

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON THE SCOTTISH BREEDS OF CATTLE.

Some of the Scottish breeds from being either well adapted for certain localities, or celebrated for peculiar properties, it is advisable to keep pure; while with others no question can arise as to the propriety of crossing, on even complete amalgamation with other breeds. On these points the following remarks, the result of long observation and experience, may perhaps prove useful.

The Galloways.—This breed should be kept pure, although no doubt splendid animals may be, and indeed have been, bred from Galloway cows and short-horned bulls. The fact, however, of the breed being a favorite in Smithfield market, and realizing the top price, is a sufficient reason for maintaining its purity.

The Ayrshires.—This breed having attained a world-wide celebrity as dairy stock, should also be kept pure.

The West Highlander.—To maintain the purity of this breed is a matter of primary importance, as no other cattle can thrive in the Western Highlands and Isles. Efforts should also be made to introduce them in those districts now occupied by that coarse and inferior breed, the North Highlanders. The high district of Ross-shire, the Lewis, Sutherland and Caithness, the eastern parts of Inverness-shire and high districts running south as far as Forfar-shire, are well adapted for the West Highland cattle, where they would be found to thrive well. From their hardy constitutions and habits, they can withstand almost any degree of cold in the open air, foraging for their food in woods and glens even in pretty deep snow. The extension of this breed to the Highland district generally, could be effected if landlords were to lay down stringent rules and regulations with this object in view; but as the interest of landlord and tenant is identical, a plan might easily be carried out for effecting this improvement, in which there is no doubt, the tenant would readily acquiesce. Suppose a certain district to contain fifty small tenants, the proprietor of which is anxious to introduce an improved breed of cattle. Let him send a competent and skilful man to Dumbarton, or some other market where the best West Highlanders are shewn, to purchase 100 two-year-old heifers of a good stock, these should be divided among the tenants and charged at cost price, including expenses. Two or three young bulls to serve these heifers should also be provided, but at the expense of the landlord, a fair price being charged for their use. This arrangement would soon effect the desired change, care being taken that the old bulls were cut off. A couple of years would clear off the old breed and its place being supplied by a new race worth at least £1 per head more than the old, the stock would command a ready market.

The Zetlanders.—This breed is also recommended to be kept pure, for the reasons before set forth under this head.

The Fife, Angus, Aberdeen, Banff, Moray and other unenumerated breeds, should be crossed with short-horns, wherever the climate is suitable; it being now an established fact, that either pure short-horns or crosses are more profitable than the original cattle in all those arable and feeding districts on the east and north east of Scotland.—*Dickson's Breeding and Management of Live Stock.*

GALLS AND WOUNDS ON HORSES.

GALLS ON THE SKIN.—A horse newly put to work, and working in a new harness, or under a new saddle, which touches parts not inured to the pressure, is very likely to have the skin of the back and shoulders abraded.

Unless there is an absolute necessity for the animal to be used, he should, in all cases, be allowed a few days rest, that the wound may heal and become somewhat hard; even then, until the hair has fairly grown out, the greatest care must be used to see that the chafing of the harness is entirely obviated, as when the skin is in the least sore it is peculiarly susceptible to irritation. When a gall is fresh and bleeding, nothing will so soon dry it and cause it to cicatrize, as a little dry table salt sprinkled upon it.

After the wound is in a measure healed, if it be absolutely necessary to use the horse, a careful examination of the harness or saddle should be made, and padding should be