

wash out, is the black or smutty nose, as held to be too sure a sign of bad blood or impurity in a close or more remote degree. But there is no telling how or when you may throw back to a cross, and Collings crossed with the Kyloc, while there were "unsuspected jumps in the dark," that are, nevertheless, very much matters of history. Perhaps no animal of any repute was ever credited with so many black noses as a well-known Northern "Duke," and there are tribes in descent from him which throw black noses to this day. There is, however, a difference between a thorough smutty nose, and one which is only dark in patches, of which Mr. Pawlett's prize bull, Baron Warlahy, is a very recent example. Many maintain that this was not a smutty nose in the true acceptation of the term, and so one set of judges would pass him, and another bench set him aside. At the Manchester meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society they ordered him out, and at the Oxford meeting they awarded him a prize. According to Mr. Wright—in 1846—"There are many well-bred Shorthorns with dark muzzles. This has been considered by many to be a recent introduction through some inferior cross; but, without denying that, let it not be forgotten that some of the early Shorthorns were not entirely free from it, although not very common, but the sire of Foljambe could not boast of much delicacy there." When, somewhere about the beginning of the present century, Mr. Thos. Booth was showing his Shorthorn herd to a neighbour, the other objected to what he called their raw noses—"in his day the stock was nearly all black nosed, and he never knew a raw-nosed cow that was not delicate." It must be remembered that this was the word of a Yorkshire farmer, as uttered in the district from which the best Shorthorns have sprung. Early maturity or quick feeding is the chief recommendation of a Shorthorn; and so when we look one in the face we must bear in mind that what we want is, as Mr. Carr puts it, "a placidity and composure of mind, a phlegmatic disposition, suggestive of fattening propensity." In fact, a frisky Shorthorn should be something of an anomaly.

Not so the Devon. I should myself have a fancy for a certain wildness or boldness in the head of a pure North Devon; and when Captain Davy says this should in many points resemble the head of the deer, he seem to me to have very happily illustrated his subject. There is, of course, no surer tell-tale to this beautiful breed of animals than the blood-like head and lively look, as one may often distinguish in this way the little "native" gentleman from his commoner, heavier-countenanced cousin, born and bred on the fat lands of Somerset. With such a description apt to my hand, it would be worse than idle to attempt any other than that I have from Captain Davy:—"The head should be small, with a broad indented forehead, tapering considerably towards the nostrils; the nose of a creamy white; the jaws clean, and free from flesh; the eye bright, lively, and prominent, encircled by a deep orange-coloured ring; the ears thin; the horns of the cow long, spreading, and gracefully turned up, tapering off towards the end; in fact, the general aspect of the head should in many points resemble that of the deer. At the same time the expression must be gentle and intelligent. The horns of the bull are thicker set and more slightly curved, or in some instances standing out nearly square, with only a slight inclina-

tion upwards. Fault has been found with the length of the horn of the Devon as being disproportionate, and we have been recommended to get them more like those of the Shorthorn; but I hope, and indeed feel sure, that our breeders will never consent to give up one of the grandest characteristics of their breed."

Here, again, we have the raw nose, as the old Northern farmer contemptuously called it, and here, too, precisely the same sort of discussion crops up.—"A black, or even a spotted, nose is very much disliked, and a calf so marked is never kept by the best breeders. Now the wild cattle in Chillingham Park are of a creamy white colour, with black muzzles; may not the appearance at rare intervals of these black muzzles, and also of the white of which I have already spoken, be additional proofs, if any be wanting, that the Devons were originally descended from the wild cattle which were natives of these islands. I never heard these marks accounted for. Judging from the rude state of agriculture until, we may say, within the last 200 years, it is just possible that our ancestors were not so fastidious about the colour of the nose as we have since become, and did not object to breed from an animal with a black muzzle."

So says Captain Davy, and his theory is well put; but still it is not so clear why we should be so fastidious in preferring a white nose to a black. The Shorthorn breeders say the smut comes originally from a cross, although this would seem to be something of a hypothesis at best. Can the cause of a black nose be further shown by any accompanying want of style or quality—in a word, does its appearance necessarily imply an inferior animal in other respects? In support of my own theory, I am glad to say that some of the best and most successful Devons I have ever seen have had the handsomest heads, and I need but name Mr. James Davy's Temptress family to recall their fine deer-like character, telling as truly of their lineage as the longest pedigree in the Herd Book.

The mottle-faced Hereford is fast going out of fashion. Few people would object to buying a good mottle-faced cow, but no breeder of note would care to rear a bull thus marked, as he might be difficult to sell, for undoubtedly the white faces are now all the fashion. A well-known judge and breeder tells me that, beyond the colour of the face, and the length and straightness of the horn, the good points in a Hereford bull's head cannot differ much from those to be appreciated in other breeds. While, however, the horn of the bull runs straight and level from the poll, those of the cow and ox gradually curve upwards. The eye of the male should be rather lively than otherwise, and that of the cow conveying precisely the same calm, comfortable, good-tempered look which I have already identified with the Shorthorn. The face should be of a beautiful clean white in colour, backed by a rich red, more especially in the bull; the horn also white or light yellow, occasionally tipped with black, and the nose white; although here, again, we have the evil of black noses, which come, it is said, more frequently in Herefords than in any other breed of cattle. The head should certainly not be small in proportion to the other parts, as, in fact, a head either large or small out of proportion, is simply a deformity in any animal. A really good head must have a certain length and breadth, to which such a phrase as small can never reach. Mr. George

Smythies has favoured me with a measurement of the head of Governor, a choice Hereford cow, the property of Mr. Green, of Marlow:—

	Inches.
Length of face.....	21½
Between eyes.....	12
Round nose.....	35
Length of horns.....	30
Width of horns from tip to tip.....	37½

It is said that Professor Owen, if you give him only the thigh-bone of some antediluvian creature, will work up the frame of a perfect monster, and with these dimensions he could, no doubt, fashion out a model Hereford. Governor, however, was altogether on a larger scale than the animals now exhibited, which are neater and finer, as no doubt but few heads would measure against her. One of the kindest heads I ever saw on a Hereford cow was that of Stately 2d, the property of Mr. Evans, of Swanstone, though she never did quite so well in public as might have been expected; but—

"If to her share some trifling errors fall,
Look in her face and you'll forget them all."

The champion Hereford bull of his day, on the contrary, begins with a somewhat mean, small head; whereas there should be something very noble in the head of a white-face, when seen at his best.

There is no animal which tells more of high breeding than an Alderney, or rather, a Jersey-born cow. There is a refined air and carriage, a certainly comely "presence," which would forbid all thoughts of the butcher, and never carry one's appetite beyond a syllabus on thin bread-and-butter. A Shorthorn bears "beefsteaks" on his very visage, whereas we shudder at the notion of cutting prime pieces out of old Daffodil, or of putting a round of Nora Creina in salt. It would be worse than killing and eating the pet lamb, let alone the question of Daffodil ever possessing any prime beef; while Nora, more palpably, being all angles, can have no rounds. No—the head and beaming eye of the Alderney speak again of her purpose, of rich cream and yellow butter; but the charm here is all on the cow's side. Beyond a peculiar, wild, wicked eye there is not much to admire in the head of an Alderney bull, and even the cows lose much of their graceful character when bred away from their native isle. In the Jersey scale of 36 points for a perfect cow or heifer, one each is allowed for the following excellencies:—"Head, small, fine, and tapering; cheek small; throat clean; muzzle fine, and encircled by a light colour; nostrils high and open; horns smooth, crumpled, not too thick at base, and tapering; ears small and thin (one point), of a deep orange colour within (one point); eye full and placid." The eye of the bull must be lively and his horn tipped with black, but beyond these points are much the same. Mr. Dumbrell, of Ditchling, who has the largest herd of Alderneys in the kingdom, has thus sketched the head for me:—"The horns should be fine, tapering, and crumpled, coming level from the head, and not turned up. The ears large, plentifully fringed with fine silky hair, with the inside skin of the ear of a deep rich orange colour, and the hair between the horns fine. The eyes, placed wide apart, should be large, prominent, bright, and intelligent; the forehead wide, and depressed in the centre; the cheek fine, and very tapering to the nostrils, which should be large, and the muzzle black, edged with tan. The head itself should be