

The Manufacture of Goat's Hair.

Journal of Fabrics.

The scarcity and consequent dearth of mutton as an article of food in England is directing public attention to the utilization of the goat, although the singular insular prejudice of Englishmen has to be overcome a general substitute for the sheep. But most successful efforts are being made in this direction, mainly through the exertions of the British goat societies, which Dairy Farmers' Association. Exhibitions are now held, and prizes offered for improving the breeds of goats, both for milk and meat supply, and the results are already seen in a rapid increase in the number of goats in this country. And now the question is arising as to the disposal of goat's hair, which will soon become plentiful, and as this subject will force its way to the front very shortly. It is not out of place to allow a preliminary notice of it to form the subject of an article in the *Journal of Fabrics*. The present remarks must necessarily be of a retrospective character, and simply preliminary to the discussion which will inevitably arise as to the future use of British goat's hair. The origin of the goat's hair for clothing is lost in the obscurities of dim antiquity, but it is well known that it was among the first, if not absolutely the first, substance used in the manufacture of human clothing. It has been well said respecting the ancient and widely extended use of goat's hair for clothing that our rude forefathers in the valley of the Euphrates, the Jews and Egyptians, the wild hunters of the mountains fastness of Asia Minor, the aboriginal inhabitants of the New World, the Celts in Ireland and Northern Europe, had discovered the method of making artificial coverings from the fleeces of the goat. It was of this material the gorgeous curtains for the tabernacle in the plains of Sinai were woven; it was with goat's hair that Saul of Tarsus made those tents by the sale of which he mainly supported himself during his arduous missionary journeys at the dawn of Christianity, and it is from the down that grows beneath the rougher outer covering of the she-goat that those splendid specimens of color, texture, and delicacy of workmanship—the cashmere shawls—are produced. The two main classes of goods into which the hair of the goat is woven are cashmere and mohair, and the history of their manufacture forms interesting chapters in the romance of trade. In recent times the French held for many years the supremacy in the manufacture of cashmere and mohair, but the enterprise and ingenuity of Englishmen, by the introduction of the alpaca, and by the extended use of mohair, reared an industry at Bradford, Yorkshire, which outvalued the looms of France. But the fickle goddess that rules the Kingdom of fashion seems to have decreed that alpaca shall for the time at least be banished from her realm, and many Bradford manufacturers are turning their looms to the production of cashmere. This material is, of course, the outcome of the manipulation of imported hair, and leaves the utilization of native goat's hair untouched. Still there is no reason to doubt that in an age distinguished above all preceding ones for inventive industry, the hair of the native goat will become an important material for the production of the coarser kinds of textile goods, now made of shoddy and mungo, for the clothing of the industrial population. The various movements that will be made in this direction will be interesting records in the future not far distant.

Sure to be Car ed For.

From the Boston Globe.

He came out of a down-town restaurant and stood on the sidewalk, with a general, contented expression of a man who has enjoyed a good dinner. As he waited, whistling softly and trying to decide what to do next, his eyes fell upon a ragged, wretched-looking little fellow who was leaning against the railing, gazing at the dainties displayed in the window and inhaling the savory odors coming up from below.

"Hello, youngster! What are you doing here?" asked the smiling Boston gentleman.

"I'm smellin' and looking at the witties. It's better'n nothing."

"Are you hungry?"

"Hain't had nothing since yest' day mornin'."

A look of pity softened the old fellow's face as he thinks of the four good meals he has enjoyed since then.

"Where's your father? Why don't he take care of you?" he demanded.

"He's man's on a drunk this week," is the laconic answer.

"Where's your mother?"

"Never had one."

"Poor boy! Never had any mother! And you are very hungry?"

"You bet," he replied emphatically, with a shrewd glance upward.

"Well! well! come in with me and have something to eat."

While the lad was eating voraciously, his benefactor thought he ought to do a little missionary work, so he talked to the boy earnestly and tried to make him understand that the Lord always cares for little boys, no matter how poor they are. When the little Arab had eaten all he possibly could, he quickly stowed the remaining food in his pockets, and shuffled off his chair with a sigh of satisfaction, intimating that he was ready to go.

"Feel better?" inquired the philanthropist, as he settled the bill.

The boy granted assent.

"You believe now that the Lord does take care of little boys like you, don't you?" he asked, as the boy began to edge away from him, with an uneasy look.

"I allers tho't if the Lord wouldn't tak care on me the devil would!" was the graceless reply, as the boy edged around the corner and disappeared.

Johnson Grass.

From the Texas Wool Grower.

Mr. J. L. Dewey of Seely, Austin county, writes:

"Please say to your subscribers to 'go slow' on 'Johnson grass,' until they are dead sure they want it. One of my correspondents says: 'It is the most pernicious grass on the American continent.' Mixed farming and 'Johnson grass' will not do. The combination for best results with that grass is milk, beef and mutton to be handled by a good feeder. Do not think to destroy it if not pleased with it. Once planted there it will remain as long as 'wood grows and water runs.' Mr. — of Alabama, who desires to sell seed, to the contrary, notwithstanding, I am ready to sow 40

acres of it now, and shall sow 320 as fast as I can get it in, but few men in this state are educated to feed properly to make Johnson grass a basis for success."

We entirely agree with Mr. Dewey in so far as he says farmers should find out if they know the use of the grass before they decide to use it. Some don't want it because they can't get rid of it, and others do want it for the same reason. Johnson grass is pretty generally being tried in all sections of the country and it is not difficult for a man to see where it has been used, what it has done and its value, as feed for stock.

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