

English Short-Horn Sales in 1873.

The following sales of thorough-bred stock have been announced in England.

- APRIL 2.—Messrs Brogden and Ashburner's Short-horns. At Lightburne, Ulverston.
 APRIL 3.—Mr. A. H. Brassey's "Booth" Short-horns. At Preston Hall, Aylesford.
 APRIL 22.—Captain Winnall's Short-horns. At Eccleswall Court, Ross.
 APRIL 24.—Mr. Duncan's Jersey herd. At Bradwell, Wolverton.
 MAY 1.—Col Towneley's Short-horns.
 MAY 8.—Lord Penrhyn's Short-horns. At Wicken Park, Stony Stratford.
 MAY 15.—Mr. C. Chapman's Short-horn herd. At Exton, Oakham.
 JULY 10.—Mr. F. H. Cheney's Short-horns. At Gaddesby Hall, Leicester.

Chief Agricultural Meetings in Britain for 1873.

- APRIL 15.—Royal Dublin Society. Meeting in Dublin. President, The Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.
 MAY 31 to JUNE 9.—Vienna Universal Exhibition.—Cattle Show. Secretary, Mr. P. C. Owen, 41, Parliament Street, London.
 JUNE 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.—Bath and West of England Agricultural Society. Meeting at Plymouth. President, The Earl of Mount Edgemore.
 JULY 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18.—Royal Agricultural Society of England.—Meeting at Hull. President, Earl Cathcart.
 AUGUST 5, 6, 7, and 8.—Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland. Meeting at Stirling. President, His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales.
 AUGUST 13, 14, and 15.—Royal Agricultural Society of Ireland.—Meeting at Waterford. President, Lord Lismore.
 SEPTEMBER 18 to 27.—Vienna Universal Exhibition. Horse and Poultry Show.
 DECEMBER 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12.—Smithfield Club Fat Cattle Show, at Islington.—President, The Duke of Richmond.

To Remove Skunks' Hides.

As I have caught and skinned a good many skunks within the last ten years, I will give you my method. Place the skunk on his back and commence at the centre of his under jaw, rip down the middle to the forelegs; skin the head and neck, then take a rope or small chain, put round his neck and hang him up just high enough to work at conveniently; skin the forward pair of legs; rip down the middle; stop about three inches from the tail. Commence at the top, skin down and towards the back. Keep the knife in your right hand and hold the skin with the left; be very careful not to touch the carcass with the left hand, nor the hair side of the skin with the right. The glands that contain the essence, are placed on the under side near the tail; skin very carefully here so as not to cut them. After removing the skin rip it open down to the tail, and nail it up on some out building to dry. Remove the glands and bury them. Now, if you have done all of this with care, the fat will not be scented, and you can cut it off and cook it out over the kitchen stove. The oil is valuable for harnesses, for greasing waggon, and all lubricating purposes. I have taken a quart from one animal. I killed some once, and not having time to skin them the same day, they froze, and I put them in a stream of running water to thaw them; when I skinned them there was no scent on the hair, the water having carried it all away.—R. C. C.

American Marble.

At last, if all reports be true, the importation of marble from Italy to this country, is threatened with a sudden and eternal cessation. Already the boulders of Solano county, California, have yielded a marble superior in beauty to any European article, and one that is preferred by the Italians themselves, who buy it by the pound and use it for fancy veneering. But the detached boulders which yield these many colored slabs are inconveniently located and the supplies from that source limited in quantity and variety. Not so, however, the vast beds of marble recently discovered in an old settled district of Western Vermont, on Lake Champlain. Strange as it may seem, that such a mine of wealth should have remained so long undiscovered, the State Geologist reports these beds as the finest quarries in the world. The strata varies from one to six feet in thickness; the stone is of extraordinary hardness and durability; blocks of any size can be obtained and the surface polished till it is

as brilliant and as free from flaw or crack as a mirror. No other quarry it is said, has ever yielded such a beautiful variety of colored and variegated marble as may be obtained from the different veins of these Vermont beds. The owners claim that the supply is inexhaustible, and that they cannot only undersell foreign competition, but will be able to supply England with a material at once better and cheaper than her builders can get elsewhere.

Rainfall.

Professor Daniel Draper, Director of the Central Park Observatory in New York, who has made a critical study of the subject during the past three years, states positively that the statistics of the rainfall for these three years exhibit no perceptible diminution in amount being respectively 46.81 inches, 42.32 inches, and 52.06 inches, which shows in the last year, 1871, a considerable excess over either of the others. If the examination is extended further back, and includes a longer period, a like result is obtained. Thus taking the years from 1836 to 1872 inclusive, and forming them into equal groups, it will be seen that the amount of rain during each period has advanced rather than declined, while for the whole time the average is but a small fraction above what it has been during 1869-70-71. Hence Prof. Draper is of the opinion that though the variations from year to year are large, yet these neutralize each other when long periods of time are considered, and that no apprehension need therefore be felt of permanent disturbance of the water supply. He sums up the matter as follows:—"Although in the last thirty-six years great changes have been made in all those portions of the United States intervening between the Mississippi and the Atlantic ocean, large surfaces having been cleared of the primeval forests and brought under cultivation, their physical aspect having therefore been essentially altered, no corresponding diminution can nevertheless be traced in the mean amount of water that has fallen. On the contrary there has been an actual increase."

Texas Cattle for 1873.

A cattle dealer of San Antonio, Texas, writes under date of Feb. 26th: With reference to the cattle trade, the number computed to be driven from Texas, this season, will be unusually large. From my own personal observation and interviews with stock men, it will be in excess of the amount driven last year. Very little Northern capital, comparatively, will be expended for cattle here this spring, for the reason there are so many cattle in the Northern States; low prices, and financial affairs being close everywhere. The general appearance that everything bears is anything but encouraging to speculation. Cattle this season will be driven by raisers, generally, the succession of drouths last summer causing so great a scarcity of grass that vast numbers of stock have died during the winter and spring, and those alive, which I have seen, are very, very poor. Hence many are driving all their stock that they can gather, being desirous of abandoning the business; while very many of the cattle men are deeply involved financially and are forced to drive to raise money, since as they tell me, bankers do not feel inclined to grant accommodation, under the appearance of things, as they now exist.

Grass is very backward; many drivers are ready to start, but there is no old grass and the young is only just starting, hence cattle cannot live between here and Fort Worth, for a month yet. Nearly all the old parties are going to drive this season. The weather now is spring-like and the peach and plum trees have been in bloom for two weeks past.—*Ohio Farmer.*

The Supply of Horses in England.

The following select committee on this subject has been appointed in the British House of Lords:—The Prince of Wales, the Duke of Cambridge, Lord Halifax, the Duke of Richmond, the Marquis of Lansdowne, the Marquis of Ailesbury, the Earl of Portsmouth, the Earl of Malmesbury, Earl Grey, Viscount Palmworth, the Earl of Bessborough, the Marquis of Waterford, Lord Rosedale, the Earl of Roseberry, Lord Kesteven, Lord Blackford, and Lord Strathnairn.

In the House of Commons during the discussion of the army estimates, Lord Eustace Cecil expressed a hope that the Secretary of State for war would say how he intends to make up the deficiency of horses for the cavalry. In the Prussian army he found they had 73,000 horses to 312,000 men, or one horse to every four men; whilst in the English army there

were 462,000 men and 15,120 horses, or one horse to every thirty men. The Prussians besides that had a sufficient number of reserve horses, which could be called into the field at any moment. Mr. A. Brown, referring to the same subject, showed that through the colonels of different regiments going to the fairs to purchase the best horses they could get for remounts for their respective regiments, the dealers held out for higher prices than they could obtain if the purchases for the different regiments were made by one individual. While the good serviceable horses used by the London general omnibus company did not exceed in the highest £37, those bought by the Government for the autumn manoeuvres reached £42 each.

Friction Needed.

Farmers need mental friction. What a man reads or what he thinks, requires discussion as much as food does chewing. The man who looks at life from a single stand-point sees but one phase of it, and that imperfectly. We press this matter of farmers' conventions, clubs, exchanges, societies again upon the attention of farm readers, because we have an abiding faith in its utility. It is an educational agency no neighborhood of would-be progressive farmers can afford to forego. "Why, sir," said a farmer to us the other day, "our club has done more to improve the agriculture of our town and increase the market value of our farms than all other agencies combined. Men who were supposed to know little, and almost without influence, have come right to the front, while others, inflated with egotism and full of assumption, who believed themselves neighborhood oracles, have fallen back to their places. They were mere gas bubbles, and a little joint discussion of their theories and notions let the gas out, and the bubbles collapsed. They are now content to learn of men at whom, three years ago, they sneered. I tell you it is a great thing to show who's who." Meet once a week, gentlemen, if it is only in some one's barn, and have a good talk over the uppermost matters in your minds. If you do not choose to hold a formal meeting, hold an informal one. If the roads are bad, talk about good ones, and devise ways and means to make them good. Think, and talk together, and you'll find you know more (or less, which is an equally profitable thing to find out) than you thought you did. The more you know the more you'll want to, and you will have each other to draw upon for it. If this advice seems in any degree arrogant or presuming to anybody, let them be assured that it is not intended to be. It is simply urging the doing of what we know, from much experience and observation, it is profitable to do.—*Rural New Yorker.*

Have a Specialty.

It does not matter what a man's vocation may be—whether a farmer, mechanic, physician, lawyer or literateur—he should have some specialty to which he may devote his leisure, even if it be in the line of his vocation. Yes, if you prefer the term, let him have a hobby! We do not mean that he shall ride his hobby at all times and in all places and on all occasions, but he should select some special department of science or industry for investigation and research—to master in all its details. Doing this, he will, *perforce*, enlarge his general knowledge and the scope of his usefulness. Indeed it is wise for a farmer to take up some specialty in agriculture in which to excel—not upon which he shall depend exclusively, and to which he shall devote all his energies, but in the prosecution of which he shall take especial pride and pains, and upon which he shall become known as a reliable authority, as well as having the best of that special product that can be grown. We do not urge this because we think it will prove, in all cases, a money-making adventure, but because we believe in the wholesome influence of motive upon the general life and success of men—because we know that specialists are more likely to have accurate as well as general knowledge than those who live and labor without any particular objective point which they are especially aiming to reach. Let one man take up beans for example, procure and cultivate all the varieties he can hear of, study their respective habits, learn to know their season of ripening, their nutritious qualities, peculiarities of flavor, their history, and the enemies which attack them, and he will find a most interesting field for investigation opening before him, which will expand yearly and increase not only his knowledge but his fame. Let such a man once become known as "the bean man" in a community, and as growing all sorts that can be grown in his climate, and such a reputation will be valuable in a pecuniary point of view. So of potatoes, corn, tomatoes, peas, or whatever crop one may choose to adopt. By all means, have a specialty.—*Rural New Yorker.*