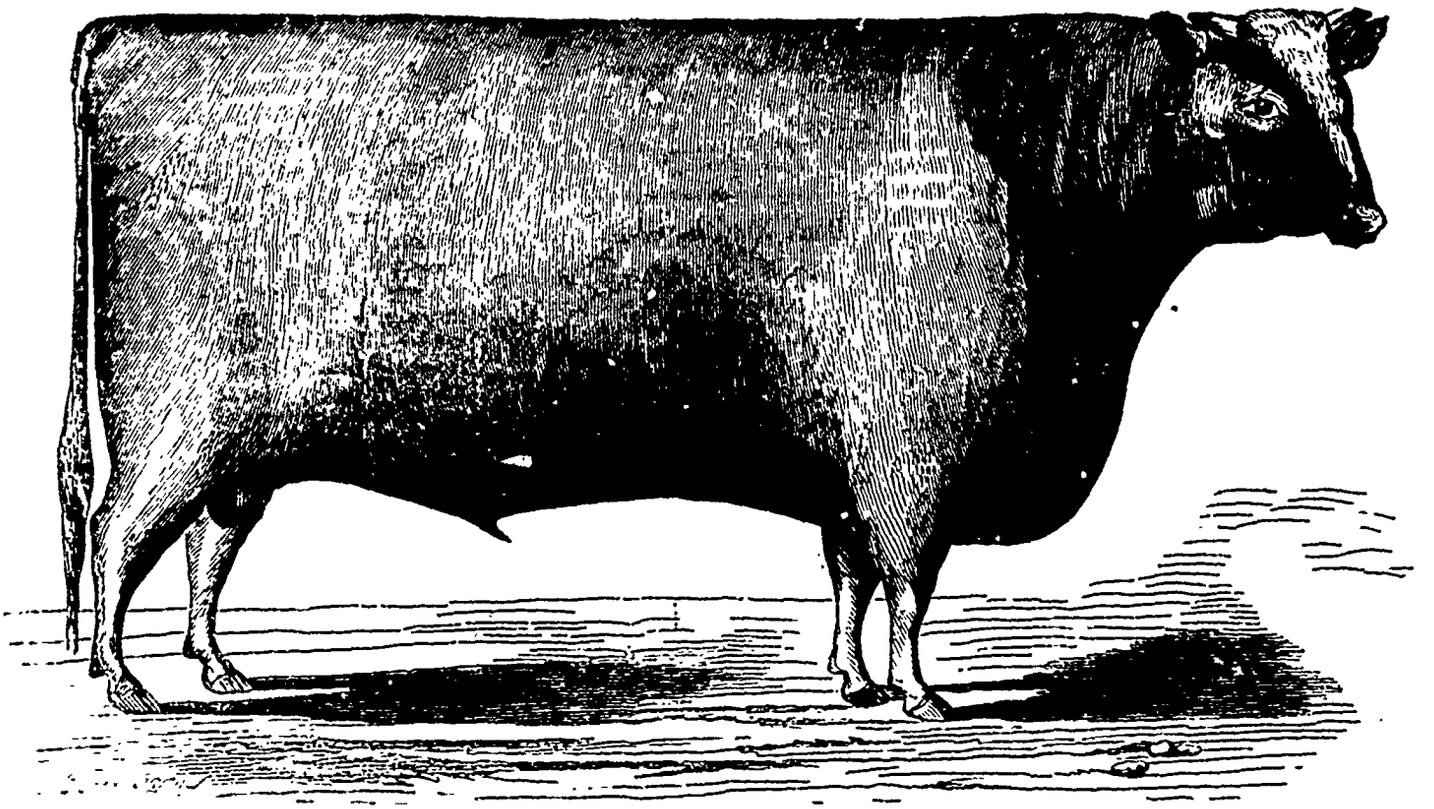
PRIZE SHORT-HORN BULL, "THE BRILLIANT LAMP."



THE splendid roan year-old Bull,—"THE BRILLIANT LAMP," shown in the accompanying illustration, is the property of James Anderson, Esq., of Grace Dieu, County of Waterford, Ireland. This animal was exhibited at the Royal Dublin Society's Show, held in the Spring of this year, and carried off from ninety-eight competitors the First-Prize of his section, and the Ganby Challenge Cup. "The Brilliant Lamp" is by "Bright Lamp," (19.356), by "Lamp of Lothian", dam "Octavia the Second" by "Soubadar," (18.901, gd. "Octavia" by "Drishane," (14.414.)

Entomology.

Insects on the Gooseberry and Currant.

FROM the following extract, which we take from the columns of the *Scottish Farmer*, it seems that the application of helibore to destroy these insects, as recommended recently by various writers, is not altogether an advisable proceeding:

"Growers of gooseberries and currants would do well, as soon as the buds break into leaf, to go over their bushes early in the morning, when the dew is on them, with a flour-dredger charged with flour of sulphur; also repeat the process about the end of June. This with me has always been a certain preventive. A boy will go over 200 bushes before breakfast, and the expense would be about ninepence for two pounds of flour of sulphur.—JOSEPH BURGESS, *in Midland Florists' Guide for April.*" This is another, and we should think rather a good addition to the numerous recipes for preventing the ravages of the gooseberry caterpillar, sulphur being one of the most effective appliances for the destruction of insect life, and at the same time one of the least injurious to vegetable health. And we would specially recommend trial of it, in course of this and next month, to gooseberry bushes in districts infested with that intolerable nuisance, *the gooseberry bug.* A respected old lady, who was famous for the excellence of her home-made ginger-beer, once assured us that she had found, from long experience, nothing was such an effectual caterpillar destroyer as that beverage, which she sprinkled over the bushes from the rose of a small watering pan. To such a harmless application, made at any time, there can be no objection; but we decidedly protest against all poisonous applications, such as helibore—now so extensively used—especially when or after the young berries have become fit for tarts or other purposes, as small quantities might adhere to their skins, especially to those of the rough or hairy sorts, and result in very unpleasant if not dangerous consequences, not only to gooseberry eaters, but to the partakers of jams, jellies, wines, tarts, &c., made from them either when green or ripe. Sulphur does not rank among these poisonous applications, nor does it affect the flavour of the fruit, but it should only be applied in the younger stages, as what lady or gentleman would go a-gooseberry-picking at the risk of having their clothes sulphur scented?—*Country Gentleman.*

THE DIET OF WORMS.—Many persons are not aware of the fact, that the earthworm really does live upon earth. It is sometimes stated in popular works on zoology that the worm picks out portions of leaves, grass, &c., and devours them; but this is quite a mistake—the earthworm lives upon earth. It must not be supposed that it assimilates the mineral constituents of the soil; its gastric and biliary secretions dissolve the decomposing animal and vegetable matters which are invariably contained in rich soil, and it is these which are assimilated. The earthworm could not live upon earth that had been burnt and deprived of its organic constituents. In a similar way the arenicola, or lug-worm, which lives in the sands exposed by the action of the tide, gorges itself with that substance, and extracts the matters which it contains fit for nutriment. More frequently, however, the "lug" lives in the rich clays of creeks and saltings, which abound in animal and vegetable matters. It is worthy of observation, that a very large quantity of earth or sand, as the case may be has to be gorged before any appreciable amount of nutriment is extracted; at the same time swallowing of earth is an assistance to the worm as it burrows in the ground, inasmuch as large quantities of material are thereby removed from its path and ejected behind. The appearance of those curious little masses of digested earth on the surface is thus caused, by means of which the earthworm effects such wonderful changes on the surface of the ground, turning up the earth, burying the stones, and producing a fresh and fertile soil where formerly was a barren waste.—*Hardwicke's Science Gossip.*

BIRDS AND INSECTS.—A correspondent who has been considering the effect that birds have upon keeping down insects, writes to the *Field* expressing his belief that their influence is much less than is generally supposed. He says:—"Of my own personal observation I know only three birds that seem to abstain entirely from insect food—the goldfinch, linnet, and red-poll. I have never noticed the sparrow take anything but winged insects, abstaining altogether from caterpillars and larvæ. Now, there are many insects which birds do not devour at all—take, for instance, the wasp—and yet they appear and disappear in certain seasons in a manner which I have never heard satisfactorily explained. We generally look for them in dry, hot seasons, and last year they came in great numbers; and this spring, from the numbers of queen wasps, the gardeners were in despair, anticipating the destruction of their fruit; but although the weather has been seemingly most propitious, they have entirely disappeared. I have not seen a wasp for several weeks, and this before the heavy thunderstorms of last week, which we might suppose would have destroyed them. Again, the gooseberry caterpillars, which two or three years go stripped all our gooseberry bushes of their leaves, have also vanished. Although they appeared to be so loathsome to the taste of birds that I could never persuade any of my birds to touch them—even the ducks, the foulest feeders, rejected them—yet, as I said before, they have disappeared. I remember, many years ago, when travelling in Australia, to have met with a plague of grasshoppers, which came in such incredible numbers as almost to darken the air. They devoured every green thing in their way. During their flight, which lasted for two hours in the morning, and the same time in the evening, it was difficult to get our horses to face the storm, and those feeding in the bush would turn their backs to them just as we see horses turn in a violent thunderstorm. They were accompanied by great flights of birds, which, of course, devoured great numbers; all the domestic poultry fattened on them; even the pigs and dogs ate them, but seemed to have no effect upon their numbers; and as the grasshoppers were laying each day in millions to deposit their eggs in the ground, the inhabitants became seriously alarmed. However, the grasshopers vanished as mysteriously as they came, and the following year they were not more than usually numerous."