

Mr. Jilks on the Pork Question.

I was down to a sale a short time ago, and after all the ole pots and kettles, an' krocery, and trumpery, an' ole harness had been sold off, the crowd surged down to the pen to help git in the hogs; yere, they cum across the field, a dozen boys a hollerin', as many dogs a yelpin', and it a race between the dogs and hogs—there's one thing, Mistur Editur, that can be said about the native hog: he's got good wind— and when they got 'em in, the hogs showed their education and instinct by beginning an inspection of the fences, to see where the weak spot was; it looked so intelligent. Some of the critters looked putty good, and finally one was put up which was recommended as "ported stock, improved breed." Ole Kemp Saxter, a bar-room veteran, who hadn't paid any axes fur twenty years, and went about doin' other people's work to show how well he could do his own, and how much he knew all about it, was there, and when the proprietor spoke about improved breed, sez he: "that's all in my eye; the breed's in the korn house; if yer want a 'proved breed, boys, pile in the korn an' you'll git it. I've heerd about these 'proved breeds o' hogs fur forty year, and mi pimon iz giv' me the korn an' I'll make the breed," and with that the crowd give a laff which appeared to throw all the argument on Kemp's side of the question. I was powerul disgusted to see so much ignorance, and to see the opinion of such a character pass fur authority on any question, let alone such a mighty one as pork that lays the fat on our juvenile ribs in school-boy lays, and comforts our declining yeers with flapjacks and sausages. Its kind a impulsive with me to take the right side, ef I'm the only one to do it. I jumped up into an ole feed box, and sez I "do you mean to say there's nothin' in the breed ov a hog to make um fat easier? do you attempt to nullify by a single assertion the experience of every man that ever owned a hog, and was intellectually qualified to eat him?" This peared to silence ole Kemp, and bring the crowd a little on mi side.—Did you ever notice Mistur Editur, how quickly the tide of battle changes when the oright blade of a champion of truth slashes in the combat? There's allers plenty to do right ef you can find a man fit to lead 'em; an' I giv' it to 'em agin; "don't you always see a difference in the same litter o' hogs?" sez I; "isn't there allers one or two that beat all the others, and isn't there always a difference in yer tobacco, and don't you turn out the biggest and finest heads for seed, and isn't there always a difference in cabbages, and don't you set out the best stalks fur seed, and don't you pick out the best calves, and everything else to raise from, and why not do the same with hogs, I'd like to know? Well that's jes what has been done; the men that git up these new breeds pick out the best, and breed from them, and then pick out the best and breed again, and finally they so fasten peculiarities upon the race that it will perpetuate those good qualities, and the farmer that shuts his eyes to the improvement which has been effected in animals, and everything else relating to his calling, will back down from the front rank, and by and by work fur somebody smarter than he is, fur you might as well try to raise good wheat from sickly, smutty, worm-eaten seed, or good cabbages, or anything else from the worst possible seed you can find, as expect to have hog-stock that'll pay from the helve-logged, cat-hammell, quill-bellied bottle-nouted bar-sheaves we've got around the country so plenty," and I got down, while the fellers hollered, "give it to 'im Jilks," as though they'd always thought so too, and when I looked for ole Kemp I seen 'im behind the 'bakker house, with his elbow higher than his head, taking sumthing; that was his argument.

Now, I am under the impression the average of the hogs killed in our section is much less than 200 pounds: we feed an animal through the fall, winter, spring, summer, fall, and part ov the winter agam, and get two hundred pounds of dressed pig, let us see if there isn't sumthing in the breed.

I have in my mind a killing on the old homestead of eight-month pigs which ranged from 245 to 265 pounds per pig.

I have in my mind another killing in the fall of late spring pigs that averaged over two hundred pounds. And here's one of a pure bred Essex that dressed 590 pounds, and another, same breed, 400 pounds, and a Berkshire, 526 pounds, and—note well—only six or eight per cent. of offal, for when you put 500 pounds of one of those hogs away you've got 20 or 30 per cent. more meat than in the same weight of the native trotting stock, and if I remember rightly one of Mr. Harris's killings averaged over 400 lbs., and didn't Col Bowie write some time ago about the Poland or Magie breed, that would dress 1000 pounds? If we git a cow that'll go 600, the neighborhood *Herald* comes out with large type, leaded and dis-

played to announce the fact. Nothin in the breed! It's a great pity the legislature don't prohibit the keeping of scrub stock, and we would soon see that *there's everything in the breed*, and a few farmers could club together, buy a boar, and put away more meat in the fall from spring pigs, than they now do from 15 and 18 months hogs, saving 8 or 10 months keep of the animals, and two or three sows wintered over would be enough for most farmers, and I believe farmers'll get their eyes open after a while.—*Maryland Farmer*.

Rabbit Breeding.

In England, but particularly in Belgium and Holland, particular attention is given to the breeding of rabbits as an article of cheap meat food, and immense numbers are annually bred for that purpose. There are in this as in the growing of most domestic animals, certain fancy breeders who breed for the sake of producing new and stranger types of the animal, as the lop-eared rabbits, etc. There is no advantage in the lop-ears, except the higher price they bring as fancy animals. One fact is noted as regards the flavor of the wild and tame animal, that while domestication increased the size of the animal and the disposition to sport, both in color and form, the quality of the meat is not considered as good as the wild. Hence preference is generally given to the meat of the wild over the pampered animal; though doubtless the food has much to do in determining the quality of the meat.

In regard to the enormous fecundity of the tame rabbit, the *Aigle du Midi* states that: "A farmer named Pinel, of Revel, in the department of the Haute-Garonne, France, has lately commenced breeding rabbits on an extensive scale for consumption, and that he expects the operation to be successful in a commercial point of view. In the space of five months, from May last, he, with fifty female and five male rabbits, obtained 1,300 young, and he now intends to have 200 females. By allowing these latter to produce only every two months, instead of every month, as they can do, he calculates that he can procure 500 rabbits a month, or 6,000 a year. He has had constructed a large shed, 30 yards long by 20 wide and 40 feet high, and in it are 140 compartments, of which 10 are set apart for young rabbits separated from their dams, 14 for the adults, 12 for the males, and the rest for the doe rabbits and other purposes. Pinel makes this calculation: Out of 270 rabbits born every month, the average number of deaths is 12, so that there remain for sale 258 which can be disposed of for 12 cents each, making \$36.76, or \$681.12 a year. This sum is increased to \$931 by the sale of the manure. The expense of producing 258 rabbits is estimated at \$274, so that a clear profit remains of \$657. As rabbits can be fed in great part on the refuse of the farm-house and farm-yard, it is thought that they might in many localities be bred to advantage."—*Exr*.

Barrenness in Mares.

I have a large fine mare from which I wish to get a colt. Last year she was taken to *Mambrino*, who served her some half dozen times, I believe, during the season, but without any issue. I wish to take her this year to him again, and I want to know whether anything can be done more than the horse's services, to insure her being with foal. I have owned the mare two years. I suppose she is twelve years old, perhaps more, and I judge she may have bred before.—*P. B. M., Baden Mo. Remarks*.—Some mares are incurably barren. Sometimes they will fail for years in succession, and then again take to breeding. Various expedients have been resorted to in such cases; and one which is oftener successful than the other is to reduce the mare by steady, hard work to a low state of flesh; then when you wish to breed her, let up on the work, give her plenty of nutritious, but not heating food, and when she is in a thriving condition let her have the horse. It is claimed by many old horsemen, that where mares have been kept very fat, there often occurs a closing up of the womb, which precludes impregnation, and which can only be remedied by an "opening of the womb" by the hand.—Sometimes there is a laceration of the womb in foaling, and the same closing up ensues. We have seen this "opening up" process resorted to in a few cases, and usually, but not always, with success. Some cases are recorded of mares that were pronounced hopelessly barren becoming impregnated, by permitting the horse to serve the mare, and then turning them loose together in a lot, or large box-stall, allowing the horse to tease the mare at his leisure, until he serves her again of his own accord. The mare should be kept quiet for a few days, after service, in a roomy stall, away from the horse.—*National Live-Stock Journal*.

Suint.

In nothing is the spirit of the age more clearly shown than in the efforts to utilize waste substances. Quite a recent instance of this improved economy is found in the treatment of the wool of sheep. It has been ascertained that sheep derive from the soil upon which they pasture a considerable amount of potash, which, after it has circulated in the blood, is excreted from the skin with the sweat, and remains, generally in connection with this, attached to the wool. Chevreul discovered, some time ago, that this peculiar mixture, known by the French as *suint*, constitutes not less than one-third the weight of the raw merino fleece, from which it is easily removed by immersion in cold water. In ordinary wools the *suint* is less, the amount being about 15 per cent. of the raw fleece. Formerly it was considered as a kind of soap, mainly for the reason that the wool, besides this, sometimes contained about 8 per cent., or a not inconsiderable quantity of fat. This fat, however, is usually combined with earthy matters, mostly with lime, and consequently forms a soap which is very insoluble. The soluble *suint* is a neutral salt arising from the combination of potash with a peculiar animal acid, of which little more is known than that it contains saltpetre. Special effort has lately been directed to *suint*, in order to obtain as much as possible of the potash eliminated from the animal, and a special industry has been established in various portions of the great French wool district, such as Rheims, El Daut, &c. A company purchases from the wool raiser the solution of the *suint* obtained by rinsing the wool in cold water, the price paid for it being higher in proportion as it is more concentrated. As a general thing it is maintained that a fleece weighing 9 pounds contains about 20 ounces of *suint*, which should contain about one-third part, or six or seven ounces of potash, although not more than five and one-half ounces are perhaps directly available. In the wool manufactories of the towns just referred to, there are nearly 60,000,000 pounds of wool washed annually, the yield of about 6,750,000 sheep. This quantity should contain over 3,000,000 pounds of pure potash. Thus, the water in which the wool is washed, and which has been heretofore thrown away, is made to yield a product, adding appreciably to the value of the wool itself, and more than covering the cost of its treatment. It is, of course, not an easy matter to utilize this solution of *suint* on a small scale; but wherever the work is carried on by the wholesale, as it is in connection with all great manufacturing establishments, it will undoubtedly become a regular part of the process of manufacture.—*London Chemical News*.

A Pedigree Not All.

There is no breed of animals in which there are not differences in the value of different animals—none in which some animals unfit for use as breeding animals cannot be found. The fact that an animal has a pedigree showing that it is "pure bred," does not prove it is a good animal. Breeders owe it to their future reputation, if not to the public, to "weed out" inferior animals from their herds or flocks—sending them to the butcher's shops rather than selling them for breeding purposes. Purchasers should exercise common sense enough to look for individual excellence as well as pedigree. This is no argument against pedigrees or pure breeding. Pedigrees are valuable. Of two animals of equal individual excellence, the one known to be descended from ancestors also noted for individual excellence, and the other with nothing knowing of its ancestry—the first is decidedly the more valuable for breeding. A good pedigree will out-weight some defects, for the offspring may resemble the better ancestors, but no pedigree is good enough to make it advisable to breed from an animal worthless in himself.—*Exr*.

SWINE.—Let pigs of all ages have access to a mixture of ashes, salt, and sulphur. Keep the pens and troughs clean. Let them have a dry, warm well-ventilated place to sleep in. Do not put too many in a pen. Keep the younger and weaker separate from the older and stronger. Feed according to what the pigs are designed for.

Lameness of pigs and loss of the use of the hind legs is believed by a correspondent of the *N. E. Farmer*, to be a species of founder caused by highly concentrated or oily food, such as corn meal or milk in large quantities, and which he has cured by bleeding—by cutting off the end of the tail, repeating the operation two or three times if necessary. He has never known it to fail to cure.