

were the subjects of an amusing and not particularly pleasant episode on the frontier is coming. "These Royal Agricultural Society of England Show," said a celebrated English machinist, "will be the death of me: I no sooner invent one thing than I must at once begin to improve upon it before the next meeting, or else arrive there to find it superseded and antiquated: there is no rest." Even so: the English breeder will find as little rest as the implement manufacturer, if he is to keep his ground in France; and as this is a most important market for him, we are all the more pains to impress upon him the imperious necessity of straining every nerve to keep the lead he now undoubtedly holds.—The man who wants rest must withdraw from the struggle; to stop, with a crowd of eager competitors in the rear, is to be run over.

The arrangements at Poissy, as compared with those of the Royal Agricultural Society's meetings, merit a passing consideration. How much taste is displayed here! How much prosaic stolidity at home! Here the sun falls upon bright colours, of a pretty vandyked valance hanging from the eaves of the waterproof shedding, and flags, tastefully grouped, flaunt gaily in the breeze; a coat of paint is bestowed upon the wood-work; all, adding about five per cent upon the total outlay, gives a charming *tout ensemble*. Why not a little more decorative display at Battersea? The last arrivals took place on Sunday. On Monday nothing was done until noon. The animals were then brought from their comfortable stables, and placed according to the official programme. Two juries immediately commenced their labours, the avenues being guarded by soldiers, and no non-official was admitted, save members of the press. One jury judged the cattle classes, the other the sheep and pigs. Both consisted of twelve members and a president. The composition of the first were as follows: Five landed proprietors, two Government General Inspectors of Agriculture, an Inspector General of the Imperial Veterinary Schools, the Veterinary Professor at Alfort, a member of the central School of Agriculture, a Professor of Zoology, a Paris butcher, and last, though not least, our own Mr. Fisher Hobbs, who had no little difficulty in swaying the predilections of the last-named member of the corps. The second jury was similar, and both contained many men who were more disposed to rely on the old butcher's opinion than on their own.—So far as we observed, the presence of this professional worker well enough, and we see more reason than ever to urge the adoption of the same practice at our Christmas Show. There is but little dissatisfaction with the awards; it is only here and there, where the French taste for the round has overruled the English taste for the sirloin, that there is any fault-finding.

The following is a synopsis of the entries:—

BRITISH.

	Steers.	Oxen.	Heifers.	Cows.	Total.
Shorthorns.....	1	1	6	5	13
Devons.....	2	1	0	3	6
Hereford.....	4	1	2	3	10
Polled Angus, (Aberdeen, Gal- loway).....	5	3	3	3	14
Highland.....	0	2	0	1	3
Ayrshire, &c.....	0	0	0	0	0
Irish.....	1	0	0	1	2
Other breeds.....	0	1	0	0	1
Cross-breeds.....	3	3	2	0	8
Cattle.....	16	12	13	16	57

There were no entries in the Leicester, Cheviot, Blackfaced, and Mountain Classes, Dutch, Belgian and German Classes. In the Long-wool Classes there were 4 entries; in the Southdown 3; other short-wools 3; Kents 1; Cross-breeds total 13.

The entries in the Pig classes number 25.

Altogether there are 95 entries of British stock, from 41 exhibitors.

Mutton is now more an object in France than wool, or, at all events, than the short-wools which are supplied by the Australian colonies at so low a rate as to discourage the French growers. The merinos are crossed with the Dishley's, and the current is now turned in favor of long wool, as well as mutton, as may be seen in the award of the prize of honour to the Cotswold breed, to 3 making a decision which a few years ago would, notwithstanding the huge proportion the Cotswolds, have favoured the Down.

The pig in France thrives better than it does with us. A dry soil and warm climate are more conducive to its development; and our own do much better in the Gallic than in the British. It is said, on good authority, that the breeds of France are descended from ours, and that therefore Nature helps them to beat us with our own weapons. These facts will prepare the reader for the announcement that England does not hold the pre-eminence in the porcine breed that she does in the ovine and bovine. Our neighbours seem certainly to have a better idea of tenderness in pork than of that quality either beef or mutton. Our show of pigs is not creditable, and the credit is due to Mr. Webb, whose 17-months Sussex, weighing 30 st., bears off the medal of honour in the pig class, and Mr. Crisp supports his own as well as the national credit in the 4, 8, and 18-months class, receiving one 1st and two 2nd prizes.

In the following notice of the French stock will be best to follow the course indicated in the programme. As a tabular statement may prove convenient we append one: