

finished condition of a considerable proportion of the steers and oxen of this breed: stalls have been taken up by too many plain animals—good butcher's beasts, but little more. Happily, there has been improvement in this respect; and good quality is now pretty well diffused among the numerous competitors for honors in the male shorthorn classes. Of course, we knew where to find the "Gold Medal" placard; for Baker street was not likely to turn out anything more wonderful than Mr. Taylor's Bingley Hall steer. Already has it been written of his touch not being quite so firm as one might desire, about his colour being a very light roan, and his tail being hardly set on square enough; but, in looking him over and over again, especially taking a front view of his magnificent chine, rib, and breast-end; of his broad, level back, without an inequality; of his handsome head, fine muzzle, and kind, docile eye—not forgetting his slender bone, that you may all but span below the knee—we can find very little to disagree with; and when we handle him, and look at him behind, we don't at all feel inclined to pick holes in his merit, or grudge him any bit of praise that he may win. Symmetry had never a fairer exponent than this. In depth of frame, too, he is uncommonly great; but in general grandeur and nobility of appearance, that air and expression marking some specimens of the breed, this steer does not, in our opinion, equal animals that have appeared for the Gold Medal. But let Bates blood have a share of the merit of this year's triumph."

The Devons in many instances combined splendid quality of meat with greater size than is commonly seen; and there were several useful animals of the Sussex breeds, originally derived from the Devon, but larger and coarser. Of Scotch cattle, there were some beautiful specimens, also of Welsh; but from Ireland only a single cow,—a genuine Kerry—wonderfully developed during her sojourn in England.

In SHEEP, three additional breeds have been introduced for the first time; the Romney Marsh (Kentish), Shropshire and the mountain. The Shropshires, which of late have been gaining reputation, were not so well represented as could be wished. Of the Kentish sheep it is remarked:

"The two pens of Romney Marsh wethers excited a good deal of interest, because they exhibited in the most impressive manner what could be effected by judicious selection. The flat-sided, narrow chested, old breed, 32 months old, with loose flesh, barely covering a gaunt frame, gave an additional conspicuousness to Mr. Murton's short, square, stylish sheep, with deep expansive forequarters, and free curling fleece, there was just one year difference in age between them, Mr. Murton's having arrived at

greater weight of mutton in twenty months than Mr. Newport's in thirty-two. That improvement is a hopeful sign. We hear that French Government has become a customer a considerable extent at Smeeth, having sent several of Mr. Murton's rams to improve the breeds in the South of France. The clip from 8 to 10lbs."

"The mountain sheep were quite the novel of this part of the show. Every one made point to look at the Exmoors, and the breed of the Cheviots, have, we hope, learnt something to their advantage by their visit to Baker street. They cannot avoid the conclusion that a cross with a breed which comes to a great weight, both as respects wool and mutton, in year less time than is usual with the Cheviot is a matter that must be looked to. We shall be glad to hear of some transactions between Mr. Quartly, Mr. Tapp, and Mr. James Ho and the breeders of the North; for surely such an opportunity should not be missed by men enterprise. The tendency of the meeting of the Club to bring men together to increase the produce of the country could not be better illustrated than by the pens under revision. Not only may the breed of mountain sheep be improved but the hill-side pastures will be increased in value. The Cheviots were not the only sheep to be benefitted by the cross. The big black faced mountain sheep from Aberdeen were on their side, older in years, and larger in frame but still the contrast was in favour of the little Exmoors, so impudent and amusing. Looking on their hind legs like little dogs. It cures need not entertain any fear that they will lose the fine flavour of the mountain mutton; there will still be haunches of as undeniable quality as ever encountered the heat of fire criticism, while the hill country shepherd will have a chance of quickening his returns, and his mountain pasture will rise in value."

The long-wooled breeds appear to be increasing in reputation daily; they made a splendid show. Mr. Foljambe's pair of three 20 month old wethers, commanded great admiration. In the forequarter they were wonderfully developed, two girthing 5 feet 7 inches, and in style and look were all that could be desired and quality their wool was as remarkable as at other points. The following remarks are suggestive:—

"The classes for cross breeds are always interesting, and should ever form an important point in fat stock shows, because of the disposition of such animals to feed quickly. This tendency was specially observable in the classes of last year, and was notable, though so much so, in the show just closed—the classes between the Shorthorn and Polled Angus, Shorthorn and Aberdeen, and the Hereford