

a red Shorthorn of exceedingly nice character and a grand udder, Mr. Coke coming third, with a roan Shorthorn. The reserve cow was also of this breed. The next class was for dairy cows in milk, whose last calf was born within three months of the show. Here, again, the Shorthorns figured very well indeed. The class for three-year-old dairy cows in milk was a shorter one in numbers, yet it had three good ones as winners and an excellent reserve young cow, the first and second being taken by cross-breds, and the third by a Shorthorn.

#### THE BUTTER TEST.

Great interest was manifested in this section of the dairy industry, and the operations were watched with the keenest interest by breeders of Shorthorns, Jerseys and other cattle, who are interested at the present time in the absorbing question of the dairy. By practical test with the churn the prizes were awarded as follows, viz.:—For cows (1,100 lbs. and over), first, second and fourth were pure Shorthorns; third, a Shorthorn and Red Poll cross. For cows (under 1,100 lbs.), Jerseys carried off all the honors.

The average daily weight of milk in first class was 48 lbs. 8 oz. daily, and of butter 1 lb. 4 oz. per day. In the lighter weights the results were, of milk 35 lbs. 7½ oz., and of butter 2 lbs. 3 oz. daily.

#### SHEEP.

The entries of sheep at Chester numbered 631, being, with two exceptions, the largest show in recent years. Speaking generally, the most noteworthy and prominent features of the section, and those by which it will live in the recollection of show-goers, were the numerous though somewhat uneven entries of Shropshires, the fine class of Cotswolds, and the interesting collection of Welsh mountain sheep. The good show of Lincolns and Oxfords was also worthy of mention.

#### LEICESTERS.

The famous breed of Bakewell has fallen within the past thirty or forty years from its grand position of supremacy, and has long since had to share its glories with other breeds. It was represented at Chester by thirty-six entries, and it may be fairly said that it has seldom produced better representatives. In the two-shear ram class the first prize was awarded to Mr. Geo. Harrison, second to Mr. E. F. Jordan, and Mr. T. H. Hutchinson took the reserve ticket.

The shearing class was uneven, the winners being very good, but some of the others were not really remarkable. Mr. Geo. Harrison again took first prize, also the second prize; Mr. Hutchinson came in third. In the ram lamb class, Mr. John Cheers was placed first for a useful pen, and Maskill and Strickland came second. The yearling ewes were fairly good; Mr. Harrison again carried off the first honors.

#### COTSWOLDS.

The Cotswolds came out in particularly good form and in very respectable numbers, the total entries being forty-two. The first prize in the aged ram class was awarded to Royal Warwick, belonging to Mr. Robt. Garne, an easy winner in his class. There were fifteen entries in the shearing class, nearly all of them quite above the average, and here Mr. Robt. Jacobs came to the front, Mr. Hulbert second, and Mr. Garne third. The last named exhibitor carried off the first and second in the ram lamb class. In the yearling ewe class the whole three prizes were carried off by Mr. Russell Swanwick, of the Royal Agricultural College Farm.

#### LINCOLNS.

The twenty-nine pens of this breed actually present must be regarded as a small show, considering the handiness of the locality for exhibitors. Mr. H. Dudding was the most successful exhibitor, but was closely followed in several instances by Mr. R. Wright, Mr. John Pears, and others.

#### OXFORD-DOWNS.

There were forty-one entries of Oxford-Downs, among which were some very superior animals, as well as a goodly number that were unworthy of very much praise. In this class there is evidently some progress yet to be made. The principal exhibitors were Mr. John C. Eady, Mr. Albert Brasseley, Mr. George Adams, Mr. T. J. Green and Mr. W. A. Shafer, who is a resident of Middletown, Ohio, and is secretary of the American Oxford-Down Flock Book Association.

#### SHROPSHIRE.

This was indeed a magnificent display, the entries exceeding one-third of the total of all breeds of sheep, indicating clearly the progress and popularity of this sort. The successful exhibitors were: Mr. A. S. Berry, Mr. J. Harding, Mr. A. E. Mansell, Mrs. Barr, Mr. Berry, Mr. Campbell, Messrs. T. & S. Bradburne, Mr. Minton. Perhaps the most notable feature of the Shrop exhibit was the shearing ewe pen contest, in which thirty-six pens competed. Mr. T. Fenn was placed first, Mr. J. T. Napier (of Ireland) came second, and Mrs. Barr received third place. Ten other pens received either commended or highly commended tickets. An analysis of the catalogue shows that there are thirty-six exhibitors of Shropshire sheep from eight counties in England, three exhibitors from Ireland, and one from Scotland, making a total of forty exhibitors entering three hundred and eighty animals.

#### HAMPSHIRE.

Amongst the twenty-six pens of these sheep there are but few entries which have not been before the public more than once this season: the

sheep are good, but the competition was very restricted. Mr. Lambert, of Babraham, is the only exhibitor of a two-shear ram. Mr. Wm. Newton, Mr. F. R. Moore and Mr. Le Roy Lewis are prize takers in the order named for shearing rams. The class of pens of three ram lambs contain nine entries in their places. Mr. Newton's lot were an easy first, Mr. Lambert's second. Mr. Newton also carried away the first prize for pen of shearing ewes. Mr. Le Roy Lewis' pen came second. There were other good flocks for which there were no prizes.

#### SOUTHDOWNS.

The Southdown exhibit consisted of seventy-one pens, which was almost identical with that of Warwick last year. The leading pens were brought into the ring for inspection of H. R. H., the Prince of Wales, who appeared to be much interested in them all, but especially in the ram which won the Duke of York's champion plate at Southampton a few days before. Mr. J. J. Coleman won the first for two-shear ram. The second prize went to a ram from the flock of the Duke of Hamilton and Brandon. In the shearing class the Duke of Richmond takes first prize, Duke of Hamilton second, and Mr. Coleman received third place. In the class for pens of three ram lambs, H. R. H. the Prince of Wales won with a useful lot. The three shearing ewe pen class was well filled; here again H. R. H. the Prince of Wales received the first place, J. J. Coleman second, the third prize being awarded to a pen from the flock of Sir Wm. Throckmorton, Bart. The Duke of Hamilton's ewes received a commended card, and are ewes of great merit.

#### SUFFOLKS.

The Suffolks being far from home came out in only meagre numbers. The winning old rams were owned by Mr. Josh. Smith, who also took second ticket. In the shearing class, the Earl of Ellesmere won the first prize, Mr. Josh. Smith coming second, who also received first prize in the ram lamb class, and was followed by Mr. Henry Lingwood. The shearing ewe class were taken in order as follows: Lingwood, Ellesmere, and Smith.

#### HORNED DORSETS.

Of this breed there was a small show. Mr. Samuel Kidner won first and second in the shearing ram class. In the lamb class Mr. W. E. Groves took both prizes. In the shearing ewes, a small but good class, Mr. W. J. Culverwell was awarded first and second honors.

#### PIGS.

In the Berkshire, Tamworth and Small White divisions the porcine display was not only satisfactory but of high merit, but the display in the Large White and Middle White divisions was quite the reverse. Mr. Ralph Smyd's Welford, which comes first in the large boar class, is in length and form of good quality. The second prize was awarded to Mr. Denton Gibson, who also came in for the reserve ticket. In the Middle White class Mr. A. T. Twentyman came first with Castlecroft Deacon, who also won at Gloucester. The second prize was also won by the same exhibitor. In the sow classes Mr. Gibson, Mr. Twentyman and Mr. Nuttall were the successful competitors. The Berkshire class was a thoroughly good one, headed as it was with Mr. W. Pinnock's two first-class boars, Manor Poem N. and Manor Poem M. The first named is expected to be exhibited at Chicago, and we will doubtless hear from him again, as he is a grand animal, almost touching the ground when he walks. Mr. A. E. W. Darby's Philo, with his deep, full-shaped, thick form, made a good third winner, Mr. T. A. Atkins having reserve with Marmaduke. In the young boar class Mr. Darby was first with very fine specimens, Mr. J. W. Kimber second, and Mr. Russell Swanwick's pen being perhaps equally good, only they did not quite match. The sow classes were large and very fine indeed. The best prizes were taken by Mr. Edney Hayter, Mr. Russell, Mr. Jas. Blythe, Mr. C. A. Barnes, Sir Humphrey de Trafford, Col. Blandy Jenkins, Mr. T. H. Atkins and Mr. W. Pinnock. The Tamworth breed was admirably represented; Mr. Jordan was first with a deep-set boar of considerable substance, and Messrs. Jones and Sons were second with a fine, large animal. Mr. Robt. Ibbotson won first and third in the young boar class, Mr. Thos. Clayton coming between them. In the sow class Mr. Ibbotson again came in for first place, Mr. Thos. Thompson was second, Mr. W. H. Mitchell third. The young sow pigs, with seven entries, were so good that six of them received notice. Mr. Phillips and Clayton received first and second, Mr. Ibbotson being third.

#### POULTRY.

The poultry section of the show increases steadily and surely year by year, and the present exceeds all previous gatherings, save only that at Windsor, which was exceptional. The numbers on the present occasion are 836. As to the quality, it is somewhat variable, and we scarcely think the chickens are up to the average, doubtless owing to the very dry weather which has prevailed this spring. In some cases the deficiency is more apparent than real, and implies that there has been a lesser development of flesh, whilst there is a sturdier frame. The table poultry made a good average display, the numbers being forty-four couples of chickens, and fourteen couples of ducklings. This exhibit was shown alive, killed and dressed on the grounds, and shown as dressed poultry.

### Our Scottish Letter.

#### THE ROYAL SHOW.

Since we last addressed the readers of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE various important events have been taking place in the agricultural world of Scotland. The council of the Clydesdale Horse Society have nominated, as the British judge of Clydesdales at Chicago, one of the most popular judges in the whole of Scotland, Mr. James Weir, Sandilands, Lanark. It is no exaggeration to say that Mr. Weir is, without exception, the most popular judge amongst Scottish farmers. This season he has acted in one section or other at almost all of the important shows. His reputation as a man is of the highest, and as a judge he excels in selecting young, unfed stock. Animals overloaded with fat never command his admiration, and he is an out-and-out Scottish judge. That is to say, his preferences are altogether for those lines of judging which are closely identified with the Clydesdale interest. We can honestly congratulate the Exposition authorities on this appointment, and trust that they may be able to make such financial arrangements as will ensure Mr. Weir's attendance at Chicago.

A great many shows have taken place in the west and east of Scotland. The principal was probably that held at Stirling a fortnight ago. Almost all classes of stock were represented—Stirling being on the borderland between the south of Scotland and the west, between the feeding district and the dairy district, consequently there was a grand display of all classes. We had Aberdeen-Angus and Shorthorns, as well as Ayrshires; hunting horses and roadster horses, as well as Clydesdales, and a good show of ponies; black faced sheep, along with a good representation of Border Leicesters. Then three of the principal shows in Fifeshire took place on successive Saturdays. Fifeshire is a county in which there is a great variety of agricultural labor. The example of Mr. Gilmour, of Montrave, has induced many tenant farmers to make exertions for the improvement of their draught horses. The classes of the show in this section are divided into two—one being open to all, and the other restricted to tenant farmers. It is not often, but it sometimes happens, that Mr. Gilmour is defeated in the open class by a tenant farmer, and in the class restricted to the tenants some very good animals were shown. In former years Mr. Gilmour's strongest opponent was Mr. Balfour, of Balbirnie, but for some reason or other he has this year withdrawn from competition. The Balbirnie stud was established some considerable time before the Montrave stud, and from time to time has been represented at the principal shows by some really first-class specimens. This year Mr. Gilmour is showing mainly young stock bred by himself, and got by Prince of Albion. The dairy cattle in Fifeshire are of a strong and heavy character. Some of them designated the dairy classes have strongly marked Ayrshire characteristics, but are rather heavier than the West of Scotland Ayrshires. The formation of their vessels is also suggestive that their increased weight has been secured by the use of a Shorthorn cross. Shorthorns in Fifeshire are a grand breed; not only Mr. Gilmour, but also Mr. Christie, of Dairsie, and Mr. Hill, of Langside, exhibited some fine specimens of the red, white and roan. Of course the best Aberdeen-Angus herd in Fifeshire is that of Mrs. and Miss Morrison Duncan, of Naughton. This is a very old herd, being descended from one of the oldest of the Aberdeen-Angus tribes, and both the ladies, who are the proprietors, are quite enthusiastic in their patronage of the breed. Mrs. Morrison Duncan's father was owner of the best herd of Aberdeen-Angus cattle at the time of the first visit of the Highland Society to Inverness, somewhere about fifty years ago. The Stirling Show, to which reference has incidentally been made, was remarkable in the Clydesdale classes for the extraordinary success of the stud of Mr. David Mitchell, of Millfield. He almost swept the boards with first-prize animals. Another exhibitor who showed very excellent stock was Mr. R. C. Macfarlane, of Greenburn, Blairdrummond, a gentleman who owns one of the best of the younger horses—Crown and Feather. Still another notable local exhibition was that held at East Kilbride a week ago. This is an unique gathering. The Society was instituted so long ago as 1810, and the town is one of those old-fashioned places which were once of great importance, but have been shunted into a corner by the formation of railroads and the abolition of stage coaches. It contains some of the old hostleries, which at once suggest to the onlooker a four-in-hand coach, with jaded travellers seeking rest and refreshment. But no four-in-hand comes that way now, except an occasional one during the summer on pleasure bent. For one day in the year the old town shakes itself out of its lethargy, becomes exceedingly alive, is besieged by all the travelling showmen in the country, and thronged by every country lad and lass for a dozen miles around. Kilbride show-day is a rural holiday, and has been so for many generations. As an exhibition of stock it is not without a measure of interest, but is rather a parade of animals that have already won at other shows than of young stock. This year, for the first time, Mr. Riddell sent out his famous champion mare Sunrise to grace Kilbride Show. She bears her honors well, and once more defeated a strong field. There was also a capital show of light-legged horses, including Hackneys. The town is in the centre of a very wide district, the best grazing