

**A LINCOLN RAM.**—This magnum bonum sheep was bred by Mr. John Stokes, of Caldecott, Rutland, and was exhibited at Peterborough, in October, 1857, when, as a three-shearer, £70 was offered for him. Then and there the following lines were written upon him:—

He has a long thin head, a smart and lively eye,  
 With a beautiful bosom, and very large thigh;  
 He is good in his hips, with a gigantic loin,  
 Wide in the breast, and immense in the chine;  
 He's fine in the bone, and light in the jaw,  
 And in his whole body I can't find a flaw;  
 He is light in the *garbage*, and good in the rump;  
 He is deep-clifted through, and without any hump;  
 Fourteen pounds of wool's yearly shorn from his skin;  
 He is a Bakewell without, and a Chandler within.

The above lines will bear investigation; there were the sheep to prove them. Mr. Stokes has bred a great deal from the far-famed flocks of Messrs. Kirkhams.

SAMUEL ARNSBY.

Millfield, Peterborough  
 April 13th, 1859.

*Mark La e Express.*)

**SINGING SHELLS.**—Mr. Taylor, a tourist, when at Bathculao, in Ceylon, on going at night on a lake, near the fort, was struck by a loud musical noise proceeding from the bottom of the water. It was caused by multitudes of some animals inhabiting shells—at least, the natives call them “singing shells.” The sounds are like those of an accordeon, or æolian harp, &c., vibrating notes, and pitched in different keys. A snail, abundant in Corfu, if irritated by a touch with a piece of straw, will emit a distinctly audible sound in a querulous tone, and which it frequently repeats if touched.

**TO DRESS A PARTRIDGE IN A HURRY.**—Expedition is the maxim of all sylvan cookery, and as plucking the feathers of a partridge would be too great a tax on the time and patience of the *voyageur*, the method most in vogue is to run your hunting knife round his throat and ankles and down his breast, when taking a leg in each hand, and pressing your thumb into his back, you pop him out of his skin, as you would a pea from its pod. Then make a spread eagle of him on a forked twig, the other extremity of which is thrust into the ground, and after wrapping a rasher of bacon around his neck and under his wings, as ladies wear a scarf, you incline him to the fire, turning the spit upon the ground, and you will have a result such as Soyer might be proud of. When your other avocations will not afford time even for the skinning process, an alternative mode is to make a paste of ashes and water, and roll up your bird therein, with the feathers, and all the appurtenances thereof, and thrust the performance into the fire. In due time, on breaking the cemented shell, which is like a sugared almond, the feathers, skin, &c., adhere to it, and then you have the pure kernel of poultry within.—*Curiosities of food.*

**THE ENDURANCE OF HORSES.**—Some curious experiments have been made at the Veterinary school at Alfort (just outside Paris) by order of the Minister of War, to ascertain the endurance of horses, as in a besieged town, for example: It appears that a horse will live on water alone five and twenty days; seventeen days without eating or drinking; only five days if fed but unwatered; ten days if fed and insufficiently watered. A horse kept without water for three days drank 104 pounds of water in three minutes. It was found, too, that a horse taken after being fed and kept in the active exercise of the “squadron school,” completely digested its “feed” in three hours; in the same time at the “conscript's school,” its food was two-thirds digested; and if kept perfectly quiet in the stable, indigestion was scarcely commenced in three hours.

**BATS AND SWALLOWS.**—It is curious, by the way, to mark the analogy that exists between the swallows and bats. Each of these groups loves the air, and is mostly seen on the wing. Their food consists of the flying insects, which they chase by their exquisite command of wing; and it will be noticed that, as soon as the swallows retire to rest at dusk, after clearing the air of the diurnal insects, the bats issue from their homes, and take up the work, performing the same task with the insects of night, as the birds with those of day. Then, as the dawn breaks, out comes the swallows again, and so they fulfil their alternate duties.—*Routledge's Illustrated Natural History, by Wood.*