

seeing several persons engaged for half an hour in catching a pig, which had got into a small enclosure. They tried managing it by throwing in an ear of corn for the animal to engage himself with, while they crept up behind him; but the pig was much too cunning for that, and continued to keep one eye always on his foe. When a number of them came up to surround him, he picked up the ear of corn, and ran away to another spot.

Not only is the pig naturally clever, but it is capable of instruction, and has been taught to perform duties that belong to other animals. They are often sufficiently tame to permit children to mount on their backs, and one person actually put some of his pigs through a course of training for the saddle. A team of four hogs has been trained to draw a carriage, such an event having taken place at St. Alban's some years ago, when an old farmer of the neighbourhood threw the town into much excitement by driving a carriage into town drawn by four pigs. He drove round the market-place several times, and had his porcine steeds put up at a stable, and fed on corn and wash. In a few hours the pigs were again harnessed and trotted off briskly with their master.

In some respects the pig resembles man, so that there may be some ground for calling children pigs besides those generally given. The pig and the man are both omnivorous; that is to say, they both can eat vegetable or animal food—the one being an omnivorous quadruped, and the other an omnivorous biped, so when the trough is filled with potatoes and vegetables it will make a very good dinner upon them; if the butcher chooses to throw in some of the offal of the slaughter-house, the pig will eat the offal; if a thriftless housekeeper lets the pigs have plum pudding and slices of roast beef, the most inveterate gormandiser could not attack them with greater zest than does his omnivorous companion. If the brewer has pigs and gives them grain, they will devour enormous quantities of the sweet, soft compound, and if any ale is mixed with the grains, as is often the case, they will get gloriously drunk upon it. Many is the time that a pig has been staggering about the yard quite unable to direct himself, merely because he had taken too much of the deceptive mixture; hence the saying, "as drunk as a hog."

Among the many qualities and properties which the pig is acknowledged to possess, there are some which are not generally known. For example, 99 of every 100 pots of bear's grease are obtained exclusively from the pig, and have had no connection whatever with the bear. Bears are not quite plentiful enough, or so easily killed as to supply all the vast amount of "bears' grease" which is annually consumed in the whole world. The fact is, lard is purified,

scented, put into pots, decorated with coloured labels, called bears' grease, sold at high prices, and has the double advantage of bringing in a very large percentage to the sellers, and doing quite as much good to the buyer as if it were the genuine fat of the bear.

The pig quite revels in an oak wood or under the oak trees in autumn. We cannot, however, praise the good taste of the pigs quite so much in this instance, for acorns are detestable. It is true that we used to eat them at school; but then school boys, like ostriches or sharks, will eat anything. Even we, however, could not manage them till we had roasted them.

Yet this shows the degeneracy of our race, or rather it would do so in the ears of some people, for our early ancestors used to make acorns a considerable portion of their diet. The Arcadians (happy race!) were said to live almost exclusively on that delectable food. This reminds us of an amusing print published, where a pig was represented as seated under an oak, and exactly facing him an Arcadian also seated under another oak. The ingenious artist contrived to infuse so much of the pig into the Arcadian, and the Arcadian into the pig, that there was some difficulty in discovering which was quadruped and which biped.

Miscellaneous.

MOWING MACHINES.—HOW TO AVOID DANGER!

We were informed, the other day, by a Colchester farmer, that mowing machines are coming into extensive use in his county, something like 20 machines being at present in operation within a reasonable distance of Shubenacadie. We therefore reprint the following judicious remarks from the *American Agriculturist*:

"The great number of serious and fatal accidents which are reported every year as arising from carelessness in handling mowing machines, or from drivers being thrown from off their seats in front of them, has led to much thought, both on the part of conscientious manufacturers and others, to prevent such occurrences. Some mowing machines are peculiarly liable to throw the driver off on going over rough ground, or when the cutter bar strikes a fixed obstacle. They should be avoided by purchasers, as one would any treacherous dangerous thing. When accidents occur and are reported in the papers, the name of the machine should always be given. We should like to publish a list showing the number of each machine in use, and number of accidents to those using them, could a fair one be made out.

Some years ago a lady of Burlington, N. J., invented an arrangement for throwing the knives out of gear the instant the driver's weight was taken from the seat. We never knew of its being put to use. There have been several other guards contrived, generally, however, not applicable to all machines.

We have received a suggestion in a letter from Mr. J. S. Hammond, of Scarsdale, which we regard as eminently practical and sensible, and believe it will be the means of saving many lives and limbs. He writes: 'As the mowing season is rapidly approaching, I desire to make known a simple device, which I have employed during two seasons, to prevent being thrown from my mowing machine. It is well known that serious accidents have been thus produced. It is this:—I take a strong leather strap, about 30 inches long, and, passing one end between the bars on the left side of the seat, (generally of open iron work,) buckle, so as to make a loop. Put the left arm through this loop. Let the loop be long enough to allow free use of the arm in driving, and at the same time to steady the body. The right arm must be free to work the machine. Should the machine strike any hidden obstacle, the strap will prevent the rider from being thrown to the right side, or forward, upon the knives, and will in most cases enable him to keep his seat. Properly adjusted it will not interfere with the management of the team or the machine.'

DRESSING SHEEP-SKINS FOR MATS, ROBES, MITTENS, &c.

Make a strong suds, using hot water; when it is cold wash the skins in it to get the dirt out of the wool; then wash the soap with clean cold water. For two skins dissolve alum and salt, of each half a pound, with a little hot water, which put into a tub of cold water sufficient to cover the skins, soaking twelve hours; then hang over a pole to drain; when well drained, spread or stretch carefully on a board to dry, tacking them down if necessary. When yet a little damp, have one ounce each of saltpetre and alum pulverized, and sprinkle over the flesh side of the skin, rubbing in well; then lay the flesh side together and hang in the shade for two or three days, turning the under skin uppermost every day until perfectly dry; then scrape the flesh side with a blunt knife, to remove any remaining scraps of flesh, trim off projecting points, and rub with pumice and rotten stone, and with the hand. Lamb-skins, thus prepared, will make beautiful and warm mittens for ladies and gentlemen.—*Journal of Board of Arts and Manufactures of Ontario.*