

acquainted with lawn-mowers; and although this novel and at the same time most useful application of the principal 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 a 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 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 the 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 3 cwt., and for the second only about 9 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 digestive organs, and especially on the combustion of the carbonaceous and fat-producing elements of the 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 the 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*.

THE GRUB—A CURE.—During the most part of past week the grub continued its ravages to an increasing and nearly an alarming extent—being almost universal throughout the whole of the northern counties, the cold, backward weather very much weakening the plants, and

allowing the worm a greater freedom for its ravages. Curiously enough, this year the greatest amount of destruction has been upon dry and early soil; whereas in former years the grub used to commit most ravage in heavy, wet soils. All the experience tends to show that the only safeguard against grub is to secure good, sound seed, make the land well, and adopt manure which will aid in quickly advancing the crop. On one farm on which there has been a great deal of injury done by the grub the farmer having apprehensions that a particular field in which there was a good deal of forage would be very bad with the grub, had the land thoroughly harrowed, and before sowing the oats he mixed with the seed a quantity of guano equal to about 1 cwt. to the acre of land to be sown, and sowed by hand the seed thus prepared. The seed was the same that he had sown in several other fields, and while in those where no guano was used the ravages of the grub are extensive, on this field laid down with seed mixed with guano, and on which he apprehended such injury, there is not the slightest appearance of the grub, and the crop promises to be a good one. Another farmer on Deveronside took the same plan with two of his fields, and these are quite free from grub, and exhibit great luxuriance, while the rest of his crop is much injured. We know of other cases where the same plan has been equally successful.—*Banff Journal*.

WHY HOGS EAT ASHES, &c—Mr. Mechi, of Tip-Tree Hall, England, has discovered that pigs, when shut up to fatten, are very fond of cinders, and improve in condition by eating a certain portion of them every day. Some persons are unable to account for this singular propensity in swine. Poultry are very fond of egg shells, lime, sand, &c., and it is well known these substances are necessary in order to form the shells of eggs, and to furnish material for the bones of fowls. Now it is reasonable to suppose that swine eat ashes and cinders for the purpose of supplying the material for their bones, and this singular instinct in animals so low in the scale of intelligence, is truly wonderful, for ashes contain the ingredients which are necessary to form bones, viz., carbonate and sulphate of lime and magnesia, clay, silica gelatinized and made soluble by the fire. When hogs are at large, they take in clay and silica with their food, and eat bones and roots, which contain the necessary ingredients; but when they are pent up, they endeavor to supply the material necessary for keeping up their frames by devouring ashes and cinders. Let them have plenty of them.—*Prairie Farmer*.

DISINFECTING AGENTS.—Now that the warm weather is upon us, our citizens should thoroughly cleanse their premises, rendering them as pure and healthy as possible. We are convinced that a great portion of the diseases so