

At Winchester Fair, on Tuesday last, Mr. J. Harris sold by auction 101 wether lambs from Mr. George Judd's flock for £397 10s., or an average of 79s. 9d.; also 101 from Mr. Q. King's for £374 11s., or an average of 74s. 2d., and 100 from Mr. P. R. Hunt for £333 5s., or an average of 66s. 6d. It is doubtful if any other breed of sheep could exceed these results. It was from Mr. Judd's flock that in 1882, at the same fair (Oct. 23), 100 lambs were sold for £424 4s. average 85s. 6d.; and a second 100 for £398 16s., or just under £4 each.

This record has never been equalled, though Mr. Joshua East in 1884, approached it very nearly, making £398 for his first 100, and £329 for his second. None of the above lots of lambs exceeded 10 months old.

WHAT IS AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

MANUAL TRAINING A WASTE OF TIME.

(Editor Country Gentleman.)

The more I see of agricultural schools, and the more I study the subject of agricultural teaching, the more I am convinced that the teaching of *practical* farm work at a college or school of agriculture is, and of necessity must be, a farce and a humbug. A farmer's son goes to an agricultural college to pursue a course of study in the principles of scientific agriculture, and to obtain an education which will fit him more intelligently to manage and plan farm operations. In nine cases out of ten he already knows as much about the manual operations of farm work as any of his instructors, and the chances are that he knows much more in this line than the professor of agriculture. And yet, in most of these institutions, he must labour on the farm a certain number of hours daily in order to learn how to hoe, mow, dig and plough, because the controlling powers are possessed with the idea that farming is a handicraft, and must be studied like carpentry or blacksmithing. Instead of using all the limited time usually devoted to an agricultural course in becoming expert in the sciences which have a bearing on his profession, he is compelled to spend half his time in learning things he has already learned better at home, and in which he will probably never excel—if he equals—any practised farm hand he may employ. College catalogues are full of nonsense about dignifying labour, &c., just as if colleges were intended as training schools in manual labour, and not as schools for developing brain power in agriculture. Methinks the labour of the brain is just as well worth dignifying as that of the hands. In mechanical pursuits, boss and journeymen must of necessity be men possessed of manual skill, since this is the Alpha and Omega of mechanics. But the manual dexterity of the farm is easily acquired by the most ignorant labourer with the necessary muscle, and no college professor can teach him better. A familiarity with these farm operations of course is desirable, and any intelligent boy can learn it all in a few seasons in observing the operations of the workmen on the college farm, which should be so managed as always to present to the student a model of what good, practical, money-making farming is.

In another light this much-praised manual labour idea is wrong; hard manual labour in the afternoon is a poor preparation for study at night. A man who has worked faithfully in the afternoon is tired, and his brain will sympathize with his body, and he will be in no condition to study intelligently the subjects for the class room next day.

Student labour can never be made economical or effective, because of its short duration and because of the fact that the boys themselves see that it is a mere farce, and go through it in a perfunctory manner, thus losing precious time, which should bear better fruit in mental culture.

The sooner our agricultural schools realize that compulsory manual labour on the part of a student is not only a travesty of work, but is an absolute waste of valuable time, the sooner they will enter on a higher plane of usefulness, and succeed in sending out real farmers instead of half-trained smatterers in science and practice. In any case, long, independent experience only can ripen the farmer, just as it does the doctor and the lawyer, and no school in any of these professions can do more than prepare a man for studies which his whole life will be too short to complete entirely.

A Teacher of Agriculture.

ENSILAGE CORN THINLY PLANTED.

(Editor Country Gentleman.)

I was much pleased with J. G.'s article. In a recent visit to a gentleman who was filling his silo, I remarked that there were no ears on the cornstalks. He said he used the southern white corn for seed, and the ears, where developed by accidental thin planting, were so large that they were troublesome in passing through the cutter. He planted so thickly that no ears formed. I have had the same apprehension with reference to the ears from southern seed. Formerly I planted very thickly and used southern seed. For the past two years I practised thin planting to make ears, but used the common seed of our neighbourhood for fear of trouble, as suggested by my friend. I got a good growth of stalks, but not so large as that grown from southern seed; but I felt fully compensated with the burthen of ears, and if the southern seed should prove objectionable by reason of the size of the ears, I would never return to the practice of thick planting. Hereafter I shall use the B. & W. seed. From my two years' experience of growing corn for ensilage with thin planting, I can cordially endorse all J. G. says in its favour; the farmer who practises thick seeding is losing a large part of his crop. Last winter I fed my Jersey bulls and two-year-old heifers on nothing but this class of ensilage and a little malt sprouts, and they wintered in excellent condition. The malt sprouts had, doubtless, something to do with my success, as Prof. Stewart says they are excellent to balance corn ensilage in the ration. I find my cattle eat the ensilage more readily, and clear out the manger more thoroughly, than when fed ensilage grown solely for the stalks. The ears chopped up by the cutter preserve as perfectly as the stalks, and the grain is perfectly digested by the cows, careful examination of the droppings showing no kernels of grain undigested. I would like to ask J. G. whose machine he uses that will drop a grain every six inches, with reasonable accuracy. G. W. FARLEE.

Trenton, N. J.

THE INDIAN GAME.

(Editor Country Gentleman.)

In your issue of November 8th, I note with pleasure a brief account of the Indian Game, furnished by Mr. Stephen Beale. As I was the first, or one of the first, American breeders to import this variety, and as my experience and observation of the breed do not wholly coincide with that given by Mr. Beale, I think it may be of interest to your readers for me to give an account of the fowl as I know it.

I was first attracted to the Indian Game by the flattering notices given of it in a number of English publications, where its claim for eminence as a table fowl was endorsed by such men as Mr. W. B. Tegetmeier; F. R. Z., author of one of the standard works on poultry; Mr. Comyns, editor of "Poultry," and others scarcely less well known in poultry circles. Last December, I accordingly imported a trio from Mr. J. G. Moenthal, the founder, and at that time honorary secretary