

food cleaner and be healthier in the open air than in a barn cellar. The two most important requisites in the wintering of sheep are to keep them dry and give them plenty of fresh air.

"Every year we are becoming more a mutton-consuming people, and the demand for good mutton is increasing. In any of the eastern markets good lambs command prices which will almost pay for raising for that purpose alone. Perhaps it would be better in some localities to select such breeds as make the most mutton, rather than confine the industry exclusively to wool-growing animals. Except in some parts of Vermont, where the Merino is the prevailing breed, mutton-raising is receiving more attention than wool production alone in New England, and it is to be hoped that once more sheep will be the common stock of our hills and mountains.

ESSEX PIGS.

The Essex is one of the best among our smaller breeds of hogs; it feeds easily, matures early, produces pork that is well marbled, and is perhaps, all things considered, the best family pig in the market. Larger breeds are preferable for mess pork, but those who go in for prime table meat will choose the Essex or Suffolk varieties. Between these there is but little choice, except as to colour, the Essex being pure black, and the Suffolk pure white. The Suffolk, though its colour attracts the sun's rays less than the Essex, has a slight tendency to "sun-scald," from which the Essex is quite free. Some dislike a black hog, but its carcase cleans as white as any other. Mr. James Anderson, of Puslinch, an experienced breeder of Essex pigs, gives the following evidence before the Ontario Agricultural Commission:

"I have used the smaller breeds—Berkshires and Essex, and Mr. Brown's breed, the Windsor. . . . I have had both Berkshires and Essexes until recently, when I have given my whole attention to the Essexes. I think they are more profitable, for the amount of feed consumed, and come earlier to maturity. I can generally sell all I can spare. Prices are not so high as they were. I used to sell to the United States people a good deal, but lately Canada has been my chief market. I give the preference to the Essex for early maturity. If I were selling on the market, the Berkshire might be more profitable, but for family use I think the Essex is more profitable. I find the Essex to be as hardy and prolific as the Berkshire. When I had both Berkshires and Essexes I crossed the two breeds, and got a splendid cross. There are dozens of my neighbours bringing their Berkshire sows to my Essex boar, and they prefer the first cross to the pure-bred animal for feeding purposes."

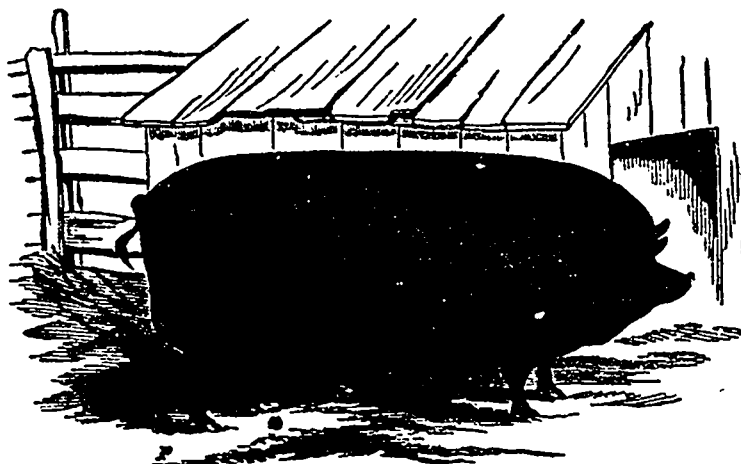
A PLAN FOR PROTECTING SHEEP FROM DOGS.

Tennessee has no dog law. A correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* in that State tells how he takes the law into his own hands, as follows: "For the benefit of sheep breeders, I give my plan of dealing with the worthless curs. My sheep were being killed at night, and I had no means of ascertaining where to find the guilty dog, and was not long in reaching the conclusion that unless something was speedily done my flock of fine Southdowns would all soon be killed. Therefore, I decided to build a pen with rails, commencing at the ground and gradually drawing in each additional course of rails, like a bird trap,

until sufficiently high to prevent a dog from jumping out; leaving the top open. I then put into this a sheep that had been killed. It will readily be seen that a dog could easily get on the top of the pen from the outside and jump in, but it was impossible for him to get out. My pen was a complete success, and so far I have not had a single sheep bitten outside of that pen by a dog. I will not say how many dogs I caught in my pen, for fear some of the readers of the *Country Gentleman* might be inclined to doubt my statement."

SWINE IN WINTER.

We have always maintained that hogs can be raised or fattened to good advantage during any winter season if the proper conditions and surroundings are kept strictly adhered to. Hogs, either old or young, where they are kept through the winter season to the best advantage, should never be allowed to drink anything colder than common spring water, and warm slops generally would be preferable even to that. Where hogs, or any other domestic animals, for that matter, are permitted to become very thirsty and then are



ESSEX BOAR.

allowed free access to ice-cold water, they invariably injure themselves and seriously check the natural thrift they would keep under a different course of treatment. Ice-cold water chills the blood and seriously deranges the whole digestive apparatus of such animals as are allowed to drink it freely. The sanitary condition in all respects should be kept up to just as high a standard with hogs that are being kept during the winter season as during any other time of the year.

PORK RAISING.

In regard to the pig business there are many points to consider. The great one is the financial point. Can we grow pigs and compete with the west? No. Why? you will ask. I will try and tell you. To make 100 pounds of pork takes 500 pounds of corn. Now it costs 20c. to ship 100 pounds from Illinois to New York; so 500 pounds of corn put into a pig costs 20c. to ship; but if we ship the corn and grow the pig here it costs five times as much for freight, viz. 100c.; or on a lot, in one case \$20, in the other \$100, which you see is quite a difference against us. So I think you will see that point as I do. Still, we do make money on pigs here. I will tell you how, but it is to a limited extent. Brewers and distillers use a large amount of

grain in making beer and whiskey. The refuse will not sell, but they get pigs that eat it up and get part of their growth at a small expense, and then finish with good feed. So with farmers who keep cows. The skim milk, etc., has no value, we can't sell it, but we give it to the pigs, it makes them grow, and then at the end we give them corn, and so can compete with the west to a limited extent. But it will not answer to keep more pigs than you do cows. If you do, you will come out at the little end of the horn.—*Cor. Farm and Home.*

DENTITION OF PIGS.

At British Agricultural Shows much reliance is placed on the decisions of veterinarians on the age of pigs, determined by examination of the teeth. Disqualifications are common. At the recent Smithfield Fat Stock Show, entries of widely-known breeders—men of high character—were disqualified. One exhibitor states positively his ability to prove by his books and by oaths of bailiffs and others that his pigs were but fourteen months old, although pronounced over eighteen by the veterinarian.

Where many hogs are kept, mistakes as to the age of a pig may easily be made, but it is altogether probable that there may be considerable variations in the stage of development of the teeth, owing to breed, mode of keeping, etc. The forcing process to which many show pigs are subjected, gives them a precocious development in size, weight, often in sexual character, and it may do so in the matter of dentition.—*Breeder's Gazette.*

AN Iowa farmer put up twenty one-year-old hogs for fattening, and for the first twenty days fed

them on shelled corn, of which they ate eighty-three bushels. During this period they gained 837 pounds, or upwards of ten pounds to the bushel of corn. He then fed the same hogs for fourteen days on dry cornmeal, during which time they consumed 47 bushels and gained 535 pounds, or 11½ pounds to the bushel. The same hogs next fed fourteen days on cornmeal and water mixed, consumed 54½ bushels of corn and gained 731 pounds, or 13½ pounds of pork to the bushel. He fed them fourteen days on cornmeal cooked, and after consuming forty-five bushels of the cooked meal the hogs gained 799 pounds, or very near 15 pounds of pork to the bushel of meal.

MR. JOHN NOTT is said to have purchased the Oke farm, near Welcome, county of Durham, for \$117 per acre.

THERE was a raffle up in Parry Sound the other evening for a horse. At the close of the proceedings it was discovered that the animal had been dead three days.

ANDREW SCHRAM, of Beverly, recently went to work in the woods at eleven o'clock in the forenoon and put up a cord and a quarter of wood before night. Considering that Mr. Schram is sixty-six years old, the performance was not a bad one.