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XMAS

Many readers of the "Advocate" would like to know where to buy some nice, suitable Christmas present for their friend. The list we give below is a very good one for the purpose, and the prices are not high. If you are interested, then

select your article or articles, sending a post-office order for the amount of your purchase, and forward the order promptly to us, and by return mail we will send you the goods. The price we give includes the postage, and you will receive the goods at your nearest post office, all postage prepaid. Send at once.

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Ladies' Sterling Silver Bracelet.....	\$1.50	Fancy Pocket Watch Safes.....	25c., 35c., 50c.
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Ladies' Pearl Handled Penknife.....	25c., 50c., \$1.00	Fancy Anas Calendars.....	10c., 15c., 25c.
Men's Pearl Pen Knife.....	25c., 50c., \$1.00	Anas Booklets.....	10c., 15c., 25c.
Ladies' Small, Fine Scissors.....	25c.	Register's Teacher's Bible.....	\$1.25
Stag Handle Carving Knife and Fork.....	\$1.00	Register's Reference Bible.....	1.00
Buffalo Horn Handle Carvers.....	75c., 1.00	Men's Sterling Silver Waltham Watch.....	1.00
Pearl Handle Butter Knife.....	75c., 1.00	Men's Gold Filled Waltham Watch.....	9.25
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oped along practical lines, which lack of space prevents our publishing. In the discussion which followed the remarks upon feeding, it was brought out that the most nearly correct method of feeding bacon pigs is to grow them up till they weigh 100 pounds or over on cheap food, such as pasture, dairy offal, roots, etc., and then finish them upon grain food, such as a mixture of peas, corn, barley, shorts, etc.

A short talk was given by Prof. Robertson upon the growing poultry trade with England. The subject of fattening the poultry, as is done in France and the south of England, by housing them three weeks on good feed and then finishing by two weeks of cramming by a machine, similar to that described in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE of Nov. 1st, 1898, page 518. The Professor also referred to our chances of developing a tender fruit trade with England. His observations and enquiries while in England lead him to the opinion that we have there a good opening for our pears, but our early apples, grapes, tomatoes, plums, etc., are not likely to find favor to the extent of doing us much good.

Prof. G. E. Day, of the Ontario Agricultural College, gave a useful paper upon swine feeding and the bacon trade, in which were incorporated details and results of his past season's feeding experiments, as recorded in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE of Dec. 1st, 1898.

Perhaps the most interesting information was given the audience by Messrs. Fearman, of the Hamilton Packing House; Britton, of the Ingersoll Packing Co.; and Leach, of the Davies Packing Co., of Toronto. Sides of bacon pigs selected from the animals slaughtered in connection with the show were hung up before the audience. An ideal side was hung up beside others which were too thin, too fat, or otherwise imperfect. An ideal side, when viewed from the inside, shows great length, width and evenness of thickness from end to end. The depth of fat along the back is about one and one-half inches, and is even from end to end. The ideal weights of bacon pigs are from 160 to 220 pounds, but the correct weight is only one of many requirements. The great advantage of having sows spayed before putting them up to feed was emphasized by Mr. Britton. They not only feed much more economically, but all danger of having to kill them while in season is prevented. At that time the flesh is often in an inflamed condition. With regard to soft bacon, Mr. Britton has found that thin pigs are more liable to be soft than those in proper flesh, a point demonstrated by Prof. Day's investigations. During the animated discussion, which lasted till a very late hour, the packers were enjoined to encourage the farmers to produce the correct sort of hogs by paying a better price for just what filled the bill, and if necessary refuse to accept hogs that are too light or too thin. Co-operative shipping by farmers was strongly recommended by members of the audience.

Oxford Down Breeders' Association.

The American Oxford Down Breeders' Association held its annual meeting in Bradford on Dec. 30th, with President Geo. McKerron, Sussex, Wis., presiding, and Secretary W. A. Shafer, Middletown, Ohio, recording the minutes. There was a good attendance of members from either side the line, who were favored with an inspiring and thoughtful address from the chair, in which it was pointed out that the present meeting was being held under very auspicious circumstances.

Some years ago wool breeds had the American field, but a depreciation in the value of that product and a greater demand for mutton changed the popular taste in the direction of sheep, especially for crossing on the range flocks. To this end the Oxford is peculiarly designed, and within the last few years the supply of serviceable males is not equal to the demand. Reference was made to the superiority of the Oxford over other mutton breeds, as proved by the three notable victories accorded to him at three great American exhibitions of recent years, viz., the Centennial, in 1876; the Columbian, in 1893; and the Trans-Mississippi, in 1898, at each of which an Oxford ram won the grand championship. Referring to the last named event, it was claimed that this breed had the show. This claim was verified by Col. Burch, of Chicago, who was there, taking a lively interest. Mr. McKerron claimed for the Oxford breed that it contains the best of the large, long-wooled breeds, and of the finer medium-wooled sorts, combined into an ideal animal.

After reading the minutes of the last annual meeting, it was decided to donate \$75 in special prizes to each State and Provincial show having an Oxford class in its prize list.

At the suggestion of Mr. Henry Arkell, of Teeswater, and the President, a more definite breed type of the breed was considered, which resulted in the appointment of the President and Secretary to have executed a typical Oxford cut for use by the Association. In this connection it was suggested that the Association aid, as far as possible, fair boards in securing qualified judges, that the correct type be adhered to in placing the awards.

The receipts for the current year, with last year's balance, were \$2,198.46, and expenditures, \$842.14, leaving a balance of \$1,356.32.

Officers.—President, Geo. McKerron, Sussex, Wis.; Vice-President, G. D. Garmo, Muir, Mich.; Secretary-Treasurer, W. A. Shafer, Middletown, Ohio. Directors—John C. Williamson, Xenia, Ohio; R. F. Miller, Flint, Mich.; A. Bordwell, Fargo, N. Y.; Henry Arkell, Arkell, Ont.

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