

SHORTHORN INTELLIGENCE.

Bell's Weekly Messenger.

A great improvement has been made in the form of record of the prize awards, in the appendix to Vol. 21, Part 2 (second series) of the *Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society of England*. In former lists of awards the names of the winning exhibitors and names and heads of pedigrees of their prize animals have been given without reference to the class, or to the animals' numbers in the show catalogue; and as the reports of the judges usually referred to the classes and numbers of the animals, without giving their names, little use could be made of those reports unless the reader had before him also the catalogue of the show, which might be, or might not be, in his possession. The new arrangement makes the appendix itself as good as the catalogue for the purpose of identifying the animals upon which the judges give any special remarks, and will be found to add greatly to facility of reference, even if the reader should happen to possess the catalogue also.

The report of the judges of Shorthorns at Preston is exceptionally meagre, only thirteen lines, without mention of any animal, favorably or unfavorably, by name. The only particular reference to any animal, indeed, is when they allude to the criticism passed upon their awards in the cow class, adding, "The first and second animals in this class were shown in nice breeding condition, and we think it will be a matter of some satisfaction, not only to the society, but to breeders generally, that we were able to award these two prizes to animals in that state." Many readers of the *Messenger*, no doubt, remember the appearance of those two cows at Preston, and the credit which their condition reflected upon the able management of the Alnwick Castle herd. The same readers will also recollect that the third prize cow, Mr. J. J. Sharp's May Duchess 15th, bore an enormous weight of flesh, and that Mr. C. W. Brierley's cow, Snowflake, who had the reserved number at Preston, first prize in the cow class at the York, and first in the same class at the Shrewsbury meeting of the society, this year seemed to be a little past her best days. She had been breeding regularly, and at the time of the Preston show was milking deeply, as her morning and evening pail-filling abundantly proved. She was consequently a trifle less firm of flesh than when she carried first honors in 1883-4, her nice breeding condition having suffered from her nice breeding performances. The tone of the report is somewhat chilly, melancholy; but a class containing, as the awards tell, three cows better than Snowflake, and, as the report of the judges says, a family class in which the prizes were strongly contested, and two good classes of heifers calved in 1883 and 1884, are records upon which admirers of the Shorthorn need not give way to despondency. Mr. Jabez Turner, without avowing dissent from the comments of the judges, gives a more cheerful description than they do of the Shorthorn features of the show, especially of the male portion, relieving with flashes of light the gloomy picture drawn by the judges. Seldom, he maintains, has the championship been more honorably won than by Mr. Handley's Royal Ingram, "almost faultless in outline"; and again, "perfect in touch and hair."

TO ADMINISTER MEDICINE TO SWINE.

Considerable trouble has been experienced in dosing the hog. The *American Agriculturist* says that if the medicine cannot be given in his food, as when he has no appetite, or is in great pain, it must be administered direct. To do this is quite difficult, and most farmers give it up, or adopt the homœopathic treatment, because it is so much easier. When properly managed, it is not very hard for the pig or the attendant. The pig is caught by a slip-noose in a strong rope, which goes through

the mouth, and holds back the tusks. He will pull back with all his might, and the rope must be made fast quite short, to the top of a post or fence, then his legs are secured so that he cannot spring forward. Now if an old shoe with a hole in the toe is given him to chop upon, he will champ away upon it as angrily as possible, and the medicine can be poured into his mouth through it—a little at a time, or he will choke, and strangle and cough. Another way is to hold the pig in the same way, or as for ringing, or to pour the medicine into one nostril through an oil can such as is used for oiling machinery. Either of these methods render it possible to give medicine to a pig as effectually as to any animal, and it is not probable that his rage will have any evil effect, as in the case of a struggling child.

EARLY LAMBS.

Sheep Breeder.

The money taken in for his crop of early lambs is generally the first return the farm makes to its owner for the current year, and probably the most profitable when taking into consideration the amount of money invested, for it is often the case that a ewe bought in August for \$1.75 or \$2 will produce a lamb in December or January that will, in the following April or May, sell for \$3.50 or \$4. This is often the case in the local market, and if they were shipped North, therefore, would command even a better price. Much of this, of course, depends upon the time the lamb is dropped, for they must have size, but a great deal depends upon the manner in which they are handled. They must be pushed from the start. We are no advocate for over-feeding young stock of any kind that are intended to be kept for breeding purposes, but at the same time they should never suffer for feed; they should have enough always to keep them in a good, thrifty, growing condition.

But with lambs for market the case is different; our five months is the limit of their existence, and in this time you want to get them as heavy as possible. At the high price at which they sell, no food is too expensive for them that will add to their growth, and the earlier they are taught to eat the better; two or three days after they are dropped is none too soon to give them their first lesson in feeding. Let a man in charge take a little ewe's milk in the hollow of his hand, and mix in it the least quantity of meal; the little fellows will soon acquire a taste for it, and, this once established, the rest is easy enough. They should not be weaned from the ewes, however, but allowed to have all the milk they can get, and such other food as they will take that will make growth and flesh.

IMPORTANT TREATMENT OF BARREN BROOD SOWS.

W. B. Coleman, in *Indiana Farmer*.

Permit me to give my experience with barren brood sows. To increase my herd of Poland Chinas, I purchased of Mr. Gilmour of Greensburg, Ind., first choice sow pig out of Lady King, sweepstakes sow at Indiana State Fair in 1883. Last winter I bred her and reared her to four different hogs, both young and old, and I gave up and pronounced her barren. I wrote Mr. Gilmour asking his advice, and he advised me to feed her hemp seed, saying that was Mr. Thomas' remedy. As Mr. George W. Thomas had recommended hemp seed through the *Farmer*, heretofore, I procured a half-peck, ground it, and fed a teacupful twice a day, in wet meal, for two weeks before breeding again, and continued one week after breeding. In about one hundred and twelve days she farrowed eight fine healthy youngsters.

INDUCING THE HENS TO LAY.

Farmer's Magazine.

There is such a thing as inducing the hens to lay by giving them the material with which to do so. Instinct naturally teaches the hens to lay and bring forth their young under the most favorable conditions only, and hence, like all of the feathered tribe, spring is the most appropriate and proper season, for then the body is more easily kept warm, and the young more carefully nursed. As the hens are always inclined to lay on the approach of warmer weather, they may be induced to lay by giving them advantages favorable to those of spring. In the first place they must be sheltered from the cold winds and driving storms. The hen that has to hide away in some retired nook in order to keep warm cannot lay because nature refuses to admit of reproduction under adverse circumstances. Artificial warmth is as highly appreciated by her as natural heat, and she obeys the inclination induced by the conditions afforded, and, being in an atmosphere favorable to the purpose, lays her clutch of eggs and attempts to hatch out a brood. The warmth which is so essential consists of that which is created within her body by the food allowed. She is literally a stove, consuming fuel, and creating heat by consumption. When the heat is created the essential requirement is to retain it. To do this she must have a warm and comfortable place both day and night, and the food must consist of all the elements necessary to form an egg, as it is secured by her in the spring. Hence corn, wheat, oats, a proportion of meat, ground bone, ground oyster shells, and green food, such as cabbage, boiled roots, chopped onions, etc., must be given in order to afford a variety. When the hens are thus provided for and allowed a dust bath, plenty of fresh water, and a place for exercise, there is no reason why they should not be induced to lay during this season, for to them spring does not consist in a change from winter to moderate weather, but a period during which they can best promote egg production, due to better and more favorable conditions.

PROTECTION.

English Live Stock Journal.

The protectionist fever seems to be quite epidemic among owners of pure bred stock in the United States. Last week we reported the imposition of a £20 registration fee on all Herefords that are in future imported from this country. The Clydesdale breeders of the States have had under consideration a similar proposal, which, as we think, was wisely "left on the table." But even the Shorthorn men are not free from the hankering after protection. At a meeting of the American Shorthorn Breeders' Association which has just been held in Chicago, a resolution was offered that no foreign cattle should be permitted to enter the country. General Curtis explained that such a resolution should be addressed to the Secretary of the Treasury, as it was only by his permission that cattle were now admitted. He could, said the General, at any time when it seemed necessary, suspend his permission, and no cattle could come in. We are informed that no action was taken on the resolution, but it would be unsafe to predict how long the proposal, in probably another form will be allowed to lapse.

Many drivers fall into the bad habit when currying a horse, or when passing him, of tickling him in the flank. By this practice a sensitive, playful animal becomes in time a biting or kicking one, and has the vice confirmed. In the city, many horses are spoiled by thoughtless men or boys, who tease them as they stand by the curb-stone, hence the muzzle becomes necessary. Don't tease the horses. Owners should admonish their hired help about this and the mischievous results.