

3s. 6d. and capons from 9s. to 10s. sterling each. These prices are from the *Mark Lane Express* and *London Field*.

There is no country in the world better adapted for the hatching and raising of poultry than Nova Scotia. This being so, the next important point is the *kind of fowls to breed from* and those that *mature the quickest*. There is a good deal of difference of opinion in this matter, but the experience of some of our oldest breeders of fancy poultry would be well to be ascertained. The selection of thorough-bred stock to improve what is already on hand is necessary, and there is plenty of it in the Province. Stock being selected and the fowls being raised and in fit order for market, the *killing* of the bird is also of great importance as well as *trussing* and *dressing*. I would here suggest that if those in charge of the School of Cookery would have the subject of *trussing* and *dressing* poultry for the table made a matter for instruction they would confer a great benefit on all classes. If consumers would persistently object to purchase poultry not properly *trussed* and *dressed* we should have our poultry offered for sale in the markets in a very different state.—JAMES PENNINGTON."

A GENTLEMAN who takes a warm interest in our Provincial Exhibitions has sent us the following from the "Boston Budget." The taste for cats has been immensely developed of late years in France and England, and the great French Angora cats, with long soft hair, are certainly beauties to be admired; but in Halifax we are rather behind the age in the feline fancy. Still, if we are to make room for dogs, there is no reason why the few cats should not have a place.

NEW YORK, March 18. Burnell's Museum is more attractive than ever since its opening at the corner of Broadway and Ninth street, with a grand cat show that is in progress there at the present time. This is said to be the first show of cats ever held in New York, but will probably not be the last, so many persons showing an interest in this effort. There are only about seventy-five cats in the exhibition, but each is worthy of notice. On entering the building a low, deep wail from feline throats greets the ear. It is a solo, duo, trio, quartette, all combined, that is most afflictive to the visitor. Each cat, or nearly every one, has a box with an open net-work front, with some straw in the bottom for a bed, and a cup of bread and milk for food. Over each box is the name of the cat, and its owner's name, as well as the kind of cat, followed by remarks. Only two or three are for sale, and the prices for

these are \$35, \$40 and \$75. A pure white pussy with blue eyes is named "The Lady of Shallott." She is a beauty and seemingly very happy in caring for her single, coal-black kitten. Another is called "Nellie Bly," a tortoise shell cat, that is remarkable for "shutting her eyes when she goes to sleep." Several huge Angora cats attract much attention. One weighing twenty-two pounds named "Captain Tom" looks amiable, but is said to be vicious. "Lucy," another Angora, is remarkably large, has grey and white hair a finger long, and blue eyes. A monstrous black cat with green eyes is a travelled pet; was born in Jerusalem and has been round the world three times. Another cat came from Africa and spends his time in proclaiming his home-sickness. Over one box is written, "This cat understands French"; so the lady visitors exercise their American French for the benefit of pussy. Altogether, it is an exhibition that is unique in its way, and quite worth the admission fee of twenty-five cents.

TRICHINOSIS.

THE following particulars may further interest those who have already had their attention attracted, and arouse the notice of the indifferent, to what has become a very serious consideration to the pork-eating portion of the community.

In the first place it may be mentioned that the now celebrated trichina (pronounced tric-in-a, with the accent on the first syllable, and the second vowel short) is said to have been described by Professor Owen in 1832. As many as 700,000 have been counted in a pound of human flesh; and Dr. Spencer Cobbold stated in 1873 that "an unfortunate foreigner who was killed in the streets of London," part of whose flesh he had happened to examine, "must have entertained 1,000,000,000 of these guests." One might have supposed that this individual would have succumbed to the difficulty of entertaining such a company, but it appears he had survived, probably with a weakened frame, to meet death in some other form—doubtless having endured untold agonies while the small army were steadily marching on, from the alimentary canal, where they were hatched, to the surface of his body, there to take up their permanent abode, and at last find a grave in the only part where they can be at rest—the muscles.

For we are told by the same authority "that it seems to be the prerogative of Nature, in all cases where wandering parasites get into the human territory, that they live there for a certain time only, the length varying with different species, and sooner or later they perish

by the process called calcareous degeneration; they become converted into little particles of lime, and thus the cure is effected.

It is a mistake to suppose, as some people do, that this parasite is the result of disease; it certainly produces disease in any human subject unfortunate enough to eat trichinised pork, as no one can have their intestines, their flesh, and their tissues, even their very heart, pierced and riddled by these creatures without suffering intensely; but the first host of the trichina, the pig, is very slightly inconvenienced by their presence; and a perfectly healthy animal is quite as likely to swallow the ova of any parasite as an unhealthy one.

The prevalence of trichina in American pork must be due in a great measure to the careless way the pigs are fed—allowing them to roam about, picking up their living among sewage filth; for a properly housed, regularly fed animal would escape the chance of becoming infested by the small capsuled worms, which in the pig do not exceed the length of 1-25th of an inch, while the adult trichina in the human subject attains a considerably larger size.

There is a record of an outbreak of trichinosis in Cumberland in 1873, and quite lately the attention of the House of Lords was called by Lord The-lor to a rumour of it on board a training ship lying off Purfleet. An inquiry was instituted by the Local Government Board, at the instance of the Home Secretary, and resulted in the outbreak being attributed to the use of American pork. To avoid such danger, it is simply necessary, as we have already been told, to have the food well cooked. No partial cooking will suffice. Boiled pork is more dangerous than fried ham or bacon, which, being cooked in slices, is exposed to the action of the heat; while, though heat at the boiling point is more than sufficient to destroy trichina, it takes a long time for a joint to become heated to 212° in the inside. Again, through the hardening of the meat in the salting, it is more difficult to destroy the parasite in salt pork than in fresh; but a heat of 160° is said by Cobbold to be sufficient, if prolonged, to kill trichina even through their protective capsules.

The natural history of this little flesh worm may be summed up in very few words, as it only takes the short period of three weeks for its full development, from the time it enters the human subject till it sets up its tabernacle in his muscles, after which its career may be said to be practically closed, unless its host becomes the victim of cannibalism, in which case the cannibal would, in his turn, be trichinised.