

Gurrier had also an extraordinarily fine show of Herefords, Devons, Runt, and Scots; while Mr. Collins had two of the best shorthorns, bred and fed by Mr. Simpson, near Cambridge, we ever saw, exceeding in weight 170 stones each: The 10 Herefords, the property of Mr. Layton, of Thorney, near Peterborough, and offered for sale by Mr. Collins, were first-rate animals. Mr. Robert Morgan had also 20 very superior short-horned and Hereford Oxen, grazed by W. Goodall, Esq., of Market Deeping, Lincolnshire. These beasts were greatly admired by the butchers, and allowed by judges to be the 20 best beasts shown in London, of any one gentleman's feeding. Mr. Morgan, had, likewise, some very good Oxen on sale, the property of W. Wiseman, Esq., of Moulta Eauget, and some remarkably fine Scots, belonging to G. Hay, Esq., of Aberdeen, (N. B.) The short-horns and Herefords last referred to weighed quite 200 stone each. Mr. Verley had on show 14 Herefords, sent by Mr. B. Simpkins of Oby, Leicestershire, and which were justly admired by all present.

We now come to the Sheep, but in which, with some exceptions—to which we presently allude—there was a slight falling off in quality, but not in numbers (the latter being about the average of those shewn on this occasion). Prime old Downs being scarce were taken off somewhat freely, at currencies fully equal to those obtained on this day se'nnight, or from 4s. to 4s. 4d. per 8lbs; but with polled and other breeds the trade was in a very depressed state, at barely stationary prices.

In glancing through the supply of Sheep we perceived some unusually fine creatures amongst it—Mr. Weal having offered 16 polled sheep, the property of E. F. Whittingstall, Esq., of Langley-Berry, Hertfordshire; as, also, 20 remarkably fine Downs, bred by the same gentleman. Some of the former produced 6l. per head. Mr. Weal likewise showed two wonderful Downs, sent by Mr. Addams, of Ware, Herts, and which were justly praised. There were shown by other salesmen some remarkably fine Downs, bred and fed by Mr. Tuckwell, of Signett; five polled Sheep, bred and fed by Mr. C. Large, of Broadwell; and some exceedingly fine Downs, belonging to Mr. Faulkner, of Berry Barns, which were certainly the prodigies of the supply of Sheep.

DRY ROT IN POTATOES.

This disease is one that has produced loss and disappointment to farmers both in the British Isles and in Canada, to a considerable extent, within the last few years, and the causes do not appear to be satisfactorily understood. The following selection on the subject is from a late number of the *Mark-Lane Express*, and deserves attention:

There have been various cases in this district of the total failure of this crop from what has been denominated the "taint" or the rotting of the sets in the ground. Various attempts have been made to account for this sort of failure which has been so common, especially in the south of Scotland, of late years; but none of the causes usually assigned seem to be satisfactory. It has been attributed to the avidity of the soil at the time of planting; to the fermentation of the dung; to the cutting of the tubers, and to their being allowed to lie too long cut before being planted. But the question occurs—why should any of these circumstances cause failure now, seeing that no such thing was heard of in former years, during which these supposed causes of failure were at least as much in operation as they are at present? Potatoes had frequently been planted in a dry and warm season (1826 for instance,) with dung in all stages of fermentation—always in cut

sets—and it had wont to be the general practice, in this part of the country, to cut the tubers just as it happened to suit the convenience of the parties concerned, though it might be several days before it was intended to plant them, and to throw them down in heaps in a shed or by the side of a wall and elsewhere, and yet no such failure in any instance occurred. It seems pretty evident, therefore, that these circumstances are only secondary causes of the failure, any of which may be sufficient to complete the destruction of the vital energy in a plant which is extremely susceptible of injury from its being in an unnatural, or, as it may be called, a diseased state. The quantity of starch found in the potatoe is known to be very much; and though its containing a large quantity of the substance increases its value as an article of food, yet there is reason to believe that the same circumstance tends to lessen the power of the vital principle in the plant, and consequently, especially when combined with other unfavorable influences, to occasion it to fail in vegetating. Now, there are three circumstances which seem to have a tendency to affect the quantity of starch, viz., 1st, The time that has elapsed since the tubers were raised from the seed obtained from the apples, or "plums" as they are called in this part of the country; 2nd, The nature of the soil on which they have grown; and 3rd, The degree of ripeness to which they have been allowed to attain before being dug up. If these conjectures, then, are correct, a remedy for the failure might be found in raising tubers from seed; for though these might at first be less dry, their juices would be more vigorous, and they would possess the vital principle in all its power. And, potatoes raised on a soil that has been long cultivated, and of a dry and rather loose texture, with abundance of carbonaceous matter, or vegetable mould, will be most likely to fail when re-planted; whereas those raised on a soil of an opposite character, especially if it is rather late and high-lying, will probably vegetate. And, again, potatoes which are already in that condition, or stage of their existence, in which they have a tendency to deposit an excess of starch, may, to a considerable extent, be prevented from doing so by being dug up early; whereas the contrary effect will certainly ensue from their being allowed to be what, in such circumstances, may be called over-ripened. The writer of this does not pretend to have given any very particular attention to the matter, and merely ventures to throw out these hints for the consideration of those who have studied the subject—a subject which, apart from its importance to the agriculturist, is certainly an interesting point in vegetable physiology.—Nov. 25.

EXPORTATION OF CATTLE TO BELGIUM.—The agents acting for his Majesty King Leopold in this country have made another large purchase of prize bulls, rams, and ewes, for the purpose of improving the breed of horned cattle and sheep in Belgium. On Tuesday 12 bulls of the best English breed, 15 rams, and 30 ewes, were shipped off for Ostend on account of the Belgium Government, making a total of 80 bulls, 100 milch cows, and 300 rams and ewes, that have been exported from England to Antwerp and Ostend within the last six weeks by the agents. They are all prize-cattle, and have been purchased at first-rate prices, the expense being no object, as the King of the Belgians is desirous to have some of the finest specimens of the English breeds to carry out the grand plan of agricultural improvement and rural economy throughout his kingdom by offering annual prizes and encouragement to the farming interest.

BARN CELLAR.—If it can be as conveniently done now as at any time, construct a cellar under your barn, or a portion of it, for the storage of roots, and the preservation of manure. The farmer who has no barn cellar, is getting so be considered behind the age.

Quick lime is found to be a much better agent than water in dispersing the choke damp that is often found in wells and pits. The application of a bushel of lime, slaked or unslaked, will be sufficient to clear a well in five or ten minutes.