

most farmers go to grumble that the show is so scanty and meagre, without seeming to consider that they are to blame for it—that it would have been all that need be desired had they severally recognized and fulfilled their obligation to contribute. Any fair to which half the farmers in the county contribute will be a good one."

Mr. Greeley is of opinion that unreasonable importance is attached to the award of premiums. He does not magnify the office of judge nor entertain a very high opinion of the manner in which the judicial function is usually discharged, as our readers will see by the next extract:—

"Three men, passing hurriedly from pen to pen, adjudge A's horse or oxen the best on the ground, and B's only second or third in excellence. Very probably they err in judgment, through haste, or partiality, or incompetency. What if they do? Is the intrinsic value of your animal lessened by this error? Is the matter worth fretting over, any how? The popular verdict often reverses that of the committee, and fully atones for the injustice by the heartiness of its condemnation. If I were an exhibitor, and cared about the matter, I would rather have injustice done me than not. Where the appellate tribunal includes the whole county, no one need care what three men may say. And yet exhibitors have gone grumbling away, firmly resolved never to exhibit again, because of presumed partiality or injustice in the award of some paltry premium."

The decisions of judges and the judicial function are not much respected in the United States, and "popular verdicts" are often given against them, when the tribunal is a much higher one than that of an agricultural fair; but in our view the remedy is not to despise the court, but to elevate its character. The judging at these exhibitions ought to be such as shall deserve and secure respect. All possible pains should be taken to secure well qualified parties, whose ruling will have all the weight of authority in the several departments. We would rather say to unsuccessful competitors, use all your endeavours to get skilful, impartial judges, and if you are beaten, take it in good part, do not insinuate partiality or complain of injustice, but "try, try again."

Mr. Greeley deals out well-merited censure to the now almost universal practice of having horse-racing at these fairs. He says very justly that it "marks a low stage of intellectual and moral development" that these races should be so popular,—deprecates the idea of "blacklegs getting possession of the fairs," and insists that racing should be sternly discountenanced. He would never allow two horses or teams to compete in any way, but would have each horse or team exhibited by itself and timed independently, and would interleave other exercises with the display of horses on the track.

The following is an excellent suggestion, which we commend to all and sundry who have the management of exhibitions:—

"There should be set times for the explanation of every machine or novel implement on the ground; not only for the judges, but for the public. Let due notice be given that this or that machine or new device will be operated and illustrated, say at 10 a.m.; another at 11, and so on. Much information would thus be diffused with regard to implements which are now passed by the majority in dumb perplexity or blundering misconception."

We would add that when such appointments are made they should be observed with rigid punctuality. Announcements have sometimes been published that particular classes of animals would be displayed at particular hours, and no further trouble or care taken about the matter. Faith should be strictly kept with the public when such arrangements are entered into.

Mr. Greeley winds up with an earnest plea in behalf of the speakers invited to address the assembled multitudes—"Finally, Messrs. Managers, be good enough to let those whom you invite to speak have at least half a chance! Let them speak before dinner always—not when the people are wearied out with gazing and tramping, and anxious to get away to their homes. If the speaker be worth hearing, he should be heard; if not, he needs the better opportunity, so as not to be held responsible unjustly for dispersing the crowd."

These opportunities for imparting useful lessons to people who seldom have the opportunity of hearing a really good address or lecture in their own neighbourhoods, are not made enough of. An hour each day devoted to this purpose, and really improved by effective speakers, would, we are persuaded, accomplish a vast amount of good.

"The Canadian Horse and His Diseases."

We welcome with very great pleasure the appearance of this popular compendium of veterinary practice. There are, it is true, several excellent books on the subject already published, but these are all bulky and comparatively expensive; so much so as to deter most farmers from obtaining them. But the new work now offered to the public is in very portable shape, being a small volume of little more than 200 pages, and can be procured at a very moderate price. The authors are well qualified for the task they have undertaken. They have received their education in the first veterinary school in the world, have been long engaged in extensive practice, and from their prominent connection with the Toronto Veterinary College have acquired the experience necessary to enable them to impart instruction to others. The names of Messrs D. McEachren and Andrew Smith are ample guarantee for the accuracy, soundness, and practical character of the work. Mr. Smith has long been the foremost man in his profession in the Province of Ontario, and his reputation both as a practitioner and as a teacher are too well established to need any comment here. By the publication of this useful treatise, acceptable alike to the student and the people, he has added to the obligations which the country owe him for his energetic endeavors in the cause of veterinary science.

The appearance of the work at the present time is very opportune; for although happily, through the instrumentality of the Veterinary College, the number of qualified practitioners is increasing in the country, still there are many farmers who are beyond the reach of professional help, and to such a work of ready reference treating on the ailments of the horse will be found invaluable; and even those who have the advantage of being able to consult a veterinary surgeon, will derive benefit from acquainting themselves, as this little work will enable them to do, with the nature and treatment of those diseases and injuries to which man's most faithful servant is liable. Ignorance is the worst foe the true physician has to combat; it is only the empiric who does not wish his patients or customers to possess an intelligent acquaintance with the laws of life and health, and the principles of the healing art.

We very cordially commend this little work to the farmers of Canada, as a safe and efficient guide in the treatment of the injuries and diseases of the horse. The information is very clearly and concisely given; so that any one of ordinary intelligence would be able, by its assistance, to recognize the presence of disease, and determine what was best to be done in the case. The work contains in a compact form at the end a large number of useful receipts and prescriptions. It is published by James Campbell & Son, Toronto. The price is seventy-five cents.

Ontario Poultry Association.

In another column will be found an advertisement of the poultry show, to take place on the 6th and 7th inst., at the Agricultural Hall, Toronto. We have much pleasure in directing attention to it, as it promises to be the largest and best exhibition of the kind ever held, we may say, on this side of the Atlantic. We have been informed, on good authority, that there will be on exhibition nearly 300 pens of poultry and pigeons. The arrangements made for their reception are almost perfect, and with the small

price for admission we have no doubt the affair will be highly successful.

Between sixty and seventy entries have been refused, which is much to be regretted; but as due notice was given of the regulations of the Society in regard to entries, and all other rules relating to the show, it is to be presumed that exhibitors have only themselves to blame in these cases. Rules once made and properly published, should be strictly adhered to. Those who have never undertaken the management of exhibitions of the kind, can have little idea of the trouble involved, and which is much increased by any infringement of regulations. Ample directions have been sent to each exhibitor in regard to packing the specimens, and a careful observance of these instructions will prevent mistakes. We sincerely trust the exhibition will prove eminently successful, and satisfactory to all concerned.

SALE OF PURE-BRED STOCK.—In the advertising columns notice is given of an extensive sale of pure-bred stock, to take place on the 20th inst., at Harris town station, near Decatur, Macon Co., Illinois.

Agricultural Intelligence.

Annual Sale at Moreton Lodge, Guelph.

THE annual sale of thorough-bred cattle, sheep, pigs, and poultry, at Mr. F. W. Stone's farm, Guelph, came off as advertised, on Wednesday, the 16th ult. The day was all that could be desired as to weather, and the occasion drew together a large number of persons, a good proportion of them being well-known Canadian and American stock-breeders. There was also a fair sprinkling of farmers from the surrounding country, some of whom contested the purchase of choice animals with foreign bidders in a very spirited manner. Only a few Short-Horns were offered—eight in all—and of these all but one were sold at fair prices. The pick of the lot were purchased by Mr. Greg. of Beachville; "Mattie," a two-year old roan heifer, at \$150; "Matchless 3," a roan calf, at \$200, and "Lord of the Hills," a roan bull calf, at \$150. There seemed to be no demand for the Herefords, and although some superb animals of various ages were offered, only two sales were effected; a five year old cow at \$90, and a yearling heifer at \$95, to the Hon. Mr. Foster, of Lower Canada. The catalogue comprised fifteen Herefords, but only three or four of them were put up, owing to the lack of bidders. The farmers present exchanged opinions about them very freely, and seemed to be unanimous in thinking that they do not compare with the Short-Horns as a cross upon the native cattle, or in general adaptation to the country. We believe they have some points of great merit, and that they deserve to be more popular than they are. The Cotswold sheep sold well, excellent prices being obtained, especially for the shearing rams. The highest figures reached were—Hon. Dr. Christie, \$72, Joseph Gardiner, Toronto Township, \$83, and Arthur Hogge, Guelph, \$81. It speaks well for the stock, and for the local farming community, that the highest price should have been paid by one of Mr. Stone's neighbours. The best figure got for Cotswold ewes was \$114 for a pair of shearlings. The Southdowns did not sell so briskly as the Cotswolds, \$32 being the highest price realized for a shearling ram. A few Berkshire boars and sows were sold at from \$10 to \$12 apiece. Some nice coops of Grey Dorking fowls and Aylesbury Ducks were offered, but there was little or no demand for them, there being no attendance of poultry fanciers, and our farmers not having yet awoken to the importance of effecting improvement in this description of stock.

In the vicinity of Monroe, Michigan, farmers and gardeners have planted, within three years, 37,000 vines. Many of the vineyards are now bearing, and the yield, both in quantity and quality, surpasses the expectations of the most sanguine.