

thinks they possess. There is a mystery about them that works on his imagination, and he thinks by putting a teaspoonful of some mysterious drug into his horse's food his coat will shine and save him the sweat and elbow-grease so essential to stimulate the glands of the skin and which bring a brightness and gloss to the hair which nothing else can impart.

N. W. Farmer.

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SHOW.

This year the "Royal," as we usually term this great annual fixture, is being held at Darlington, the famous Quaker town on the borders of Durham and Yorkshire, where it has been given a splendid welcome. This town competed strongly with Newcastle for the show in 1887, but was then defeated by the larger claims of the northern capital. But now its turn has come, and nothing can be more delightful than the weather and surroundings, a fine stretch of land overlooking the Tees Valley, and nicely wooded, being placed at the disposal of the society by a member of the celebrated Pease family, who are the magnates of this district. The weather has been up to the time of writing marvelous, brilliant to an extreme but tempered by a pleasant wind. Some of your readers who visited one of the former "Royals," when leaden skies and pouring rain made everything and body miserable, and led them to ask if there ever was sunshine in England, should see it now. To enhance the pleasure of Teesdale people, to-day the Shahzada (of Afghanistan) has been a diligent observer of the show, and to-morrow we are to have the Duke and Duchess of York. But for the crowds of people who have been there, and are expected to come, excellent arrangements have been made. Darlington is one of the chief stations between London and Edinburgh by the east coast route, and the two great companies concerned, the Great Northern and North Eastern, deserve a word of praise for their dealing with this plethora of traffic. The total number of entries is as follows:

Horses.....	650	Sheep.....	505
Cattle.....	518	Poultry.....	769

There are no pigs, in consequence of the prevalence of swine fever in the country.

In cattle, as might be expected on Tees side, Short Horns command primary attention and there appear signs of a rise in interest and prices, due to causes which need not here be explained. It would be fitting if the present show heralded a revival in the breed. The total entries were 124, largest in the show. Lord Polworth's Nonsuch is a grand shaped animal, with splendid movement, and he wins well in the aged bull class, taking also the Short Horn Society's championship. He is largely of Booth blood. There are no fewer than 17 2 year old bulls, the son of a well-known sire, Mr. Geo. Harrison's Champion Cup, by the famous Challenge Cup, bred by Mr. Deane Willis, revering on Mr W. Atkinson's Major Munro, which is only third this time. There are 19 young bulls, and here the victor is seen in Mr. Willis' Count Victor, an attractive level bull, which quite bears out the promise he made a year ago, and he fairly may claim to be only beaten by Nonsuch aforesaid in the show yard. In aged cows, Mr. Geo. Harrison's Warfare wins, and thus adds another to her many victories. She has great substance and is well built. In the heifer (in calf or milk)

class, the female champion is found in Mr. Deane Willis' Miranda, emphasizing her previous triumphs this season. She is by Count Lavender, and is of beautiful type. Out of 16 2 year-old heifer calves the queen secures first with a red, Frederick, by Volunteer, handsome and nicely built. No fewer than 25 heifer calves are present, and here again, Mr J. Deane Willis shows the quality of his herd by taking first with Seraph, victor at Bournemouth a fortnight ago. She is a pleasing red by Roan Robin.

In Herefords there are 50 entries, a remarkably good display for so far north, but there is considerable variation of opinion as to some of the awards. In aged bulls, Mr. Arkwright's Happy Hampton wins, and this is not far wrong, he is a good 4 year old by Hilarity. Two year-old bulls are a nice, though not a striking lot. The victor is Liberty, by Albion, bred and exhibited by A. E. Hughes, who, it is reported, has sold him at a long price to South America, where his good qualities ought to tell. Albion's blood is also to the fore in yearling bulls, wherein Mr. Hughes wins with Ladas, a neat, well-fleshed specimen. In cows and heifers, Mr. Thos. Penn's Downton Heir-ess wins, but some good judges prefer the second, Mr. A. P. Mener's Gwendoline, which has won at some of the previous shows.

Devons are few, but fairly representative. Pretty Middling 2d maintains his great reputation in aged bulls for Sir W. H. Williams, Bt., and deservedly so, the same blood being at head of affairs in young heifers, with May, a sweet 2 year old. In bull calves, Mr. J. C. Williams, M. P., wins with Afterthought, another son of the great sire, whose supremacy is thus unquestioned. Sussex make a good display, but call for no mention, and the same is true of Welsh and Red Polls—the prizes falling to those exhibitors who seem usually to absorb them.

Aberdeen-Angus are very good indeed, for there are many admirers thereof in the North. Sixty entries are made in all, representing most of the best herds and blood. Aged bulls finds Mr. G. S. Grant winning with Equestrian, a son of the well-known Prince Inca, and this exhibitor is equally successful in the older cow class with Legend, a daughter of Rover, both well selected "doddies." The Dowager Countess of Seafield wins in 2 year old bulls with Bernadotte, a promising, level bodied fellow. That well-known feeder, Mr. Clement Stephenson, shows that he can breed as well as feed, for he wins in yearling bulls with Light Heart, by Cerberus, and in yearling heifers with Gipsy of Benton, by Albion, two excellent youngsters, shown in grand form. In 3 year-old heifers, which are a good level lot, Mr W. Nunnio takes first with Rose of Benton, a daughter of Albion, and bred by Mr. Stephenson. The Marquis of Huntly carries another prize to the north by winning in 2 year-old heifers with Waitress of Aboyne. (1) It is generally conceded that the display of Galloways is the best that has been seen for some time, certainly on this side the border, but the winners are generally well known specimens, who have often carried off awards before. There are 47 entries in all. The Duke of Buccleugh is chief winner, but his flag is lowered in yearling bull calves, where he is beaten by Mr W. P. Moore by Nonpareil of Castlemilk, defeating the well known Emperor of India; yet the award is very generally approved. Highlands are few, and Ayrshires good, but the latter I cannot speak of.

(1) Lord Huntly's eldest son's title.—Ed.

Jerseys make a grand display with 91 entries, and the competition is very keen indeed. In a fine class of old bulls considerable difficulty was experienced in deciding between two animals of great merit, namely, Mr. James Blyth's 3 year old Victoria's Pink, a handsome dark gray, and Mr. R. J. Pope's Devotion's Lad, and when taken together there was very little difference. Eventually color decided the day, and the last named was placed first, thus reversing some previous awards. This class was exceptionally strong in old winners. The yearling bull class was by no means easy, 22 animals presenting themselves, and they took some sorting out. Mr. R. J. Pope wins here again, with Prince of Beresford, by Gamsbo Lad, a very pretty whole colored specimen. Jersey cows in milk (old) is another big class, and the first prize is Lord Rothschild's (1), Oxford Dahlia, a handsome fawn cow, now 8 years old, by Sultan Cicero, and a frequent winner. Behind her was a good lot. Two year-old heifers had 17 entries, and here the same exhibitor is victorious with Regina's Sultan 2d, a Mulberry by Orme, and a grand animal with splendid milking qualities. She has already won firsts at Taunton and Bournemouth this year. In yearling heifers Mr. James Blyth carries victory to the Stanstead herd with Snowflake, by Distinction's Pride, out of Snowflake, and beats the winner (Lord Rothschild's Oxford Daffodil) at the two shows just named.

The four classes of Guernseys are fairly well filled with good specimens of the breed. In aged bulls first goes to Sir H. D. Tichborne for Guess, a red and white 3 year-old, by Fearless Yearlings were few in number, and the same exhibitor wins, this time with Active Lad, a white. Cow or heifer found Mr. C. Middleton first, with Flakes II, a handsome fawn and white. In younger heifers Sir F. A. Monto fiore, who meets with less than his usual success, is first with Daisy of Worth, late Daisy 4611, a pale red and white, and excellent throughout. Keries are not numerous, but good in quality, and the best known breeders are as usual to the fore.

In sheep, of which my notice must be very brief indeed, Leicesters are better than usual at the Royal though the Yorkshire type of this breed fares badly. Mr. Hutchinson of Catterick, is the chief winner. Cotswolds are not a large show. Lincolns are very excellent in quality though they have been more numerous on other occasions. Mr. Dadding of Riby Grove, has a lion's share of the prizes. The comparatively little known Wensleydale sheep are almost on their native heath, and form an excellent collection of 47. In fact it is conceded to be one of the best displays ever made. Oxford downs are a fairly good display, whilst Shropshires are numerous and good, no fewer than 31 shearling rams being presented, with others in proportion, the total entries being 93. Southdowns make a good display, and here Mr. J. J. Colman, M. P., and Mr. E. Eldis are chief winners and deserve their position. Hampshire Downs are a nice lot.

My notes on the horses and other features of this fine show must come by the next mail.

S. B.

Darlington, June 25

(Cult. C. Gentleman.)

THE WALDROND RANCH.

Mr. Duncan McEachran, M. R. C. V. S., is now visiting the Waldrond ranch of which he is manager. The English shareholders have determined to quit

(1) Rothschild—Red shield.—Ed.

the business, and the affairs of the company will be wound up as quickly as possible. The company, will have, this year, an income of \$90,000, which is a good percentage on a capital of \$350,000, and it seems regrettable that when the ranching business has such a particularly good prospect, they should have decided to roll out, the returns for the year past not having been what was expected. With 2,000 steers ready for the market, and with every prospect of the number increasing yearly from now on, with a calf crop unprecedented for numbers; and with a horse trade only just finding its legs, it would seem that now is the very time they should "stay with it." The cattle will be counted this spring, and next spring the Waldrond brand will frizzle the calves' hides for the last time. Horse breeding has been discontinued already. Mr. McEachran expects it will take about four years to wind the business up.—MacLeod Gazette.

The Poultry-Yard.

SHAPING AND MARKETING POULTRY.

How it is Done in La Bresse.

The food used for the fattening of the fowls in the Bourg and Loubans districts varies somewhat, though of course this is limited. The chief idea seems to be that people shall use such food as is produced upon their own farms, and thus save the purchase of anything that can possibly be avoided. The chief exception is in the direction of rice, which is considerably used for feeding the young chickens. Maize, buckwheat, oats and pollard are all utilized, while milk is extensively used both for chicken feeding and also for fattening purposes. In several cases I noticed that whey from curdled milk was employed, and the La Bresse fatteners declare that this has a most beneficial influence upon the flavor of the flesh. The same fact is true in this country, namely, that soured milk is preferred for the purpose of fattening, and I believe that some of the cases where novices have not succeeded as well as they could have desired, was simply that they had used the milk fresh. I noticed at one establishment in the Bourg district that the milk had been mixed with the meal and allowed to stand until a measure of fermentation had actually taken place. I know that some of the crammers in Sussex mix the food immediately after one meal and allow it to stand in the machine for twelve hours, until the next time of feeding, sour milk having been used in preference to sweet. For the actual fattening of the birds, however, in La Bresse buckwheat meal and maize meal are chiefly depended upon, and in the majority of cases these are mixed in equal proportions. The meal, as a rule, is partially cooked by scalding, and I believe that either scalding or actually cooking the meal is of great help in the work of fattening. I may mention that the flesh of fowls produced by this system is marvellously white, and the customary plan is to blow the feathers of the breast on one side so that the color of the flesh may be seen.

Of course before killing, the birds are starved for about 36 hours. (1) The plan adopted in killing is not one to be recommended, and I was very sorry to see it used. Palating—that is,

(1) 18 hours is enough.—Ed.