CHISPA, THE TORERA.

Morals are as surely a resultant of climate and location as the flora or fauna itself, and there is nothing more elastic. A single code may reach from the Atlantic to the Pacific, so what wonder if, at the end, it is somewhat attenuated.

This may have been the reason a certain young Bostonian's rigid code could not stand the strain of Chispa's charms, and yet—quien sabe? Pietro had no code at all, and neither could he withstand the lovely torera.

And Chispa herself, she loved her own sun-mocking eyes and wines-and-olives skin, and when the bull lay dead at her feet she received the ovation of applause that rained upon her with an almost childlike grace, much as the scarlet poppy receives the sun and showers from heaven as her own inalienable right and droops and dies without them.

But Chispa, withal, was a woman, so she loves some one else, too.

Oh, it is so sickening to read about it described in our Puritanical English adjectives, but go there yourself, get the smell of blood in your nostrils, the blaze of color in your eyes, the shouts and shrieks of the people and the blare of the band in your ears, feel the waves of exultation surge over you until they overwhelm you and sweep along with them, and you suddenly find you are a cousin german to Tullia or Kriemhilde.

The deep, bright blueness of the southern sky bends over its favored children as if it would banish from them every shadow of seriousness or care, and must be gratified by the gorgeous pageants they flash back in return. The Plaza di Toros is undoubtedly the most brilliant picture the all-beholding sun looks down upon in all his course. Being out of doors the effect is somewhat tempered by the atmosphere, and yet at the first glance the brain almost reels under the glare and glitter of color. Tier upon tier of colors—strong, crude, primary hues at that—stretch away from sol to sombre, purples and reds, blues, yellows and greens, that express, to the onlooker, something of the rudimentary nature of these people. The brilliant rebosas and gay serepas put Joseph's coat of many colors to shame, sparkling eyes and dazzling complexions, embroideries, spangles, flowers, buntings and flags, everything, in short, that is gay and attractive combines to make the scene intoxicating till the whole noisy, reckless, gorgeous concourse reminds you of nothing so much as a rainbow,

A SUDDEN RECKLESS IMPULSE SEIZED HER.

a sunset and a thunderstorm combined.

Two bulls had been killed already amid wild applause and wilder excitement, but as the matador was a man the keen edge of enthusiasm was held in abeyance till the lively Chispa should take the field. Fresh sand was sprinkled on the arena, flowers, bonbons and coins were showered over the erstwhile gory scene, and the smell of blood was soon mitigated by the heavy scents of the fans that fluttered through the air. And fair and fitting was it all for the little torera, the flowers, the music and the applause as she stood serenely in the center of the ring. The wide sun-mocking eyes wandered along the lower tiers until they met and clung so long to the horror-stricken eyes of the New Englander there was only an instant left to catch a reassuring dart from the faithful Pietro before the toro was led in. Amid a fanfare of trumpets, a moment of breathless suspense, then a tremendous crash of applause, the great black beast bounded into the ring. The capeadores and banderilleros stepping high in brocade and spangles, the mounted picadores stiff in tinsel embroideries, lined up and saluted the presiding officer of the day, but Chispa is the bright particular star, and as long as she can keep the field she may.

With a careless recognition of the eager multitude over her, she made a little mock courtesy to Senor Toro, and grasped her saber with the same calm assurance the Girton girl grasps her racquet. Even the great black beast could not be utterly insensible to the fair young creature who defied him, and at first seemed disposed to regard her insults as merely the indiscretion of her thoughtless youth. But the crowds grew eager for the combat, and the tiny silver ankles twinkled about as the little wisp of girl flirted her red capa in his face, menaced him, goaded him, thrust at him like some small fiend, until his dignity was quite outraged. Still the bull remained sullen; what could he do? The spirit of Spanish gallantry was in the air. The crowd had applauded itself hoarse, and now began to groan in the slowness of the game.

The torera grew reckless. With a shrug of her glistening shoulders she stepped to the center of the ring and challenged the populace, then marched straight up three steps, two steps within reach of the lowered horns and bloodshot eyes.

The crowds above her arise in a body and stamped and shrieked, and cried:

"Brava, brava, Chispa! Brava, little one! Stick him! Stick him!" While Pietro's voice was loudest of all—

"Finish him, Chispa! Finish him, now!" as he realized her danger.

"Oh, God!" groaned the Boston man's fair young soul within him as he made for an opening somewhere—anywhere.

One more step! The little brown hand deliberately poised her saber to make a fatal thrust, then at the sight of the Boston man's white face, a sudden reckless impulse seized her, and she turned and slashed the sign of a cross upon the glossy black forehead.

The crowds went dumb. Several toreros leaped the wall, Pietro at their head. The sand on the arena flew in clouds, as if a typhoon had struck it, the sound of a little stifled cry arose above the hoarse bellowing of the toro, and when the clouds of dust finally cleared away the little spangled figure did not rise. And after the now thoroughly infuriated beast was finally despatched by Pietro's hand, the damp curls, bound with the gay flowers, still lay in the dust, but the eyes were luminous and the breath came fast—

"Tell Pietro he almost saved me—it was my own fault. Tell him—good-by—and tell him it was him I loved all the time. I've always been true to him—and I'll never——"

The words came in gasps now, and the sun-mocking eyes were growing dim.

"And the senor from Boston—tell him—tell him the same."—San Francisco News-Letter.

REMARKABLE STORMS.

Disasters on Land and Sea Around New England.

An interesting review of great storms in New England has just been completed by A. E. Sweetland of the Blue Hill observatory and issued as a bulletin upon the great storm of last November and upon the cold wave of last February. The November storm was found to be the most disastrous in the records, in point of lives lost and property destroyed, at sea. Among the remarkable storms recorded may be mentioned the following: Nov. 17, 1798, a heavy snowstorm began, lasting three days; Sept. 23, 1815, a gale caused immense destruction on land and sea, the damage in Providence, R. I., alone having been estimated at $5,000,000. In December, 1839, three storms wrecked over 300 vessels on the New England coast. On Oct. 2, 1841, a storm did much harm to the fishing fleet, 57 persons being lost from the town of Truro, and many others along the Cape Cod coast. On Oct. 7, 1849, a bark went ashore on Minot's ledge and 143 persons were drowned; April 16, 1851, Minot's ledge light was carried away, and great damage was done along the coast. Jan. 17, 1867, a great snowstorm caused large loss of life around Boston, from people getting lost in the drifts. A depth of five feet was reported from Dorchester. There was a brief, but violent, storm Sept. 8, 1869, that damaged trees and houses around Boston. The "blizzard" of March 12, 1888, effectually tied up the railroads of New England for five days, causing much suffering and deprivation from people caught away from home in depots and stalled trains, that were all but inaccessible to help from the outside for three days. The storm of Jan. 31, 1898, shut out Boston from communication with the outside world for two days and impeded travel for five days, but caused no great loss of life. The storm of Nov. 27, 1898, wrecked 141 vessels along the New England coast, and 455 persons lost their lives, including 175 persons (estimated) from the Portland, which was lost with all on board. There was great destruction of property along the shore from the high tide acting with the gale, and a remarkable feature was the great fall of snow so early in the year. The graphical records of the storm centers, which form a large and the most valuable part of Mr. Sweetland's paper, show, aside from data on the direction, which affects speculation on the site of the Portland's destruction, a record of unusually long-sustained high velocities of wind. From noon after to midnight on the morning of the 27th till 3 p. m. the wind was never below 45 miles an hour, and from 4 a. m. to 1 p. m. it was over 50 miles an hour. It blew 55 miles an hour and over from 5 a. m. to 9 p. m.—Boston Journal.

Described in a Word.

The members of the Flemish Academy, of Anvers, recently determined to frame a word which would be readily intelligible to all who understand the language of Flanders and who have ever seen a horseless carriage, and the result was that after much deep thought they framed the following word: Snelpaardelooszonderspoorwegpetrolrijtuig. This euphonious word signifies "a carriage which is worked by means of petroleum, which travels fast, which has no horses and which is not run on rails." This is, from one point of view, a fine example of multum in parvo, but it may be questioned whether one extraordinarily long word is preferable to half a dozen short words. The Flemish people, however, think differently, and the academicians of Anvers have been highly complimented by them on their linguistic skill as seen in this unique word.

Petrolism in New York.

The time-worn vices of morphomania and alcoholism have been to some degree superseded by "petrolism," which is described by physicians who have treated patients for it as "a grim novelty, almost without parallel." The taste for petroleum, it is said, grows upon the tippler until it develops into an irresistible passion. Physicians who devote themselves to the various forms of dipsomania have not yet had an opportunity to study the full effects of petroleum, and their views as to its cure and future are somewhat divergent. But the consensus of opinion is that the victim of this new habit is sad and melancholy. The mineral oil does not temporarily stimulate and entourage like alcohol or morphine.

To Cook New Peas.

Cover fresh peas with cold water, season with salt and boil till tender. Drain off the water, add three or four little pats of butter, and let the butter melt through the peas. Put them in a vegetable dish and serve very hot. If the peas are not sweet enough sweeten them with a very little sugar.

PUTTING A ROOF ON A SAMOAN CHURCH WITH CRICKET BATS.

In Apia there is a record breaking cricket game in progress. It has been going on for two years, and the end is not yet in sight. Nor will it be until the mission church of the Rev. Neemia has a roof on it and a stained-glass window in it.

Neemia will not let the players stop. They are members of his flock and marvelously obedient. He is charging them a shilling every time they come to bat. With these shillings he proposes to complete the edifice his overconfidence led him to begin on the Beach road, opposite the wharf, five years ago.

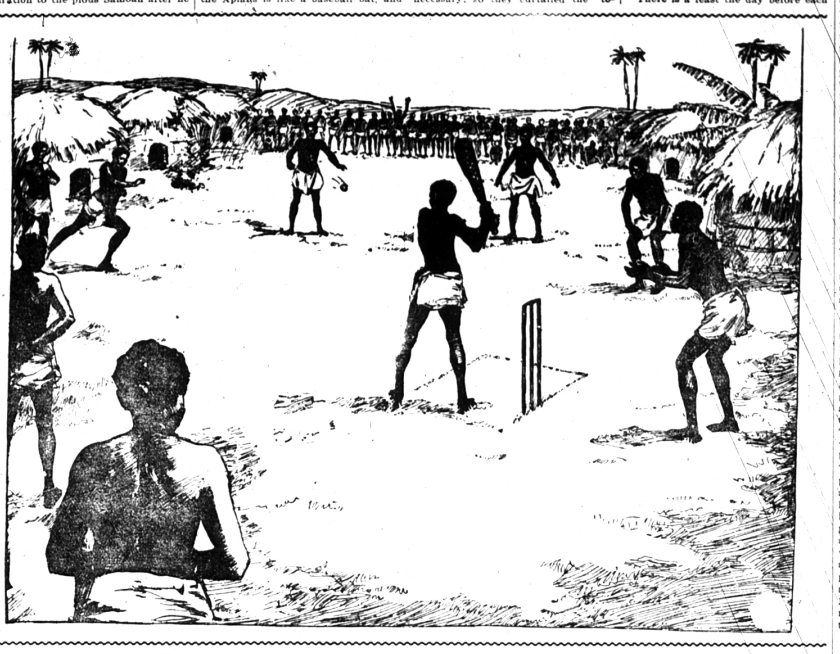
This idea of bowling and batting a roof onto his church came as an inspiration to the pious Samoan after he had exhausted all other expedients. He piled each cargo of globe trotters with subscription books until the captains of the vessels bringing tourists to the islands had threatened to exterminate every native that brought a list on board; and he had driven the foreign-born residents to a state of armed revolt, so that he could not expect another penny from their pockets. To say "church" to them means trouble right away.

It was this state of affairs that evolved the plan of playing kilikiki, as the Samoans call the noble game. Straightway Neemia set the ball a-bowling, and it has bowled regularly every Wednesday since. He has kept two male and two female teams in training constantly. Each member on coming up to bat has had to deposit a shilling piece in the church stocking, except on steamer days, when the assessment is two shillings. This extra charge is on the globe trotter's account. He may resist the subscription book, for the skipper has prepared him against that; but opportunity to drive out through a field of natives with the pudgy Apian bat which the islanders use instead of the regulation bat, is irresistible, and the roof fund grows accordingly. The bat used by the Apians is like a baseball bat, and for it. That any one should find cricket overheating had not entered the minds of the pioneers of the faith, and their failure at first dismayed them. But they got some Tonga nobles up from the south one season and used them as an object lesson. The joy these dusky men of birth exhibited by their performances impressed the Apians, and they gave the game a try. Not exactly as the English do it, however, for that demands more effort than Samoans believe is essential to a happy life. They toned their kilikiki down a little by eliminating non-essentials.

In the first place they said so much running back and forth was quite unnecessary; so they curtailed the to-and-froness. They did this according to a schedule which they worked out by arithmetic. The green they play on is in the midst of a lot of houses that interfere with long drives, and a ball seldom goes further than into a neighboring thatch. These thatches have fixed numerical values, the highest value being 7, which is the limit of runs allowed off any one ball. A high ball may go over and beyond a "seven" thatch, but the batter does not gain by this. The scorer credits him with seven, and he tries again. He does not have to run; it is much easier to take for granted what he might have done if he had run. Thus he saves much energy.

The native Samoan is frugal of energy, not because he has need to conserve it, but from instinct and intuition. His frugality is an innate attribute of his inheritance. If he hits a house nearer than the "seven" line he receives a credit proportionately less. Occasionally on short drives he gets over to the other wicket, but this is chiefly for a change of air, rather than for the joy of exercise. If he sends the ball up into a cocoanut tree and an opponent shakes it down and catches it, the batsman is out.

There is a feast the day before each play, and this means that kilikiki takes two days out of each church member's week. The majority of the players are in the employ of the foreign residents, and these foreigners are not at all enthusiastic over Neemia's scheme, for it upsets domestic economy every Tuesday and Wednesday. They could rid themselves of this vexation if they would buy a roof for the church and put in the stained-glass window, but they will not do these things, not even if they have to do their own housework and the game should continue till the crack of doom.



NEWEST WORD IN FLANDERS.

Euphonious Term by Which Horseless Carriage Is Known.

From the New York Herald: Some new words have necessarily been added to the English language since the introduction of the horseless carriage, and the vocabularies of other tongues have also naturally been similarly etched in all countries where such carriages have become popular. With few exceptions all these words are technical and their true significance is only understood by the electrician and the machinist. The members of the Flemish academy of Anvers recently determined to frame a word which would be readily intelligible to all who understood the language of Flanders and who had ever seen a horseless carriage, and the result was that after much deep thought they framed the following word: Snelpaardelooszonderspoorwegpetrolrijtuig. This euphonious word signifies "a carriage which is worked by means of petroleum, which travels fast, which has no horses and which is not run on rails." That is, from one point of view, a fine example of multum in parvo, but it may be questioned whether one extraordinarily long word is preferable to half a dozen short words. The Flemish people, however, think differently, and the academicians of Anvers have been highly complimented by them on their linguistic skill as seen in this unique word.

Sun Bonnets the Rage.

Sun bonnets of every description are seen in the shops and exchanges, and there is no doubt that they are to be the rage. The average outdoor girl must possess at least half a dozen of these creations. In the country they are indispensable. Sometimes she fashions them herself, but this is no small task, and requires time and taste and skill.

Nothing could be more becoming and picturesque than some of the lovely combinations of muslin, lace and ribbon which are already shown. They are in plain colors, or flowered in bright or pale colors, to suit every taste. Some are soft and drooping, and others are made on stiffened forms. They have strings, or they have not, but the strings, if there, are unlikely ever to be tied. It would seem to indicate that the summer girl intends to pay some regard to her complexion, and not go hatless in the sun, as she did last season.

Telephoning Around the World.

Thomas A. Edison is ready to build a telephone line around the world. "So far invention is concerned, the work is done. It is now a question of capital," said he in a recent interview. "I have had this scheme of a circumterrestrial telephone circuit under consideration since 1870. It involves a cable laid across the Atlantic from New York to Southampton, probably, and after passing under the English channel, a line via Paris, Berlin, Vienna and Constantinople to Calcutta, India. Thence it would follow the Chinese coast to Behring strait, where, crossing to Alaska, it would run southward to San Francisco, and thence back to New York."

Sensations and an Earthquake.

The sensation of an earthquake at sea is startling. The ship is shocked from stem to stern and the first impression is that she has struck a rock. On a railway train in motion the sensation is that the wheels have run over a fair-sized stone, for it is a severe jolt. In the lofty modern office building the affrighted tenant fancies the edifice is swaying to and fro over the periphery of about half a block, when in reality the oscillation is confined to a few inches, except in severe cases. The effect produced on the human system is never twice the same. The man who smiles at the shock today becomes terrified on some other occasion. He never knows beforehand how he is going to take it. Women are always more alarmed than men and many of them have a feeling of seasickness. I never yet saw a woman otherwise than frightened out of her wits during an earthquake, whereas in a disaster at sea some of them are not infrequently cooler than the sterner sex. But there is something about an earthquake especially demoralizing to women.—Lippincott's.

The Smallest Cemetery.

The smallest cemetery in the world—which only measures twenty-five and one-half by fourteen feet—is situated in the tweed manufacturing town of Galashiels, in Scotland. It has been long closed as a burial ground.

Guida's Writing Desk.

Guida does not use a table for writing her stories. She sits on a low stool, with an ink pot on the carpet, and writes on her knee.

The number of Egyptian pilgrims to Mecca this year is 1,914.

WERE OF THISTLEDOWN.

Handkerchiefs of the Light Fabric Presented to a Bride.

A girl who for nine years has worked in a certain Norristown mill was married last week, and from the carding, spinning, and weaving overseers, because she had worked so faithfully, she received a present as delicate and rare and beautiful as ever graced the nuptials of a princess. The men gave her three handkerchiefs, each of them so light that with a breath they could be blown to the ceiling, for they were woven of thistledown. This stuff is common on the Norristown meadows, and on the plant, or floating slowly through the air, it resembles a ball of cobweb brushed with powdered silver. The gathering of it is a task, and it is romantic to think of the three overseers, corpulent and gray, scurrying in the young girl's honor over the green fields after the floating balls on pleasant Sunday mornings. But to card, spin and weave thistledown—to wind it on bobbins and to make a warp of it—these were the real tasks, and there were months of failure and despair before they were achieved. Yet certainly the fabric is delicate enough to reward the men for all their trouble. A square yard of the beautiful, shimmering, silver-gray stuff could be crushed between the thumb and finger into a ball no bigger than a pea.—Philadelphia Record.

The Plague and Geology.

The Director of the Geological Survey of India says there is abundant evidence that the tenacity with which epidemics of the plague cling to particular localities, such as Bombay, is influenced by the geological formation of the underlying soil and rock. Areas where trap and crystalline rocks exist seem to be especially adapted to the spread of the disease. The agency of rats in disseminating the plague is also regarded as proved. After the granaries at Bombay have been emptied, in the grain export season, the plague immediately spreads, because then the rats are compelled to scatter through the town in search of food.

An Artist's Sharp Reply.

An art patron one day came into Turner's studio when the artist was already famous. He looked at a picture and asked what was the price. The artist named the sum he had set upon it. "What!" exclaimed the buyer, "all those golden sovereigns for so much paint?" "Oh," replied Turner, "it's paint you are buying? I thought it was pictures. Here," producing a half-used tube of color, "I'll let you have that cheap; make your own terms." And, turning his back on the astonished patron, he went on painting.

SPAIN'S START ON A NEW NAVY.

What is intended to be the nucleus of the new Spanish navy is the protected cruiser Rio de la Plata, which is nearly ready for her trial trip at the yards of the Societe des Forges et Chantiers de la Mediterranee in Havre. Fortunately for Spain, whose treasury is well nigh empty, the new warship will not cost her a penny. The money for her construction and armament, something over $1,000,000, represents the free-will offerings of patriotic Spaniards, chiefly in Buenos Ayres and Montevideo, and other contributors in various cities of France and Spain.

The Rio de la Plata is a steel-protected cruiser of the first class, having twin screws and a double hull. Her length on the water line is 235 feet. She has a beam of 33 feet and a depth of 22 feet. Her displacement is something less than 2,000 tons, and she is expected to develop, under forced draught, a speed of something over 18 knots an hour. Her horse power is 3,800. She has many water-tight compartments and a coal-carrying capacity sufficient for a considerable radius of action.

Her armament will consist of two 15-centimeter Hontoria guns mounted in turrets, and four 12-centimeter guns of the same make on her broadsides. She will be fitted also with a battery of modern rapid-fire guns and six 57-millimeter guns. She will have three torpedo tubes, divided between fore and aft. She will be commanded by Captain Don Jacobo MacMahon.

Planting and Replanting Corn.

A bulletin of the department of agriculture says: Owing to abnormal weather conditions, the presence of insect enemies, the failure of the seed, and other influences, it often becomes necessary to determine the planting of corn or to replant the crop. The question which presents itself under such conditions is how the date of planting affects the yield and maturity. Many of the experiment stations have carried on experiments for several years to determine the influence of the time of planting corn on the yield and maturity of the crop, which have thrown much light on this subject.

In experiments at the Indiana station it was found that the earliest planting (May 1) yielded the largest crop (41 bushels per acre), while the latest planting yielded about one-fourth less (31.7 bushels per acre). The time required for the crop to mature decreased as the time of planting was delayed. A delay of thirty or forty days in planting shortened the time required for the corn to mature from two to three weeks. At the Kansas station the average results of experiments in this line carried on for two years showed that corn planted in the beginning of May gave the best results, and at the Illinois station the average results of similar experiments were in favor of the plantings made from May 4 to 18, with tendencies slightly favoring the later dates. The experiments indicate, therefore, that under favorable conditions there is an advantage in early planting; but in view of the uncertainties of the weather, which is always a controlling factor in the growing of crops, these results must be applied with caution in practice.

As Tracy has pointed out, planting should not begin too early in the season. "Nothing is gained by putting seed into soil which is too cold or too wet to favor germination. It is better to defer the planting a week or ten days than to run the risk of losing it by decay or of having an imperfect stand by planting before the ground is sufficiently dry to work well and warm enough for immediate growth. Every missing plant means a decrease in the yield, and replanting the missing hills is seldom profitable. The replants are surrounded by plants which mature and shed their pollen before the younger silks are formed. The pollination is therefore very imperfect, and the ears on the replants are usually nubbins, which are scarcely worth gathering. When the missing plants amount to from 10 to 20 per cent of the whole, replanting with some earlier maturing variety which will produce its tassels and silks at about the same time as the original planting is often profitable, but will not pay when the misses are less than 10 per cent. When the misses are more than 20 per cent it will pay better to make an entire new planting."

The Treatment of Hogs in England.

In England the brood sows are usually given plenty of run on grass in good weather; they have very little to be called severe, so that practically the brood sows run out most of the time. This exercise and freedom give them a very healthy, thrifty appearance, and as a rule you find them right up on their toes, strong on their legs and regular breeders of two litters per year, says a contributor to Swineherd. The stock boars there are as a rule kept in thinner condition than they are in this country, and thinner than their brood sows. Usually after a boar has been shown one season—or seldom more than two seasons—he is reduced down thin and turned in with sows especially selected as being suitable to breed to him. After those sows are bred he is put in a pen (or what they call a sty), and kept on a low ration, so as to not increase his flesh. They seem to depend more on "active condition" in their boars than they do in "breeding boxes" (as we do here with our heavy boars)—hence the necessity of keeping the boar as thin as possible, so he may not be encumbered with flesh in his duties at the head of the breeding herd. And while speaking of this way of using their herd boars, we would also say we admire one feature of their breeding there, and that is when they have a boar which has proved a good one and a producer of winners, they keep him, instead of changing sires every year, as so many do in this country.

The Apple Scab Fungus.

The greatest curse to the apple-growing sections of Illinois is the apple scab fungus, and the department of horticulture of the Agriculture Experiment Station of the University of Illinois is in receipt of hundreds of letters which show that the apple growers realize this fact, and that information which will enable them to combat it successfully is desired. For this purpose the department has in press bulletin No. 54 entitled "Spraying Apples, with Special Reference to Apple Scab Fungus." This bulletin contains twenty-five illustrations and gives the results of careful experiments and observations in combating this disease. It also contains information in regard to machinery used for spraying purposes. This bulletin should certainly be in the hands of every grower of apples in the state, and those who do not receive our bulletins regularly should send a request addressed Agricultural Experiment Station, Urbana, Ill., for a copy.

The Profitable Feeder.—The characteristics that make the profitable feeder are naturally more difficult to detect in animals in stock condition than when fattened, but notwithstanding this there are a number of indications that are fairly reliable. Though the young steer may be comparatively thin in flesh and temporarily lacking the thick, even covering of the back and ribs so essential in the finished carcass, he must nevertheless present that blocky frame and stoutness of build, accompanied by short, straight legs, wide back and loin, well-sprung ribs, fullness back of shoulders and in flanks, prominent brisket, full neck vein, wide chest, roundness of rump, well, together with a good, soft, mellow handling skin and fine, silky hair, giving what is termed the thick, mossy coat, without coarseness, and with it all a good, strong, vigorous head, clear, full eye, and quiet temperament. The importance of an even covering of flesh and good handling quality can hardly be overestimated.—Prof. C. F. Curtiss.