

The facts which I have cited, surely, are sufficient answer to those who maintain that the flesh of pigs rendered unconscious by the humane killer before the throat is cut is "splashed" and cannot be used for the purpose of being "cured" and converted into hams or bacon.

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THE WEINBERG CATTLE-CASTING PEN FOR  
JEWISH SLAUGHTERING.

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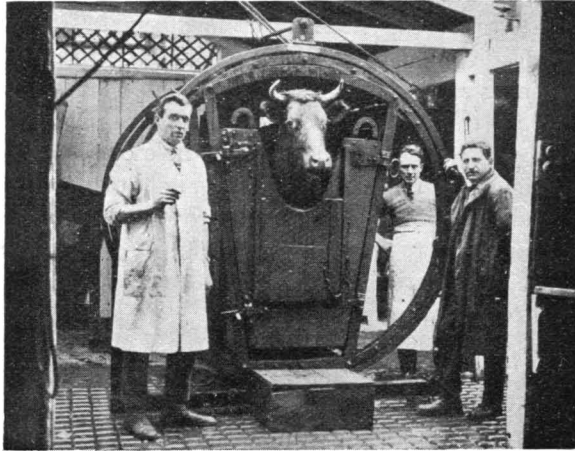
ON several occasions demonstrations, to which veterinary surgeons have been invited, have been given of the working of the Weinberg Casting Pen which has been devised by Mr. J. W. Weinberg (an orthodox Jew, and a tailor by trade), to do away with the reproach which is attached to the present method of casting and securing cattle before being slaughtered for food by the Jewish method.

For thousands of years the Jews have preserved their ancient method of slaughtering. The Shechita Board claim that their form of killing is humane, but the casting, i.e., getting the animal into the correct position for its throat to be cut, is not free from criticism.

The general public may not be aware that at Islington Abattoir over 80 per cent. of the slaughtering is performed by the Jewish method, and that the joint the average Christian Londoner has on his table has probably been procured from an animal killed in this way. The method of casting is usually one of two which are in common use. The bullock may be dragged into the slaughterhouse and have its legs hobbled and fastened to a wall, being then pushed over on to its side—dropping often very heavily either on to the hard floor or (the idea of Capt. Hayhurst, M.R.C.V.S.) on to a mattress. By the second method, which is adopted at Birkenhead, the animal is pulled off its feet by means of a chain placed around one hind leg, falling more or less heavily broadside on to the floor. A loop or noose (usually of chain or rope) is put around the lower jaw, and by the aid of a wooden pole or an iron crowbar, the head is forced into position with the neck extended taut and ready for the application of the knife of the Jewish "cutter" or Shochet. The "Shochet" is a Jewish Rabbi properly trained for the work, with a certain amount of knowledge of the anatomy of the throat region, and is very skilful in the use of his knife. When used skilfully the period before the arteries of the brain are emptied and unconsciousness supervenes is only a matter of a few seconds, and it is not here that the cruelty is complained of. It is the method of casting and securing, and the fright which this causes, which needs reform.

The Weinberg machine does away with all this.

The pen consists of a strong covered stall, amply padded inside, large enough for beasts of any size, but easily adjusted so as to accommodate large or small ones. The pen revolves within two large iron

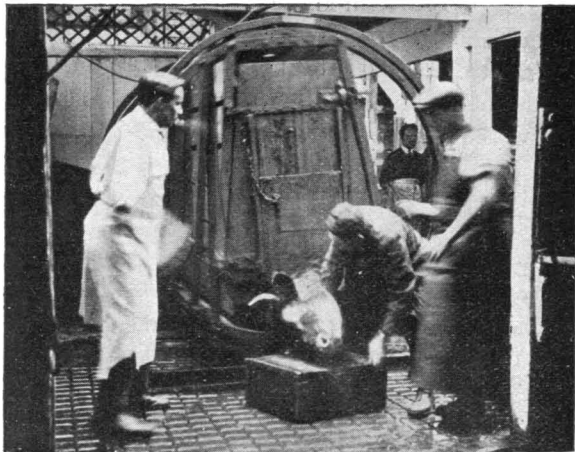


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Animal in normal position after entering Pen.

rings, one at each end of the stall, and by operating a lever is made to turn half a revolution, so that the animal is laid quickly and gently



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Animal after being cast in position for "cut" to be made.

on its back, resting on the well-padded top of the pen. No pain attends the process, and the animal hardly has time to realise what is happening before the vessels of the throat are severed. Its head gets

The accompanying illustrations were supplied by Mr. J. W. Weinberg, the inventor of the Casting Pen.

into the right position for the cut automatically, resting on a low platform, whilst an attendant steadies the head with his hands.

One of the demonstrations of the working of the pen, which was reported in *The Times*, took place on March 23rd, and was attended by representatives of the R.S.P.C.A., members of the veterinary profession and of the Jewish faith, the Secretary of the Council of Justice to Animals and others. Two beasts were guided into the pen and brought into the required position for the cut, which was then administered by a Jewish Shochet. The whole operation of turning the animal on its back in the pen and cutting its throat took 20 seconds in one case and 23 seconds in the other. At the time the operation started, the animals were standing quietly in the pen. At a previous demonstration in the presence of a number of Veterinarians and Students, quicker times were recorded.

In the case of perfectly quiet animals the use of the pen reduces the time taken in casting and getting the animal into position for the cut by more than half as compared with the quickest of the existing methods, and by very much more than half as compared with other existing methods; whilst it abolishes the pain attending any of them. But the outstanding merit of the pen is that vigorous and restless animals which under existing methods might have to undergo long minutes of suffering and terror, often attended by severe injuries, are by its use cast and brought into the required position for the cut with the same rapidity and freedom from pain as the quiet ones. Even the greatest of the cruelties of any of the present methods of casting would thus be brought to an end by the adoption of the mechanically working pen.

#### THE BACON INDUSTRY AND "MECHANICAL" SLAUGHTERING.

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In this article I desire to confine my remarks as far as possible to the slaughter of bacon pigs, i.e., pigs whose flesh is used for curing purposes.

British bacon is recognised as the best on the world's markets. It is closely followed by the Danish, Swedish and Canadian product. The current retail price of bacon is a good indicator of the quality, and a perusal of current prices will confirm my statement regarding the position occupied by British bacon on the markets.

Holland produces a little bacon, but most Dutch pigs are killed and their flesh sold as fresh pork. What little Dutch bacon there is produced is sold as "cheap bacon," and does not compare with the