

the shape of a male animal of either sort, than his having a thin neck. I am inclined to say, that in the new Leicester breed of sheep, which is the breed to which I am accustomed, a ram's neck cannot be too thick. Other indications of muscle are more difficult to observe in sheep than in cattle. In a bull there ought to be a full muscle on each side of the back bone, just behind the top of the shoulder blades; he ought also to have the muscles on the outside of the thigh full, and extending down nearly to the hough. It will seldom happen that a bull having these indications will be found deficient in muscle. As I am writing for the use of farmers, it is quite unnecessary for me to attempt to give a description of what is considered a well shaped bull or ram; it is also obviously impossible to express in words what is meant by good handling. It is sufficient to say, therefore, that no small animal is fit to be used at all as a sire whose handling is not good, and that the more perfect his shape is the better.

STRAWBERRIES AND RASPBERRIES.

The months usually recommended for making new plantations of strawberries are September and October; in autumn, or March in the spring. But we consider either season as disadvantageous. If planted in autumn, they often are not sufficiently rooted to stand the winter frost, if in spring the produce has to be waited for through more than a whole year; whereas if planted in July, the plants become well established before winter, and a plentiful crop of fruit may be obtained in the following summer.

The soil best suited for the strawberry is a deep rich loam; stiff clay land is considered unsuitable, but we know a garden of several acres in which the soil is cold wet clay, planted entirely with strawberries, from which the crop is most abundant, yielding ample profit to the owner. The ground should be trenched two feet deep, well supplied with manure, and divided into beds about four feet wide, with narrow pathways between them. On these beds the young roots are to be planted from twelve to eighteen inches apart, according to the size of the kind of strawberry. The roots should be chosen from those runners which grow nearest the parent plant, and which have a full central cluster of leaves, those with only one or two leaves are generally unproductive. Strawberries may also be planted in borders, at about a foot distant from each other, but the best system to pursue is the following:

1st year, July.—Prepare the beds, and plant as above directed fixing the roots firmly in the ground, give them a good watering, and continue to do so day by day if the

weather be dry, until they are well rooted; the usual rains of the end of July are generally advantageous in assisting the speedy growth of the plants, which will be well established before winter sets in. In the beginning of December spread a thick coating of rich manure around the plants, to nourish and protect them from the frost. Fork in the manure in April, make the beds neat, and cut off the runners as they advance.

2nd year, July.—Let a new bed be prepared, planted and dressed in the same manner; continue attention to No. 1 bed, which this year is in good bearing order.

3rd year, July.—Make another new bed: attend to beds Nos. 1 and 2 as before. No. 1 is now in full bearing.

4th year.—As soon as the strawberries have done bearing, dig up the plant in No. 1, trench the ground afresh, well manure, and replant. No. 2 will now be in perfection.

5th year.—Pursue the same course with bed No. 2. Thus year after year you will have a constant progress and succession, always two beds in full bearing, instead of leaving your beds to become worn out and unproductive.

By planting several varieties, and choosing different aspects, the strawberry season may be made to continue from June to the end of August. One successful cultivator digs trenches a foot deep, these he fills with stones about half their depth, upon these rich loam well manured is placed, and the strawberries planted upon it. The stones are to prevent the roots from striking deeply into the ground, in order that they may have the full benefit of the manure, and of that which is spread over the plants in winter. The plan is found to answer admirably.

Soot is a fine manure for the strawberries; spread about them in April, just before they blossom, it destroys slugs, and the rains carry into the soil the saline matters which act powerfully as manure. Rabbits' or pigeons' dung mixed with short litter, forms the best winter dressing. At the beginning of the present century there were only about a dozen or twenty different kinds of strawberries, now there are hundreds of choice varieties, from which to select in forming new beds. Keen's seedling a few years ago was regarded as the best, combining fine flavour and large size with abundant bearing. This has yielded the superiority to the British Queen, which is, perhaps, the best of all. The price of the plants is yearly decreasing, in 1848, they were to be purchased for 3s. 6d. per hundred. Another new variety of splendid appearance and flavour is the Black Prince, the price is, however, yet very high, six shillings for a quarter-of-a-hundred. Many gentlemen allow their gardeners to give away the runners to their poorer neighbours, from this source, doubtless, many of