

should not be disagreeable, for diseased meat has a sickly cadaverous smell, and sometimes a smell of physic. This is very discoverable when the meat is chopped up and drenched with warm water.

5. It should not run to water or become very wet on standing, but should, on the contrary, dry upon the surface (Dr. Letheby).

Specimens of diseased meat, for production in Court in any legal proceedings, may be preserved in spirits, placed in a wide-necked bottle.

The weight of animals in a normal state of health should be, as follows:—

An ox should weigh not less than 600 lb., and will range from this to 1200 lb.

A cow may weigh a few pounds less; a good fat cow will weigh from 700 to 740 lb.

A heifer should weigh 350 to 400 lb.

A full grown sheep will weigh from 60 to 90 lb. but the difference in different breeds is very great.

A full grown pig weighs from 100 to 180 lb. or more.

The soundness of fish may be noticed by the smell, and if lifted, fresh fish would be firm and stiff. Any drooping of the tail when the fish is held in an horizontal position may be taken to indicate that the fish is not fresh.

*Dr. Vacher gives the following useful table to show when fish is in season:—*

FISH.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Brill	—	—	in	in	in	in	in	in	in	in	in	—
Cod	in	in	in	—	—	—	—	—	—	in	in	in
Eels	in	in	in	—	—	in	in	in	in	in	in	in
Flounder	—	—	—	—	—	—	in	in	in	in	in	—
Hake	—	—	—	in	in	in	in	in	in	in	in	in
Haddock	in	in	—	—	—	—	—	in	in	in	in	in
Halibut	—	—	in	in	in	in	—	—	—	—	—	—
Herring	—	—	—	—	—	—	in	in	in	in	—	—
Mackerel	in	in	in	in	in	in	in	—	—	in	in	in
Plaice	—	—	—	—	in	in	in	in	in	in	in	in
Salmon	—	—	in	in	in	in	in	in	—	—	—	—
Skate	in	in	in	in	—	—	—	in	in	in	in	in
Smelt	in	in	in	in	in	—	—	—	in	in	in	in
Sprats	in	in	in	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	in	in
Sole	in	—	—	in	in	in	in	in	in	in	in	in
Turbot	in	in	—	—	in	in	in	in	in	in	in	in
Whitebait	—	—	—	in	in	in	in	in	—	—	—	—
Whiting	in	in	in	—	—	—	—	—	in	in	in	in

## SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

THE duties attending the inspection of slaughter houses are very onerous, especially if they are private slaughter houses, as owing to the distance of such premises one from the other, supervision in the matter of meat in-

spection becomes next to impossible, even upon days set apart for slaughtering, but still more so at night, when it is possible, as I have reason to know, for suspicious animals to be run into such places under cover of darkness, slaughtered, dressed, and possibly cut up into joints, and removed to the butcher's shop, before the inspector hears of such acts, or has a personal opportunity of visiting the slaughter house, and thus the meat of animals which have suffered from an acute disease is often sold without the slightest protection to the public.

It is highly necessary that the local authorities should, as occasions present themselves, use the powers which they possess to refuse the granting or renewing of licenses to "private" slaughter houses, but rather, as these things must be, it would be to the interest of the public health that they should establish one or more public slaughter houses, giving every facility to butchers to slaughter cattle upon suitable premises, and in convenient situations.

These establishments would afford ample means for inspecting the animals brought to be slaughtered, and the meat before removal for sale, and it would put a stop to the vendors of *slink* meat, who depend chiefly upon butchers in possession of private slaughter houses for facilities to slaughter.

Dr. Harris Medical Officer of Health for the Metropolitan Borough of Islington has summarised his views upon the question of public slaughter houses, as follows:—

#### I.—HYGIENIC REASONS.

- (a) The erection of such buildings would remove nuisances from the neighbourhood of dwelling-houses.

- (b) Putrifiable matter would be excluded from the sewers.  
 (c) Meat would be protected from liability to exposure from foul emanations.  
 (d) Thorough examination of all meat for disease would be ensured.  
 (e) The traffic in diseased meat would be materially limited.

#### II.—ECONOMIC REASONS.

- (a) Less liability of the meat to spoil because slaughtered under better conditions.  
 (b) More blood and offal would be saved.  
 (c) There would be a saving from order, the proper division of labour, avoidance of driving animals through the streets, and the doing of business on a large scale.  
 (d) Abattoirs properly managed yield a fair profit.

#### III.—HUMANITARIAN REASONS.

- (a) Much of the cruelty to animals that now occurs would be put an end to, owing to the use of improved appliances for slaughtering.  
 (b) The driving of weary and exhausted cattle through our streets would be avoided owing to the abattoirs being situated near railway stations.  
 (c) The street danger to the public would be greatly lessened.

The following interpretation of terms, as to slaughter houses, cattle, &c., will be useful:—

The expression "slaughterer of cattle or horses" means a person whose business it is to kill any description of cattle, or horses, asses or mules, for the purpose of the flesh being used as butcher's meat; and the expression "slaughter house" means any building or place used for the purpose of such business.

The expression "knacker" means a person whose business it is to kill any horse, ass, mule, or cattle which is not killed for the purpose of the flesh being used as butcher's meat; and the expression "knacker's yard" means any building or place used for the purpose of such business.

This is the same definition as that given in Section 6, Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897.

The expression "cattle" includes sheep, goats, and swine.

"Slaughter house" includes the buildings and places commonly called slaughter houses and knacker's yards, and any building or place used for slaughtering cattle, horses, or animals of any description for sale.

It is enacted by Section 169 of the Public Health Act, 1875, that to enable *urban* authorities to regulate slaughter houses within their district, the provisions of the Towns Improvement Clauses Act, 1847, in respect to slaughter houses, shall be incorporated with this Act.

The incorporated provisions are as follows:—

SECTION 128.—The Commissioners (Urban Sanitary Authority) shall, from time to time, by bye-laws . . . . . make regulations for licensing, registering and inspection of slaughter houses . . . . . for preventing cruelty therein, and for keeping the same in cleanly and proper state, and for removing filth once in every twenty-four hours, and requiring them to be provided with a sufficient supply of water, and the imposition of penalties not exceeding £5 for breaking the bye-laws, and for a continuing offence the sum of ten shillings for every day the nuisance is continued after "conviction for the first offence."

SECTION 129.—Provides that the justices before whom any person is CONVICTED of killing or dressing any cattle contrary to the provisions of this or the special Act (Public Health Act, 1875) or of non-observance of any bye-laws or regulations in this or the special Act, in addition to any penalty imposed, may suspend the license for any period not exceeding two months, and may forbid for that period the slaughtering of cattle therein, and upon a second or subsequent like offence may revoke the license, and forbid absolutely the slaughtering of cattle upon these "premises."

SECTION 130.—Every person who slaughters or allows the same to be used as a slaughter house during the suspension of a license, is liable to a penalty of £5 for every day during which the offence continues.

The Local Government Board has advised the Sanitary Authorities, before the license for a slaughter house is granted, that the following rules as to site and

structure should influence their decision upon each application for a license:—

1. The premises to be erected or to be used and occupied as a slaughter house, should not be within 100 feet of any dwelling house, and the site should be such as to admit of free ventilation by direct communication with the external air on two sides at least of the slaughter house.

2. Lairs for cattle in connection with the slaughter houses, should not be within 100 feet of a dwelling house.

3. The slaughter house should not in any part be below the surface of the adjoining ground.

4. The approach to the slaughter house should not be on an incline of more than 1 in 4, and should not be through any dwelling house or shop.

5. No room or loft should be constructed over the slaughter house.

6. The slaughter house should be provided with an adequate tank or other proper receptacle for water, so placed that the bottom shall not be less than six feet above the level of the floor of the slaughter house.

7. The slaughter house should be provided with means of thorough ventilation.

8. The slaughter house should be well paved with asphalt or concrete, and laid with proper slope and channel towards a gully, which should be properly trapped and covered with a grating, the bars of which should not be more than three-eighths of an inch apart. Provision for the effectual drainage of the slaughter house should also be made.

9. The surface of the walls in the interior of the slaughter house should be covered with hard, smooth, impervious material to a sufficient height.

10. No water-closet, privy, or cesspool should be constructed within the slaughter house.

There should be no direct communication between the slaughter house and any stable, water-closet, privy, or cesspool.

11. Every lair for cattle in connection with the slaughter house should be properly paved, drained and ventilated.

No habitable room should be constructed over any lair.

The undermentioned provisions apply to slaughter houses:—

“The owner or occupier of any slaughter house licensed or registered under this Act shall, within one month after the licensing or registration of the premises, affix, and shall keep undefaced and legible on some conspicuous place on the premises, a notice with the words ‘Licensed Slaughter House,’ or ‘Registered Slaughter House,’ as the case may be.

“Any person who makes default in this respect, or who neglects or refuses to affix or renew such notice after requisition in writing from the urban authority, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding five pounds for every such offence, and of ten shillings for every day during which such offence continues after conviction.” (Public Health Act, 1875, Sect. 179).

Licenses granted after the adoption of this part of this Act for the use and occupation of places as slaughter houses shall be in force for such time or times only, not being less than twelve months, as the urban authority shall think fit to specify in such licenses.

Upon any change of occupation of any building within an urban sanitary district registered or licensed for use and used as a slaughter house, the person thereupon becoming the occupier or joint occupier shall give notice in writing of the change of occupation to the Inspector of Nuisances.

A person who fails or neglects to give such notice within one month after the change of occupation occurs shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding five pounds.

Notice of this enactment shall be endorsed on all licenses granted after the adoption of this part of this Act.

If the occupier of any building licensed as aforesaid to be used as

a slaughter house for the killing of animals intended as human food is convicted by a court of summary jurisdiction of selling, or exposing for sale, or for having in his possession, or on his premises, the carcass of any animal, or any piece of meat or flesh diseased or unsound, or unwholesome or unfit for the use of man as food, the court may revoke the license. (Public Health Act (Amendment) Act, 1890, Sect. 29-31).

In the Metropolis and Scotland application for the granting or renewing of licenses to slaughter cattle, must be made annually (see Section 20, Public Health (London) Act, 1891, and Section 33, Sub-Sections 2 and 3, Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897); in London the applicant must give at least 14 days' notice to the Sanitary Authority in whose district the premises are situated, and in Scotland 21 days' notice must be given. A Sanitary Authority in London may show cause against the granting or renewing of any such license, but if it is intended to oppose the renewal or granting of any license, notice of such intention must be given to the applicant. Any slaughter house which ceases to be used as such for a period of nine months, in the Metropolis, the County Council have the power, under the bye-laws, to revoke the license. Under the London Government Act, 1899, Section 6, Sub-Section 4, the Sanitary Authorities in the Metropolis have had transferred to them the duty of enforcing the bye-laws and regulations with respect to slaughter houses.

#### FORM OF APPLICATION FOR A LICENSE TO ERECT PREMISES FOR USE AND OCCUPATION AS A SLAUGHTER HOUSE.

To the Sanitary Authority for the Borough of

I,

Of

do hereby apply to you for a license, in pursuance of the statutory

provisions in that behalf, for the erection of certain premises to be used and occupied as a slaughter house; and I do hereby declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief the schedule hereunto annexed contains a true statement of the several particulars therein set forth with respect to the said premises.

#### SCHEDULE.

1. Boundaries, area, and description of the proposed site of the premises to be erected for use and occupation as a slaughter house.

2. Description of the premises to be erected on such site:

(a). Nature, position, form, superficial area and cubical contents of the several buildings therein comprised.

(b). Extent of paved area in such buildings, and materials to be employed in the paving of such area.

(c). Mode of construction of the internal surface of the walls of such buildings, and materials to be employed in such construction.

(d). Means of water supply—position, form, materials, mode of construction and capacity of the several cisterns, tanks, or other receptacles for water to be constructed for permanent use in or upon the premises.

(e). Means of drainage—position, size, materials, and mode of construction of the several drains.

(f). Means of lighting and ventilation.

(g). Means of access for cattle from the nearest street or public thoroughfare.

(h). Number, position, and dimensions of the several stalls, pens, or lairs to be provided on the premises.

(i). Number of animals for which accommodation will be provided in such stalls, pens, or lairs, distinguishing:—

1. Oxen.
2. Calves.
3. Sheep or lambs.
4. Swine.

Witness my hand this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_\_\_  
*(Signature of Applicant).*  
*(Address of Applicant).*

#### FORM OF APPLICATION FOR A LICENSE FOR THE USE AND OCCUPATION OF PREMISES AS A SLAUGHTER HOUSE.

To the Sanitary Authority for the Borough of \_\_\_\_\_  
 in the County of \_\_\_\_\_

I,

of \_\_\_\_\_

do hereby apply to you for a license, in pursuance of the statutory provisions in that behalf, for the use and occupation as a slaughter house of the premises hereinafter described; and I do hereby declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief the Schedule hereunto annexed contains a true statement of the several particulars therein set forth with respect to the said premises.

#### SCHEDULE.

1. Situation and boundaries of the premises to be used and occupied as a slaughter house.

2. Christian name, surname, and address of the owner of the premises.

3. Nature and conditions of applicant's tenure of the premises:

(a). For what term; and whether by lease or otherwise.

(b). Whether applicant is sole owner, lessee, or tenant; or whether applicant is jointly interested with any other person or persons, and if so, with whom.

4. Description of the premises;

(a). Nature, position, form, superficial area, and cubical contents of the several buildings therein comprised.

(b). Extent of paved area in such buildings, and materials employed in the paving of such area.

(c). Mode of construction of the internal surface of the walls of such buildings and materials employed in such construction.

(d). Means of water supply—position, form, materials, mode of construction, and capacity of the several cisterns, tanks, or receptacles for water, constructed for permanent use in or upon the premises.

(e). Means of drainage—position, size, materials, and mode of construction of the several drains.

(f). Means of lighting and ventilation.

(g). Means of access for cattle from the nearest street or public thoroughfare.

(h). Number, position, and dimensions of the several stalls, pens, or lairs provided on the premises.

(i). Number of animals for which accommodation will be provided in such stalls, pens, or lairs, distinguishing:—

1. Oxen.
2. Calves.
3. Sheep or lambs.
4. Swine.

Witness my hand this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_\_\_  
 (Signature of Applicant).  
 (Address of Applicant).

FORM OF REGISTER OF SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Borough of _____							
Folio _____							
Date of registration.	Date of license.	No. of license.	Christian name, surname, and address of owner or proprietor of slaughter-house.	Christian name, surname, and address of occupier of slaughter-house.	Situation of slaughter-house.	Number of animals for which accommodation is provided on the premises.	

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES AND HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS.

THE inspection of common lodging-houses and houses let as lodgings forms a very disagreeable part of the Sanitary Inspector's duties. In the Metropolis the inspection of common lodging-houses is delegated to the County Council, and they have a special staff of inspectors appointed for this work. The supervision and inspection of houses let in lodgings is maintained