

The Breeder and Grazier.

Color in Shorthorns.

Now that so much attention is bestowed upon the color of Shorthorns, the following, resurrector by the London *Live Stock Journal*, will be interesting. It is from an address by John Hitchman, M.D., as Chairman of the Derbyshire Agricultural Society, in 1862 and was subsequently published by request for circulation amongst the members.—

Color is at times uncertain in the offspring of the Shorthorn, because no one color has ever been sought for continuously for a long period of time. White, or red-and-white, is, perhaps, the primitive color of this tribe; but fashion in 1815 demanded white, and subsequently red, and now for the past fifteen or twenty years *roan* has been in vogue—this very color requiring a blending of red and white to produce it. *A white bull and a red cow will produce a number of roans, in the first instance*, but the progeny will produce red, or white, or patchy mixtures of the two, according as either parent may have left the stronger bias in this particular. It is because of this variation in color that the admirers of the Hereford or Devon tribe of cattle take the Shorthorn as being not only *parvenu*, but an artificial product—a *made* animal, with a constant disposition to run off to some one or other individual type of which it is a compound.

Now, notwithstanding that there is a race with the "alloy" of the Galloway, in its blood, yet is the original Shorthorn as distinct a tribe as any other of our races, and has, probably, an ancestry as remote, and I am as positive, as I am of my own existence, that a uniformity of color, as unvaried as any other class of animals, could be secured in process of time, if breeders were unanimous in determining upon one of three colors, namely, red-and-white, white, or red. So long as *roan*, which is a compound color, is determined upon, so long will it be a matter of the greatest possible uncertainty what the actual color of the progeny may be. Certainly *roan* is a very beautiful color, and the variety which it is to make a herd of Shorthorns a most picturesque object in the park or meadows of a nobleman; but still, this variety detracts from its dignity as a tribe, and lessens its value when viewed as a herd in the stalls, or grouped for sale in the market. I say, that this uniformity may be effected, because even now, there is a kind of unity amid all this variety, for, if we cannot determine what the color of the future calf will be, we can, at all events, predict what it will not be; we know that it will not be entirely black, or have any patch of that color—black, or anything approaching black, would taint the fair fame of the Shorthorn, as assuredly as would a woolly scalp, a flat nose, a protuberant lip, and a dark skin in her progeny, sully the honor of a Virginian lady.

Perhaps there have been more good Shorthorns of a white than of any other color; although it is now very unpopular—unpopular, because it betrays dirt, and is difficult to keep unsullied; and, erroneously unpopular, as implying weakness of constitution. *It is as hardy as any color.* Stick to facts and not to fancies. In what color does Nature robe the animals which spend their lives amid the regions of eternal snow? What is the predominant color in the Arctic hare, the Esquimaux dog, and the Polar bear? Of what color are the body-ends of nearly all feathers, especially the feathers of all water-fowl occupying cold latitudes? What color has instinct and experience alike sanctioned as the proper one to husband

and preserve the heat of the human body? Let no man who puts on a white shirt, condemn white color in his ox as a sign of "nesh." A white cow may be "nesh," but the same cow would have been as "nesh," or "nesher," if she had been of any other color.

In determining the color and the texture of the hair and skin, the influence of the male predominates, where both have an equal hereditary tendency; that is, supposing that the female had through six successive generations been red, and the male through as many had been white, the progeny will partake more of the latter color. Bear in mind, that this effect will follow only where the hereditary bias towards a special color and character of hair, is equal in both of the sexes. Look at the Mule, carrying always hair of the coarseness and color of the Ass: reverse the procedure, let the Horse be the sire, and the "Hinny," or as I have heard it called in Derbyshire, the "Foulart," will have the hair and the color of the horse. From early childhood I have reared birds, rabbits, and other pets, and have never known an instance where the male has not influenced mainly the color and texture of the external covering of the body. If you pair a male Goldfinch with a hen Canary, the male progeny will resemble the Goldfinch. Place a Dorking cock with Cochins-China hens.

Unnatural Appetites.

Whenever animals fail to get in their food the proportion of elements they have been accustomed to appropriate they are pretty sure to pick them up wherever they can find them. Failing to get the requisite amount of salt in their food, some of our domestic animals eat freely of the mineral to make up the deficiency. If there is salt enough in their food to serve their necessities, as when grazing near the ocean, the mineral is not wanted. The young bovine so long as it is fed on the milk of its mother, has no appetite for salt, but soon acquires one when fed upon grass. When swine are long fed on corn they gradually acquire an appetite for salt and for something alkaline, and if they can find a substitute nowhere else they will find a partial one in the use of rotten wood or in the soil into which their noses instinctively plunge. Fed on the blood and offal of a slaughter-house no such appetite develops, as all they require is contained in their food.

So milk giving and rapidly growing cattle, not finding the lime and phosphates called for in milk and bone in their food produced from soil more or less exhausted of these materials, find a substitute in old bones, softened by inorganic decay. For this appetite finely ground bone

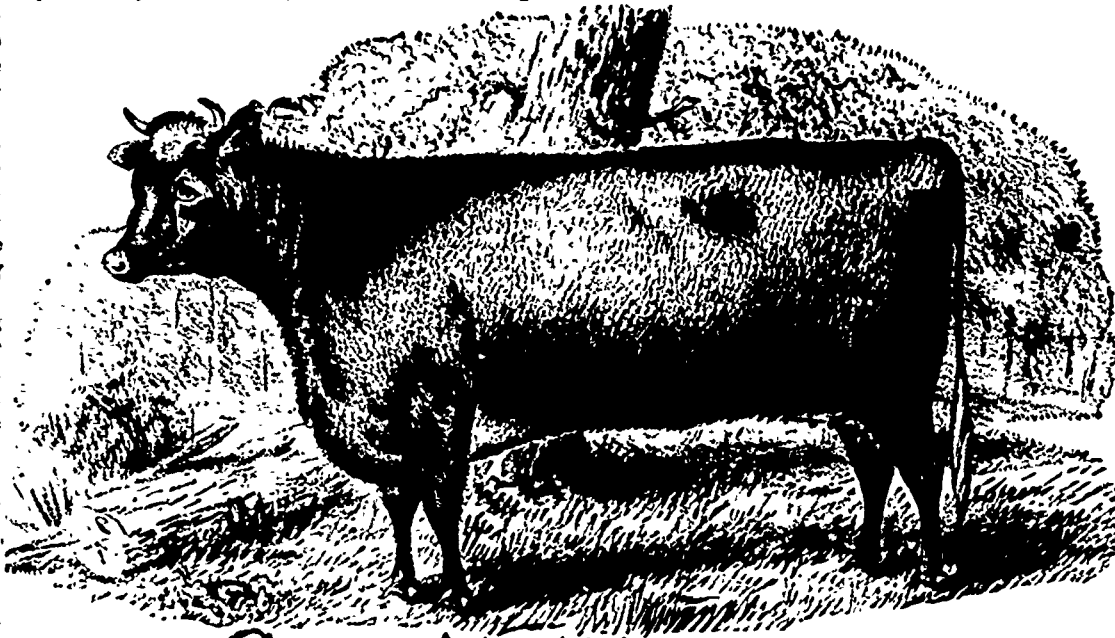
meal mixed with salt is a remedy. It supplies just what is wanted. If the sulphur which enters into the growth of hair, hoofs and horns is lacking, an appetite for woollen rags, mittens, horses' blankets, sleigh-ropes and the like may be expected. The sulphur in feathers and the phosphates in hen manure may reasonably account for the depraved habit above complained of. Other missing or scanty elements are found in partly decayed corn-cobs, the salts of urine, and various other substances.

These abnormal appetites all come from some deficiency in the food consumed, and may be remedied by supplying that deficiency. In the first place the food should be regulated as far as it can be, so that it shall furnish all that is needed, and especially such as is abundant in

the food or salt is craved. A liberal use of wheat bran or shorts, with oat meal, oil meal, clover, and plenty of roots, especially potatoes, is very efficient in guarding against unnatural longings in cattle, as such food contains about all that the animals require. The bran and the roots are particularly effective.

When an unnatural craving for bone, wool, &c., has been formed, the cure will be hurried if in connection with the food named the cattle are fed plenty of salt mixed with bone-dust, sulphur and ashes. One half of the mixture should be salt, and the other half be made up with equal parts of the other ingredients. This has proved the best corrective of depraved tastes in cattle of anything I have ever known to be gives. It is harmless at any time, and is excellent to give occasionally in the spring when cattle are shedding, especially in old dairy districts.—*New York Tribune.*

FEED AND WATER FOR A HORSE.—A rule adopted by some omnibus companies and others, working large numbers of horses, is two pounds of ground grain, to each pound of hay. For road driving, if the horse be not doing severe work, a good rule would be to allow eight to ten pounds of the best hay, with twelve to fifteen pounds of good sound oats per day. For farm horses, when doing exhausting labor, as ploughing, for instance, it is safe to allow them all the clean, sound oats they will eat at three separate meals, up to three pecks a day to each horse, bringing them gradually to their feed, requiring that the feed be eaten clean, and, in addition, what hay they will eat. As to the amount of water required, an average horse will consume twenty-four quarts a day if doing light work, and not sweated.



Georgie Hillhurst.

and the fathers of the offspring will resemble mainly the Dorkings. Reverse the procedure, let the Oriental be the lord of the harem, and the scene is changed, the offspring of the Dorking hens will be far more like "Cochins" in their feathers than Dorkings.

Again and again have I known a white Boar produce all white pigs from a black Sow; and *vice versa*; but let it be ever remembered, that for such results to follow, the bias, or hereditary transmission of the special color, must be equal on both sides. A white Boar, *e. g.*, descended from a black Sow, by a white Boar, when placed with a black Sow, would not make so decided an impression upon the color as one which had for many generations descended from a white strain.

Short-Horn Heifer, Georgie Hillhurst.

The cut on this page represents Georgie Hillhurst 3d, a red heifer belonging to B. B. Groom & Son, Winchester, Ky. She was bred by Col. Kingscote, Walton under Edge, Gloucestershire, England. She is by Duke of Hillhurst

1 d. Georgiana Walton
2 d. Georgiana 6th
3 d. Georgiana 5th
4 d. Georgiana

by 2d Earl of Walton
by 4th Duke of Oxford
by Gen. Canrobert
by St. Bernard
by Lord J. Bentinck
by King Pippin
by Earl Stanhope

Duke of Hillhurst was bred by Hon. M. H. Cochrane, Quebec, and is now let in England for the current six months for \$4,000 gold.