

celebrated Dr. Andrew Duncan, late Professor of Medical Jurisprudence in the University of Edinburgh. He says, "*The mode of killing has considerable effect on the flesh of the animal.* \* \* The common mode of killing animals in this kingdom is by striking them on the forehead with a pole-axe, and then cutting their throats to bleed them. But this method is cruel and not free from danger. The animal is not always brought down by the first blow, and the repetition is difficult and uncertain, and if the animal be not very well secured, accidents may happen. Lord Somerville\* therefore endeavoured to introduce the method of pithing or laying cattle by dividing the spinal marrow above the origin of the phrenic nerves, as is commonly practised in Barbary and Spain, Portugal, Jamaica, and in some parts of England; and Mr. Jackson says that "the best method of killing a bullock is by the thrusting a sharp pointed knife into the spinal marrow when the bullock will immediately fall without a struggle; then cut the arteries above the heart.† Although the operation of pithing is not so difficult, but that it may after some practice be performed with tolerable certainty, and although Lord Somerville took a man with him to Portugal to be instructed in the method, and made it a condition that the prize cattle should be pithed instead of being knocked down, still *pithing is not becoming general in England.* This may be partly owing to prejudice; but we have been told that the flesh of the cattle killed in this way in Portugal is *very dark*, and *becomes soon putrid*, probably from the animal *not bleeding well*, in consequence of the action of the heart being interrupted before the vessels of the neck are divided. It therefore becomes *preferable to bleed the animal to death directly, as is practised by the Jewish butchers.* The Mosaic law so strictly prohibits the eating of blood that the Talmud contains a body of regulations concerning the killing of animals; and the Jews as a point of religion will not eat the flesh of any animal not killed by a butcher of their own persuasion. Their method is to tie all the four feet of the animal together, bring it to the ground, and turning its head back, to cut the throat at once down to the bone with a long, very sharp, but not pointed knife, dividing all the large vessels of the neck. In this way the blood is discharged quickly and completely. The effect is indeed said to be so very obvious, that some Christians will eat no meat but what has been killed by a Jew butcher." Dr. Duncan further remarks, "Domestic birds in general are killed in a very unskilful and barbarous manner," and after detailing those methods, his further remarks

\* General Survey of the Agriculture of Shropshire. By Joseph Plymley, M.A. 8vo., London, 1803, p. 243.

† Reflections on the Commerce of the Mediterranean. By John Jackson, Esq., F. S. A., 8vo., London, 1804, p. 91.