The Slaughtering of Animals for Human Food.

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(SUMMARY.)

THE methods of slaughter of food animals have for their object the draining of the carcase as completely as possible of its blood content.

They may be divided into three main groups.

1. Simple bleeding : Thoracic or cervical.
2. Bleeding with mutilation of the medulla (pithing).
3. Bleeding after previous stunning.

For humanitarian reasons all animals should be stunned previous to bleeding.

Stunning may be caused by a blow on the head or by penetration of the skull and injury to the brain.

Various instruments advocated include hammer, club, poleaxe, striking bolts, shooting bolts, and bullet firing appliances.

In all methods involving destruction or injury to the medulla there is danger of defective bleeding.

In the use of bullet-firing appliances there is a certain amount of danger.

Apart from the actual method of slaughter, the conditions associated with slaughterhouses generally may cause unnecessary suffering.

Animals should be stunned in special pens distinct from the bleeding and dressing room.

Slaughtermen should be licensed by the Local Authority.