

It frequently happens that the same persons are members of all these Societies, and compete for the premiums offered by each, thus causing three different sets of Judges to be at the very arduous labour of inspecting the same crops.

The Directors would suggest as a remedy that the Golden Grove Society be open only to members residing within a certain defined district, and the Loch Lomond Society to take in the remainder of the Parish. A Society is already established in St. Martin's, and it is expected that before another year there will be a Parish Society in Lancaster. Those Parish Societies might each have a Show and Fair, confined to its own members residing within its own district, and to the County Society might be left the distribution of premiums for general field crops, open to all members of Parish Societies.

The Exhibition at the Mechanics' Institute having come in place of the usual Show, the Directors offered premiums for a Ploughing Match, which was held in the Parish of Lancaster on Friday last. Eleven competitors came forward, and it is creditable to the County to have to say that there was not an inferior ploughman amongst them.

The award of premiums, although the Judges were known to be thoroughly competent, gave the usual satisfaction; that is, those who were first, thought that full justice had been done, while the rejected were persuaded that there could not have been fair play.

As it is highly necessary that not only the Judges but the ploughmen should be familiar with the rules by which good ploughing is distinguished from bad, the Directors here insert a definition of what constitutes good ploughing, from Stephens' *Book of the Farm* :—

“Want of attention is the great bar to young men becoming good ploughmen; and if they do not acquire the art when comparatively young, they will never do so at an advanced period of life. It is a want of attention at first that makes some ploughmen bunglers all their days, and the great majority exhibit but mediocre attainments. It is well known that the horses of a good ploughman suffer less from the work than those entrusted to an awkward and unskilful hand, and that a material difference will be found in the crops of those ridges tilled by a bad ploughman, when compared to any part of the field where the operation has been judiciously performed.

“The proper form and position of the furrow slice are essential requisites in good ploughing. The furrow slice should always be of such dimensions, and laid in such position, that the two exposed faces in a series of slices should be of equal breadth, and any departure from this is a positive fault. Laid up agreeably to this rule, furrow slices will not only present the maximum of surface to the atmosphere, but also contain the maximum of cubic contents.

“*Correct ploughing* possesses these characteristics :—The furrow slices should be quite straight, for a ploughman that cannot hold a straight furrow is unworthy of his charge. The furrow slices should be quite parallel in length, and this property shows that they have been turned over of an uniform thickness, for thick and thin slices lying together present irregular horizontal lines. The fur-