

English Short-horn Sales.

The week upon which we have entered is big with an event eagerly anticipated by lovers of Short-horns for many months past. The cattle to be offered at Gaddesby, on Thursday next, present a most attractive combination of high rank, in some instances the highest rank in fashion, with personal properties of a very high order of merit. The value of some of the animals it is difficult to estimate, when we consider the admirable stock and the pecuniary proceeds derived from such a cow, for example, as Duchess 66th, or say Fifth Maid of Oxford, the property of the Duke of Devonshire. The high cost price of these cows, and of others we could class with them, look small beside the bulk of realized profits. When a cow on one occasion had fallen to a bid of a few hundred guineas, a bystander remarked he could understand a bull selling for so large a sum, but he did not see how a female could ever be worth it. The interrogatory reply of another bystander was much to the point. "Then how," said he, "do you value a good bull-bred?"

Low condition of the stock, and a downpour of rain all day, did not prevent Mr. Thornton from having a good sale of Mr. R. B. Hetherington's herd at Park Head, on Thursday last. The company numbered, according to different estimates, from 800 to 1000. Mr. J. B. Foster, of Killyon, occupied the chair at the luncheon. Bidding was brisk and business-like. As an example of the increased and rising value of Short-horns, Lot 1, Waterloo 22nd, bought for 25 guineas, four years old, was sold on Thursday, at eleven years of age, for 100 guineas. The cows and heifers, 53 in number, made the excellent average of 497 lbs 5d., and the general average of the sale, for 59 head, was 467 lbs 3d. The bulls, not up to the standard fashion in their breeding, except Grand Duke of Lightbourne 2nd, who at five years old went at butchers' price, did not excite competition beyond the means of ordinary farmers. For 71 guineas Mr. Drewry bought Music 1, a neat but lean four-year old heifer, with the Grenadier cross upon the pedigree of Minstrel 3rd, a Gwynne of the line introduced into the Holker herd from Mr. Tanqueray's sale in 1855, and her yearling daughter, quite a show heifer by Fourth Baron Oxford, went at 150 guineas to Mr. G. Fox, of Cheshire, who owned Sir Wilfrid Lawson. Ormold Windsors nose had imparted a little of its stain to the muzzles of some of her progeny. This was a drawback to the prices of her family, although the production of such a yearling as Florence Windsor was creditable to the sort. Waterloo 31st, all skin and bone, was claimed at 90 guineas by Sir Wilfrid Lawson, who, with reasonable expectation of improvement in the stock he purchased, took also a Duchess Nancy, but little better condition than Waterloo 31st, giving 60 guineas. Emma's First, the cup-winner at Wigan, drew the same price from Mr. J. C. Topper. Mr. A. Churnside secured a good cow in buying Christmas Gwynne at 70 guineas; Mr. R. Mitchell was no less fortunate in his purchase of Waterloo 20th, at 77, and Mr. J. P. Foster selected, besides Lot 1, Lot 26, Annette a fine two-year old of the Asia or Appont family, price 105 guineas. Mr. J. K. Fowler, true to his love of knightly with a smack of Etes, added to his possessions a Sweetheart and a Furbelow, each having the desired admixture. *Bulls Weekly Messenger.*

CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND ISLE OF ELY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY—MEETING AT CHATFIELD. The show was not to be compared with that which was held on the Leys, at Cambridge, in 1872, excepting the cart-horse section, which was a superior one. The first prize for stallions suitable for agricultural purposes was carried off by Horace Tom the Second, who last year was second, being then beaten by Mr. May's Emperor. In the cattle classes, Lady Light was a very successful exhibitor. There were several classes amongst the sheep that were meritorious, whilst some of the pens contained but moderate lots. The pig pens were well filled. There was a large collection of implements exhibited. *Farmer's Magazine.*

The annual sale of Cotswold Rams belonging to Mr. Robert Garm, Abbsworth, Northwick, took place as advertised, July 25th. Mr. Garm kindly writes us the result as follows: "54 yearling sheep were offered, which realized £1,506 2s., or an average of £28 16s. 4d. each. One sheep made 65 guineas, four sheep made 50 guineas and upwards each, and several over 40 guineas each. One of the rams was purchased for Mr. J. P. Mitchell, America (Queenstown, Md.), others by Mr. John Hope of Ontario, Canada. Most of the leading breeders of this class of sheep were purchasers, including Mr. Thomas Brown of Marlham, Norfolk, whose first prize yearling ram, at the Royal Show this year, was by a ram from this flock." *Country Gentleman.*

Breeder and Grazier.

The Breeding and Management of Short-horn Stock.

BY A PRACTICAL MAN (Continued.)

After calving, and when giving milk, cows should be well fed. If on inferior grass, 2 lbs. of linseed cake per day should be given when cows are in milk, and if any of them are in milk, double the allowance of linseed cake, and give a quart of oatmeal with hay-chaff. For winter food, Swedish turnips are objectionable when the milk is required for cream and butter; but if the milk is given to the calves, the cow should have one bushel of cut-swedes given at twice, 3 lbs. of linseed cake, and a quart of oatmeal per day, with as much hay chaff as she can eat. Orange-jelly turnips, or drained cabbage, are good substitutes for Swedes, when sweet cream and butter are required. In February, wurtzel can be given instead of turnips, beginning with a small quantity, and never exceeding half a bushel at a meal. The value of wurtzel as food for milking cows can scarcely be estimated, as it increases the supply of milk, and tends to keep the cows in health. Wurtzel will keep well until mid-summer (and some mild Michalmas) so that, if the crop of grass is short, wurtzel can be given to the cows once or twice a day until the pastures improve. But neither wurtzel nor turnips should be given to cows in a green state, and in the event of these roots being frozen, chaffages, bran, and brewers' grains can be substituted. Potatoes are considered a good food for cows, but since they have been subject to disease, potatoes have not been sufficiently cheap for this purpose. As previously suggested for farmers, the cows should be turned into yards during the day, (if they are kept tied up) or, better still, into a round grass field near to the homestead, exercise being very desirable for them in cold weather. It is not advisable to expose them on cold wet days, or to reach half past twelve. Whether in the yards, sheds, or fields, cows should at all times have access to pure water, one or two strong rubbing posts are very useful in the yards and fields, and lumps of rock salt should be liberally placed in the mangers, for stock to lick at will. A gradual change of food for cows in calf is always desirable, more particularly from dry food to moist, when the grass is young.

So many persons have written on the treatment of cows when in labor, and after calving, that I cannot add to the mass of information on this subject; but I may be allowed to say, that if the case appears favorable, and the presentation natural, the cow should be left to herself in the field if the weather is dry and fine, but not in the hot sun; nor should she be touched until the calf is sufficiently forward to be taken away. If the presentation is not natural, and the case beyond the skill of the master and cowman, it is far better to send for a veterinary surgeon, than to distress the cow with long and futile efforts to extract the calf, too frequently endangering the lives of both. To understand the management of cows at this critical period, a man must have experience. The study of writings on the treatment of cows at this time is of little avail, unless the habits of the cows themselves are investigated. Some cows invariably have long and painful labors, others calve quickly and easily, and the owner of a herd of cows, by practical application, will gain additional information from each case. The cow should be allowed to lick the calf if she is quiet and appears fond of it. Sometimes a cow will destroy her offspring whilst the pams are strong upon her. In an hour or two the calf will be on its legs, and with a little assistance from the cowman will soon learn to suck, and be out of harm's way. The cow must be milked soon after calving, and her udder be well and frequently fomented with warm water, and rubbed with fresh lard for several days. If it is a heifer's first calf, particular attention should be paid to the udder, or inflammation may ensue, and destroy her for milking purposes. If the cow seems exhausted after calving, a drink of warm oatmeal gruel, with a quart of good ale, can be given her, succeeded by a warm bran mash. Warm oatmeal gruel should be continued for three or four days with some sweet hay.

It is desirable to keep the cows daily cleansed from dirt, without rubbing off the hair. Cows can be cleaned at a trifling expense when they are kept in yards, as they then can be hosed and clean themselves. Their feet occasionally require paring and trimming, which can be readily done when the cow lies down, or her coarse hoofs can be sawn off, placing one foot at a time on a flat board. Few animals show the effects of ill treatment more than the cow, which from improper usage becomes restless, timid, or sav-

age, when wanted to be milked; refuses to give her milk; and allows no one to approach her when in the field; whereas the cow which is kindly treated is very quiet and docile, and can be "handled" at any time. Cows do not like fresh hands to milk them, and the same persons should be regularly engaged amongst them, as far as it is practicable.

I do not think that cows are affected by the season, so far as weather is concerned, in holding to the field. A sudden change from mild or warm weather to extreme cold and wet within 24 hours after the cow has been milked would, doubtless, have a great tendency to prevent conception, as the blood of the animal would experience a sudden chill, which is opposed to the theory of conception. But these cases are exceptional, and in the event of a whole herd frequently heaving their bellies, I should advise the state of the bull to be investigated, as the fault is more likely to rest with him.

Cows come to breed at different ages; many fail after producing one, two, or three calves, whilst others breed regularly to fifteen years and upwards. A reference to the 11th vol. of "Coate's Herd Book" affords strong evidence of the advantage of putting heifers to the bull before they are two years old, continuing the opinion I have expressed, such heifers usually striding to their first leap, and afterwards proving regular breeders. As examples: "Lady Jane," vol. x, page 525, calved Oct. 17, 1845, produced her first live calf in February, 1848, when 25 months old, and six single calves registered to May, 1854. "Rose de Mancy," vol. xi, page 679, calved Oct. 1841, produced her first live calf in February, 1844, when 28 months old, and had ten single calves registered to Aug. 1854. No breeding can be more sure than this, and the instances are numerous in the volume alluded to.

To those breeders who prefer a cow-house, or who wish to see their animals conveniently under one roof, I would recommend an inspection of Her Majesty's cow-house, at the Dairy Farm, Windsor. This splendid building, which is 132 feet long, 38 feet wide, and about 45 feet high, is erected with a span roof, under the centre of which is a raised platform, 6 feet 6 inches wide, paved with flag stones, for the accommodation of visitors to inspect the cows, which are arranged in pairs on either side, each pair having a bar 7 feet deep, and 8 feet wide, the building containing 60 cows. Each cow has a separate feeding trough, with a water trough for a pair, the supply for which is derived from elevated cisterns. At the foot of the bar is a slate gutter, 12 inches wide and 3 inches deep, which receives the urine and droppings; beyond which is an asphalted pathway, 6 feet wide, running round the building, with additional space at the ends. Numerous windows in the side walls afford light in the day time, and during feeding and milking hours at night the cows have the advantage of gaslight, several lamps being suspended from the centre. Doors are conveniently placed for ingress and egress, and open yards with sheds adjoining, into which the cows can be at any time turned. The ventilation of this building is chiefly in the roof, and is very good. The requisite conveniences for stowing and preparing food for the cows of course appertain; and the possession of such a building, filled with the choicest specimens of short-horns from the show-yards of our Royal Agricultural Society, would in some measure reconcile me to the plan of keeping them which I have so strongly deprecated.

In passing the visitor to this "Royal cow-house" will find the homesteads at the Dairy Farm and at Shear Farm, Windsor, well worth his inspection, as they are substantially but plainly built, and possess many conveniences which are not ordinarily met with. The excellent accommodation for the laborers must not be overlooked.

As evidence of the value of exercise to cows near esterne, I am informed that from about 1830 to 1840 Mr. George Lyon flourished in Yorkshire, who purchased great numbers of cows for London dairy-men. Mr. Lyon usually selected the largest and finest cows, many of them being very fresh. The cows were driven to London at the rate of nine to twelve miles per day. The greater part of them calved on the road, the calves being sold to wayside farmers, or taken forward in carts, and the cows continuing their journey. Mr. Lyon was wont to say that he never lost a cow from calving after she had had three days' travelling.

Some cows are subject to falling down of the vagina or first passage, the cause and treatment are thus described by Skellett:—"This is a complaint which, in cases of weakness, both precedes and follows calving, the womb and calf's head pressing upon the passage, make the latter fall down, which it does to a certain extent. Before calving little can be done to remedy it; but when it appears after it, it admits of a certain method of cure. When the parts are replaced, which is easily done, in order to retain them