

### Live Stock at the Royal Show.

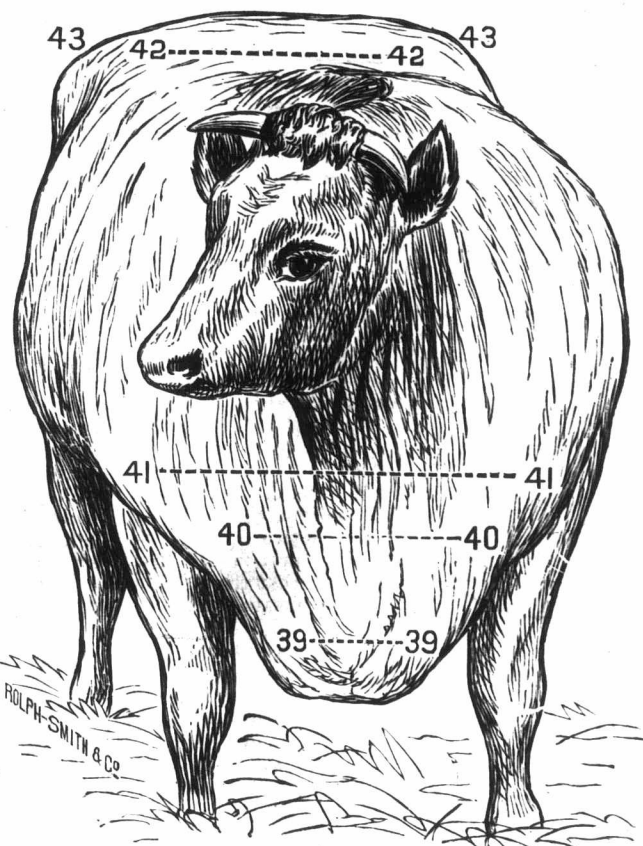
The following concerning the Royal Society Show last month at Derby is taken from the *London Live Stock Journal* :—

The live stock show at Derby teaches more than one useful lesson to the visitor who is acquainted with the past as well as the present animals of British breeding. There is not—there could not be—the extraordinary annual progressing improvement presented in the implement department. The influence of the Royal Society has been rather diffusive than creative. The beef, the mutton, the pork, are not better than they were even sixty years ago; but sixty years ago the quantity was small, and the consumption of the best joints was confined to the rich—laborers ate no fresh meat—mechanics very little. The Society's great work has been in diffusing the principles of selection, by which the best tribes in each breed have been created, and by collecting by competition the best examples of the best breeds.

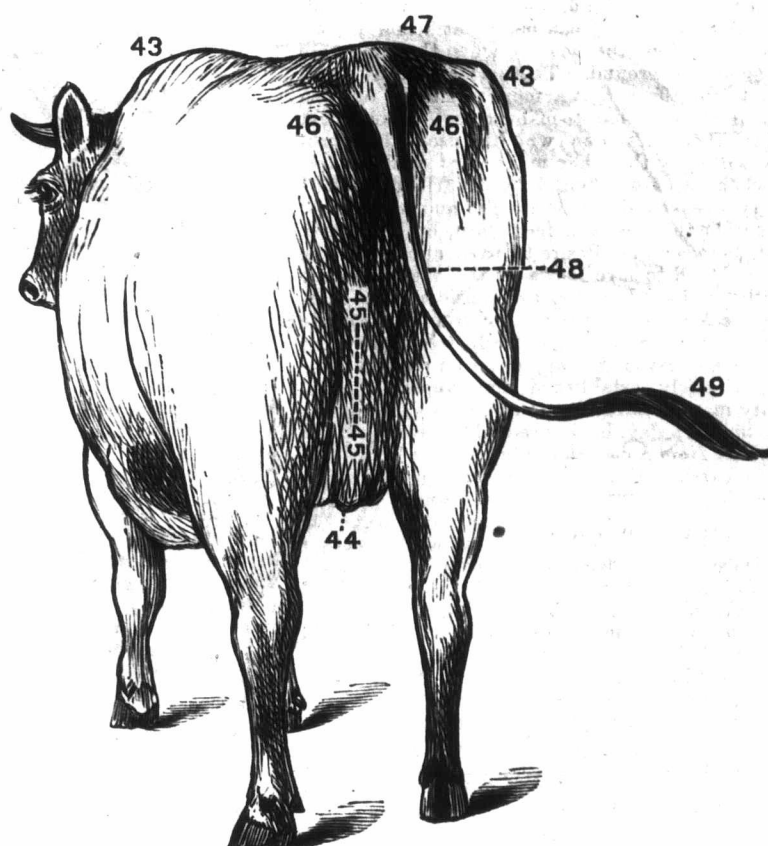
their original home, since railways opened up to the breeders there the markets of Birmingham, Bristol, and, above all, London. Before the railway extension they were sold as stores.

The show of Herefords was not large, the site of the show being out of the great green pastures, where this beef-making ox thrives. As an ox the best specimens cannot be beat; it is as a cross or a cow that the Hereford fall short of the Shorthorn—a point much disputed forty years ago; not in the least now, unless by the patriotic Mr Duckworth. The Sussex are to the butcher big Devons, and the classes for them a concession to modern improvements. The Long-Horns, although they are in their own district, can only be looked upon as curiosities—the beef-makers of the past; the subject of the immortal Blackwell's experiments is now beaten out of the field of trade. His long-wooled sheep, on the other hand, shares the triumph of the Shorthorn, as a general improver of the mutton-making tribe. See Bewick's "Quad-

originally is a much disputed point, but at present, careful selection, with or without crossing, has made the rams one of the most popular for crossing, especially for breeding lambs for market. It has for many years been admitted that the cross bred sheep are the most profitable to the tenant farmer, whether his stock be short-wooled or long-wooled, according to the soil, climate and market, and shrops are a very favorite cross. The South Downs were out of their district in Derby, and consequently limited in their number. At the 1843 show, Jonas Webb, the greatest breeder of his day, had already improved, on his Cambridgeshire farm, the size of the Sussex sheep without losing any of the quality of the best mutton in the world. The South-Down out of Sussex and the south coast still remains the gentleman's sheep *par excellence*, invaluable to cross other Downs, as well as certain long-wools. For quality, there is nothing like it, and South-Down rams have, like Shorthorns, been used to cross for mutton all over Europe.



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NO. 3.

In cattle, the most striking feature of this second show at Derby is the admitted preponderance of the Shorthorn, whose superiority as a beef-making animal, wherever sufficient food can be provided in pastures and stalls, is now undisputed. As a beast of draught in those countries where oxen are required for the plow and wagon, it has many superiors. As a dairy cow several tribes are equal, some superior; but in manufacturing by crosses with other tribes, beef for the million, it has no equals. Even the famous black Polled Scotch oxen, which hold the top place in the London market, are supposed to owe something of their weight to an occasional cross of the Shorthorn.

The Devons stand just where they did 40 years ago—excellent for their own locality—often profitable to feed, seldom to breed, out of the Hereford district of England, but favorites with rich men, real ornaments to their parks and pleasure grounds, and able to finish by presenting first-class beef on the table. The first Earl of Leicester said, fifty years ago, that to breed Devons and pure South-Downs in Norfolk would ruin any tenant farmer.

It is sometimes complained that the prizes of the Society have led rather to the cultivation of quality to the sacrifice of weight, in the Devon classes. The oldest member of the council, Mr. George Turner, of Great Bowley, near Tiverton (he was elected in 1845), bred quite as good Devons in 1843 as are bred now; but there are a great many more sent to market fat from the North Devon hills,

rupeds," a book no squire's library should be without, for what farm stock was seventy years ago. The most marked difference in the cattle classes between 1844 and 1881 is in those offered for the dairy breeds—Jerseys and Guernseys—to which so much attention has, within the last quarter of a century, been paid. As cattle for the dairy, for private use, as well as wherever there is a first-class demand at watering-places, like Brighton, these hold the first place.

The recent attention paid to the improvements in dairying by the Royal Society naturally increases the interest in these really cream producing cows of the Channel Islands. Fancy has divided them into two tribes, by their color. Is there any practical difference between the grey and yellow tribes? At any rate, there was a famous show of the greys at Derby; the yellows not so numerous.

In sheep, forty years have created one new tribe, in the Oxford-Downs; at least, if not created, have kept it up by careful, constant crosses, and supplied a combination of quantity and quality; also, very useful rams. They have conquered classes both in breeding stock and fat stock shows. Although only bred within a limited area by a few well-known names, Oxford-Downs may have existed, but certainly were not known to the public in 1843.

Within the same space of time the improvement and increase in the number of breeders of Shropshire sheep has been enormous. What they were

Leicesters hold their stereotyped place where Blackwell placed them, and Lincolns retain favor for size and constitution. Other breeds of sheep beyond those named are seldom heard of out of their counties except at Royal shows.

In pigs—see again Bewick's pictures—the transformation made by the Society has been a revolution. All the personal names have disappeared; early maturity, accompanied by constitutional activity, are points aimed at and obtained by all breeders of note. We hear no more of Rander, or Prince Albert, or Norfolk, or Sussex breeds: Hampshire exists, but does not show; Berkshire blacks and Yorkshire whites remain the only local names. Large white and small white breeds, ditto ditto black, are the distinctive names of all the classes except the Berkshires.

Nothing has done so much in substitution for unprofitable show-growing pigs, early matured, and well-shaped ones, as agricultural shows, assisted, it must be added, by pig-rearing squire and pig-investing Yorkshire merchants.

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