

the value of the cow in various countries, not to show that it would be desirable she should be so employed in this country, as our farms are happily not of such contracted dimensions that the team work upon them could be performed by a couple of cows, giving milk.

The intention of a paper of this kind is to show the advantages that would result to the country by a determination on the part of those employed in the rearing of stock to obtain the most profitable breed; and for this purpose it may not be unprofitable to revert to a few statistics, which are in part supposititious:—say the county of York, containing something under 100,000 inhabitants, has 25,000 cows, the present value of which is £100,000, or £4 each; there would be no difficulty in raising the value of the same number in four years' time to £150,000, by the employment of none but the best male animals. Then, again, suppose 5,000 calves are killed for veal, and that they are worth on an average £1; I am quite sure that by the same means their value could be increased 50 per cent., and the difference would be still greater with respect to the heifers, cows, steers and oxen, that go to the shambles for beef, were the farmers of the county to select their breeding animals from those most famous for their early maturity, and propensity to thrive and fatten. I know from experience, that grade steers from common cows, by a Durham bull, will weigh at three years old 1,000; whereas the ordinary weight of cattle of the same age, is from 6 to 700 lbs at the most. Even half breed cattle will produce to the farmer as great a yield at three years old, as ordinary cattle will at five—saving him two years' keeping—a saving of some considerable importance. Now, supposing this statement to be correct, and that there is no falling off in the dairy produce, who will deny the advantage of breeding from the best stock? But when, in addition to the foregoing, it can be clearly demonstrated that very large additions can be made to the produce of the dairy by a judicious selection of breeding animals, it becomes a matter of paramount importance to enquire into the merits of the different breeds, the special excellencies of which have been contended for by their advocates, and upon which a difference of opinion exists amongst those who have devoted much time and attention to the subject. I may here enumerate some of the characteristics of the various breeds, as derived from different authorities, and my own observation, premising that there are a few general remarks applicable to all from the Farmers' Encyclopedia:—"The first point to be ascertained in examining an ox, is the purity of its breed, whatever kind that breed may be, for that will give the degree of the disposition to fatten of the individuals of that breed. The purity of the breed may be ascertained from several marks: the colors of the skin of a pure breed of cattle, whatever these colors are, are always definite. The color of the bald skin on the nose and round the eyes, in a pure breed, is always definite, and without spots. This last is an essential point, where horns exist, they should be smooth, small, tapering, and sharp-pointed, long or short, ac-

ording to the breed, and of a white color throughout in some breeds, and tipped with black in others. The shape of the horn is a less essential point than the color." Applying these remarks to the different breeds, as illustrative of the point which we have been considering, we have the definite colors of white and red, in the Short Horns. The color is either entirely white or entirely red, or the one or the other predominates in their mixture. The skin on the nose and round the eye is uniformly of a rich cream color. The Ayrshire breed, in its purity, is also distinguished by the red and white color, but always mixed, and the mixture consists of spots of greater or smaller size, but blended together. The color of the skin on the nose and round the eyes is not definite, but generally black or cream colored. In other points, these two celebrated breeds differ from one another more than in the characteristics which I have described. In the West Highland, Angus, and Galloway breeds, the color of the skin of the nose and round the eyes is indicative of the pure blood of the black colored cattle, but a cream colored nose may frequently be observed among those of other colors. The characteristics above given will certainly apply to the purity of the blood of the Short Horn and Ayrshire breeds, if not to the West Highlanders and Galloways. The Devons, a breed decidedly popular with many, are distinguished by a beautiful symmetry of form, sprightly appearance, and uniform mahogany red. The Herefords are known by their white faces and breasts, as well as long, slim horns. Each of these breeds has its advocates, and, no doubt, possesses valuable properties; their distinctive characters I shall endeavor to give in their turn. Another breed of cattle, that has gained notoriety in England, is the Jersey. In their color and general appearance, they very much resemble the Devons, but are larger and something coarser. The oxen are more highly esteemed for work than any other in England, but the cows are not general favorites, on account of their not giving so large a quantity of milk as some other breeds. The Holderness and Suffolk cows are superior. The Sussex cow is of an uneasy temper. They are said to be kindly feeders, notwithstanding, and to take on fat very fast when dry.

There are some favorite breeds in Ireland, and the Kerry cow, though a small animal, is very highly esteemed for her milking qualities.

A person who travelled much over England, and paid particular attention to the cattle of the country, thus describes the Alderney or Guernsey cow:—"Of all the cows which I ever saw, the handsomest—that which gave my eye the most pleasure—that which gave the best promise of being what a cow should be, was an Alderney, or rather improved Guernsey cow, brought from one of the Channel Islands. She was two years old, compact, and well shaped, showing what could be effected by attention to feeding. This breed are in general, skinny, thin, bare-boned, and presenting little more than skeletons of animals. They are valued for their milking qualities, and that not so much for the quantity of milk they give, as for its extraordinary richness and