

THE SMITHFIELD CLUB CATTLE SHOW.

Abridged from the Mark Lane Express.

We have again the pleasure to offer a report of the annual gathering of the Smithfield Club. It is very gratifying at all times to be able to report satisfactory progress; and of this we have abundant evidence on the present occasion. The improvements made in the showyard, allowing more space for the exhibition both of stock and implements, the beautiful order of arrangement, the cleanliness and neat fittings to the stalls, the disposition of the various pens, and the easy approach to every animal, make a visit more than usually interesting. The whole arrangement reflects great credit upon the indefatigable Secretary, and his able coadjutors, the Stewards of the Show. We might further say that we have seldom seen such an assemblage of contented faces. The proverbial grumbling said to be inherent in the British farmer is for once, at all events, thrown aside; we meet only with the composed and happy countenance, manifesting deep interest in the exceedingly good and great show before them. It is true that, occasionally, individual specimens of each breed of animals have surpassed those shown at the present meeting; but we think, as a whole, it is above the average, and that each separate breed is fully and admirably represented. We have watched carefully for several years the attempts made to introduce new breeds of cattle and sheep, by crossing in various ways. This year has certainly produced some very good specimens of the kind. Amongst them we would name the Earl of Radnor's steer, Mr. Hewer's ox, and Mr. Tucker's heifer, in the cattle classes, and Mr. Druce's three sheep. We mention the latter, as we have had our eye upon them for some time, as knowing it was an attempt at a new character of animal, to be derived from Cotswold and Down cross. At the Gloucester meeting, we reported unfavorably; they then denoted large, coarse heads and offal, with no counterbalance in frame. The specimens shown at this meeting are a very great improvement, and is the result of judicious in-and-in breeding. It is certain that these crosses have produced some extraordinary animals; and it is interesting to ascertain and notice how they favor the sire or the dam. The Shropshire breed, specimens of which were exhibited by the Earl of Aylesford, are very superior animals, and are, we believe, the result of careful crossing from Down and Leicester. We are not aware of other attempts at continuous crossing, but shall be glad to receive any reports thereof, if attended with success worthy of notice.

In the cattle classes, we have not much to remark on this head; indeed, we do not know of any continuous cross, with a view to perpetuate the breed shown at the yard. Those shown were very good specimens of a single cross.

SHEEP.

The sheep classes, as a whole, were well represented, the Down and half-bred classes particularly so; but we should like to have seen a better and more numerous class of long-wools of both kinds, that is, *Leicesters*, and *long-wools not being Leicesters*. Some good animals were shown, but, we think, not equal to former years. The extra stock class contained several very good specimens of these breeds, but nothing worthy of more especial notice. In the cross-bred classes many very splendid sheep were shown; proving satisfactorily the desirability of continuous attempts to introduce improved breeds. In the Down classes we think great progress is yet making: our taste accords most with the production of a great weight of food of good quality in a given time, either in growth or feeding. We think the Hampshire Downs shown gave decided advantages on this point, being very large, and heavy. The pure Downs also gave evidence of improvement. We never saw the Duke of Richmond's Downs show so well; they retain their symmetry under a broader frame of greater substance.

PIGS.

The celebrated Coleshill breed, though fairly represented, are not equal to former years, and we miss the class of fine porkers, of the kind bred by Mr. F. Hobbs, and others of the same school. As a whole, with the exception of class 31, we do not think the pig classes so well sustained as usual.

AGRICULTURAL ROOTS.

Thomas Gibbs & Co., Half-moon street, seedsmen to the Royal Agricultural Society, have a better selection of roots (all from their own seed) than we expected it was possible to have exhibited this year. A drum-head cabbage was pointed out weighing 31½ lbs.: various roots of mangel-wurtzel, of Long Red, weighing from 15 to 21½ lbs.; Yellow Globe do. attaining to 21½ lbs. weight; Red Globe do. 18 lbs. The variety of Long Red is said to have produced this season 56 tons per acre, and grown by Mr. Smith, of Harrow Weald, Middlesex. We were greatly interested in seeing several specimens from the Royal Farms—Yellow Globe mangel-wurtzel, weighing 21 lbs., from the crop which won the first prize of the Royal East Berks Association; several specimens of Purple-top Swede, from the same farms, of very large size: we saw no specimens elsewhere to equal them. Several specimens of swedes and mangel grown by Prince Albert (and for which his Royal Highness has gained the silver cup of the Royal South Bucks Agricultural Society, and prizes from the East Berks Agricultural Association respectively, for two years running,) are excellent even for the best turnip seasons. Those of the Duke of Bedford and Sir John Cathcart are little inferior, while Mr. Howard has one fully equal. The specimens of kholabi and Belgium carrots, the latter grown by Col. Challoner, are also remarkably fine. Seeds are fully up to expectation as to quality; and, in variety, far beyond enumeration.