

thorn. The cross breeds of sheep were remarkable this year than they have ever been, and we have seldom seen so wonderful a play as that made by Mr. John Overman, in two classes with wethers, that were the result of his favourite cross between the Leicester and Southdown. Mr. Hine, too, made a grand play, and followed Mr. Overman in both classes. In the Extra Stock, the Oxford Down, an original cross between the Hampshire and an ewe and Cotswold ram, but now considerably by virtue of age, an established breed, took the lead with a grand sheep exhibited by the exports of the late Samuel Treadwell. Looking at these Oxford Downs from a consumer's point of view, they certainly seemed to abound in more flesh than their more favored rivals, the Leicesters and Sussex Down cross, which though wonderful for rump, back, and plate, struck us as being the fat too predominant, and too unevenly distributed through the body. Mr. Overman's large sheep, with a great display of the Leicester; while the Oxfords, already mentioned, Mr. Druce's, which took a third prize, showed dark faces and wool, a large square frame, and fine quality. We preferred their head to that of the Leicester Down cross, as evincing a more high-toned and vigorous constitution. Mr. Hine's cross between the Hampshire and Gloucester resulted in a most useful class of sheep, the only defect of which was in the thigh. Mr. Hine's small and pretty cross between the Down and Leicester were remarkable for fine bone and speed of fall; while Lord Berners' Cotswold and Leicester cross showed special merit."

In Pigs the show was, as usual, extensive, comprising animals fattened to the highest degree of the various breeds now cultivated in England. The implement department embraced all kinds of agricultural mechanics in their most improved forms. Next year will afford the new building ample space for progress in increase in every department of this important and well-known institution.

We clip the following extracts from addresses made by members of the club at the annual meeting and dinner, which will be both interesting and suggestive to many of our readers.

"Mr. Barford moved the following resolution: That in future any sheep that may be exhibited for any prize offered by the Club, shall not in any way clipped or trimmed (except on the head and legs,) and any sheep so clipped or trimmed shall be disqualified." He said he considered that the present practice was based on a false principle, and that the exhibitors deceived themselves in resorting to the system of clipping. A few years ago the Prince Consort, during a visit to Birmingham, called attention to a principle which he justly said was forcing its way

into society, namely, the introduction of science in art as the conscious regulator of production. In all their operations, said His Royal Highness, whether agricultural or manufacturing, it was not they who operated, but the laws of Nature which they had put in operation. Now, the clipping of animals into form was a departure from a law of Nature. When he was elected a member of that Club three years ago, he felt that its object was to encourage the breeding of those animals which would pay best, and produce the most nutritious food for man. It might be right and proper that a few animals should be exhibited in that extraordinary way, in order to show what state they might be brought to; but after having paid much attention to the matter, he had arrived at the conclusion that animals used in a lean state would always produce better stock than they would when then they were in a fat condition. A few Exmoor sheep were exhibited in the yard that day. They were a new class in the show; but as regarded quality, he fancied that there was more nutritious matter in one pound of those animals than in the same quantity of any other description of animals in the show. His only motive in moving the resolution was that the matter should be put on a sound footing. He was of opinion that every man who had been in the habit of clipping would do better to study anatomy and the laws of Nature than the art of deceiving."

This motion was lost by a vast majority; Mr. Fisher Hobbs remarked, "that if there was any one point in the animal that ought to be in a perfect state of nature, it was the face and head. In the Royal Agricultural Society such restrictions as that now proposed were abolished twenty years ago."

Mr. Torr, a very extensive Lincolnshire grazier and farmer, in returning thanks for the judges, congratulated the members of the Club upon the successful show in Baker-street during the past week, the merits of which he and his colleagues had a better opportunity of testing than any other parties. Whilst not so good as former ones in some classes, upon the whole it was a successful show. He was bound to say, that the Devons deservedly kept their place, that the Herefords were hardly up to the mark, and that amongst the Shorthorns there were certain shortcomings. Indeed, he thought they were very much indebted to Mr. Taylor, the winner of the Gold Medal, for the best oxen in any of the classes, for saving their credit, as he might also say, on the present occasion; for they might depend upon it that if his ox had been taken out of the show, a large plum would have been abstracted from the pie. With regard to the heifer class of Shorthorns, he would take the liberty of advising his Shorthorn friends to use more exertion, or they stood a chance of losing the Gold Medal which they had so con-