

## Breeder and Brezier.

### Short-Horn Colors.

The discussion at the Cincinnati Convention indicates that the mania for red colors is on the decline. The suggestion by Dr. Sprague, that premiums should be offered for the best carcass of beef, is but the reiteration of a test suggested by us more than a year ago. We have argued that the new fashions were not based upon any of the old rules in regard to excellence in quality—that good handling, deemed so important by all the old breeders, was no longer a test of merit, and that therefore there was no test as to quality of flesh. We have no doubt but the rage for dark red colors had much to do with this; for although we are not prepared to go the length insisted upon by some in the late discussion, in regard to the dark-red indicating inferior flesh as it is usually accompanied with harsh hair, we are of opinion that the lighter colors are generally superior in quality to the dark-reds. And we know, too, that many of the premium reds, during the last half-dozen years, have been so defective in their handling, that they were really unworthy of this honor. One, exceedingly good in form and style, was, with all that growing and care could do, too hard for the showing. Another, equally distinguished and equally good in form, but less stylish, was so defective in coat, with hair so short and thin, as to render it impossible for a judge of a true Short-horn to admire her. Still another, with a hide so thin and "papery" as to entirely disqualify her in the judgment of competent judges, was successful—as we were informed by one of the committee—because her handling was so superior! All these were red in color; but we do not mean to attribute their defects to this circumstance, and only cite the instances as evidence of the utter disregard of *quality*, at the great State cattle shows of the country, where the animals have the fashionable color and style. And we have been greatly surprised in this, as in other particulars, to see practical breeders abandon their old opinions, and follow the whims of men who, by prodigal use of money, without information and without experience, were introducing new practices and new standards of excellence in Short-horn breeding.

It is high time to have done with these whims and fancies, and to return to the old tests of sound blood, with the *quantity and quality of flesh*.

We are greatly pleased, therefore, to observe that so many respectable gentlemen are in accord with the views we have been presenting in these columns in regard to these very questions of color and handling in connection with the quality of the flesh and propensity to fatten.

Some months since we directed attention to the color of the prize animals in Great Britain for 1872 to which we now add those of 1873, showing how largely the red color is in the minority among the best cattle there. At the Royal Agricultural Society meeting at Hull, there were 33 prizes and commendations, 4 of which were awarded to reds, 4 to red-and-whites, 4 to whites, and 21 to roans!

At the Royal for Scotland, the 15 honors were divided as follows: 1 to the white, 1 to the red-and-white, 2 to the red, and 14 to the roan. At the meeting of the Irish Royal, 2 of the 12 honors went to the reds, 2 to red-and-whites, and 8 to the roans; the old Yorkshire Society distributed its 24 honors thus: 4 to the reds, 4 to the red-and-white, and 16 to the roan color.

We think it may now be safe to assume that the roan is becoming the most fashionable, as it unquestionably is the most brilliant and characteristic of the true colors of the breed. And yet, partial as we are to this color, we should not advocate exclusive adherence to it, if such a thing were possible; because we can hardly conceive of any considerable herd of well bred animals without "the red, the white, and the roan."—*T. C. J., in Live Stock Journal*.

### Points of an Ayrshire.

The quantity of milk which the Ayrshire dairy cow yields, as well as its quality, are so various that we have great doubts if the quotations which we give of several dairies in the west of Scotland can subserve any useful purpose. There is primarily the milking qualities of the cow, which largely influence the production, for there is no fact better established than the profitability of some cows compared with others, and the consequent importance to be attached to the selection of prime cows. The value affixed to the form and points by the dairy farmer is incalculable; they rarely commit a mistake in purchasing, and it may not be out of place to insert the following ingenious versification of the points of the Ayrshire cow which appeared in a Scotch paper many years

ago. They are based on a document published under authority of the Ayrshire Agricultural Association:—

"Would you know how to judge of a good Ayrshire cow? Attend to the lessons you'll hear from me now:  
Her head should be short, and her muzzle of good size;  
Her nose should be fine between muzzle and eyes;  
Her eyes full and lively; forehead, ample and wide;  
Horns wide, looking up, and curved inwards beside;  
Her neck should be a fine, tapering wedge,  
And free from loose skin on the undermost edge;  
Should be fine where 'tis joined with the seat of the brain;  
Long and straight upper line, without hollow or mane;  
Shoulder-blades should be thin where they meet at the top;  
Let her brisket be light, nor resemble a crop;  
Her fore-part recede like the lash of a whip,  
And strongly resemble the bow of a ship;  
Her back short and straight, with the spine well defined,  
Especially where back, neck and shoulders are joined,  
Her ribs short and arched, like the ribs of a large,  
Body deep at the flanks, and milk-veins full and large;  
Pelvis long, broad and straight, and in some measure, flat;  
Hock bones wide apart, and not being much fat,  
Her thighs deep and broad, neither rounded or flat.  
Her tail long and fine, and joined square with her back,  
Milk vessel capacious, and forward extending,  
The hinder part broad, and to body fast pending,  
The sole of her udder should just form a plane,  
And all the four teats equal thickness attain,  
Their length not exceeding two inches or three;  
They should hang to the earth perpendicularly;  
Their distance apart, when they're viewed from behind,  
Will include about half of the udder you'll find.  
And, when viewed from the side, they will have at each end  
As much of the udder as 'twixt them is penned;  
Her legs should be short, and the bones fine and clean,  
The points of the latter being quite firm and keen,  
Skin soft and elastic as cushions of air,  
And covered all over with short woolly hair;  
The colors preferred are confined to a few—  
Either brown or white chequered, or all brown will do;  
The weight of the animal, leaving the skin,  
Should be about five hundred sinking offal."  
—*Bell's Messenger*.

### Dutch and Holstein Cattle.

Many of our best read farmers allow themselves in the use of the expression "Dutch or Holstein," as if they were one and the same breed, or race. Most of our premium lists and judges' awards are based upon the same idea, that the terms Dutch and Holstein are synonymous.

The Holsteins, it is true, have some of the general characteristics of the Dutch race of cattle; some peculiarities in common with all the races of cattle to be found in that long and fertile stretch of marsh region, extending from the confines of Holstein around the borders of France, a distance of some hundreds of miles. In this extent of country, the soil of which is of a low and swaley character—the accumulated deposit of ages—there are certain local influences which divide the Dutch-land cattle into many distinct races, giving to each some well defined points, by which distinguishing marks each can be, and is, known.

Thus, while the Holsteins are natives of Schleswig and Holstein, the Dutch cattle, in their purity are natives of Holland. They are strictly a lowland race. As they come to us, built up by the luxuriant feed of the moist climate and low grounds of their native Holland, they are coarse-boned, large and heavy, and great milkers; but when transplanted to our scanty, highland pastures, and to the exposure of our long winters, they do not keep good their claim as extraordinary milkers.

The Holstein race of cattle are smaller than the Dutch, and quite distinct from them in size, color and quality. They are more compactly built, and as far as appearances go, better fitted to climate and pasture conditions. So far as we know, the importations into Maine have stood the test commendably. We, however, would not advise those farmers, whose small purses compel them to leave their cattle to "rough it for a living," to invest largely in the Holsteins on so short a probation.

With the cheese-factory mania so prevalent, the demand is to be for curd production cows, and which is the race or breed to best supply the prospective demand, remains an open question. Let those who are gifted with plethoric purses, play at "loss and gain," until a safe, sure selection can be made.

There are several of the Holstein races, being entirely different in many essential particulars. The best of these we may have, or we may not, time and test will tell.—*S. W. in Maine Farmer*.

A CORRESPONDENT, of *Our Dumb Animals*. Says: I have a colt five years old, quite fast and high spirited; but I have never struck him with the whip since I bought him last March. I have taught him to obey my slightest wish, by means of a lump of sugar, of which he is very fond. He will ask for it by nodding his head and neighing. When I first had him, he would not stand quietly for one to get into the carriage; and I determined to try sugar. I gave him a lump, and from that day to this he never offered to move until I am entirely ready. Wasn't that better than whipping.

### Cattle Weights at the Smithfield Club.

The system of taking the weights of the cattle as they enter the Agricultural Hall, practiced by this Club, is one of much interest. The difference between live and dead weights is also a matter of important consideration for feeders. Butchers like those animals which "kill well." They desire to have a nice bit of lining over the kidneys. This year the general statement is that the beasts are not so well fed as in former years; and this is accounted for by the fact that meat has been so dear this season, that feeders have sent out their animals in an unfinished state. The undeveloped character of the Scotch beasts has been specially remarked upon. But south of the Tweed also the cattle when slaughtered exhibited the same paucity of suet. It is doubtful whether the rushing of unripened oxen into the market pays. But feeders of course know, or ought to know, best what is for their own interest.

The comparative live weights which we give of the cattle for this year and last shew that there has been a considerable falling off in substantiality, generally. The Devons stood the test of the tug best; this year their weight also was heavier than at last Show. In 1872 the greatest weight scaled by this pretty little breed (which must now also be described as hardy) was 18 cwt. 2 qr. 27 lb. This year one belonging to Mr. Bond, of Park, weighed 20 cwt. 15 lb. The heaviest Hereford this year was 22 cwt. 2 qr. 18 lb.; last year there was one weighing 23 cwt. 20 lb. The heaviest shorthorn ox was the champion prize-taker among the males. It belonged to Mr. Bult, and weighed 24 cwt. 2 lb. Last year the greatest weight was 23 cwt. 1 qr. 7 lb. In 1872 a Sussex ox brought down the beam at 23 cwt. 3 qr. 12 lb.; this year the highest register was made by a bullock belonging to Mr. Leo Steere. It weighed 22 cwt. 1 qr. 24 lb. The Norfolks and Suffolks seem to be growing in favor with the butchers. They are heavier than last year. The heaviest animal in the yard, as in last year was found among the crosses. The greatest weight last year was 27 cwt.; this year 24 cwt. 2 qr. 14 lbs.—*Farmer*.

### Points of Jersey Cattle.

Some years since, (in 1866,) the Secretary of the Royal Agricultural Society of the Island of Jersey, in his report, enumerated a scale of points for bulls and cows, in which neither the black tongue nor the black switch, so much fancied by some breeders is enumerated.

These black tongues and switches, of course, are entitled to consideration, as fancy points—nothing more—although we think it true that they do perpetuate this characteristic often very strongly in their progeny. They are found principally in animals of solid colors, as the shades of gray, and orange and other strong fawn colors.

At the examination of "foundation stock" in Jersey, in 1866, of sixty-nine bulls approved, twenty-four being highly commended and forty-five commended, twenty-three had black switches, six of them being highly commended. The body colors of the twenty-three black-tailed bulls were, six dark gray; four gray; two light gray; three gray and white; three brown; two light brown; one bright brown; one light red, and one of which the color was not stated.

At the same examination 244 cows under three years of age and heifers, all in milk, were approved. Of these, thirty-five were highly commended and 209 commended. Of the 244, thirty-three had black switches; fifteen were brown, bright, dark and light browns; five brown and white; three gray; two red; and, one each of dark gray, light gray, gray and white, fawn, cream and white, dark brown and white, and light brown and white. Two cows had black tails with white tips; one pale red had a white switch; one red, a brown one; one light brown and black points. There were four cows with black and white tails, and ten had white muzzles.

Of the thirty-five highly commended, five had black switches, four of them being brown and one gray; in this lot of highly commended animals one had a white muzzle.

At the exhibition of 1867 at Jersey, the bull which received the second prize was a red and white animal, having twenty-eight points out of the thirty-one which constitute the scale of perfection; this in a class where twenty-seven bulls were exhibited. Of these twenty-seven none were brown, seven brown and white, and four gray, four gray and white; and there were one each of brown, gray and white, red and white, and light red. The average of their scale of points was twenty-five and a half.

Of the sixty-four first and second class heifers shown, grey, grey and white, brown, brown and