

In reference to the American Berkshire Record, Vol. II., we have the following:

The prevailing desire among breeders to possess positive evidence that the ancestors of the stock handled by them were pure bred, is the result of experience. In their efforts at improvement they have found no truth better established, or more important to be kept in mind, than that impure blood will sooner or later show itself in the descendants of ill-bred animals. A fine outward appearance alone is no guarantee of definite results in breeding.

The oft repeated axiom, "like begets like," may be true of the mongrel as of the pure bred animal; true, however, of the former in this, that it is more likely to transmit its own characteristic of uncertainty, than to develop in its progeny any valuable quality. To the thoroughbred, on the other hand, men have learned to look with confidence for definite results and lasting improvement. The breeders of Berkshire Swine have long since realized the fact that actual progress can be had only by the careful selection and judicious mating of breeding animals for many successive generations.

The Record was established to aid in this work. That it has already been of great benefit, is the common testimony of all; and as it grows in popularity, and men become accustomed to keeping accurate records of the animals they breed, the advantages of a public Record will become still more apparent.

The present volume is placed before the swine breeders of the country in the confident belief that the expenditure of time and money required in its preparation will meet their approval. In verifying pedigrees the exercise of that diligence to which the Association committed itself, with a view to securing accuracy in every particular, has not been relaxed. All rules have been impartially enforced, and such pedigrees as were, by the Executive Committee, deemed open to suspicion, have been rigidly excluded, and the fees returned, to the parties applying for their admission.

The rule requiring sires and dams of animals presented for registry in Vol. II. to be recorded, necessitated the admission of many short pedigrees, and some breeders have chosen to record the ancestors of their animals one or more crosses beyond this requirement. None, however, have been admitted, even as ancestors, except those of undoubted purity and excellence, and recommended as such by parties of unquestioned integrity. To the pedigree of each animal admitted as an ancestor is appended a foot note, giving name and Record number of progeny.

Every well authenticated cross, on the side of the dam, will be found in the

present volume, but in tracing pedigrees of sires, Volume I. will frequently be needed.

To each pedigree accepted, the usual certificate by the breeder, or other reliable party, has been required.

Pedigrees of the more prominent families have been submitted to the approval of those European or American breeders best informed regarding the origin, and most interested in the improvement of such families.

In view of these facts, the Association feels no hesitancy in commending the individual animals herein recorded as among the most worthy representatives of Berkshire Swine on both sides of the Atlantic.

The Standard of Excellence is the result of the combined judgments of many of the leading Berkshire breeders of the country, to whom are due the thanks of the Association for suggestions and assistance in its preparation.

Acknowledgments are also due to Prof. James Law, Prof. Andrew Smith, Hon. T. C. Jones and E. G. Bedford, Esq., who, by request, assumed the task involved in a careful reading and decision upon the merits of the Essays presented in competition for the prize offered by the Association for the best original paper on the Diseases of Swine.

To the many correspondents who have so promptly and cordially responded to our calls for information, the Association and the public are greatly indebted.

The established success of the AMERICAN BERKSHIRE RECORD no longer necessitates assurance of its permanence. The energies of the management, to meet every requirement of the most progressive and exacting patronage, will not be relaxed.

PHIL. M. SPRINGER, Sec'y.

Springfield, Ill., Nov'r, 1877.

NOVA SCOTIA.—Yarmouth, Dec. 21.—Up to this date we have had a remarkably mild season; no snow, and not half a dozen days of frost, and only one or two nights when ice formed strong enough for skating. Deep water is all open; cattle in the interior are still at large in the woods and on the meadows, getting their own feed, and are in good condition. If we have an early spring, this will give us a three month's winter. I have occasionally planted my garden in March, the frost being out of the ground, and the soil dry.—C. E. B.—in *Country Gentleman*.

THE registered Jersey Heifer, HEDRON LASS, N. S., No. 121, has been sold by Mr. Patten of Yarmouth, to Mr. Wm. J. McGill, Shelburne.

We often hear complaints in regard to the Milk supply in Halifax. The following extract from the proceedings of the New York Dairymen's recent Convention at Syracuse, will show how they manage there by means of a Joint Stock Milk Association, such as we might well have in Halifax, to supply Syracuse with better milk than that supplied to any other city in the United States for less than three cents a quart, and the city Association makes money out of the business:

Mr. Geddes gave a very clear and lucid statement of the practical workings of the Onondaga County Milk Association. This is simply a co-operative enterprise of the dairymen in the vicinity of Syracuse, to secure economy in the distribution of milk, to meet all the demands of the city, and to furnish a good article. The result is that the association has made money, and the people of Syracuse are supplied with better milk than any other city in the United States. The milk is all brought to the rooms of the association, when it becomes their property. Each contributor's milk is subjected to a careful inspection, and if there is anything wrong, is rejected. The milk is all delivered in the same cans in which it was brought, which are marked with the owners name, so that the consumer knows the exact spot from which it comes, and may acquaint himself with the kind of stock and the treatment it receives. When the cans are emptied they are all returned to a particular room where they are washed and thoroughly cleansed by hot steam. The basis of the association as regards quantity, is that each cow should give six quarts of milk per day for 365 days in the year. That is the average taken the year through which the association demands, which is 2,190 quarts per cow. The highest average of any single dairy is 3,766 quarts. This herd numbers ten cows. Another dairy of 40 cows averages 3,339 quarts per cow. The lowest average is 1,843 quarts. The average price received is two and three-quarter cents per quart. The board of directors meet every week to consult regarding their interests, and make such suggestions to the stockholders as they deem proper. They frequently send out disinterested men to inspect the management of the different dairies. If there is anything but the most approved and unobjectionable practice, it is severely criticised. They base their success upon honest dealing.

LUVOFIELD FARM, January. The Ayrshire Cows "Lady Flora" and "Lady Panuke," with the heifer calf of the latter, "Lady Halifax," have been sold to C. P. Blanchard, Esq., and are now at Hillside Farm, Truro. A pure Ellesmere Sow has been sold to the Liverpool (Queen's County) Agricultural Society for \$10. Another pure Ellesmere (young) to Mr. J. B. Fraser, Shubenacadie, for \$11; a three-quarters Ellesmere to Mr. Meagher, Bedford, for \$21. Twenty-six sheep were sold by auction on 22d, at low prices, a number of them half bred Cotswolds, others common sheep; also a Bull Calf, with two Short