

*Matchless the 5th*: a splendid example of the true short-horn dairy-cow. Her owner, Mr Tisdal is a large dealer in milk, and has secured an extensive herd of shorthorns of both pedigreed and unpedigreed sorts.

## Poultry Department.

### Poultry Farming.

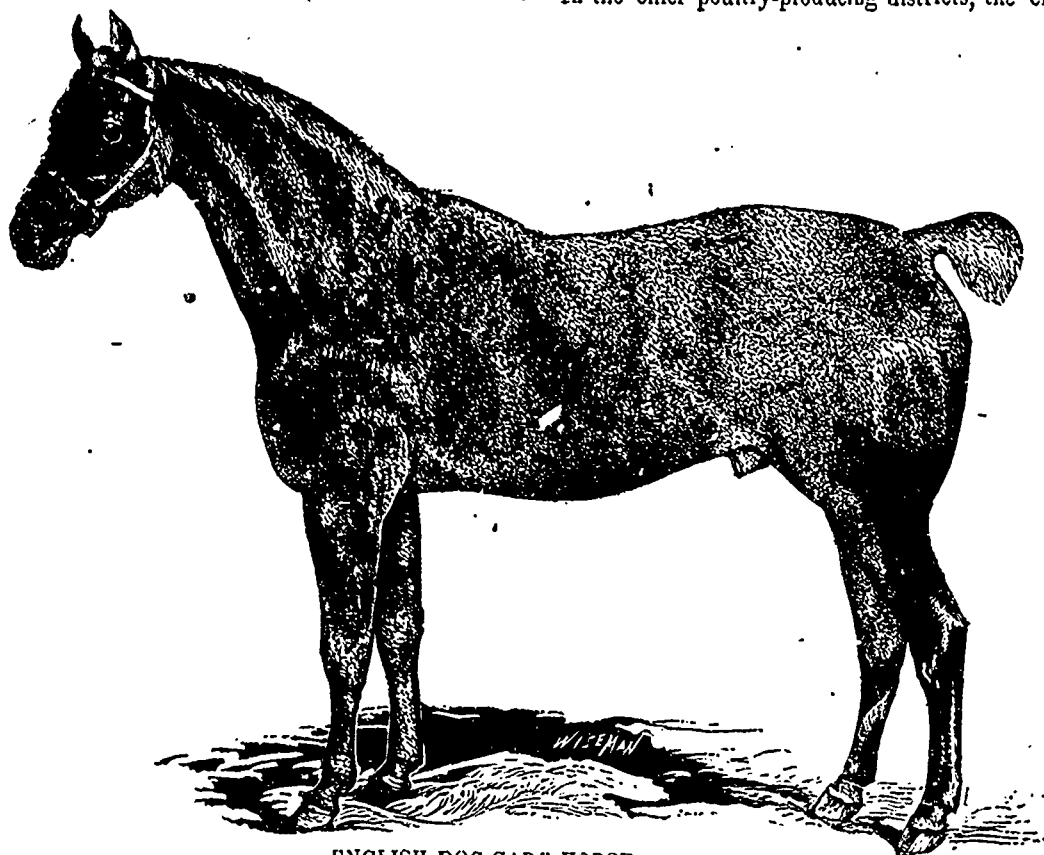
The attention of the public has of late been frequently directed by articles in the agricultural journals, and by pamphlets, as well as by distinct works, to the supposed advantages of poultry-farms and the profit to be obtained by poultry-farming. These articles are generally based upon the undoubted fact that we import from France an enormous number of eggs, and upon the equally erroneous supposition that these eggs are produced at large poultry farms where many hundred or even thousand head of poultry are kept together.

Recently a great amount of attention has been devoted to

culture in France; and the result of their inquiries, pursued in the various departments for several months, is that there are no large poultry-farms whatever in France. There are several establishments where large numbers of chickens are hatched and sold at once to the peasant proprietors, being sent away by rail in small boxes as soon as they are able to travel. This can be readily done, as they require no food for twenty-four or thirty hours after being hatched, during which time they are digesting the yolk which is drawn into the intestines at the end of the period of incubation.

In the ordinary farms in France, even those in the best poultry districts, from 200 to 300 head of fowls are kept at one homestead. If a larger number are maintained in one spot, the ground becomes "poisoned" or tainted, and success in rearing the chickens is almost impracticable; consequently, amongst the smaller peasant proprietors, almost all of whom keep fowls, there is a constant competition to obtain fresh ground for their poultry.

In the chief poultry-producing districts, the chickens are



ENGLISH DOG-CART HORSE.

the production of artificial incubators, M. Voitellier, who has been followed by Mr. Christy and others in this country, having advocated the use of an incubator in which the heat is supplied by the addition of boiling water twice a day to a cistern containing a large bulk of fluid. This cistern, being surrounded by non-conducting materials, maintains its temperature for many hours without much loss. These incubators and artificial rears, whose warmth is maintained in a similar manner, are now recommended as furnishing the ready means of stocking large poultry farms; and the method of procedure in the poultry-farms of France is held up as the example to be followed.

During the present year, several practical agriculturists have been investigating the progress and present state of agri-

generally hatched under young turkey-hens, about two dozen eggs being placed under each hen. When these are hatched, a second batch of eggs is given to the hen, and this is sometimes repeated a third time, or even a fourth time.

The chickens, when hatched, are given in large numbers, sometimes as many as eighty, to another turkey-hen. Coops are rarely seen, but the hen and her brood are driven along the road or to some covert by the old women, with slender poles, who will carry their knitting or other work, and watch their charges all the day long.

The chickens, when mature, are fatted on barley-meal, and, what is still better, buckwheat-meal, and being usually of fine-boned white skinned varieties, such as Houdans, La Flèche, or La Bresse breeds, realise high prices in the markets. Ca-