

Kyloe Heifer.—The hair of this fine West Highlander is eight inches long all over the body! She is a perfect specimen of the hardy race of the mountainous parts of the West of Scotland. Mr Giblett, the butcher in Bond Street, London, used to have the best specimens that came to Smithfield, and no finer carcasses of beef were to be seen at the West, End of town.

Jersey cow old style.—This is the "cow with the crumpled horn," said to have been still to be seen in some parts of the island as late as 1843. From an engraving published by Col. Le Couteur.

Jersey cow, improved style.—Portrait of Beauty, 4 years old, the property of Col. Le Couteur, Bellevue, Jersey. First prize 1843. She was awarded 27 points out of a possible 30 points, as a two year old. In those days, nothing was said about escutcheons, black tongues, or black switches; But I don't think they build cows much better than this one. I will give the points, 1843, in the next number.

Clean Fields and Heavy Crops.

Suggestions about Cultivation.

There are two drawbacks in the methods largely adopted by the farmers of this country in the cultivation of their crops during the first half of the season. These methods involve a needless expenditure of labor, and permit an extensive growth of weeds. The surface of the soil is not broken or stirred often enough. A frequent pulverization would accomplish two very important uses, namely, the destruction of young weeds, and an increased growth of the crops. We have shown on former occasions the importance of destroying weeds just as they are commencing growth, and even before they have reached the surface of the ground, when the minute and tender sprouts are broken by a touch of the pulverizing implement. The experiment was tried a few years ago of passing the steel rake weekly over a given measured surface in the garden, and allowing alongside an equal area to become covered with a growth of weeds from six inches to a foot high before killing them. A record was made by the watch of the time consumed by each method. During the two months of growth it was necessary to pass the steel rake eight times over the surface; but this was done so easily and rapidly that only one-half of the time and labor were consumed that were required to clear out once the tall weeds from the growing crop. The crop made one-half more growth by the first method, and the seeds of the weeds in the surface soil were thoroughly destroyed by the eight operations. A successful farmer, whose rich fields about fifty bushels of corn per acre were obtained by ordinary management, assured us that by passing the cultivator once a week between the rows until the corn was as high as the horse's back, he had increased the crop to between sixty and seventy bushels per acre.

A radical improvement would be made on many farms by the adoption of the practice of keeping the surface crust of the soil constantly broken, and by never allowing young weeds to see daylight. By thus clearing the farm of foul seeds, in a few years the costly labor of hand-weeding would be nearly superseded. To accomplish this result it is necessary to secure the best modern tools for cultivating the crops. The work should be commenced before the young weeds have reached the surface: Potatoes, for instance, are some weeks in the soil before coming up, and during this period the ground should be kept harrowed, the operation being repeated as often as the young weeds in the soil have sprouted, the harrow breaking the sprouts and killing the weeds just as they are starting to grow. In this way the foul stuff may be materially reduced. The harrowing may be continued after the potatoes have reached the surface, and have grown

some inches, without injury to them. Corn may be harrowed once before it comes up, and with a fine, slant-tooth harrow the operation may be continued every five days till the plants are nearly a foot high. This will obviate the labor of hand-hoeing. After this, the one-horse cultivator may pass several times, running shallow so as not to tear the roots, setting the reversible teeth first to throw the earth away from the row of corn, and next time against the row, a very shallow ridge being sufficient to cover the young weeds as they are just appearing, for there will be no large ones if the previous work has been promptly attended to. We have adopted this course—of first harrowing and then cultivating from and towards the row, and left the field as clean as a floor without any hand-hoeing. The repeated stirring of the soil and keeping the crust broken, gave a handsome crop of corn—decidedly larger than when the whole treatment consisted of one or two dressings with the cultivator, and a laborious "hilling" with the hoe.

In large fields, the one-horse cultivator will of course give way to the two-horse walking or riding cultivator. In either case, such implements should be used as may be controlled perfectly and guided so as to run within an inch or two of the row of plants; and the importance of straight and even rows is therefore obvious.

Thorough summer-fallowing is sometimes a matter of great economy in eradicating weeds and working out foul seeds. It may be well to forego the value of one crop, when by so doing the ground may be changed from a hard and weedy soil to a clean and mellow one, the work being done by the broad sweep of the harrow and cultivator, instead of the laborious process of hand-hoeing and hand-weeding. The advantage of the thorough mellowing of the soil is not to be overlooked. On this point an instructive example was given by our correspondent Waldo F. Brown in a former volume of the COUNTRY GENTLEMAN. He stated that a young farmer in his neighborhood had become nearly discouraged in wheat growing, but concluded to try the experiment of putting in two acres with a thorough preparation of the soil, and if this crop failed, he would give up sowing wheat. He plowed early, harrowed, dragged and rolled, until the soil was like a garden, and as a consequence obtained *fifty-eight bushels* of excellent wheat from the two acres. Larger fields were treated in the same way in successive years, and no crop was less than twenty-five bushels per acre.

Many farmers fail with summer fallows by not making thorough work of it. The field should be kept constantly clean and mellow, and not a weed be seen above ground. Plowing and using the modern harrows and cultivators, will do the work cheaply, even if repeated as often as once a week.

Clean fields, and heavy and satisfactory crops are incomparably better than the results of a hard soil and hard lumps, struggling with an overgrowth of weeds, and obtaining reduced products at heavy cost. It may be well to cultivate and plant fewer acres and do the work in the best manner.

Hogs and Muck on a Sandy Farm.

I was interested in Mr. Curtis' article on feeding pigs for their manure, page 320. The treatment there indicated seems an excellent one, but may be too novel for many to adopt. The heading of the article reminded me of a case that is to the point. A young farmer in Salisbury, Herkimer Co., has a small farm of 25 acres of very light sandy soil, worthless in the condition it was when he took possession of it. There was a muck bed upon it covering a few acres. Large quantities of this he threw into heaps to dry. He then secured a lot of hogs and several litters of pigs, which he fed with corn meal, and used the dried muck freely in the pens. This saved