

Sale of Shorthorns at Bromley Hall, England.

In the *Agricultural Gazette*, England, of March the 12th, we have a full report of the first two sales of Shorthorns, held March 7th and 8th. This being the opening of the Shorthorn campaign of 1877, it must be of more than usual interest to our readers. The *Gazette* says:—

Mr. Thornton held his first Shorthorn sale this year on Wednesday last at Mr. E. T. Tunnicliffe's, of Bromley Hall, Staffordshire. The sale of Shorthorns was not a large one. Thirty-four animals were catalogued, but scarcely half of them were eligible for entry in the Herd Book. Mr. Tunnicliffe had a sale eighteen months ago, at which the larger portion of his herd was disposed of, and he reserved from this sale, and still retains, six or eight of his best cows and heifers. The horses, Shropshire sheep, and pigs, etc., were disposed of by another auctioneer in the course of the day. The company was very large, but consisted almost entirely of local farmers. The weather was extremely cold and stormy. Most of the cattle were of good local sorts, crossed with high-class Bates' bulls; anything good made quite its value. Lot 4, a good cow 14 years old, with only three crosses of registered pedigree, sold for 37 gs.; a number of cows with two crosses made about 30 gs. each; a Kirklevington heifer (whose dam was purchased at the late sale for 240 gs.) was sold for 72 gs.; two heifers of Mr. Tunnicliffe's favorite Duchess family under two years old, sold for 36 gs. and 37 gs. each; two of the same tribe, still younger, sold for 25 gs. each; a number of promising heifer calves in moderate store condition realized about 20 gs. each, they were by Duke of Bromley 3rd, and Duke of Bromley 2nd, two good bulls, sons of Colonel Gunter's 2nd Duke of Wetherby; a bull calf by one of the above sires made 40 gs.; two others 24 gs. and 26 gs. Duke of Bromley 2nd was let for the year for 22 gs. So far as a sale of this kind can be a guide as to the actual state of the trade for Shorthorns, it must be held to be fairly satisfactory. There are still plenty of customers for useful-looking Shorthorns at good, though not extravagant prices. There is still plenty of inducement to farmers who have a herd of well-bred though not full pedigree Shorthorns, to use only bulls of good quality and breeding, whose pedigree can be registered and thus lay the foundation of a pedigree herd.

The following are the prices obtained above 20 gs.:—Fidelity, 26 gs.; Duchess 3rd, 37 gs.; Roan Neck, 25 gs.; Blanco 2nd, 36 gs.; Milk Girl, 21 gs.; Duchess 17th, 32 gs.; Kirklevington 8th, 72 gs.; White Face, 25 gs.; Milkmaid 4th, 29 gs.; Duchess 22nd, 37 gs.; Duchess 23rd, 36 gs.; Duchess 24th, 25 gs.; Duchess 25th, 25 gs.; May Dew, 33 gs.; Duchess 30th, 22 gs.; Duchess 33rd, 27 gs.; May Duchess 15th, 23 gs.; Duke of Bromley, 21 gs.; Duke of Bromley 9th, 29 gs.; do. 10th, 40 gs.; do. 11th, 26 gs.

MR. J. B. JENKIN'S SALE.

This sale is reported as satisfactory, the bidding being brisk. The cattle were reported as in very moderate condition. Thirty-seven females sold at prices varying from 20 to 87 gs., many of them going at 30 to 60 gs. Five bulls sold at 30 to 43 gs.

American Beef in England.

"The roast beef of Old England" has been a national boast for many years, but it has become so costly that a large proportion of the people know but little of its flavor. Recently, enterprising Americans have arranged to send large quantities of beef by steamers from New York. The cooling process is so perfect on board the vessel that there is an arrival, every two or three days, of an immense quantity of this beef in fine condition. At first the dealers attempted to decri it as unfit for use, and, by combining, only bid 7 cents per pound for it when offered at auction. A host of private parties rushed in and bought it at 10 and 12 cents, temporary sheds and booths were hastily erected, and the meat is offered at retail at from 12 to 18 cents. It is amusing to see the crowds which gather in hundreds, after a fresh arrival, and struggle for an opportunity to carry off a supply. One of these places will dispose of 100 to 200 quarters in a single day, and the people stand and look anxiously at the shop after it is all gone. The price of similar beef has long been from 20 to 25 cents per pound, and the new supply is a great boon to the working classes. American flags are

flying, and the letters U. S. A. blaze in gas-light over the doors, and the people bless the Yankee ox for his savory addition to the English table. Good judges pronounce this beef of most excellent quality, and I am glad to say it surpassed anything in that line which I have eaten in seven years. The voyage of ten or twelve days renders it tender and juicy, and if the supply does not fail there will be no limit to the consumption.—*London Letter to Boston Paper.*

Foot-Rot in Sheep.

As far back as 1833 I had a flock of 800 sheep on my homestead at Weighbridge, one-third of which were inoculated and lame. This was the first appearance of disease in that quarter; but by prompt attention and perseverance, the disease was mastered and the sheep all cured in a very short time, by judiciously paring the hoofs and applying a solution of vitriol water to the foot of every animal twice each week, and removing the sound from the lame ones into fields not infected previously.

It is shiftlessness and sheer negligence on the part of shepherds to allow the foot-rot to remain, summer and winter, among their flocks, causing the neglected animals so much pain and suffering. The vitriol wash should be applied while warm, and the most effectual mode would be to dip the feet down into the liquid. It is more easily cured during the cold winter months. Freezing weather destroys the inoculating properties when dropped upon the ground. But during the warm months infected matter may remain a long time in the sheep walks and not lose its vaccinating qualities. Due diligence, and applications well applied, will cure any infected flock on the farm. I have treated thousands in this manner; usually placing the sheep in a trough, or box, on its back, about twenty inches above the ground, to hold the animal and facilitate the work. This foul disease and scab were imported into the United States from Germany at first. The Saxon merinos were impregnated before landing on our shores. There is no estimating the damage it has entailed upon the flocks of this continent.—*S. W. J., in N. Y. World.*

Cattle Food.

Experience teaches us that cattle—says the *American Cultivator*—thrive best on a mixed diet; all hay or all grain will produce less beef than hay and grain. The animal structure of the ox also demands bulk in food as well as richness; the feeding of the concentrated food being only profitable so far as the animal assimilates it, beyond that simply increasing the manure heap at a cost far beyond its value. The ox has approximately eleven and one-half pounds of stomach with only two and one-half pounds of intestines to each one hundred pounds of live weight; the sheep has less stomach and more intestines, giving a smaller percentage of digestive apparatus; while the pig for every one hundred pounds of his live weight has only one and one-third pounds of stomach to six pounds of intestines. A steer would thrive on a bulk of straw with a little oil meal, that would shrink a sheep and starve a pig. Pork can be produced from clear corn-meal, while mutton requires great variety of food, and beef cattle would become cloved and diseased with its exclusive use. A thoughtful attention to these broad facts will change much injudicious feeding into cheaper meat production.

One element in the economy of cattle-feeding, the use of straw as fodder, has not received the attention its importance demands. On no one point is the average farmer so incredulous as regarding the value of straw to feed, and on many farms the wasteful practice still exists of turning all the straw into the manure heap. If properly made and reasonably well cared for, a large portion of the straw, especially of the oat crop, should be used as cattle food. Early-cut straw is worth for feed two-thirds as much as hay, and is three times as valuable in feeding cattle as in the manure heap. Pea haulm and bean straw, especially if in the latter the pods are attached, are of still greater value. The best heat-producing foods are wheat, corn, oats, hay and bran; oat straw will develop as large a percentage of heat as oil-cake; bean straw even more; and in this respect, one hundred parts of oat straw are equal to eighty parts of hay. Straw is deficient in flesh-forming material, requiring one hundred parts oat straw to equal sixteen parts good hay in this particular; yet, fed with cotton-seed or linseed cake, it supplies what they lack in heat-giving and respiratory elements.

For the purpose of feeding out oat straw, our oat crop is allowed to over-ripen, a large amount of

its nutriment being lost without any corresponding benefit to the grain, which never improves after the upper portion of the stem has commenced turning yellow. Oats cut when just turning from the green state, yield more grain as well as greater feeding value in straw. The narrow margins of profit in cattle-feeding in this section of the country demand the closest economies in the food supply, and the most thorough investigations and experiments with an article of so little present market value, and one of such abundance with most farmers as oat straw.

Measles in Pigs.

Pigs are subject to a disease called measles, which is believed to render the flesh unwholesome. The measles is very prevalent, though seldom fatal; and if not checked, affect the grain of the meat, which may commonly be seen in the shops—of a faded color, and the flesh punctured, as it were, with small holes. The commencement of the disease appears in languor and decline of the appetite, followed by small pustules in the throat, together with red and purple eruptions, more distinct after death than during the life of the animal. By aid of the microscope, it has been ascertained that the measles is a larval cestode, or in other words, one of the sexually immature stages of development of a tape-worm (*Tenia solium*), a frequent human guest, derived from eating underdone pork. Swine, whose habits are less cleanly than those of horned cattle, do not enjoy the same immunity as these, and in them the measles condition may assume abnormal proportions. On the other hand, swine will undergo a larger amount of parasitism without displaying those external evidences of suffering which other animals are apt to betray under similar circumstances. By the aid of a microscope, or with the assistance of a powerfully magnifying pocket lens, the distinctive characters of the various meat and pork measles may be readily made out. Indeed, the naked eye is, in most cases, sufficient to determine the nature of the spots and specks in meat and pork.

It is idle to talk of cure in a disease of this nature. Generally speaking, even if the animals be in health, a small quantity of nitre and sulphur, occasionally mixed up in their food, besides stimulating their appetite, will frequently prevent disease; neither can we too much insist on cleanliness, nor upon the punctual regularity of feeding at stated times. This injunction, if followed, will do more for the preservation of health in pigs than the administration of any specific, after disease has decidedly shown itself.

What Constitutes Perfection in a Shorthorn?

At a meeting of the Pentrit Farmers' Club, Mr. George R. Heddy, Newcastle-on-Tyne, read a paper in which he introduced the following tabular statement:—

The first essential in a Shorthorn was a straight back from shoulder to tail. Then when he came to the neck he would also know that of the male required to be thick at the base, that it should taper along the sides and rise on the top towards the head. That of the female should be fine and long, and on a plane with the shoulders and the back. The sides of each animal should be as near the form of the sides of a barrel as possible, the ends of the barrel being the foremost parts of the thighs. The legs should not be much crooked, and the head should be strong and massive, covered on the front with long shaggy hair; that of the female tapering clean and fine. The eye of both should be prominent, and those of the female soft and placid. A judge would always pay difference to thickness of flesh, and there were cases when a little fault in complexion and outline might be overlooked for a great desideratum. The skin in the best breeds would always be found to be soft and springy, moderately thick, and clad with long, bright, silky hair. If there was a doubt as to supremacy of quality, that with the finest hair and most pliable skin along the top of the loins and hoods should be placed first.

Any dereliction from a gentle curvature in the horn was to be eschewed, and the fashionable color in the horn was yellow and crimson in youth and white in age. His proclivities went in the direction of strong horns, instead of short ones, as a mark of constitution; and as to the mouth, he considered it should be rather large, if it had to feed a capacious frame.