adding to his profit. By way of a counterbalance, however, the smallness of the head, the thinness of the pelt, and the general greater weight of the carcase than the appearance of the animal would indicate, should be taken into consideration. Whatever it may be to the butcher, "this diminution of offal is advantageous to the grazier; for it shows a disposition to form fat outwardly, and is uniformly accompanied by a tendency to quickness of improvement." In this latter quality the new Leicesters, *cæteris paribus*, are unrivalled.

The new Leicesters, with all their good qualities, are not a hardy race, neither are they so prolific as many other breeds. The ewes seldom produce twins, nor indeed did the founders of this stock deem the production of twins desirable. They aimed at bringing forward the lamb as early as possible, and rightly considered that few ewes could produce two such lambs as would meet with their wishes and realize their object. The fact, moreover, is, that the exclusive attention paid to the establishment of a race, the vital energies of which were to be exhibited in the attainment of early maturity and in the quick accumulation of fat, while productive of the results aimed at, necessarily entailed counterbalancing deficiencies. A tendency to rapid fattening and early ripeness is not co-existent, as a general rule, with great fertility. In this point, then, the new Leicesters are defective, but less so than formerly. Still the ewes do not yield any great abundance of milk, and the lambs are tender, delicate, and unfitted to endure any great inclemency of weather.

Such, then, are the new Leicesters, to which so many other breeds owe their improvement by crossing; indeed, if we limit our attention to this part alone of their history, the benefits resulting from them will be found as important as they are extensive. Not only have they improved the long-wooled races of our island, but also various strains of the short-woolled sheep, sometimes perhaps to the diminution of the hardihood of the latter, and always to the increase in the weight of the fleece and its acquisition of greater length and fineness of staple, changing it from a clothing wool no longer marketable, into a valuable combing *middle* wool for which there is a constant demand. In the midland counties the influence of the Leicesters is everywhere apparent; if we visit the southern and western counties we still observe the effects of their introduction; and the same observation applies to the north, and even to Scotland, of which the Cheviot sheep owe to them many of their present excellences, as early ripeness, improvement of fleece, and amelioration of form. It would be folly to attempt to naturalize the new Leicesters on coarse, lean pastures, on wilds, heaths, and mountain moorlands; they would rapidly degenerate, and few of their lambs, with the best care, would survive the winter; but, as in the instance of the Cheviots, the hardy mountain sheep may derive no trifling improvement from a cross, and that too, without a loss of hardiness.—*From Martin's Treatise on the Sheep.*

CATTLE DISEASES IN THE UNITED STATES.

We extract the following from the "Journal of the New York State Agricultural Society"—

AN IMPORTANT CIRCULAR—APPEARANCE OF THE CATTLE DISEASE—PLEURO-PNEUMONIA IN N. YORK & BROOKLYN.

In the important circular, which is here appended, issued by Hon. J. Stanton Gould, President, and Col. B. P. Johnston, Secretary, of the New York State Ag. Society, it is officially announced that the cattle disease, known as pleuro-pneumonia, has made its appearance in New York and Brooklyn. This circular should be published in every paper throughout the country:

ALBANY, *June* 9, 1866.

The Rinderpest Commissioners of the State of New York, having been officially informed by Dr. Samuel Percy that the infectious disease known as pleuro-pneumonia was prevailing in several stables in New York and Brooklyn, and that the Board of Health had positively ordered the removal of such cattle from the city; and the Rinderpest Commissioners not being satisfied of their power to act in the cases of pleuro-pneumonia, referred the communication to the State Agricultural Society.

The officers of the Society living in the vicinity of Albany believing that publication ought to be given before the meeting of the Executive Committee, of the existence of the disease and the danger of its diffusion, requested the President and Secretary to publish such notice and warning.

In conformity with this advice, we do hereby make known the existence of pleuro-pneumonia among the cows in the stables of New York and Brooklyn, and earnestly advise all purchasers of stock to examine those which are offered for sale, with reference to this disease.

We also advise that in case the disease makes its appearance in any herd, the sick animal be immediately and rigidly separated from the rest.

The period of incubation of this disease varies from forty-two to sixty days.

It is well ascertained that this disease is strictly infectious, it never occurs where the animal has not come into contact with diseased animals.

The meat of animals suffering from pleuro-pneumonia is dangerous when used as human food.

It is very probable that the diseased herds which are now being excluded from the city will be offered for sale at very low prices to farmers. This contingency calls for additional precautions on the part of purchasers.

JOHN S. GOULD, *President.*
B. P. JOHNSON, *Secretary.*

CATTLE DISEASE IN MAINE.

[We received the annexed from S. L. Goodale, Esq., in relation to the cattle disease in Maine.]

During the latter half of April a disease appeared in the herd of Mr. Henry Freethy, of York, York County, Me.—His herd consisted of ten. After several had died, a man, reputed a farrier, was called in from Berwick, who pronounced the disease to be pleuro-pneumonia, as he had seen it in Massachusetts some years ago. The selectmen then notified the governor and myself of the existence of a disease suspected to be contagious. I received the letter on the 11th May, and the next day about noon was in York, but found the last sick one had died the day previous—making six. The remaining four appeared perfectly well. Inquiries regarding the symptoms, and the post mortem appearances of two which had been examined by physicians of the place, satisfied me at once and fully that it bore no resemblance to pleuro-pneumonia.—One might as well mistake dysentery for asthma as this for that. But they painfully suggested the possibility of rinderpest. Fortunately, the cattle had been kept close at the barn from the first, and as soon as infection was suspected a rigid isolation was intentionally and judiciously kept up.

As nothing more then appeared needful to be done, I directed the premises to be disinfected and complete isolation to be continued for some weeks. Returning home, I read what my library furnished regarding the peculiarities of rinderpest, the effect of which was to increase my anxiety.

On the 16th, information was received of two more cases, and the herd was again visited. On seeing the cattle, I recognized or fancied that I saw characteristic symptoms of rinderpest additional to what had been reported to me on the first visit, and little or nothing was found distinctively different. The animals were both killed. The morbid appearances correspond substantially with those reported [illegible] the differences not being great [illegible] between the accounts lately [illegible] and those given by Prof. [illegible] report several years since [illegible] made on the [illegible]