Swine, however, will always prefer clean food if they can get it, and the fattening process with corn generally eliminates from the flesh the taint of impure food previously fed them.

Our own objection, however, would rest upon the excessive fat; if we were disposed to object. No animal, if made extremely fat, is entirely free from some diseased condition; but we are obliged to confess that we do not object to the ham or shoulder of a "pig," if thoroughly cooked.

Stock at Fairs.

Perhaps no greater influence can be exerted upon the production of extra fine stock than that which arises from their exhibition at the fairs throughout the country.

We think it advisable, therefore, for Farmers to take their best stock to the nearest agricultural fair and enter actively into the discussion of the points which make up a first class animal.

In our mind this is one of the lessons of the fairs just past. It will give a strong impetus to the desire of having and raising the very best stock.

Particularly should young Farmers be urged to carry their stock to the fair, and compete for prizes.—The competition, carried on in a calm spirit of emulation, produces the very best results in future efforts.

Mules vs. Horses.

Advantages:

Mules are longer lived.
Not subject to half the diseases.
Eat much coarser food.
Do not require as much care.
Are more sure footed.
Are sooner rested after labor.
Not so liable to injury from storms.
Not so apt to run away.
Do not get frightened as readily.
Running away does not spoil them.
Will bear much heavier working.
Require much less grain.
Always ready when called upon.
Respond to currycomb and brush.

Disadvantages:

Are not stylish looking.
Are not so fast on the road.
More apt to break out of pastures.
Not so handsome for the carriage.
Have less musical voices.

The above recapitulation was made up by the editor after a pleasant discussion on the advantages of mules and horses to the Farmer.

Sheep and Legislation.

In a recent speech Prof. Atkinson puts the thing just exactly as it should be put, and no doubt his remarks were followed by "laughter and applause." If they were not, they certainly should have been.

"If the cur dog was not stronger than the average legislature, you could raise all the wool that we now make and import, 400,000,000 pounds, on 40,000 square miles. That would be 4 sheep to the acre. But you have not gumption enough to muzzle your cur dogs. What is the matter? We have to protect our wool growers from the pauper wool of foreign countries and cannot muzzle our own dogs. A great country, a great people, a very intelligent people!"

PROFIT in raising Sheep, comes from the wool, the mutton and the lambs. It will very seldom happen that all three are unprofitable at the same time.

Sheep on Poor Lands.

Many of the almost desolated tracts of Maryland may be profitably turned into sheep farms. Sheep will thrive upon the coarse grasses and weeds which alone grow upon such land. They will do more than this: they will render such lands capable of growing something better in a very short period.

As active fertilizing agents sheep are worth all they may cost. If they brought nothing back for meat or wool they would pay for themselves on any poor lands.

Pleuro-Pneumonia.

Dr. Salmon, of the Department of Agriculture telegraphed from Chicago in September that $75,000 worth of cattle, suffering with pleuro-pneumonia, were to be slaughtered there, by order of the proper authorities, to stay the disease.

In Maryland the disease is almost extinct. A single case is occasionally reported in the neighborhood of Baltimore; but prompt action prevents its spread.

☞Milk pans should be immersed some minutes in boiling water, as when not so treated they breed a host of fungus germs which poison the milk.

☞Don't forget, says the *Stockman*, that only the best sheep will yield a profit, and the poor ones are a burden on the balance of the flock.

☞The *American Cultivator* says, a dog has no rights that any Farmer is obliged to respect unless accompanied by its owner or on his premises.

☞Milk that stands too long makes bitter butter.

☞Fresh air-slacked lime scattered around the sleeping quarters of the hogs is one of the best means of insuring their health.