

to a dread of what these gentlemen *would* do than what they *did* do. Unless such duties be a little more strictly performed, the abuse will soon regain its former height, and the Royal show in July and the Smithfield show in December come again very much to the same thing—a least in appearance.

We are well aware there is some difficulty here. The grand object to attain is an animal that will fatten cheaply and quickly, and with some it may be almost impossible to show them low in flesh. Still we are inclined to regard this, as far as the Royal Agricultural Society is concerned, as rather exceptional than general. For one beast or sheep exhibited that has been kept down, how many are there fed up by almost every conceivable, and too often, as we fear, injurious means. At the meetings of the Highland Society the animals are shown in a far more becoming condition; and it is well known that prize animals from the English have been rejected almost immediately after at the Scotch meetings, from the overfed state in which they were sent. In 1843, for instance, some of Mr. Bates' shorthorns took the prizes at Liverpool, and thence went direct to Berwick-on-Tweed, where, though greatly admired, they were at once refused. What we in England had passed over, our northern friends declared was not in a fit state to regard as a breeding animal.

"We have dwelt thus long on an abuse that we feel the Royal Agricultural Society has yet to deal with. The jury system does not promise to answer; while we can only add, that if the judges will do their duty, there can be no occasion for the services of this new set of officers. We believe there are no juries in the Scotch Society.

"The Royal Agricultural Society has long been regarded as the landmark of English agriculture. It is both the index and guide to our progress. As such we may record it as never having looked or promised so well. It must number day by day more members, fuller meetings, and greater results. If, then, in our present notice, we have dwelt somewhat more on its few defects than its many virtues, it is only with the best intentions, and with the one hope that the more the former are exposed, the more likely are they to be removed. Of the general management, of the gratuitous services of those gentlemen who year after year devote their energies to the Society, it would be difficult to speak too highly. They are the farmer's friends indeed; and if he cannot appreciate them without our word, we are afraid he will be as little likely to do justice to himself as he is to them."

HORSES.

The prize stallion of the year was a Suffolk horse, of very great power: the heavy bulk was less than of previous years, and the general appearance much more active and muscular. The neck was rather disproportionately short, and the head large—two qualities which adhere to the horses of Suffolk. The bones of the legs were thin and flat, with large joints and broad caps, all signs of bodily vigour. The hind legs were long from the hock to the turn of the thigh, but not so

much as to form a very serious objection. The feet were large and well adapted, high rather than flat, and tapering with the proper direction of point. The color was the characteristic of the breed—chestnut, with a lighter shade in the mane and tail, and the well-known white stripe down the face, dotted betwixt the eyes, and losing the white in a point before reaching the nose. In this animal the stripe scarcely extended beyond the dot, and in that respect a small deficiency existed. The body was very compact, close, and well-ribbed, coming quite up to the character of the "Punch"—the old distinctive name of the Suffolk horses. This stallion formed much the best of many shows, and the judges could have experienced little difficulty in making the award.

The second prize went also to a Suffolk horse; and in this award similar merit must be allowed, but with more qualification. The body was deeper than that of the last animal, and the leg shorter, while there was wanting the appearance of muscular activity which is so very desirable in draught horses. On the other hand, the neck longer, and the shoulder more oblique and tapering, and the arm wider and more powerful. The color was better, being darker, and more hardy in appearance. The legs were faulty, being thick in flesh and round in the bone, capped knees, and fall thorough pins. No objections could be found in the second merit in this case, owing to the heavy body and disproportionate appearance of muscular activity. The two awards could not be disputed.

The first prize of the younger stallions was also a Suffolk horse, of considerable promise as a draught animal. The color was the best of all the Suffolks that were exhibited, being a very dark chestnut over the whole body, and nearly annihilating the whiter mane and tail and the white dot in the face. We like a dark color, as denoting a hardihood which should attach to every animal of exertion. The fore-quarters of this young horse were strong and powerful, probably somewhat coarse, especially in the legs; the neck was lengthy, crest high and well arched, joining the shoulders in an elevated taper of the withers. The head was comparatively small, and the ears fine and agile—a good property in any refined organization; on the other hand, the hind parts were objectionable in the quarters, coarse joints, and the knees standing cow-legged. These last properties are rather heavy objections in horses of any kind.

The second prize for young stallions was given to a Suffolk horse of more promise than the last award. The fore-legs, shoulder, and neck were far superior to any horse of the show, being straight and clean, oblique and well arched; the head small, and finely tapered to the nose, broad betwixt the eyes, with the proper white dot. The hind parts were not quite so good, being rather long and lean in the thigh. The bones of the leg were clean and thin, and the feet hard-hoofed with lengthy pasterns. The body was uncommonly close and well ribbed, and deep and round, with proper length. The neck, though short, was finely arched from the withers to the root of the ears. The arm was very wide and powerful for a horse of two years old, and the whole symmetry