

white, light brown, dark brown, red and white, pale red, and fawn were enumerated. There were in this lot, only six fawn color, and sixteen red and white.

It will be seen from this, that in the island where Jerseys are natives, comparatively little attention is paid to color; and certainly fawn, so much in vogue among certain breeders, is not a prevailing color, or at least was not at that time. It is, therefore, to be regarded as simply a fancy point. This shows that, in the breeding of cattle there, less attention was paid to color than milk points.

We think that, since the importance of these cattle has been briskly growing, more attention has been paid, in many instances, to their merely fancy points than to a point of more real value,—the quantity of milk given. The Jersey cow always gives rich milk, although the quantity is sometimes not so large as could be desired.

Whether it is desirable or not to breed thus, in certain localities, really valuable milking stock to color, remains with the breeder to determine. That it can be done by selection there is no doubt; but, will it pay is the question? To an individual here and there who wants gilt-edged milk and cream from gilt-edged cows, it might be an object, but, with those who breed Jerseys for the money in their adders, we anticipate that they will care little for the colors of the tail so they get lively returns in milk and butter. *Western Rural.*

Critical Time for Colts.

It very often happens that in the third year of a colt's life it falls off in condition, stops growing, and becomes mysteriously poor and emaciated. Disease is suspected, various nostrums and absurd sprines for imaginary complaints are administered, which fail of effect, and it is only after a lapse of time that a measure of improvement takes place, which, however, leaves the colt permanently injured and with an impaired constitution.

At this period of the colt's existence an important dental change is going on. The central temporary milk nippers, or cutting teeth, in the front of its mouth are shed, and the permanent teeth take their place. If the colt is at grass it is almost impossible for it to graze, and it suffers partial starvation. This is the whole secret of many a colt's sickness. The trouble in such cases would be avoided by occasionally examining the mouth, and when the temporary absence of the nippers is observed, to supply cut for of tender hay, with ground oats or soft mash, and cut green fodder. This provision would tide over the necessarily occurring period of disability, and prevent the otherwise inevitable falling away and poverty of condition, with its disastrous results. — *New York Tribune.*

The Breeding of the Champions at Inlington Cattle Show.

The fact that the champion prizes—one for the best animal of either sex—were both awarded to Short-horns, marks an era in the history of this irrepressible breed. They "turn up" everywhere; and partisans fight over each victory of the breed as a triumph for their side. Thus it has been said of Mr. W. Bult's noble ox, and Mr. Walter's beautiful Lady Flora. "Both were by sons of the pure Duchess bull, 7th Duke of York," as if this statement revealed at all the condition of their pedigrees. In reality both animals score a success, not for any inherent "pure" breeding, but for those who advocate a "pure" admixture of the blood of different Short-horn tribes, so that personal claims be duly regarded. Lady Flora was of the Lancashire tribe, of a good old pedigree, not half appreciated as it deserves. Her dam was by a Booth Farewell bull, her granddam by a Knightley bull. Thus, on the mother's side, the blood is as mixed as can well be. The sire, though he was indeed by a pure Bates bull (as has been said), was out of a cow tracing through Mr. Bowley's herd to that of Rev. Henry Berry—one who preached and practiced what now would be considered very loose breeding.

Mr. Bult's ox has a very similar pedigree. The half-Bates sire, owned (through his dam) mixed blood, going back to Lady Maguard, through Wiseton and Chilton, and the dam of the ox, so far as this is ascertained, traces back by sires of very mixed descent, to Sir Knightley's *Ancmore*, of the same tribe as that from which Cavina came, and Mr. McIntosh's Lady Knightleys, &c., all the descendants of Brother, to R. Collins's white heifer. And *Ancmore* had the Duke of Cambridge cross, which has been objected to, and had later alliances of all sorts and kinds, so that they were Short-horns.

On the whole, whilst the success of these two animals shows the value of the breed, it conducts little

to the common desire to exalt a part of the pedigree animals at the expense of the rest. Both trace back to the very oldest blood of the Teeswater cattle, and both have this blood through many different channels. But the good old midland counties fashion of turning out the very best of beef, whilst northern breeders wrangle about blood, seems fully observed in 1873. — *Cor. Field.*

Brood Mares in Spring.

Having for twenty years been a breeder, to some extent, of our noblest domestic animal, the horse, I thought a short article on the care and general management of the brood mare at this season of the year might not be uninteresting. The best feed for the brood mare is corn-stalks, or good timothy hay, with four quarts of ground oats and wheat bran, equal parts each day. The ground oats and bran not only enable the dam to make all necessary preparation to supply the coming foal with nourishment at the time when most needed, but it keeps her healthy and strong, and enables her to furnish the growing foetus with the very best kind of material to make the best bone and muscle. The dam should have moderate exercise, but it should be regular. If she is used in a team, she should not be driven faster than a walk, nor loaded too heavy, for in either case there is danger of injuring the dam and ruining the foal. She should be housed or sheltered nights, and in all stormy weather.

As foaling time approaches, she particularly needs the practiced eye of the careful and experienced breeder. For she should be watched both day and night, as many a valuable colt has been lost, that two minutes' labor, at the particular time, would have saved. As soon as the colt is dropped, the attendant should see that its head is free from the blanket, as it will otherwise soon smother or drown. The next thing is to sever the umbilical cord about five inches from the foal, and tie the end next to the young colt with a string, to prevent bleeding; this, if possible, should be done before the dam rises, as many a foal has been ruptured at the navel by the dam rising before the string was severed. After the above has been promptly attended to, leave the dam alone with the foal for half an hour. It, at the end of that time, through weakness or any other cause, the young foal has been unable to secure its natural nourishment from its dam, the attendant with whom the dam is most familiar should lose no time in rendering the necessary assistance by holding the colt at the side, and by putting the nose to the teats of the dam.

After the colt is able to draw its nourishment from the dam without the aid of the attendant, little need be done, but furnish a shed, if the weather is inclement, and a good liberal supply of hay or stalks, and a peck of ground oats and bran per day until there is a full bite of green spring grass. — *Cor. Michigan Farmer.*

Fat-Tailed Sheep.

At a recent meeting of the Farmers' Institute Club of New York City, Mr. L. A. Morrill, in an address on the different breeds of sheep gave some interesting particulars as to the characteristics of this curious breed as it appears in Syria.

Mr. Russell, an English traveller says—"The dead weight of one of these sheep is from fifty to sixty pounds, of which the tail makes up fifteen to sixteen pounds, the tail alone composing one-third of the whole weight. This broad flattish tail is mostly covered with long wool, and, becoming very small at the extremity, turns up. It is entirely composed of a substance between marrow and fat, serving very often in the kitchen instead of butter, and, cut into small pieces, makes an ingredient in various dishes. Animals of the extraordinary size of 150 pounds are, however, very rare, and kept up in yards, so as to be in little danger of hurting their tails from the bushes. The shepherds in Syria fix a thin piece of board to the under part, which is not, like the rest, covered with wool, and to this board are sometimes added small wheels, whence, with a little exaggeration, we have the story of the Oriental sheep being under the necessity of carts to carry their tails. But the necessity of carriages for the tails of the African sheep, mentioned by Herodotus, Rudolphus and others is real. The tail of the animal when fat actually trails, not being tucked up like the Syrian sheep."

A distinguished writer on sheep supposes the broad or fat-tailed sheep merely a variety of the fat-rumped, the strange collection of adipose matter having only shifted its situation from the posterior part of the hunch to the superior part of the tail. This may have been at first accidental, and perpetuated by

accident or design. An individual of this unique breed of sheep I saw a few days since in Prospect Park, Brooklyn; the tail, however, severed of half its natural length, and very ungainly in its general structure. In closing, I will mention another curiosity and to me, a perfect anomaly, viz., a hybrid being a cross of the common red deer and sheep. Both belong, it is true, to the order *ruminantia*, but it is the first and only instance that has ever come to my knowledge.

The common goat and sheep closely approximate in anatomical structure, and sometimes copulate, but no instance has occurred where offspring has followed. This hybrid is covered with straight hair, in color reddish-brown, legs rather long, and uncouth in general outline. The herdsman informed me that it was found and purchased by a gentleman now living in New York, when travelling in Europe, and presented to the Park Commissioners. This great curiosity and the fat-tailed sheep may be seen any day herding with a small and beautiful flock of full-bred Southdowns, at Prospect Park, Brooklyn.

Bred and Thoroughbred.

Some indefiniteness has been occasioned in the use of the term thorough-bred because of its having been drawn from horse literature, and adopted from thence by writers on cattle. The thoroughbred horse is a name given to a breed of horses of a certain origin and certain characteristics, similarly as the terms Suffolk, Punch or Clydesdale. It is a name by which a breed is known. A "thoroughbred horse" is not necessarily less mixed with alloy stains of blood than the horse of another breed. Since, however, the horses classed under this name were imported into England as a foreign breed, and the pedigree has been kept of the augmenting progeny, the idea of a greater purity, or oneness of blood, than is possessed by other breeds, has gained currency, whereas the ancestry may only have been traced by name for a longer period. When cattle of breed have had their ancestry recorded for some length of time, or perhaps for one or two generations only, persons have adopted the term thoroughbred to describe them, as also in the case of swine, sheep, dogs, &c. But the simple possession of a pedigree cannot justify the use of this term descriptive of individuals, since in many instances they are very diverse among themselves. It is sufficient to call Short-horns, Short-horns, Ayrshires, Ayrshires, and so on, unless the animals breed more uniform progeny than characterize the breed to which they severally belong. Any one having upon his farm several families of one breed perceives a difference of capacity in them to perpetuate their own forms and qualities. This difference clearly betrays the fact that some are to be regarded as more or less thoroughbred than others. Such studies offer a test of the degree any animal is thoroughbred. The word is expressive of a quality much desired, but the possession of this single excellence may not be adduced to prove that the animal is in the possession of other excellences that render an animal worthy of being retained upon the farm. It is time that the thought should be permitted currency that some animals of a stock denominated thoroughbred are decidedly bad—that proof of the thoroughbred quality is not guarantee of excellence otherwise. It must however be allowed that the foresight and attention which has served to engraft this quality upon a stock, has in general promoted the equal growth of other excellences, so that when an animal becomes thoroughbred to any considerable degree, the chances are in favor of its being a good animal. That which is not so much as a guarantee has weight in establishing a presumption that the animal which is thus has much more to commend it to our regard.

JOSEPH N. STURTEVANT, in the County Gentleman.

—*Bell's Messenger* (English) says that an organization has been formed in Denmark, the object of which is "to work new processes for the preservation of butter, with a view to its being forwarded on by sea." The capital of the association is £19,000.

COST OF KEEPING SHEEP.—The *Michigan Farmer* says: A sheep cannot be kept at the present market value of land, of labor, of hay and of grain, for the price of its fleece, even if that fleece weighs five pounds of washed wool! that will bring 40 cents.

CLIPPING SHEEP TWICE A YEAR.—A correspondent of the Department of Agriculture says,—"The shearing of sheep twice a year diminishes the amount of wool, as I have satisfied myself by experiment. One fleece, annually shorn in the spring will weigh more than both the fall and spring fleeces from the same sheep."