

an excellent adjunct to the corn crib in the summer, and in the winter we have found the best of results from feeding small quantities of nicely cured clover hay, cut fine and steamed, the hay, besides assisting to balance the ration, having a mechanical effect in improving the digestion by separating the particles of meal in the stomach and so allowing the gastric juices to perform their work better.

A Champion Yorkshire Sow.

Mr. Edwin Buss, Elphicks, Horsmonden, Kent, England, is a breeder of Berkshire and Yorkshire pigs who has, during the past few years, come into prominence through the large number of prizes won by his stock at the leading shows in England. During the year just coming to a close his success has been very pronounced, both with Berkshires and Yorkshires. He was the breeder and exhibitor of the grand sow, Elphicks' Matchless, winner of champion prizes at the Royal, Royal Counties, and elsewhere, a cut of which we gave in September last. In this number we give an illustration of another champion winner from the Elphicks herd, Elphicks' Daisy IV., winner of first at the Royal Counties and Oxford County shows, and of the champion prize at the latter. She is a grand sow, and bids fair to perpetuate the honors of her progenitor, Daisy I.

Always Room at the Top.

A writer in *Wallace's Farmer*, after pointing out the advantages of a herd of thoroughbred pigs, goes on to say:

"The question may arise, What would the breeder do if almost every farmer had a herd of thoroughbreds? The answer is that there is always a blue and a better blue. We have not realized by any means the highest ideal of breeding, nor shall we for many generations to come. The types of hogs will vary with varying conditions. Absolute perfection, whether in animal form or human character, is unattainable. There will always be something to be striven for, something yet to be realized, and the breeder really enters fully upon his largest field of operations when the contest is not between the scrub and the thoroughbred, but between the superior and inferior thoroughbred. The man who is raising hogs for the purpose of driving out the scrub is simply the

missionary or frontiersman who has to contend with ignorance and prejudice, and he gets comparatively little for his pains. The breeder who makes money and reputation and has satisfaction in his business is the man who is contending for the prize with the best."

These are words that we would most heartily endorse. Years ago, when we first began breeding purebred pigs, we were often asked, "What will you do when the country is full of these pigs? They will not be worth anything." Our answer invariably was, "There will always be sale for the best." We have since seen no reason to change our opinion. It is doubtless true that, just as the market for pork varies according to circumstances, so the demand for thoroughbred hogs fluctuates more or less; still the breeder who has steadily pursued his course, endeavoring to produce as nearly as he can what his judgment has pictured to him: as an ideal hog, has through it all found a steady sale for his surplus stock at remunerative figures, and will continue to do so.

We do not wish to discourage any young breeder, but we would point out that of all those who go into the business of breeding cattle, horses, sheep, or hogs, only a very small percentage indeed ever reach the top of the tree. Breeding is in every sense of the word an art, and, as in all arts, to be successful the student has to devote no small amount of both time and attention to the prosecution of his studies. How many of those who commence breeding purebred stock, we would ask, ever give either sufficient time or sufficient attention to their work to enable them to thoroughly master it, if it ever can be *thoroughly mastered*?

The painter and the sculptor are in very truth but accomplishing the same object, with plastic materials that they can mould as they wish, that the breeder is attempting to accomplish with living, breeding animals as materials, viz., the creation of his ideal of a perfect form; and when we consider how very few among the thousands who adopt the professions we speak of ever become famous, is it any wonder that so few of those who commence breeding animals ever approach anything like perfection? But just as fame and wealth await the successful painter or sculptor, so success in his endeavors will bring, if not fame, at least honor, and if not wealth, at least a fair remuneration to the stock breeder, for, in his business, as in all others, while the lower steps may be crowded, there is always room at the top.