

should or should not be added to the combination, and this extractive matter drawn off by steam prior to the admission of water containing fuller's earth. In this liquid from time to time drawn off in Watt's process, the linseed could be boiled, thus making a richer cake for cattle. We throw out this suggestion not by way of finding fault, but if possible, to advance the interest of the exhibitors. The practical question at issue is probably one of expense, and they are the best qualified to answer this by having recourse to experiment.

OUR PROVINCIAL EXHIBITIONS.

In looking over the "Regulations" and "Prize List" for the "Twelfth Annual Exhibition" of the Agricultural Association, we do not see the evidence we could wish of that progressive improvement, that comprehensiveness of aim, and completeness of arrangement, which twelve years' experience ought to have achieved, and we now desire to point the attention of the zealous members of the Agricultural Board to one or two matters in which we conceive there is great room for improvement.

And, first, *we think that an effort should be made to ascertain officially and reliably, how the results exhibited at each Annual Show were obtained, and to preserve an intelligible record of the facts.* It will be admitted that if the efforts of individuals, the labour of committees, the private subscriptions, and the public grants annually expended upon these exhibitions, produce no higher result than to assure A, B, and C, that they have exhibited respectively, the best horse, bull, or pig, among some half-dozen competitors, the sooner Mr. Vankoughnet tries his hand at another amendment the better. The prize list is framed as if the Association had been organized, as if these Committees gave up their time, as if all this money were contributed chiefly to gratify the vanity of the exhibitors. We have a higher idea of the object of the Association. Emulation and zeal are no doubt excited by the offer of prizes; but the circle within which that influence operates is too contracted to warrant so great an expenditure of means. The discovery of new processes and new facts; the education of truth by a comparison of results; and the diffusion of the knowledge thus obtained over as wide a field as possible, were the chief objects contemplated by the founders of these institutions. Prizes are merely means to an end. In no other way could the collection, annually at one point, of all the most valuable productions of agriculture, and mechanical ingenuity, be secured at so small a cost to the public. But to what extent have these objects been realised from the eleven exhibitions already held? Where shall we find the record? Except in the memory of a few spectators, what single fact brought to light by these exhibitions has been preserved to guide the implement maker, the breeder, or the cultivator, in his future operations? The press of the day has indeed recorded that A. got a prize for wheat, B. for a bull, C. for a calf, D. for a plough, E. for a harrow, &c. The journalist has also made his passing comment. But the information conveyed by a card, marked "Class XX,—Geese, large breed," and the stupid answers of stable-boys and herdsmen, with an occasional panegyric from the owner of some extraordinary but untried invention, are not the best data for an article which the reader is expected to cut out and preserve for future reference. The "Transactions of the Board of Agriculture," though published officially, give us