion is in itself a most wonderful effort of mechanical skill, and we believe is quite a new discovery in mechanics. The motive power is nearly the same as in a sewing machine. A man holds the handle of the wheel in his hand, and moves it with his foot. The motion is transmitted through a flexible chain as pliant as a rope, formed of articulated links and steel thread, so that the operator can vary his movements as he lists, without being hindered by the least rigidity in the transmission medium. The motive power and its transmission through the chain are so perfect that the cutting cylinder gives 5,000 revolutions in a minute.

Hitherto in England clipping has been practised, so far as we know only upon horses. In France it appears that experiments have been made by a celebrated grazier, with a view of testing the effects of clipping upon feeding oxen. Twelve oxen were selected, six of which were clipped. The clipped lot weighed at the commencement of the experiment 52 cwt.; the unclipped lot weighed 56 cwt. 10 lbs. The two lots were fed alike, and at the end of two months the clipped lot weighed 65 cwt. 10 lbs.; the unclipped lot only 61 cwt. 1 qr. Thus the increase per head; in the first lot, had been upwards of 2 cwt., and for the second only about 6 lbs. We quote this report from a paper on the subject published in a French periodical belonging to the Society for the protection of Animals; but we cannot reproduce at length their respective experiments, which extended over a period of six months, from the glaring and most unaccountable inaccuracies in the figures given, scarcely one of which proves correct. The idea, however, is worth noticing, as it is quite consonant with the teachings of physiology on the action exercised by the skin on the digestive organs, and especially on the combustion of the

carbonaceous and fat producing elements of food in the lungs, to suppose that fat will more readily accumulate in the tissues of an animal where insensible perspiration is not impeded by a thick fur, than in one whose skin is profusely covered with hair. Long hair in winter is a provision of nature to protect animals living in the wild state from the injurious effects of cold; but in the domestic life, and especially within warm and comfortable feeding boxes, this winter garment is useless, and evidently pernicious.—*Mark Lane Express.*

DOGS VS. SHEEP.

Tha depredations committed by dogs among sheep are unhappily too well-known everywhere. The losses both in the States and in Canada from this cause are in the aggregate appallingly great. Mr. Dyer, a Veterinary Surgeon at Waterford, in Ireland, recommends that dogs should be emasculated, as a means of preventing or at least greatly mitigating the evil. In writing to the *Mail*, he observes:

I dare say some of your readers will smile at the idea of subjecting dogs to this supposed-to-be-painful operation, and will, doubtless, insinuate that it would not prove effectual. If we consider for a moment the natural history of the dog, we shall find he is one of those animals fond of rambling about in search of a mate, and particularly after dusk. When in search of another of his species it is more than probably, should he be in the farm, he will make his way amongst sheep; and if so, he is certain to have a run after them—at first it is mere play, but it soon becomes vice; and once the flavor of mutton crosses his incisors, he is never a welcome visitor upon a farm. My argument was thus—that to prevent a dog from leaving his home is the only effective way to prevent his worrying sheep. By operating as I have hinted you will most certainly gain that point. I have, during the many years of professional experience, had occasion to perform the operation alluded to many times, and in every instance the animal so treated has remained faithful to his post and to his master, never at any time showing the least inclination to follow other dogs, but the reverse; they seem to have an antipathy to all strange dogs. This, I can assure you, is not an imaginary remedy. The two dogs I possess are not entire, having undergone the operation when puppies. Owners of pet dogs would gain another advantage, especially where there are children, I need only refer to their habits. Some persons, doubtless, will urge the costliness of such remedy, the risk, the pain, and all the rest of it. I would mention for their information—there is no risk in the first place; secondly there is but trifling pain; thirdly, I would be happy to operate upon as many animals gratuitously as may