

have to chronicle progress in dairy farming as characteristic of the present season. The cheese-factory system has been set fairly going among us. Four efficient factories have been in operation in the Oxford dairy region with the most satisfactory results, and we are glad to hear of others about to be started in various parts of the country. We look with much hope to this new branch of agricultural industry. The yield of fruit this year is better than usual. The smaller fruits that come early in the season were most abundant, and the apple crop will be a large one. We have not heard much complaint of the curculio this year, and augur from that a good yield of plums. Peaches are only raised to any extent in the Niagara District, and we are not aware how they promise. This has been a good season for bees, and we anticipate a plentiful honey harvest. Bee-keeping, we are glad to find, is largely on the increase all over Canada.

We intimated at the outset that a sort of general diagnosis of the state of feeling among our population, gave favourable indications as to the year's yield. A few weeks have brought a great change in this respect. While the harvest was uncertain, our people, remembering the poor crops we have had of late, and yielding to that tendency to discontent which is so characteristic of poor human nature, filled the air with all manner of complaints, and muttered thunders about absurd and desperate means of relief, were heard in some quarters, while uneasiness and misgiving were general if not universal. There is no denying it, that a "change is coming o'er the spirit of our dream," that we are in some way or other getting rid of the nightmare that was upon us, and that a general feeling of contentment and hopefulness is abroad. There is only one way of accounting for this, and that is by the general knowledge of the fact that we have got an abundant harvest. No great political changes have taken place. There has been nothing to dazzle the public eye, or draw off attention from our actual condition. Tidings have come to us from other lands, which show that we are better off than many of our sister nations—the sight of teeming plenty has gladdened us—evidence has been given that we have our lot in a good and pleasant land—and thankful for present blessings—we are settling ourselves, as a sensible people ought to do, to work out the problem of our destiny, trusting in the all-wise and merciful Providence that has never ceased and never will cease to care for us and for ours.

Mule and Donkey Show.

THE second annual show of mules and donkeys was recently held in the Agricultural Hall, Islington, and was in every respect a decided success. This somewhat novel exhibition was originated by the "Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals," assisted by the wealth and influence of Miss Burdett Coutts. So determined was this benevolent lady to support the movement that she purchased a pair of donkeys, one of them a prize-holder of last year, in order to enter the lists as a competitor. With her opportunities she had only to wish to succeed in order to ensure success, and her donkey waggonette was accordingly one of the most remarkable sights of the exhibition. The masters of these generally ill-used creatures were afforded a clear demonstration that kind treatment is all that is requisite to render the donkey as docile and tractable as the horse. Some good specimens of mules, and upwards of half a dozen of that fine animal, the Spanish ass, were exhibited. There were also shown some very pretty specimens of small foreign asses, whose beautiful forms attracted much attention and curiosity. One of our British exchanges remarks that "it was a matter of complaint during the dog show that an almost incessant barking and yelling of the dogs frightened the neighbourhood from its propriety; but the braying of the donkeys throws into the shade the less sonorous barking of the dogs, and

proclaimed the presence of the show long before you arrived at the building."

Towards the afternoon, when the prizes had been awarded, racing in the arena commenced, which is thus described in the *Field*: "Much amusement was afforded by the ups and downs of the animals and their riders, and, indeed, this part of the show was more patronised than the occupants of the stalls whilst in them. Often, in the races, a donkey would go in winning style for two or three rounds, when the rider would forget himself so far as to offend his quadruped by an extra pull of the rein (the only offensive weapon), and then down would go the head and up the heels, to the extent of losing the race; whereas, had the hands been kept still, it could not be lost. There is a limit to the endurance even of a donkey, and nothing can prove this better than a donkey-race."

The same journal winds up its remarks as follows: "We trust that this exhibition will be continued annually, as a means of teaching the costermonger how he may best treat his dependent, which can only be done by combining kind treatment with plain, good food, and a reasonable amount of work."

The Cattle Disease in London.

THE existence of a fatal and infectious disease among the cattle of the London dairymen is exciting general concern in Britain. Without a single exception, all of our recent British exchanges devote editorials to a discussion of the tremendous consequences involved in the extension of the plague throughout the country. Dearth of fodder, for some time past, has led to a serious rise in the price of meat, and afforded dishonest dealers an excellent opportunity of disposing of diseased animals at remunerative prices. But this state of things shrinks into nothingness beside the lamentable prospects of the present visitation. From an exhaustive article on the subject in the *Medical Times*, it would appear that the malady is new to the present generation, but that its symptoms are somewhat similar to the malady known in the south-east of Europe as the *Steppe Murrain*, and in Germany by the name of the *Rinderpest*.

It would seem that the first appearance of the malady, so far as it can be traced, dates back to June 27th, when six cows, purchased at the Metropolitan Cattle Market, were seized with it. These animals were at once placed in quarantine, but in spite of the precaution, the disease spread until one hundred and fifteen died. Since that date twelve distinct outbreaks of the malady have been traced; and it is also reported to have appeared in various points of England, and even in Scotland, although more accurate information is required before these reports can be confirmed. This much, however, is certain, that in the month of July over 2,000 head of cattle were lost to their owners in the neighbourhood of London alone. Indeed, some of our contemporaries are disposed to believe that this number is rather below the truth. Many instances are said to be known where the entire stock—numbering in some cases 70 cows—have been entirely swept away by the ravages of the plague.

The symptoms and course of the disease are described by the *Medical Times* as follows:—"The cow, previously quite healthy, is suddenly seized with trembling or rigors; in an hour or two purging of thin fecal matter occurs, soon followed by purging of a thin, watery, brown, serous fluid, sometimes accompanied with a little blood. Of course, the milk is at once suppressed. Soon after a serous discharge takes place from the nose, and the mucous membrane of the nose and vagina are observed to become denuded of epithelium. Sometimes there is tympanitis. Prostration and collapse follow, the extremities become cold, and subcutaneous emphysema is observed in the loins. Death usually results in a period of from twelve hours to seven days."

The Government has taken prompt measures to ascertain how far the disease at present prevails, with a view to limit its extension. Inspectors, elected from the veterinary profession, are appointed to visit localities where the malady rages, in order to report and advise. Unhappily, farmers and dairymen are pursuing a suicidal policy by keeping back information, and attempting to disguise the extent to which they have suffered. "By a ready co-operation with the efforts of the Government," says the *Agricultural Gazette*, "a great deal may be done in a short time; while the opposite course involves delay that will be fatal, as no measures of an active character can be taken until the extent of the mischief is known."

It is somewhat startling to learn, notwithstanding the immense reduction in the number of cows—amounting to over one-third—that the supply of milk in the Metropolis still continues at par. It is not difficult to conjecture how this result is compassed. London dairymen are a proverbially shrewd and ingenious race. In spite of ridicule and punishment, they fondly cling to "a cow with the iron tail." Under existing circumstances, all they have got to do is to milk the unconscious and not ungrateful animal a little harder. Certainly the milk may be thin, and lack nearly every characteristic of that yielded by the quadruped; but those shortcomings can be conveniently supplied. Chalk is plentiful in the south of England; and an inconsiderable portion of the famous "white cliffs of Albion" has been poured down the throats of the over-confiding Cockneys, in a state of solution, under the generic name of "milk." The journal last quoted is apprehensive that a considerable portion of the article supplied to the Londoners at present is not so harmless in its nature as even that which is largely composed of coloured water. Our contemporary says:—"If only water is employed to meet the deficiency, we shall offer no remonstrance, but unfortunately a certain quantity of milk can be obtained during the progress of the disease, and so long as it does not appear to be unfit for use, there is reason to fear it is mingled with the rest; true, we have at present no positive proof that such milk is directly injurious, but considering the state of the animal's system, it can scarcely be hoped that any quantity could be consumed with impunity, particularly by young children, who are likely to be the principal sufferers in such cases."

Of course, much remains to be learned respecting the disease. Numerous experiments will have to be carefully performed before any very definite or decided results can be expected. In the meantime, the precautionary measures of the Government can hardly fail to lessen, if not entirely arrest its progress. Ere long, we shall no doubt be in more complete possession of the facts of the case.

Recent Exhibitions of British Agricultural Societies.

INVERNESS, the beautifully situated Highland capital, was this year once more the scene of the annual show of the "Highland and Agricultural Society." The first show held in this place was in 1831, when only 138 cattle, 90 horses, 129 head of sheep, and 11 swine were shown. Immense strides of agricultural progress have been made in this district since that date. Land monopolized by the moor-fowl, and untrodden save by the foot of the sportsman, is now turned into pasture or the heather transformed into corn. Until recently Inverness could only be reached by a long journey by coach or steamboat, and competition was therefore principally confined to those who were more immediately connected with the district. About two years ago the Highland line of railway from Perth was opened out, affording distant exhibitors and visitors a quick conveyance to and from the north, and as a consequence the entries were largely increased. Space will not admit of our entering into any elaborate details of this most success-