

torious, if entered (according to their judgment) in a wrong class, it frequently happens that a "small breed" pig possesses such amazing frame and flesh as to exclude the really small from fair comparison. Perhaps a better way of ensuring equality of competition would be to follow an entirely different principle of classification: for instance, take the purposes for which the animals are bred and fed, and give two or more sets of prizes for the individual specimens best qualified for these purposes respectively.—Swine are employed for producing two varieties of valuable meat, pork and bacon: one set of prizes might be offered, therefore, for boars and sows best adapted for breeding fine porkers, and another set for larger bacon hogs; apportioned, of course, between boars, sows, and sow pigs, as at present.

And now, with respect to the show at Lincoln: we have certainly seen better—taken as a whole—but many of the animals were of a very superior order, particularly in the small breed class.

CLASS I.—BOARS OF A LARGE BREED.—First prize to Henry Blandford, of Sandbridge, near Chippingham, Wilts, for "Jack," 2 years 3 months and 2 weeks old, a pure Berkshire, black, with white face and feet; dam Star, sire of dam Pocock. This is a very large hog, but with rough hair, and a rather coarse quality of flesh. The second prize to Matthew Harvey and Joseph Branton, of Langford, near Newark, for a white boar, 2 years 11 months and 2 weeks old, of a very great size, good quality, and little offal; somewhat of small breed character.

CLASS II.—BOARS OF A SMALL BREED.—First prize to Mr. William Northey, of Lake Litton, near Launceston, for a 1 year and 3 months old black boar of the improved Leicester breed, having a very thick form and substance, and beautiful quality, though rather too short at the tail. The second prize to Mr. Solomon Ashton, of Peter Street, Manchester, for "Yorks," 1 year and 2 months old, of pure small breed, white with blue spot; a remarkably well bred and valuable hog.

CLASS III.—BREEDING SOWS OF A LARGE BREED.—We have seldom seen so large a sow as the first prize one, shown by Edward Robinson, of Green Bank, near Lymm, Cheshire. "Amazon" is 2 years and 2 months old, white, with a few blue spots, immensely long, and having very deep sides. The R-v. Edward Elmhurst, of Shawell Rectory, near Lutterworth, Leicestershire, showed a remarkably fine sow (highly commended).

CLASS IV.—BREEDING SOWS OF A SMALL BREED.—In this class, which the Judges have honored with a "general commendation," Mr. Mangles takes the prize for the "Queen of Diamonds," 2 years and 4 months old, Yorkshire breed, white; sire "Guy Fawkes," dam "Lucy," of beautifully fine quality. Mr. Northey showed some capital sows in this class; so did Mr. Thomas Horstall, of Burley Hall, near Otley, Yorkshire.

CLASS V.—THREE BREEDING SOW PIGS, OF A LARGE BREED.—Mr. Saddler takes the prize for a pen of three sow pigs, 7 months and 1 day old, pure Berkshire breed, dark spotted; sire "Wellington," dam "Duchess of Gloucester," sire of dam "Barrington." Mr. John Harrison, jun., of Heaton Norris, near Stockport, showed a pen of almost equally meritorious animals; very useful, and uncommonly good in character.

CLASS VI.—THREE BREEDING SOW PIGS, OF A SMALL BREED.—The prize was carried off by the Earl of Radnor, for three 5 months and 2 weeks old white pig-s of his Lordship's celebrated Coteshill breed; sire "Farrington," dam "Old Bess."

POULTRY.

We are sorry to see this year so comparatively poor a show. Lincolnshire seems not to have surmounted the old prejudice that is showed when it underrated Mr. Handley's exertions. Lincolnshire is yet decidedly behind in attention to poultry: a department of farming in the respect from which, if properly conducted, a good profit may be derived. We should be glad to see a county so celebrated in other respects, take the lead in this also; and we advise that the motto, "What is worth doing at all, is worth doing well," be constantly kept in mind.

The exhibition in question is, in our opinion, not nearly so meritorious as it might have been. True, the time of year is not very suitable to the show of birds in full feather; after having performed the duties of the spring, they are necessarily out of condition. We venture to ask, whether it would not be well to give prizes for chickens—encouraging the production of early maturity? Prizes for adult birds might be for Birmingham to award at Christmas.

The benefits of this annual poultry show are two-fold: it affords to amateurs an arena where to enter into friendly competition; and to the landowner or occupier it affords an opportunity to judge of the comparative excellence of breeds. The eye will not alone decide which is the best adapted especially to any locality; we must consult experience to come at the knowledge. We do not intend to diverge into any remarks in this direction however; and we only say, by way of introduction to some notice of the fowls exhibited, that there may be three classes: profit—breeding for fancy. breeding for egg and breeding for the table. The first class with fashion; the second is certain profit; and the third is, although the most neglected, the most remunerative of the three. Of the first I shall say nothing. The Spanish, Hamburg, and Polish fowls are respectively good layers, brooders, and consequently fitted for those who require large supplies of eggs. The Cochin, China, Malay, Dorking, and Game fowls are good layers, good sitters, and good nurses. But the Dorking and its kindred varieties are excellent for the table, the Malays and Cochin Chinas seldom be served up except as roasted, because of bad colour. Mr. Soyer says that, as a rule be observed in the kitchen, white-legged fowls should be boiled, and black-legged poultry fit only for the spit.