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### DE OMNIBUS REBUS.

**Short woolled sheep.**—Mr. E. Casgrain has a very sensible article in the January number of the *Journal Illustré* on the breed of sheep best suited to this province. As might be expected from so thoroughly practical a man, he pronounces in favour of the Downes, but which one of the three breeds of Downes he leaves in doubt, though he evidently has a hankering for the Shropshires. "Some assert," says Mr. Casgrain, "that the Southdowns do not weigh enough, others, that the meat of the Shropshires is not as good as the meat of the Southdowns; while others complain that the head of the Hampshire-down is too big, which renders the lambing of the ewes difficult." And then he goes on to say that the main virtue of the Hampshires seems to lie in their great precocity, "since they not infrequently weigh 80 lbs., net, at the age of ten months." I have often seen them scale that weight at seven months. This is what the reporter of *The Field* says of the Hampshire-downs exhibited at the Smithfield Club show on the 9 December 1888:

**Hampshires.**—As might be expected, the competition with this breed is almost entirely for lambs. It would be strange were this not the case. The merit of the Hampshire lies in the breeder being able to get rid of one crop of lambs as fat mutton before the next is dropped. Only two pens of shearlings and four of ewes were shown of this breed. Mr. H. Perry-Keene took two prizes with the former, Mr. G. Judd had first, and Mr. T. F. Buxton second for the latter, Mr. A. D. Wells having R. N. (1) Seventeen pens of remarkable lambs were shown. Mr. G. Judd had first prize, Mr. H. P. Keene the second with one pen and H. C. for another, Mr. W. Woods the third prize, Mr. F. R. Moore the fourth, Sir E. Hulse taking R. and H. C. Mr. J. East having H. C. with the heaviest pen (with one exception) at 5 cwt. 2 oz. 13 lb. The actual top record is Mr. F. R. Moore's at 5 cwt. 3 qr. 8 lb.

The pen of three lambs therefore weighed, live weight, 217½ lbs. each, while the best pen of Southdown lambs only weighed 181½ lbs. apiece. Of carcase weight, the Hampshire-downs would probably yield 140 lbs., and the Southdowns, about 105 lbs. The Shropshire lambs were, as usual, by far the lightest of all the short-wools, though the shearlings were very good. Mr. Casgrain will allow me to say that the reason why the Southdown always fetches a little more (2) than the other short wools in the English market is, that the neat little joints of that breed are especially suited to the tables of the wealthy, where the *pièce de résistance*, in the multiplicity of *entrées*, &c., is not required to be large.

**Sheep-rot.**—M. Couture's reply to an inquiry as to the

(1) Reserved number.

(2) About 2d. a stone=½ a cent a pound.