

[We are not acquainted with any specific or absolute method of exterminating the wire-worm, that will be effectual under all circumstances. Most of the means mentioned by our correspondent, although they appear to have failed with him, will, one or other, be found generally to mitigate the ravages of this destructive pest. Our correspondent's case appears to be an extreme one, and nothing less, perhaps, than the burning of the soil, will effect a thorough cure. Old pastures, when broken up, are peculiarly liable to have their cultivated crops, for several seasons, injured, and sometimes totally destroyed by the wire-worm; and this is not unfrequently the case on badly tilled land abounding in weeds, on the roots of which, as well as those of cultivated crops, the larva of this beetle finds a subsistence. Several expedients for destroying it in gardens may be readily applied, and with, to a great extent, certain success; such as burning, deep and frequent digging, hand-picking, &c., appliances generally too expensive and tedious on a large scale. In raising hops in England, it is not uncommon to put around the hills in spring the first year after planting a few cut potatoes, for which the wire-worm has a particular liking. These potatoes are taken up, and, if need be, others planted, every few days. In this way coun less numbers of the larvæ are captured, and the roots of the young hops preserved. Our correspondent will find in the 12th volume of the *Agriculturist* for 1860, pp. 29, 46, 64, an essay on the wire-worm, treating the subject somewhat in detail. We shall be happy to hear from any of our readers who have had experience of, or made observations on this matter, and shall be happy to embody their remarks in a future article or articles at the earliest opportunity.—Eps.]

Short-Horns as Snow Stock.

A disposition to lay on fat rapidly, leading to a more than usually early maturity, is a prominent feature in the improved short-horn. This desirable quality is, however, often grossly abused, especially in the case of stock intended to compete at the principal shows. The practice may have originated, perhaps, in a desire on the part of breeders to prove the extraordinary fattening properties of the breed at a time when it was fighting its way into public estimation, and when it had to contend against prejudices in favor of other established breeds.

Whether this supposition be correct or not, it is at least a well-known fact that almost every person who intends to show his short-horns in public considers it necessary to prepare them for exhibition in a very different manner from the course which would be followed were the animals to be kept at home solely for breeding purposes. A very liberal milk diet is supplied in the case of young bulls and heifers for many months after they would have been weaned under ordinary circumstances; and not only are they amply provided with that very nourishing description of food, but they are also crammed with cake, boiled barley, malt, even double X, and in short, every kind of food which is calculated to swell out their proportions, and cover every point with flesh and fat. A similar system is pursued in the case of older stock, and thus the "breeding classes" at our shows usually present an array of animals which would fill appropriately the stalls at a Christmas exhibition, but which are sadly out of place when shown as "breeding" animals. We have frequently seen butchers, in a mixed show of breeding and fat stock, selecting the cow or heifer which had been awarded the gold medal as the best of all the breeding animals as being the fattest animal in the show, far excelling, in a butcher's estimation, any of those which had been avowedly prepared for slaughter.

We emphatically protest against a system of judging which awards prizes to "breeding animals, forced into such an unnatural state as this—forced until it becomes absolute cruelty for any one to insist on their being made to stand up even for a few minutes—until their ungraceful, waddling, hobbling gait, on being led out, produces painful feeling in the minds of spectators, instead of the unqualified admiration which might and ought to be elicited. And such decisions deceive no one—none, at least whose opinion is worth having. The ticketed and be-ribboned monsters may call forth the empty praise of those who poke at them with daintily gloved fingers or with the point of natty parasols, simply because poking of some sort or other is supposed to be essential in the examination of every prize animal; but the real Simon Pures look on with a very qualified degree of admiration; and whilst they certainly contempt plate with interest the well-covered ribs and loins, the overhanging rumps, and the general state of obesity which, like charity, covers perhaps a multitude of faults, ask one another, with a very doubtful air, "Will they breed?" Ay, that's the rub; will they breed?

Now for a practical reply to this very practical question. Year after year and show after show, prizes are withheld from animals in the breeding classes, simply because those animals have not fulfilled the conditions. To speak in technical phraseology, they have not "qualified." They have proved barren—barren of produce, at least, though not of fauce, to their owners.