

## A WORD ABOUT SHEEP.

We may infer from the following extract from the *Prairie Farmer*, that the Americans are a hog-eating race, and can we not see the folly of keeping such a lot of hungry hogs as are too often met. The grain they have consumed this year would have brought more cash than the pork in many instances, and as for family use, were we at once to abandon the habit of salting down a summer's supply we believe it would be more profitable, and much more conducive to health, were we to use mutton in the place of so much pork. It can be raised cheaper, and by using a little salt we can manage to demolish a sheep in summer without spoiling, and there are many farm houses that feed more people than we do, still they imagine that they cannot use a sheep, or do not like mutton. Try it, get in the habit of using it, and you will become like the English people, to prefer it, and by using it you are far more likely to have a good healthy English appearance, than by using pork. Increase your stock of sheep and decrease your stock of hogs:

"The American farmer, even with his cheap land and free range, should open his eyes to the fallacy of keeping a Merino abomination for a little wool; as well raise Texas steers for their superior hides and magnificent horns; better have a good sheep if a strand of wool never appeared on its back than a bad one with it.

"A Canadian farmer brought some good sheep to New York market for which he demanded \$27 per head and got it, simply because each sheep represented about \$27 worth of mutton. Your last market reports of stock for one week in Chicago, are: Beeves, 5,632; Hogs, 73,315; Sheep, 1,364. English markets for fat stock one day: London, Oct. 10th—Hogs not quoted; cattle, 1,670; sheep and lambs, 4,750; Liverpool, Oct. 7th, cattle, 2,728; sheep and lambs, 10,330; Newcastle, Oct. 8th, cattle, 965; sheep and lambs, 1,250.

"These proportions might be increased by calling an English sheep equal to three of ours. It is a mistaken notion that John Bull gets his jolly appearance and plethoric habit all from eating beef—prices per lb. are fully equal to beef; in our markets they are lumped off at so much per head, not being worth the nicety of going into pounds and ounces. While Chicago is supplied with good stock of other kinds, the sheep are fifty years behind the times; place twenty good sheep by any lot of them and the difference would be as great as between the merest "scalawag" steer and the finest Durham."

## THE NUMBER SEVEN.

This number is frequently used in the Bible. On the 7th day God ended his work, the 7th month Noah's ark touched the ground and in 7 days a dove was sent out.

Abraham pleaded 7 times for Sodom, Jacob served 7 years for Rachel, mourned 7 days for Joseph, and was pursued a 7 days journey by Laban.

A plenty of 7 years, and a famine of 7 years were foretold in Pharaoh's dream, by 7 fat and 7 lean beasts, and 7 ears of full and 7 ears of blasted corn.

On the 7th day of the 7th month the children of Israel fasted 7 days, and remained 7 days in tents. Every 7 years the land rested; every 7th year all bondmen were free, and the law was read to the people.

In the destruction of Jericho 7 priests bore 7 trumpets 7 days; on the 7th day they surrounded the walls 7 times; and at the end of the 7th round the walls fell.

Solomon was 7 years building the temple, and feasted 7 days at its dedication. In the tabernacle were 7 lamps, and the golden candlestick had 7 branches. Naaman washed 7 times in Jordan.

Job's friends sat with him 7 days and 7 nights, and offered 7 bullocks and 7 rams as an atonement.

Our Saviour spoke 7 times from the cross, on which he hung 7 hours, and after his resurrection appeared 7 times. In the Lord's prayer are 7 petitions, containing 7 times 7 words.

In the Revelations we read of 7 churches, 7 candlesticks, 7 stars, 7 trumpets, 7 plagues, 7 thunders, 7 veils, 7 angels, and a 7 headed monster.

## EVENING ENTERTAINMENTS.

The Chicago Evening Post not many weeks since claimed for some young people of "leading Chicago families," the credit of having invented a novel and pleasant evening entertainment. The ordinary programme is as follows:—"Instrumental music; reading of selections; ten-minute lecture, and general conversation thereon; reading of original contributions; vocal music, refreshments and conversation; instrumental music. The young people present, are regarded not as members of a "Society," but as the guests of the lady at whose house they meet—there being no formal terms of membership, and the invitations being at her pleasure. The guests appear in plain dress. Neither church lines nor neighborhood boundaries are considered; theological and political controversies are eschewed; subjects of literature, art, music and recreation, upon which all agree, are brought to the fireside; the controlling spirit is that of culture, of friendship and charity.

To cure scours in horses, put one pint of good gin and one oz. of indigo into a bottle, and shake them together, and administer in one dose.

**REMEDY FOR CHOKED CATTLE.**—While writing I would give a valuable remedy for choked cattle, whether choked with apples, turnips, &c.: Take a small parcel of gunpowder about two or three thimbles full—make a small funnel with thin paper, sufficient only to hold the powder; close the large end by folding—insert it in the passage of the throat either with the fingers or hand, or by using a small stick—split so as to grasp the small end of the funnel, and to be easily withdrawn when desired. Nothing else to be done. This has been tried successfully by some of the best stock raisers in this vicinity, and has never failed, I believe, in any case.

**APPLES** keep best when cool and dry. Sudden changes of temperature induce the collection of moisture in the skin, which dissolves the delicate varnish with which the skin of the apple is covered, and it soon decays.—Ex.

**GREASED BOOTS AND BRUTES.**—Two things we have learned by long practice and personal experience. One thing is that snow water will soak through the best boot leather when no other water will. The other item is that pure neats-foot-oil, two or three times applied, and well warmed in, will more effectually fence out water, make dry feet, soften and preserves leather better than any other application we have ever tried. The same material is equally as efficient and as valuable for greasing the hoofs and boot legs of horses during the slumpy, slushy weather of our winter thaws, applied with a sponge, and well rubbed into the legs of a horse, say twice a week, protects him from several ills and inconveniences, making his feet and legs quite as comfortable as we find our own within a dry well oiled boot. Please experiment and believe.

**HOW MUCH BUTTER.**—A writer in an exchange says that two quarts of cream is a fair average for one pound of butter, though many cows will furnish an article requiring much less to make a pound.

**CHECK REIN.**—Always loosen the check-rein before giving a horse water. Even if the pail is held so high that the rein is not drawn tight, the position is not a natural one in which to drink.

**POULTRY LICE.**—Mix wood and coal ashes, dry sand and a little sulphur, and place where your fowls will dust themselves in it. It will keep them clear of vermin.

**THE STRAWBERRY.**—The only fruit that grows in every climate is the strawberry. It is the only fruit which somewhere on earth is picked every day the year round.

**HOW TO CLEAN TIN.**—Never use lye to clean tin, it will soon spoil it. Make it clean with suds, and rub with whiting, and it will look well, and last longer.