

being hot, dissolves the spermaceti, and the collars, when treated with it, become glossy as desired.

HOW TO MAKE MUFFINS.

MR. EDITOR,—I saw in a late number of your paper, an inquiry for direction to make muffins. I have benefitted much from the same source, and as we have good muffins twice every week for breakfast, with little trouble, I send our receipt. When the cook makes "a sponge" for the next day's baking, she mixes more than is required for that purpose. In the morning when it is light and soft, she puts some of it in tin rings, and bakes about half an hour. It wants no addition—it is merely soft bread. M. S. T.—*Rose Hill.*

MUTTON THE MEAT FOR FARMERS.

THE cheapest meat for farmers is mutton. It may safely be said it cost nothing. The wool that is annually sheared from the body of every sheep, richly pays for its keeping. In this climate it costs less to keep sheep than at the North, on account of the shortness of our winters. Then there is the increase—an item of great importance. The increase is so much clear profit. From this increase the farmer can get all his meat for a year,

if he likes. Or, he may save the lambs and take some of the older sheep in their places.

The pelt of the sheep, if killed for mutton, is also saved and sold, which is worth nearly as much as the sheep would sell for.

It is also the most convenient meat to have on hand. In the warmest weather a farmer can take care of one sheep after being killed, without letting it spoil. With beef this is not so easy.

One hand can kill and dress a sheep in an hour. It takes but little time or trouble to kill a sheep, not near as much as to kill and dress a hog or a beef. On account of convenience and economy, we say keep sheep and live upon mutton.

We have said nothing about its being the healthiest food. This is admitted. It needs no argument or facts to prove it. It is true that pork is the chief meat of farmers. It is the unhealthiest of all, whether fresh or saturated with salt to preserve it sound.

Let every farmer keep sheep. They are the most profitable stock on a farm. The hog's back only yields bristles while the sheep's yields downy wool. All that you feed to a hog is gone, unless you kill it, while the sheep will pay for its keeping with its fleece yearly. The hog is a filthy, voracious animal—the sheep gentle as a dove, and neat and cleanly.

COMMERCIAL REVIEW.

THE NURSERY TRADE.

THE results of the past year, says the *Horticulturist*, have developed some very curious examples of timidity in this line of business—a business that now stands on a broad and permanent foundation, and is as legitimate in its pursuits and results as any other business that can be named, and yet, by a very large number, evidently carried on with the momentary expectation that all demand will suddenly cease. The question was asked, upwards of twenty years ago, of a nurseryman who stocked an acre near Hartford, Conn., "Where will you find a market for all your trees?" and since then nurseries have gone on increasing in numbers and extent, year after year, and now the public are clamorous to know where they can find peach trees, plum trees, crab apples, quinces, evergreen seeds, Concord grape vines, and grape vines of all kinds. This kind of questioning is getting to be quite an im-

portant part of our correspondence, and we must decline answering it in any other manner except through our advertising columns. But the men who trembled the most were those who propagated grape vines the most extensively. They evidently thought that a small matter of two or three hundred thousand vines would glut the market; and the cut-throat game of seven or eight cents apiece for Concord vines was an evidence of fear by which the buyer profited largely. Now, in the month of December, when prudent buyers are looking out for next spring, Concord vines are scarcer at four times the price. We hear a great deal of talk about grape fever, but what does the whole of it amount to? About one of the most imperceptible things in existence. How many farmers in all this broad land have a single grape vine? Take all the acres of vineyard from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast, put them together, and how many townships in this