

The Hereford Breed of Cattle.

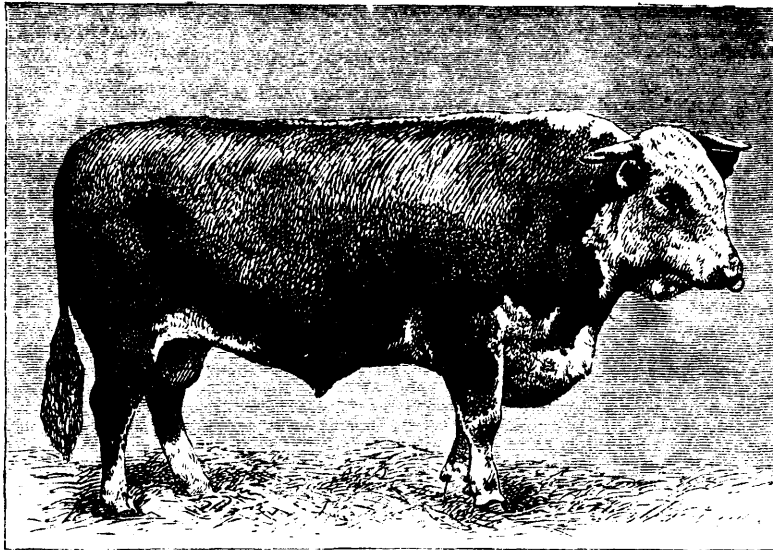
The white-faced, brownish-red cattle, known as Herefords, are one of the old established breeds. They have an excellent reputation as beef cattle and as milkers. For both of these useful purposes

they are well adapted, by reason of their remarkably quiet disposition, which is evinced by their mild eye and placid deportment. A contented, docile animal is a profitable feeder, as little of its food is spent in nervous excitement, or accompanying restless action. For this contentment the Hereford is conspicuous amongst the best classes of cattle, if indeed it does not surpass every other competitor for the favor of the feeder, the dairyman, or the butcher. This breed is second only to the Shorthorn as a beef animal, when kept under equally favorable circumstances, but when placed in somewhat inferior keeping, it is preferable to it. For secondary pastures, and in the hands of farmers who do not wish to feed up to very great weights, the

Hereford will excel the Shorthorn. When used for the purpose of grading up inferior native stock, bulls of this breed are sometimes preferred to the Shorthorns, and they are becoming very popular in Colorado for this purpose. Since the extreme popularity of the Shorthorn during the past few years, the Hereford has fallen into the background, along with every other sort of beef-stock; but now that this Shorthorn excitement has passed away, each race of cattle has a fair chance to take whatever position in the public favor it may deserve, or can attain and keep. The Herefords are, therefore, now being brought into notice, and will, without doubt, acquire many friends among those breeders who are engaged in improving the coarse native cattle. There are now many good herds in different parts of the United States. One town in Illinois, viz., Beecher, Will County, has the distinction of possessing three herds, owned by T. L. Miller, who exhibited some fine animals at the Centennial, Wm. Powell, and Thomas Clark. Another good herd is owned by G. S. Burleigh, of Mechanicsville, Iowa. There are one or two herds in Ohio. At the New England Fair, these herds, owned in the State of Maine by C. A. McKenney, Munroe; G. E. Shores, Waterville; J. S. Hawes, South Vassalboro; G. and G. Underwood, of Fayette, received premiums.

The Hereford Bull, of which we give a portrait taken from the "Agricultural Gazette," is owned by an English breeder, Mr. E. J. Lewis, of Breinton. This bull, named "Little Bill," took the second prize at the Herefordshire Agricultural Society's meeting. The portrait is copied from a photograph, and therefore is a faithful representation of

what the animal really is. The breed is noted for the excellence of its flesh, in which the fat and lean are intermingled, and not placed so much in layers, as in the fat Shorthorn. There is a smoothness and roundness about the carcass, which is well shown by this portrait, and which indicates profitable cutting up, with little waste or offal. The

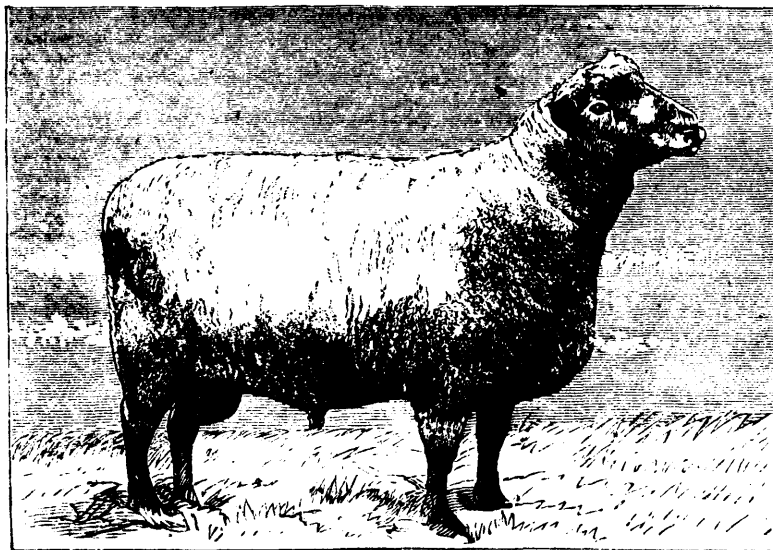


HEREFORD BULL, "LITTLE BILL."

cows are generally good milkers, and yield good butter, and the calves are hardy and grow rapidly, when properly cared for. The regularity of color and form is very close in this breed, and a well-bred herd will differ very little in their markings. The white face is the most distinguishable feature.

Oxford-Down Sheep.

The Oxford-Down ram, whose portrait, copied from a photograph, is given on this page, has a



OXFORD-DOWN RAM, "ROYAL LIVERPOOL."

history that is interesting to American readers. The ram is the "Royal Liverpool," and the first-prize animal in his class at the Royal Agricultural Society's show at Bath. This ram, with three others, all the property of Mr. Treadwell, of Winchendon, England, are the progeny of the ram "Freeland," also owned by Mr. Treadwell. "Freeland" is now

in the possession (although not the property) of Mr. T. S. Cooper, of Coopersburg, Pa., Mr. Cooper having rented the ram for the coming season from Mr. Treadwell, for the sum of 85 guineas, or nearly \$450. This ram has received many first prizes, and his offspring have also been successful prize-winners. For the four rams above referred to, Mr.

Cooper offered \$2,000, which their owner declined. This fact indicates the value placed upon these animals in England, where the Oxford-Down has become very popular. In this country it is rapidly becoming a favorite sheep, occupying a place midway between the short and long wools, as regards fleece, and an equal one at least as regards mutton, with the Cotswold. In some respects the mutton is preferable to that of the Cotswold. Mr. Cooper, who has the ram "Freeland" now in his possession, is one of our most enterprising breeders, and has imported some of the best stock now in this country. In procuring the best possible Oxford-Downs, he is doing this excellent breed only fair justice, for although it has already made a good start here, and several good flocks are now owned in the country, yet there is room for some of the best blood to keep up the standard of quality, if not to advance it.

THE PRODUCTION AND DISPOSAL OF EGGS.—An egg contains more nutriment than any other substance of the same weight. At the same time, the market price of eggs is comparatively lower than that of flesh. A pound of eggs is also produced at a less cost than a pound of flesh. Considering the importance of the poultry products of the country,

there is by no means sufficient regard paid to them. The stock of profitably productive poultry, as compared with the whole quantity kept, is small. As compared with the whole, the number of hens that produce 100 eggs in a season, is small in proportion. Yet 150 eggs are frequently laid in a year by hens of the improved breeds, and by common hens that are well fed and kept. The preparation of eggs by a recent invention for drying or, as it is called, "crystallizing" them, a process in which the work is done by machinery, has very largely increased the market for them. The dry product is imperishable, and, when packed in tin boxes, may be shipped to the most distant countries, or carried on ships through the longest voyages. No doubt this

new use for eggs will increase the demand for them when the manufacture has become thoroughly established, and that it will be a profitable business for farmers to keep better poultry and improve, so far as possible, their present methods of keeping their fowls. Suggestions to this end will be found every month in the *American Agriculturist*.